

Sunday, August 2

Lord's Supper



Benevolence Offering

Grace Fellowship collects a Benevolence Offering each month to be used to meet needs that arise among our church members and community. On Sunday, August 2, we will provide special pink envelopes that you can use for this offering. You can also give to this offering using the Church Center app or by scanning the QR code.



Zambia Mission Team Commissioning

We have a team going to serve in Zambia from August 5-18. Join us as we commission and pray for them during the worship service on August 2.

IN THE LOOP

Stay up to date with us!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Ginny Bell	1
Caroline Smith	1
Zander Burger	1
Addison Malone	2
Emily Ferman	2
Melanie Milburn	3
Chuck Philippi	4
Ron Mohammed	4
Aaron Harrison	5
Jody Sandwick	7
Carolyn Carter	7
Tammy Lumpkin	7
Ceil Cook	10
Carol Green	10
Cheri Gerlach	10
Susan Ellickson	10
Ken Daniel	12
Libby Chapman	13
Hank Raehn	13
Andrea Finch	14
Tommi Ward	15
Beverly Mullins	17
Sister Summers	17
Juan Romero	18
Tammy Leavell	19
Daniel Strozier	19
Nancy Dawkins	20
Susan Durrence	20
Heather Harris	25
Howard Scott	25
Lisa Dalton	28
Tom Lynn	28
Larry Choate	29
Janice Philippi	30

ANNIVERSARIES

Carrie & Jonathan Human	3
Cynthia & Lamar Chambers	8
Marcia & Ken Daniel	8
Tiffany & Michael Vaughn	9
Amy & Matt Ferman	10
Beth & David Scherer	11
Hilda & Michael Stewart	14
Tammy & William Leavell	17
Libby & Donnie Chapman	19
Carolyn & Kenneth Childers	29

Scripture for AUGUST

...what does the LORD
require of you
but to do justice, and to
love kindness,
and to walk humbly with
your God?

Micah 6:8

Lake Fellowship & Baptism

BE A PART OF THIS INCREDIBLE DAY!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

4PM - FELLOWSHIP

5PM - COVERED DISH MEAL

LAKE BAPTISM TO FOLLOW!

CALL (706) 453-0020 FOR MORE INFORMATION

FINANCES & BUDGET

GF FINANCIAL UPDATE: INCOME

2ND QUARTER RESULTS (JAN. 1ST – JUN. 30TH)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Giving	\$532,997	\$541,835	\$8,838
Special Gift *		\$310,131	\$310,131
GA Baptist Foundation		\$28,496	\$28,496
Net Other Income		\$972	\$972
Total Income		\$881,434	\$348,437

Comments:

* YTD Giving without the gift are 102% of annual budget & \$54k above last year

YTD Giving with the gift are 160% of annual budget and 364K above last year

Avg. Weekly Giving - \$20,840 / Weekly need to achieve budget - \$20,500

GF FINANCIAL UPDATE: EXPENSES

2ND QUARTER RESULTS (JAN. 1ST – JUN. 30TH)

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Missions	\$95,700	\$88,929	\$6,771
General Personnel	\$261,689	\$255,702	\$5,987
Church Growth	\$46,666	\$38,803	\$7,863
Operations	\$142,695	\$124,980	\$17,715
Total Expenses	\$546,750	\$508,414	\$38,336

Comments:

YTD Expenses are 93% of budget and \$28k above last year spending

ADJUSTED RESERVE FUNDS (ARF)

\$ Amount

of Months

ARF as of 6/30/2026

\$795,570

9.15

In our July Quarterly Business Meeting, the church voted to approve moving \$30,000 from the General Fund account to the Missions Fund with \$15,000 going directly to the Cooperative Program (see next page for more information) and \$15,000 provided to the Missions Team to be used at their discretion in the area of missions.

FINANCES & BUDGET

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND AROUND THE WORLD.

On Wednesday, August 26, we plan to celebrate missions and the teams that we sent out this year, but did you know you support missions each time you give through Grace Fellowship?

Grace supports missions in our annual budget through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention. The vision of the Cooperative Program (CP) is:

Create and cultivate a cooperative culture so every nation, tribe, people, and tongue (Rev. 7:9) can collaborate to advance the Gospel around the world.

We support the Cooperative Program because we believe the Great Commission is too big for any one church. Through faithful cooperation with thousands of Southern Baptist churches, our giving helps plant churches, train pastors, send missionaries, respond to disasters, and take the gospel to people across our community, our nation, and the world. Together we can do far more than any of us could ever accomplish alone.

These align well with our church's commitment to missions locally and worldwide. Grace Fellowship is a church on mission. Our support of the Cooperative Program broadens our gospel impact by partnering with thousands of like-minded churches to make a difference in this world and in eternity.

