



January newsletter

Wave 3

Ground-Breaking Ceremony

Thursday, January 5, at 10am

City officials, church leadership, and integral members of the design and fundraising teams will join together with the community to celebrate the planned facility renovations. While the intent of the overall project is to modernize the exterior of the facility, highlights will include a new entryway and patio, a children's play structure, exterior paint and landscaping, enhanced handicap accessibility, and a new roof. These improvements are anticipated to better reflect our dedication to the greater Seal Beach community and our thriving ministries.

All are welcome to attend. The ceremony is expected to be brief, with a few refreshments. A team will be on hand to answer questions, and accept pledges and donations to support the project.

For more information, please contact the church office.

*Note: Pledge slips can also be found on the Information Table each Sunday morning or you can go to the church websites donation/offering page.

GRACE 101 IN THE NEW YEAR

Discover more about the leadership, beliefs, and ministries of Grace Community Church and where you best fit into the family. It is also the first step in becoming a member of Grace Church.

Our next Grace 101 class will be held on February 19 at 12:15pm in the Offshore Room.

Contact Pastor Tim for more information (tim@gracesealbeach.org)

Upcoming Events

January 1, 2017

Walk-up Communion
(8, 9:30, 11 am)

January 5, 2017

Wave 3 Groundbreaking
(10am)

January 9, 2017

Wave 3 Remodel Begins

January 16, 2017

Office Closed

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

NEW! Kids Check-in Process

Dear Parents:

At Grace Community Church of Seal Beach, nothing is more important to us than the safety and security of your children. That's why we've chosen KidCheck as our children's check-in solution to bring you the best check-in experience and to allow us to partner with you to keep your children safe.

We will go live with KidCheck on Sunday, January 8, 2017. It is important you create

your account prior to this date. If you haven't already created your free account, please do so by going to go.kidcheck.com, selecting "Create Your KidCheck Account," and following the on-screen prompts. Alternatively, you can download the KidCheck Mobile Check-In app from the App Store or Google Play Store to create, manage, and update your account right on your phone (does not complete check-in). You can create your account from the comfort of home;

it's simple and will only take a few minutes. Creating your account prior to the above date helps us have a smooth transition and helps your first check-in go more quickly so you can get on your way. Once you've created your account, simply use your 10 digit phone number to check-in with us or anywhere you see the KidCheck logo. Contact me if you wish to receive an informational video and/or the Set up video to help you through the process.

Thank you for your participation.

Cynthia van Beek
Children's Ministry Director
(cindy@gracesealbeach.org)

Project Angel Tree update...

The Children's Ministry offering was \$25.80 for Project Angel Tree and the children were able to donate a toy for a boy and a toy for a girl. The classes were shown the toys before they were turned in. Great job classes!!!

*In the same way,
let your light shine
before others,
so that they may
see your good works
and give glory to your
Father who is in heaven.*

Matthew 5:16

A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

We on the Grace Church staff want to take a moment to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Christmas Season a magical time for all.

From those serving on our Worship Teams, to those who helped with the Seal Beach Christmas Parade, ushers, greeters, sound and media team, bulletin stuffers, our special Advent candle lighters and everyone else in between we could not have done it without you.

Your service to this church family is appreciated!

Thank you
The Grace Church Staff

COMPASSION MINISTRY

At Grace we are grateful that God's mercy (or compassion) has been shown to us in so many ways and our desire is to show that same compassion to others. We partner with nine organizations in our community and region to show the love of Christ in practical ways. If you would like to serve, please go to the Grace website and visit the Compassion page or contact the church office.

2016 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Business Meeting on Sunday, December 4. This year has been one of many changes, and we can't wait to see what 2017 has in store for Grace. Here are the outcomes from the voting of nominees, budget, and constitution:

Approved Elder Board 1st Term Nominees:

Matt Archuleta & David Gray

Approved Elder Board 2nd Term Nominees:

Robert Harrell & Tom Enyart

The Budget and Constitution were also approved.

If you have questions, please contact the church office at 562.596.1605 or info@gracesealbeach.org.

LIFE EXPLORED

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week course for anyone who wants to find contentment and happiness in life.

Whether you're already a Christian or are considering what it all means, this would like a great place to have some honest discussions and great dessert.

Starts late January
Grab a postcard and hope
to see you then.

Contact Pastor Tim:
tim@gracesealbeach.org



LIFE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT
GOD COULD GIVE YOU?

LEADERSHIP LAB

All dates are 6-7:30 pm in the Offshore Room

January 8 - Theology of Prayer

February 12 - TBD

March 12 - TBD

April 8 - No Leadership Lab (Threefold Communion)

May 14 - TBD

"Theology of Prayer" Leadership Lab - Jan 8th
How does prayer shape your leadership, and leadership shape your prayer life? How do leaders deal with unanswered prayer? We'll look at the "why", "what", and "how" of prayer in leadership this month at the Leadership Lab. Hope you can join us Sunday, January 8th at 6 pm in the Offshore Room. Questions? Ask Pastor Bob (bob@gracesealbeach.org)

A *Blessing* for you,
because the *Lord*
your *God* loves you.
Deuteronomy 23:5

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Everyone and Welcome to January!

