

Grace Fellowship

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Our Annual Business Meeting was postponed from January 25 to February 1.
The meeting will follow the Morning Worship Service.



Celebrate the
Lord's Supper
SUNDAY, FEB 1

NEW SERMON SERIES BEGINS FEB 8



FIRST SAMUEL

LISTENING TO GOD

IN THE LOOP

Stay up to date with us!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

AJ Hunt	10
Josephine Jackson	11
Heather Martinez	11
Barbara S Moore	12
Adrian Beasley	12
Judi Anderson	15
Jim Meadows	16
Jessica Dorough	17
Barbara Torbert	20
Elizabeth Hansen	20
William McNeil	21
Susie Porche	25
Richard Sparkmon	25
Jim Sandquist	26

ANNIVERSARIES

Clay & Ceil Cook	2
Dennis & Ann Duncan	5
Rex & Melanie Milburn	9
David & Lisa Cronic	14
Jim & Lynne Bedsole	14
Brad & Susan Ellickson	14
Ray & Brenda Warwick	15
Daniel & Terre Strozier	16
Guy & Carol Green	21

Missionary Focus

Join us at 9:00 a.m.
on Sunday, Feb 1 as we
hear from missionaries
supported by our church.

Scripture for FEBRUARY

Beloved, let us love
one another, for love is
from God, and
whoever loves has
been born of God
and knows God.

1 John 4:7

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

You can find the ABM
Report on our church
website -
[https://gracefellowship.ws/
church-info/meeting-
archives](https://gracefellowship.ws/church-info/meeting-archives)

MISSIONS



FebruaryMission

STEP INTO THE MISSION: CARE KITS FOR ZAMBIA

Goal: 100 of each item

Soap: Bar soap only (no liquid)

Washcloths: New, high-quality cloths

Oral Care: Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

Lights: Small LED Flashlights (with batteries)

Take the Next Step with Our Mission Teams!

Each month in 2026, our Mission Team will share specific ways you can partner with our upcoming trips and ministries. Your donations are a vital 'next step' in sending our teams into the field. Please bring this month's featured items to the Connection side of the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space. Check back monthly for new ways to give and help us make a global impact together. Thank you for walking alongside us in service! In February we are asking for items for care kits for Pastors and their wives in Zambia, Africa.

Items Requested: Bar Soap (no liquids), Washcloths (new, good quality), Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Flashlights (small LED flashlights with batteries).



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Christmas 2025 as we know it is in the rearview mirror but for Operation Christmas Child things are just beginning as all those boxes are now on their way to places all over the world. The goal is to serve 12 million children with these shoeboxes with the prayerful expectation of teaching each one about the saving grace of Jesus.

Donnie and I were able to assist with box processing at the Atlanta center, where an impressive one million boxes had already been handled. Each center aims for a daily target of 100,000 boxes. On December 18th, the final carton was processed in Atlanta. Volunteering at a processing center is highly recommended—it's a transformative experience!

Libby Chapman, Grace Fellowship's OCC Coordinator

FINANCES & BUDGET

Financial Update

Giving, Expenses, and Budget thru 12/31/25

Budget	\$ 1,016,458
Giving	<u>\$ 1,056,812</u>
Variance	\$ 40,354
Expenses	\$ 935,232

Proposed 2026 Budget Information

Due to the cancelation of in-person services on Sunday, January 25, the vote for our church budget will take place in our Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, February 1. Below is the budget that will be submitted. We ask for your prayerful consideration of this budget and your support for the ministry it allows us to accomplish.

	<u>2025</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2026</u> <u>Proposed</u> <u>Budget</u>
<u>Missions Ministries</u>		
Non- Local Ministries	84,100	95,600
Local Ministries	83,425	71,300
Total Missions Ministries	<u>167,525</u>	<u>166,900</u>
<u>General Personnel Ministries</u>		
Salary/Housing/Benefits/COLA	491,524	511,699
Payroll Taxes	14,500	15,000
COLA		
Total General Personnel Ministries	<u>506,024</u>	<u>526,699</u>
<u>Church Growth Ministries</u>		
Senior Pastor Expense	3,850	4,850
Worship Pastor Ministry Expenses	20,200	19,080
Discipleship Pastor Ministry Expenses	28,165	25,885
Student Director Ministry Expenses	12,000	8,935
Children's Ministry Expenses	15,265	14,570
On-Campus Outreach Expenses	7,850	5,350
Ministries Within Grace Fellowship	5,300	6,800
Total Church Growth Ministries	<u>92,630</u>	<u>85,470</u>
<u>Operational Ministries</u>		
Administration	70,970	72,315
Computer Management & Computers	35,500	41,795
Facility Operations	126,668	131,025
Risk Management/Insurance	17,141	19,635
Total Operational Ministries	<u>250,279</u>	<u>264,770</u>
Total Budget	<u>1,016,458</u>	<u>1,043,839</u>

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

Our February unit for Kids Cove is 'I Spy'.

I spy with my little eye – I spy down low, and I spy up high! This month the kids will need to put on their looking eyes to look high and low for the hidden Bible story objects during large group. Once found, each object will help tell a portion of the lesson. It's an eye-opening experience that teaches kids to follow and obey Jesus, our all-powerful Savior!



KIDS @ GRACE



This month will start with Lord's Supper Sunday on February 1, so we will not meet for Kids@Grace. You can find resources for this at the back tables in the worship center! When we return to class on February 8, we will learn that Jesus promised to return in glory and power, and what God has planned for the earth, believers, and unbelievers at the end of time. At the end of February we will start this curriculum over again! This is a great time to join us if you haven't already- we will be laying the foundation of the Christian faith from now until May before we dive into Genesis. If you have a child in 1st -4th grade 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 kid's check-in desk to be directed there.