(The chart below is provided by sbc.net and shows how the CP allocates gifts from all SBC churches)

2025-2026 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.

\$190,000,000



73.20%

World Missions Ministries

International Mission Board (50.41%)
North American Mission Board (22.79%)



2.99%

**Executive Committee
and SBC Operating Budget**



22.16%

**Theological
Education Ministries**

Seminaries (21.92%)
Library and Archives (.24%)



1.65%

**Christian Ethics and
Religious Liberty Ministries**

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions & Ministries

MISSIONS



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19**

Kickball Tournament & Missions Fundraiser at the Greene County Recreation Complex

This will be our **2nd Annual Kickin' for the Kingdom Kickball Tournament**, and it is open to the entire community. Since many of those going on mission trips raise their own funds, a portion of what is raised helps provide partial funding to make going on a mission trip more accessible.

Organizations being supported this year are:

Circle Ranch (Greene County)

Wears Valley Ranch (Tennessee)

Global Samaritans (Zambia)

BIG HOPE (Dominican Republic)

How can YOU help?

- Come join the fun on Saturday, September 19
- Be a Kickin' for the Kingdom volunteer
- Form a team to play
- Become a sponsor
- Find a sponsor (packets are available to share with potential sponsors)



Scan the QR code
for more information
or to donate.

For more information on adding a team or becoming a sponsor, go to:

gracefellowship.ws/serve/kickin-for-the-kingdom or call Carrie Human (706-347-1817) or Nancy Long (706-817-9064).

MISSIONS



Item of the MONTH

Each month, I'll share an "Item of the Month" to help reduce holiday and Christmas shopping stress.

AUGUST ITEM of the MONTH -- SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School Supplies are abundant right now, and many stores are offering sales as our local school systems head back to school. Don't miss out while supplies are good.

How are your shoeboxes coming along? It is hard to believe we are only 4 months away from our NOVEMBER collection deadline. Each shoebox is a blessing to a child and an opportunity to share the good news of Christ in a life-changing way.

One example of the impact of just a couple of shoeboxes comes from a village in Mongolia, where Buddhism is the primary religion, and atheism is also common. A small Christian church with only 10 members received 50 shoeboxes to distribute. A brother and sister were invited to the giveaway, and afterward, their parents allowed them to attend the 12-week Greatest Journey study. Both children accepted Christ as their Savior.

God did not stop there. Later, the parents also accepted Christ. More family members began attending the small church, and the children shared the story with their friends, who then told their parents. You can see where God was leading this, right?

Today, that once-tiny church is thriving and looking for a larger facility—all beginning with two children receiving shoeboxes.

Libby Chapman, Operation Christmas Child Coordinator

MISSIONS

JOIN US FOR A
CELEBRATION OF MISSIONS!

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

FAMILY NIGHT DINNER @ 5:45

MISSION CELEBRATION @ 6:30



You will have the joy of hearing reports from the teams that were engaged in missions and service this year. Together we can thank them for their efforts and celebrate the ways that God is using the members of this church to make a genuine difference in the world.

We hope that you will set aside Wednesday evening, August 26, to be part of this worship service celebrating the goodness and grace of God expressed through the life and ministry of His church.

CHILDREN'S

MINISTRY

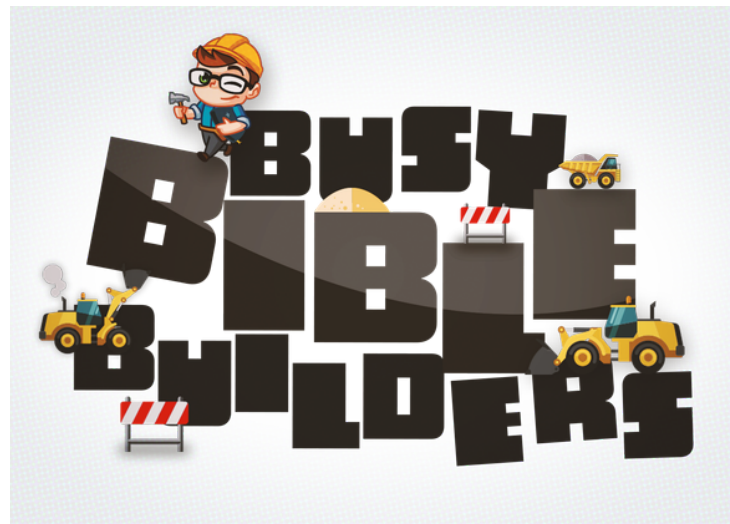
It's a joy and an honor to serve and teach your children each week. They have hungry minds and it's amazing to watch them learn and grow in the Lord.