As we start the new year of 2017 I wish you many blessings and may your walk with our Heavenly Father become deeper and more meaningful. January is one of those months where we try to recuperate from all the merry making from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. January is also the month to take a look at how 2016 went, make a plan for the year, write resolutions to become a better person or change situations that are doing us harm and reconfiguring our lives and habits to be successful with our goals. Someone told me that if it doesn't get written down it doesn't happen. Wouldn't it make your year if you reviewed your goals for 2017 in December and saw that you were able to accomplish a number of them and the others were in process???

Grace has a new plan for 2017 called "Wave 3". It is the renovation of the exterior of our church facility. We are hoping with your help, prayers and support to accomplish and finish by around mid-year. The front of the newsletter has info about the groundbreaking ceremony on January 5 and on January 9th the construction starts. If you haven't heard about this new project look at our website and go to the October and December newsletters which have articles for you to read. You are being asked to make a pledge to help with this project and if you need clarification about this request, please talk to one of the pastors and they will fill you in.

Just a reminder that we have a prayer chain that goes out by email mostly on Monday and sometimes again by end of week if more requests come in during the week. It is for prayer requests of all kinds. Nothing is too big or small and prayer for oneself is acceptable. Praying the same intentions together makes us a strong force. How do we get the requests? I am glad you asked: Write it on your attendance card on Sunday and put it in the collection plate, write info@gracesealbeach.org, or call the church office at 562.596.1605. If you call when our office is closed leave a voice mail for extension #10.

Social Media is a great way to get our message out to many and to keep you informed with what is happening here. You may follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, Instagram, Pinterest, Yelp, YouTube and Tumblr. If we aren't under Grace Community Church of Seal Beach you will find us at GraceSealBeach. We have posts every Friday about the theme and message for Sunday and announcements for the week. Check it out!

Ok Grace Buddies I wish you a wonderful New Year filled with Love, Laughter, Happiness, Renewed Faith, Good Health and Prosperity. May your days be filled with the light of our Heavenly Father and may that light shine through you to others. Thank you for being a member of Grace and for your continuing support. It is much appreciated!

See you around Grace!
Felice Anno Nuovo
Mille Grazie & Ciao,
Elena Grana

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Christmas gift exchange:

Twenty women joined the fun on Dec. 5 as we had our fifth annual Christmas event. Friendships were both formed and strengthened as we enjoyed the evening together. Our social time was enhanced by a fun mixer and our souls were ministered to by a devotional by Joanne Levin. Joanne challenged us to let the fragrances of the Christmas season remind us of how our prayers are a fragrance to our Lord. She concluded with Ephesians 5:2. The gift exchange, as always, was a lot of fun; but mostly the real highlight was setting aside an evening to connect with others!



Women's Winter-Spring Bible Study – Galatians

Galatians is such a critical book! It's a call to the crucified life, which brings freedom from the flesh, from the law and from the seductive lure of the world. Paul reminds us that we must walk a fine line-on one hand; we do not want to fall into the legalism that the Galatians struggled with, but on the other, we can't just live as if anything goes. Join us on **Tuesday evening Jan. 17** (6:30 – 8:00) or **Friday morning Jan. 20** (9:30 – 11:00) in the Offshore Room as we begin our study. Study guides (\$7) will be available after services on Jan. 8 and 15.

Women's Day Retreat – Saturday April 29

We are looking forward to having you join us for our next retreat at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings as we learn about 'Blessings in Disguise' from our very own Trish Williams. The cost will be \$50 (\$40 if signed up and paid by Sunday, April 2) which includes use of the facilities, and lunch. Consider serving on the retreat planning team; it's a fun way to get to know others and to serve behind the scenes. Watch for more details. **Sign-ups** will be after services **Apr. 2, 9 and 23.**

Women's event – Norwalk Grace Brethren Church—Saturday, January 14 (10 AM – 3 PM)

Viki Rife, our National Director of Women's Ministries for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches will be speaking on "What Does God Offer Women?" Come enjoy this time of encouragement with others at this no-cost event which includes lunch. **Contact the church secretary** at the GBC of Norwalk office (562-863-7322 to RSVP by Wed, Jan. 11 or for more information.

Women's Seminar Opportunity – Grace Church of Orange

January 20-21 (Friday: 6-9 PM/Saturday: 9-5 w/lunch) Grace Church of Orange will host a seminar on Principles of Effective Bible study, presented by the Center for Women's Leadership Studies at Grace Theological Seminary. The cost is \$90. The information presented will help with personal Bible study and small group Bible study leadership. Register at: wgusa.org/effective-bible-study by January 18.

GROUPS AT A GLANCE

Impressions (Mommy & Me)

Most 2 year olds want to know, "Can I do it?" Then comes the infamous "Why?" of the 3s and 4s. Followed by the attention-seeking, "Look at me!" of those sweet little 5 year olds.

At each stage of their development, Impressions is there to help guide these little ones in the "way they should go."

When the group gathers on Wednesday mornings, the first hour is for the kids to learn the Bible and enjoy games and crafts. That's followed by an hour of adult time (childcare provided) where the moms, and sometimes, grandmas, share their lives and pray for one another.

Wednesdays, 9:30 am // Fellowship Hall // For kids ages 2-5
Led by Lisa Latham | lisa@gracesalbeach.org

Train up a child in the way he should go even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