ELDER UPDATE

The Elder Communication for the February 2026 Newsletter

The Elder Council met twice in January. On January 13, they met to consider the proposed budget. On January 20, they met in their regular monthly meeting. Following opening prayer and devotion, one of the elements included in every meeting is to remind ourselves of the church's mission statement: "*Grace Fellowship exists to glorify God by bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.*" This simple act grounds us in our purpose.

In our January 13 meeting, the Elders first dealt with an urgent benevolence request. When a need exceeds the authority of the Benevolence Team, it can be brought to the Elders for action. Once the Elders approved meeting the need, their focus shifted to refining the proposed budget, specifically focusing on some reductions, consideration of cost of living increases, and consideration of making an additional contribution to the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention based on the level of faithful giving in 2025.

Final decisions from both meetings included the reduction of some costs where these reductions would not hinder ministry, the addition of 2.8% cost of living bonuses to most staff, and a motion that will be presented to the church for \$35,000 to be moved from the general operating account to the designated Missions Fund. That money will then be sent to the Cooperative Program to be added to the \$50,000 budgeted and sent during 2025. The net effect is that our church will have given \$85,000 (8% of undesignated giving last year). This will be used for missions and the education and training of pastors and ministers.

God has blessed us with faithful givers who have enabled Grace Fellowship to accomplish so much each year. The Elders deeply appreciate the faithfulness of God's people and the efforts of our Finance Team!

As always, the Elders set aside a time of discussion for the known prayer needs of our membership, as well as the needs of each elder. Following this, Pastor Jimmy prayed for the names and needs as well as the Elders and his family.

The Elders were updated on the pavilion repairs. We are grateful for a generous donor who not only covered the cost of the repairs but was essential in getting a plan together to make the pavilion a safe place to use for many years to come. Additionally, the Elders were brought up to speed on the repair of the windows in the church building. The process is underway and should be completed soon. Other projects were discussed and will be scheduled in the coming months.

The next scheduled Elder Council meeting is February 17. If there are any issues that you would like addressed, please contact any of the elders to request it be placed on our agenda.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Contact Jarvis Freeman for more information – jarvis@gracefellowship.ws

SUMMER CAMP!

JUNE 4-8

Lookout Mountain, Georgia

Mark your calendars
and make your plans today!!!!

Contact Jarvis Freeman for more information – jarvis@gracefellowship.ws



DISCIPLESHIP

Growing as followers of Jesus happens best in community. Small groups give us space to share life, study Scripture, pray together, and grow in ways we simply can't on our own. If you're looking to take a meaningful step in your walk with Christ this year, consider joining one of the groups launching soon.

Financial Peace University

Begins Feb. 18 • 6:30 PM

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Learn practical, biblical tools for handling money with wisdom and confidence. Whether you're paying off debt or planning ahead, FPU offers clear steps and real encouragement.

Contact: **Jim Bedsole – jim.bedsole@gmail.com**

Morgan County Small Group

At the Home of Danny & Ginny Bell

Begins Tues., Feb. 4 • 6:30 PM

A warm, welcoming group designed for growing in faith and building connections. Great for anyone seeking community or just getting started with small groups.

Contact: **Ginny & Danny Bell – ginnybell1973@gmail.com**

FAMILY NIGHT MEAL

6:00 PM WEDNESDAYS
DONATIONS APPRECIATED
18 & UNDER EAT FREE!

GRACE @ HOME

Just a reminder, we're still offering a **free Bible Reading Plan** to anyone who wants to join us in reading God's Word together. Whether you're starting fresh or continuing faithfully, this plan is a simple way to stay rooted in Scripture throughout the year.

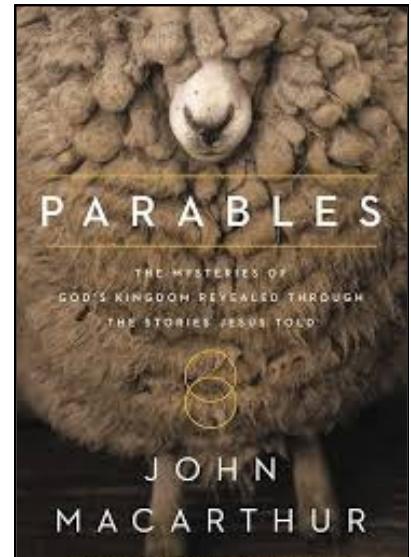
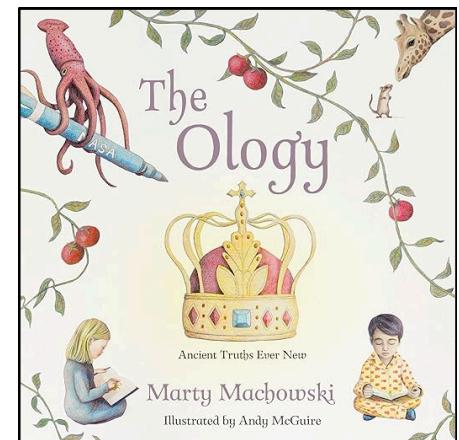
We've also restocked our **Grace@Home** resource table with a wide variety of new books and discipleship tools covering marriage, parenting, grandparenting, adult children, missions, personal growth, and more. All resources are available for just \$10.

The-Ology – A beautifully illustrated family devotional that introduces children to the big truths of the Christian faith in a simple, engaging way.

Parables by John MacArthur – helping believers understand not only what Jesus taught but why His stories still matter today.

As a special blessing, the first 10 families with children to contact us will receive a FREE COPY of The-Ology while supplies last.

If you'd like any of these resources—or want to claim your free copy—simply reach out to Joey at joey@gracefellowship.ws.



Stop by the Grace@Home Resource Center this week!