We need you! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the children's ministry, please contact Cassidy Callaway at children@gracefellowship.ws to get plugged in or to ask any questions.

.....

KIDS COVE

Let's get busy building! This month the kids will look high and low for the colored building blocks around the room during large group. Each block contains a picture from the Bible story. As the blocks stack up, so does the story. When the stacking stops, the kids will have discovered how God has made them and given them a family to love.



KIDS @ GRACE



Kids@Grace will not meet for the first Sunday in August for Communion Sunday. A children's resource explaining Communion will be available. We will resume class on August 9, and we're excited to have you back! We are still laying the foundation of the Christian faith and exploring creation this month. We'll start out with Adam and Eve, dinosaurs (!), the age of the earth, and wrap up the month learning the responsibility of being good stewards of God's creation. If you have a child in grades 1-4 who is not yet plugged into Kids@Grace, please feel free to come with them to class at the dismissal announcement! You can also contact Cassidy Callaway at children@gracefellowship.ws to get them set up and ask any questions. Reminder: Kids@Grace offers a Sunday School class as well, from 9-10am. If you would like your child to be in this class, stop by the kids' check-in desk to be directed there.

CHILDREN'S

MINISTRY



*David — two-part showing: August 5 & 12,
6:30–8:00 p.m.*

Save the date and get ready to compete for
THE GOLDEN PUMPKIN!

**candy
QUEST!**

Oct 25th 5–6:30pm

ELDER UPDATE

The Elder Communication for the AUGUST 2026 Newsletter

The Elder Council met for its regular monthly meeting on July 21, 2026. In addition to the Elders and staff, Church Treasurer Melvin Rhodes was there on behalf of the Finance Team.

Here are some of the highlights from our July meeting:

Worship & Spiritual Life

- Starting in August, Grace will observe Communion on the first Sunday of each month through November 2026. We will discuss in December whether to continue this schedule in the new year.
- Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 26! Join us for a church-wide celebration highlighting recent mission trips to Zambia, Wears Valley, and the Dominican Republic. Dinner begins at 5:45 PM, followed by worship and testimonies at 6:30 PM.

Finance & Stewardship

- Thanks to your faithful giving, we have met our budget to date. You can see specifics on the Finances page of this newsletter.
- Additionally, our church was blessed with an estate gift. The church approved moving \$30,000 to support additional mission needs, and the Elders are continuing their assessment of future needs and strategic projects.

Facility & Safety Updates

- To improve safety and accessibility for our children, plans are underway to add a children's restroom in the B Hallway (utilizing the current music storage space). We are getting bids at this time and will share the project details with the church soon.
- The Elder Council is also exploring several projects and updates, including a newer and more visible sign at the parking-lot entrance, an on-site storage building, playground improvements, and the possible addition of a portico to provide a covered drop-off area during inclement weather. We will keep the church informed.

If you would like the Elders to add an item to their agenda, please contact Chairman Randy Scott, Vice-Chairman Steven Brondyke, or Secretary A.J. Hunt.

YOUTH

MINISTRY

Truth Seekers is a new small group designed specifically for students in grades 6-8 who want to grow in their faith, build meaningful friendships, and learn how to follow Jesus in everyday life. Beginning Wednesday, September 2, students will begin with the 6:00 p.m. church-wide dinner and then join the rest of the youth ministry for a shared time of worship and announcements before breaking into grade-specific groups. Through Bible study, discussion, prayer, and practical application, Truth Seekers will help middle school students explore God's Word, ask honest questions, and discover biblical truth together.



Grace Youth

Join us every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. for a night of connection, fun, and faith! It's a great time to hang out and fuel up before we dive into worship, games, and meaningful conversations.

DINNER AT 6!

Kids & Youth eat free!

DISCIPLESHIP

Small Groups

New Opportunities to Connect

One of the best ways to grow in your faith and build meaningful, Christ-centered relationships is through a small group, and we are excited to announce several opportunities to get connected this fall!

Beginning **September 2**, **Matt and Nadene Macleod** will lead a new **Family & Marriage Small Group**. This coed, 12-week study will focus on strengthening marriages, improving family relationships, and applying biblical principles to everyday relationships. Whether you're newly married, raising children, or navigating a new season of family life, this group will offer encouragement, good discussion, and Christ-centered community.

Looking ahead to **November**, **Zander and Moriah Burger** will launch a **new coed small group**. Unlike the Macleods' 12-week study, this group is being established as a **long-term, ongoing small group** that will continue for years to come. It will provide a welcoming environment for fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and spiritual growth as participants walk through life together.

