

October Grace news

ALL-CHURCH CAMP

There is still room to join us for our 5th Annual All-Church Camp!

When: October 27-29, 2017

Where: Oak Glen Christian Conference Center

Who: Anyone!

Take some time and get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and enjoy a weekend of fun, friendship, and the Word.

To sign up: Visit the church website or find registration sheets on the information table.

Questions?

For general questions about camp.....
Pastor Tim (tim@gracesealbeach.org)

For registration questions.....Christa (cheideman@gracesealbeach.org)

Last day to sign up is October 8, 2017!!!

WAVE 3 CELEBRATION PICNIC

We're grateful that the Wave 3 renovation project is finished! We're going to have a celebration picnic on the new lawn on October 22 after the morning services. Hope you'll join us!

More information to come. stay tuned!

Grace Worship Services in October

October 1 (Pastor Tim)

- Romans 7:1-12
- "What's Up with the Law, Paul?"
- Communion of the Bread & Cup

October 8 (Pastor Bob)

- Romans 7:13-25
- "Why Knowing The Right Thing Isn't Enough"

October 15 (Pastor Bob)

- Romans 8:1-11
- "A Better Reason Not to Sin"

October 22 (Pastor Bob)

- Romans 6:15-23
- "What Do You Live For?"

October 29 (Pastor Bob)

- Romans 6:15-23
- "What Do You Live For?"

THAT TIME I DIDN'T SEE YOU AROUND GRACE

Leading with Grace, October 2017
By Travis Greene

It seems strange to write about Grace this month, since by the time you read this, it will have been a month since I've attended a worship service at our church. You see, I've been going to another church for all four Sundays in September. Now before you raise an eyebrow, allow me to give you the background.

As Pastor Justin and I have been considering what it means to "develop compassionate Christian leaders" in the context of worship ministry, we've been praying for opportunities to share the leadership resources that have developed over the years at Grace. Leadership growth has been a part of our DNA for as long as I've been a part of Grace. In worship ministry, our church has a long history of using a wide range of talent, from professional to very beginner musicians, in both leadership and in supporting roles.

If you've been at Grace for a while, you may consider this normal. But it's actually somewhat unique. Large churches end towards teams of professionals, and churches our size or smaller tend to depend on a single leader, with a very limited team of volunteers. But whether intentional or not, we've provided opportunities for people like me, without all the skills really necessary, to develop proficiency on the job. We've also involved our youth in our regular rotations. That's a real testament to the patience of Grace and a willingness of leaders like Justin to share the spotlight.



Leading worship during the early days of Grace at Night. A time of undeserved personal growth for me. And poor fashion choices.

What we get from that is a very deep bench of both leaders and supporting musicians (including vocalists). For a church that averages around 350 in attendance to be able to support four complete worship teams is rather remarkable. But rather than pat ourselves on the back, we need to ask ourselves, how can we use what God has provided to bless not only our own church, but others in need?

That's the question that led us to pray for opportunities to share the worship leadership resources that have developed over the years at Grace. We just didn't think that God would answer that prayer as quickly as He did.

In August, we learned of a nearby church whose worship pastor had given them limited notice. They have a volunteer who can lead, but he was unavailable for the month of September. So they reached out to friends to see if there was someone who could fill in.

Now, I enjoy getting to attend other churches from time to time while on vacation or traveling for work, to see what I can learn from their worship services. But I've never led worship in an unfamiliar place. All sorts of questions came to mind. What sort of style do they have? What would the team be like? What's it like working with the senior pastor? Am I adequate for what they're accustomed to?

But as I considered volunteering, I could sense God saying, "just be available." I'm reminded of the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian eunuch in [Acts 8:26-39](#) that [Pastor Bob taught about in June](#). Phillip didn't really know what he was getting into, but he knew God was calling him to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, where he would meet the eunuch and have an opportunity to share the Gospel. I'm certain Philip had some trepidation about heading to the desert without a plan, but he went anyway.

We see examples in Scripture too of what it can be like for those who refuse to be available. [Jonah gets into a bit of trouble](#), and Jesus warns us against being lazy with what God gives us in the [parable of the talents](#).

So I agreed to help out with what I have, and the experience has been a blessing to me. This other church has been very appreciative and I've enjoyed being able to worship with them. But the experience made me think, where should I draw the line in getting involved in other opportunities to serve? I have human limits and a family who needs me too.

