

APRIL

newsletter

Threefold Communion

Join us for a night of fellowship, food, praise and reflection on **Sunday, April 9** at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will start our evening with a potluck dinner, continue on with foot washing and end the evening in worship and communion.

- ❖ A-F: Salad or Veggies
- ❖ G-Q: Main Dish
- ❖ R-Z: Dessert

(Please bring enough to serve 10 people)

Contact the church office with any questions at 562.596.1605.

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF SEAL BEACH
INVITES YOU TO

Easter

AT GRACE

Sunday: 8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00 am
Good Friday: Noon / 7:00 pm

138 8th St., Seal Beach | 562.596.1605 | gracesealbeach.org

Upcoming Events at a Glance

April 8 – Run Seal Beach

April 9 – Threefold Communion

April 14 – Good Friday Services

April 16 – Easter Services

April 29 – Seal Beach Car Show

April 30 – Pastor Steve's

Retirement Party

May 7 – Pastor Bob's

Installation Service

June 4 – Church Picnic

July 10-14 – VBS

August – Ocean Baptism

October 27-29 – Church Camp

Spring Cleaning Senior Pastor Desk Available

Our church will be transitioning in April, when Pastor Bob will take over from Pastor Steve as senior pastor. The desk both Pastor Don and Pastor Steve used, is available for FREE to whomever will come and get it.

The desk is a high-quality Steelcase desk in excellent condition. All exterior surfaces

are wood with a dark oak finish. It has two file drawers, four regular drawers and a middle drawer. It is 36" X 72". At the time of purchase, the retail on this desk was around \$2,500.

Please call the church office ([562-596-1605](tel:562-596-1605)) to discuss this matter further if you are

interested and/or to stop by and see it. It will be on a first come first served basis



Proverbs 22:17
Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge

Wave 3 Brick Fundraiser

Prayerfully consider sponsoring a brick to be incorporated into the Wave 3 Project. To purchase a brick go to: <https://polargiving.com/GraceCommunityChurchofSealBeach>

VBS 2017

Mission in His Control (July 10 – 14, 2017)

A mission out of control!! While filming a kid's science show, our crew finds themselves mistakenly launched into space! How will they return home? What's the plan for their rescue? Join the adventure as we discover that God has a plan for us!

"Jesus said, I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

- Children ages 4 (by July 10) through completion of grade 5
- \$20 suggested donation
- Closing Program: Friday afternoon

Register online at gracesealbeach.org.

Pastor Steve is Retiring!

You are cordially invited to attend the celebration for him as he retires from Grace Community Church of Seal Beach on Sunday, April 30th, 2017 from 4:00 until after 5:30 p.m. at: Boomers! Fountain Valley (16800 Magnolia St, Fountain Valley, CA 92708).

Please stop by our patio table on April 2, 9 & 23.

For questions or more information contact the church office at 562.596.1605 or info@gracesealbeach.org.

Pastor Bob's Installation

Join us on Sunday, May 7 for the installation of Pastor Bob as he takes the role of Senior Pastor. More information to come soon. Questions? Contact the church office at 562.596.1605 or info@gracesealbeach.org.

MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT

On January 28, 2017, members from Grace Community Church Seal Beach attended the Connect and Equip conference at the Orange Grace Brethren Church. One of the strands was the “People Group Focus” strand. Sessions included “Engaging the Muslim Heart and Mind”, Engage in Africa: Education and Medicine”, “Japanese Engagement in SoCal and Japanese Forum”, and “Organic Evangelism: Case Study, India”.

Denice Nossett provides notes on the session led by Dr. Len Bartlotti: “Engaging the Muslim Heart and Mind”. Dr. Bartlotti worked as a missionary with the Pashtun people in Peshawar, Pakistan. There are 1.7 billion Muslims in the world, which represents one fourth of the world’s population. This is a significant group of unreached people.

In seeking to reach Muslims, discipleship movements hit various barriers: cultural, linguist, etc. We need to have an apostolic/prophetic mindset as we reach out because, contrary to popular thought, Muslims exhibit a great openness to hearing the gospel.

There is a lot of misunderstanding between Christians and Muslims. We must overcome these barriers. Think of a rope bridge with planks with wide gaps between them. The planks represent commonalities we have; the gaps are differences. Too many people look at the gaps, the differences, but we must be discerning, look for commonalities, and work to fill those gaps.

At the same time, we must be aware that Muslims have completely reinterpreted the entire Judeo-Christian narrative. Adam was a Muslim; Moses was a Muslim; Jesus was a Muslim. Jesus was a great prophet. Jesus didn’t die on the cross; Allah wouldn’t allow him to die such a death. Someone else died in his place—possibly Judas.