We are also excited to welcome back the **Bell Small Group**, which launched earlier this year and will resume meeting on **September 15**. The group meets on **Tuesday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM** and is a great opportunity to connect with others in a relaxed and encouraging setting. Before the group begins again, the Bells will be hosting a **COOKOUT** on **August 11 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM** for anyone interested in learning more about the group and meeting others who may be attending. If you would like to join the cookout, please contact the church office at 706-453-0020.

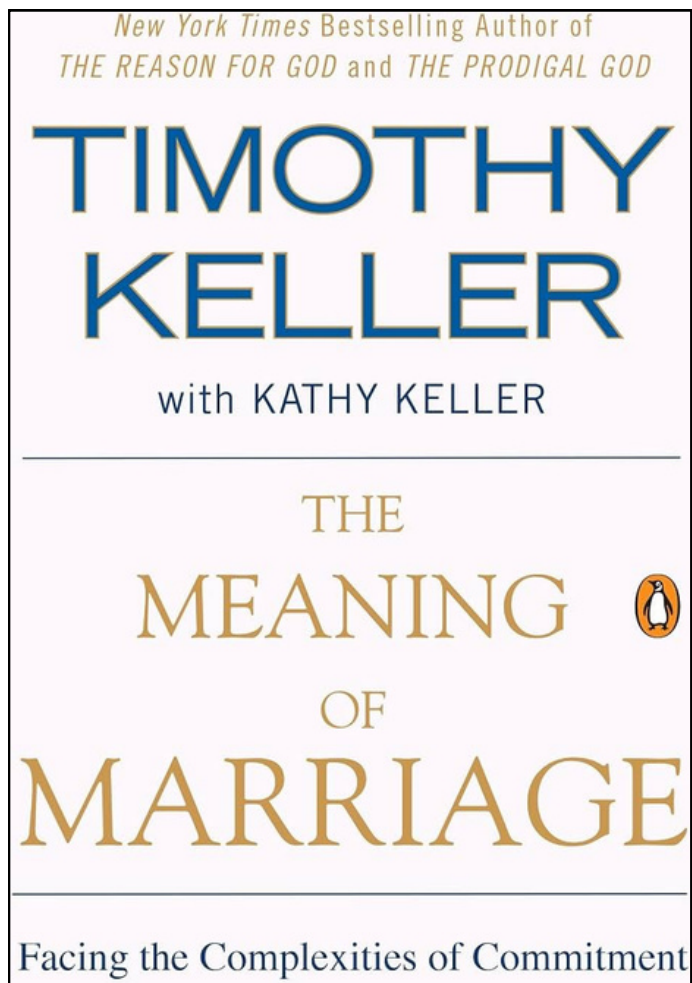
We believe life is better when lived in community, and these groups provide wonderful opportunities to grow in faith, form lasting friendships, and experience the encouragement of walking through life together. We hope you'll prayerfully consider joining one of these groups and finding your place in the Grace Fellowship family.

GRACE @ HOME

REMINDER

We've restocked our *Grace@Home* resource table with a wide variety of new books and discipleship tools covering marriage, parenting, grandparenting, adult children, missions, personal growth, and more.

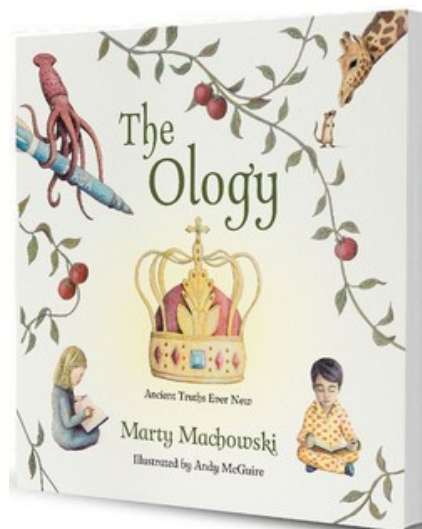
Each book is available for just \$10.



The Meaning of Marriage

Pastor and theologian Timothy Keller (with his wife, Kathy) argues that marriage is a divinely designed covenant created to reflect God's saving love for us in Christ, refine our character, and foster deep spiritual friendship. Keller challenges contemporary cultural assumptions—such as the pursuit of a flawless "soulmate" or the idea that marriage exists solely for personal fulfillment—by providing a realistic, gospel-centered framework for romance and commitment.

The Ology: A family devotional for preschoolers to teens! Two children, Carla and Timothy, discover an ancient book hidden in a cathedral cellar. This discovery framing guides young readers through an exploration of the character of God, the nature of humanity, and the overarching story of scripture.
ONLY 2 COPIES LEFT!



Come and get your copy at the Grace @ Home table this month!