With Compassion Ministries, children and youth ministries, there is a never-ending need for us to serve. In just the last week, I made a choice to turn down one opportunity and I said yes to another that I felt was a better fit for me. I think that's OK as long as we're in prayer about it.

Where is your fit? "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." [Eph. 2:10](#)

I can't wait for October 1st, so I can see you around Grace again.

How can we use what God has provided to bless not only our own church, but others in need?

MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT: Celebrating Martin Luther

This month, our church is celebrating Martin Luther and his efforts in fighting for the theology we often take for granted: justification by faith, the rejection of papal infallibility, and the translation of the Bible into common languages.

Martin Luther was a common man, raised by peasant parents who wanted him to have a better life than them. His parents forced him to become a lawyer. He didn't enjoy school and often described it as being in hell or purgatory. During his studies, he saw a shortsightedness to reason, believing that reason could only be used to question men and institutions but not God. This conviction gave Luther a desire to know God.

Famously, one day, he was in a lightning storm and trembled with fear. He pleaded with God to save him and promised to become a monk if he survived, which ended up happening. He expected the experience as a monk to be spiritually enlightening, but instead it was disappointing and underwhelming. He didn't feel closer to God, his mentor wouldn't listen to his concerns, and he became frustrated with the corruption in the church. All of this motivated him to learn theology.

Meanwhile, the Catholic church became consumed with the selling of indulgences, which canceled a person's guilt or sin. Indulgences could also be obtained through actions such as

prayer, visiting a location, or performing a good work. Luther was aggravated by the idea of indulgences and spoke fervently against them. On October 31st, 1517 (celebrated today as Reformation Day), he wrote the 95 *Theses* in response to the church's actions, asking for a discussion to be held about his concerns about indulgences. He shared that all people had the right to repent of their sins directly with God and believed that the church had no authority to remit a believer's sins. With the help of the printing press, Luther's 95 *Theses* spread like wildfire through Europe in a matter of two months.

Luther's life was frustrating and fruitful, and he died in the midst of immense sickness and pain. However, we cannot deny his influence on the Christian church today. Luther radically changed the church by emphasizing the free gift of salvation we have through Jesus. We don't deserve to be with Jesus, and I'm so thankful for this gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23, Galatians 2:19-21). I hope this month you can take time to remember Luther's efforts, be thankful for the theology he fought for, and be encouraged by his courageous life.

GRACE KIDS WORK WITH COMPASSION

Our Children's Ministry got a chance to help out one of our Compassion Ministry Teams, Bryant Elementary School.

The Sunday School classes made back to school posters for the students and teachers to brighten their morning as they walked into the first day of school

Bill Fowler, our compassion ministry liaison to Bryant passed this along from Bryant, "the teachers were thrilled...thanks to Grace!"



GRACE STORIES

October 2017
By Pastor Bob Wriedt

Each month, there is so much good that happens in and through our church. Here are a few of the things from the last month that I'd love for you to hear about.

- Pastor Bob

Missional Life

- Leisure World outreach - We had a group from Grace participate in the Leisure World expo for the first time this year. We decided to highlight the choir, Be Fit with Joy, Stephen Ministry, and the Grandparent Ministry. Thank you to Pastor Steve for leading this effort.
- Christianity Explored - This is our second time through and we're excited about some new table leaders and some increased interest through advertising in the Seal Beach Sun. Several from the congregations (including some who were recently baptized) are planning to attend, as well as a number from our community.



Biblical Worldview

- Leadership Lab - We had our first "Leadership Lab" of the year in September, and covered the topic, "How to Shepherd People," based on Psalm 23, 1 Peter 5:1-4, and Ezekiel 34:1-10.
- Life Groups - We're excited about our 33 life groups offer this fall, including new groups Emotionally Healthy Spirituality led by the Foxes, "Astrophysics and Us" led by Jerry Wiltz, and a new believer bible study led by Lisa Latham. For all Grace's life groups, go to gracesealbeach.org/adults/groups-grace
- Children's Ministry - We're off to a great start to the school year. Thank you to Gaby Fukumura, who served this summer as our interim Sunday School Coordinator! As Gaby heads back to school, another Grace member has stepped into this role, Calee King. Both Gaby and Calee are committed to helping our kids hear the gospel in a safe and fun learning environment. We're continuing our search for a long-term Children's Ministry Director, but as that search progresses, we're grateful for the capable leadership of these two women.