Martin Accad said that your attitude toward Islam will affect your attitude toward Muslims. That attitude will affect your approach to Muslims, and it will affect the outcome of the encounter. According to Accad, Christian attitudes toward Islam and Muslims span the following range:

- Syncretistic (Can’t we all just get along?)
- Existential
- Kerygmatic (listening as well as speaking; using the language of the Gospel)
- Apologetic
- Polemic (tearing the other to shreds)

There are cultural stereotypes to overcome on both sides. We need to go as servants of Christ (1 Cor. 9:1, 9, 13). How can we produce young people who are willing to be spectacles, the scum of the earth, for Christ?

Some Islamic beliefs:

- Oneness of God (Side note: Allah is merciful and compassionate—when he wants to be)
- Angels (Muslims have a supernatural worldview)
- Messengers of Allah (Prophets)
- Holy Books (Torah, Psalms, Gospel—all of which have been corrupted—and the Quran)
- Judgments of God—all words, deeds and thoughts are weighed. Muslims have a real fear of death.
- Decrees of God

Other things to know:

- *Jihad* means “striving to further Islam.” Most Muslims don’t equate *jihad* with taking up arms against infidels.
- The difference between Shiites and Sunnis is what each believes to be the righteous heir of Islam. The Shiites believe it’s who the wisest teachers were; the Sunnis believe it’s who the family members were.

An Afghan saying: “If a donkey goes to Mecca, when he returns he’ll still be a donkey.”

Women's Ministry

Women's Service Day

Due to the Wave 3 renovation (currently affecting the entrance of our church facility), it was determined that an off-site event would be more appropriate than to have our annual tea. Nearly 30 women spent a recent Saturday morning together by enjoying breakfast together, then going out into one of five locations to serve in the community. Projects ranged from painting to sorting clothing and toys, to creating a window display, to cleaning out a living unit, to distributing food to those in need. Comments below:

From Long Beach Rescue Mission: "The ladies were awesome. The (newly painted) rooms look so great and I couldn't be happier. I thank you again so much for putting this together. Our staff members absolutely love the new bright rooms. It just gives off a nice warm welcoming feeling now. We are extremely grateful."

"The food bank was a very positive experience, and I was very impressed how organized and well run the distribution went. I will probably go back to help again at the end of the month..."

"...the breakfast gathering was lovely and a wonderful way to launch our service day. I was impacted personally by seeing first-hand the accommodations and set up of the living quarters...I was blessed by the fellowship we enjoyed while serving together..."

Women's Bible Study – Ruth Six-week study Begins April 18 and 21

As we journey through this book from the barren hills of Moab, to a tearful parting at the border of Judah, to a reunion heavy with the hushed shock of shame, to back-breaking toil alongside the disenfranchised, to an unexpected and glorious climax, we will be challenged at every turn of the plot to consider Him who indeed controls every turn of human events. The Tuesday group (6:30-8:00p.m.) meets on third floor in the room at the top of the stairs. The Friday group (9:30-11:00 a.m.) meets in the library. Cost: \$7.50. Sign-ups will be after services April 2 and/or 9.

Women's Day Retreat

Saturday, April 29 8:30 to 5:00

Our long-awaited retreat is coming right up! Consider taking a break from your busy schedule and treat yourself to a special day away this spring. Trish Williams, our senior pastor's wife, will speak on the book of Ruth on "Blessings in Disguise." We will enjoy the beautiful facilities at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. The cost is \$50 (\$40 if signed up and paid by Sunday, April 2). If you would like the discounted rate but will **not** be at church on April 2, please contact Lisa (lisa@gracesealbeach.org or 562-596-1605 ext. 16) to ensure payment is received by that date.



MEN OF GRACE

How does the Bible instruct me to forgive? Can I really forgive them? How do I develop a heart of forgiveness? Most of us guys have struggled with this. Come join us on **Saturday, April 1** at Malarkey's Grill in Long Beach at 8:30 am as we explore the topic. The Men of Grace will hear from Pastor Don Shoemaker, Pastor Emeritus, as he explores this topic and give us biblical instruction and insights. We will also invite some of the men to share how forgiveness has shaped their lives and their health. Looking forward to seeing you there for good fellowship, hot coffee and made-to-order breakfast on the bay.

Please call Scott Batstone ([562 431-4042](tel:562-431-4042)) if you plan to attend so the restaurant can plan accordingly or contact Bob Wissmann ([562-889-2728](tel:562-889-2728)) if there are any questions.