Known by Name

- Beach Bonfire - Our young adults ministry hosted a beach bonfire at the end of August that was open to the wider church family. It was a casual, fun evening.
- Grace Story - Judy Hull shared her story of God's grace in her life during the services this month. The way that God used her brush with death to catalyze her to ministry with others is inspiring.

Participatory Worship

- The choir returned after their summer hiatus. The participation has continued to be steady and Denise Nossett has continued to do a good job conducting, with Craig and Carol Stewart providing important support.
- Youth Sunday (8/27) - On the same day as ocean baptism, we had a "Youth Sunday" in services, with the youth leading worship in a variety of ways. We had a great response from all ages in the church, especially about the way that Joey Wedmore (on staff as our "Youth Assistant") led the band.

Faithful Compassion

- 7th St Food Bank - Our youth ministry had a one-day mission experience to help with the food distribution at the 7th St food bank.
- Encompass is providing the opportunity to respond to Hurricane Harvey with financial aid and short-term rebuilding trips. They expect to provide a similar response to Hurricane Irma, especially since our fellowship has a number of churches in Irma's path (south Florida and Haiti).

HURRICANE RELIEF & RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

Have you been wondering how to help those that have been devastated by the recent Hurricane's and earthquakes? Below are a few ways that our church is responding so far.

- Join a team going to Houston to help after Hurricane Harvey
- Donate through our church by putting "Hurricane" on your donation

We are also exploring involvement in Mexico and Puerto Rico. If you'd like to join one of these teams or be updated on future response efforts, contact Amanda Buda (amanda@gracesealbeach.org). You can read

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Lunch
October 15

Wave 3 Celebration Picnic
October 22

All-Church Camp
October 27-29

Daylight Savings
November 5

Veteran's Day Event
November 11

Thanksgiving Threefold
November 19

Seal Beach Christmas Parade
December 1

Christmas Eve Services
December 24

These are a few of our upcoming events and we hope you will be able to join us for them all!
If you have any questions please contact the church office at 562.596.1605

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Charity Luncheon - Sunday, Oct. 1 from 12:20 to 1:30 (Surfside Room)

Did you know:

1. Every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim of human trafficking?
2. In the U.S. the average age of those involved is 12 to 14 yrs. old?
3. California harbors 3 of the FBI's 13 highest child sex trafficking areas in the nation: L.A., San Francisco and San Diego?

If you would like to learn more and haven't already signed up, consider attending the free Charity Luncheon. Contact Lisa by Friday, Sept. 29 (lisa@gracesealbeach.org). If you are able to help with donations (bring them to the luncheon) here is a shortened list: cleaning supplies, toiletries, socks, slippers, water bottles, stamps, envelopes.

Women's Fall Event – Ladies Day Off - Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9 to 12 noon

Come join us for a day of rest, spiritual encouragement, relaxation, creativity and refreshment. There is no charge and childcare (ages 0 to 10) will be provided. We'll enjoy a light breakfast with a beverage bar, mixer games and the choice of attending 2 out of 3 breakout sessions. The children will make "Socks of Love" for the homeless as well as enjoy a video and snacks. Sign-ups and donation collection have already begun! Please bring your donations to the church or to the Women's Ministry table after services by October 10.

Sign up on the patio after services Oct. 1, 8 and 15. Here are some needed items for those who can contribute:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a) For the moms:
mini-pumpkins
hot glue guns (labeled with your name)
succulent clippings | b) For "Socks of Love"
cash, men's tube socks
travel size hand lotion and shampoo
toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste
bar soap, disposable razors |
|--|--|

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

We're excited to welcome back Pastor Steve from his time of rest and sabbatical. As Steve enters semi-retirement he'll share some insights on the transitions from a profession/calling to a new season in his life. Pastor Steve's ministry focus is changing including a new and exciting calling to minister to grandparents. What does that mean and what role can men play in the life of their grandchildren – both within their family and within the larger church family. We've been so richly blessed by Pastor Steve's leadership at our church starting with the college ministry and more recently serving as our senior pastor. Come join us on Saturday, October 7 at Malarkeys Grill in Long Beach at 8:30 am. Looking forward to seeing you there for good eats, fellowship, and coffee on the bay.

RSVP: Scott Batstone ([562 431-4042](tel:5624314042))
(the restaurant can plan accordingly)

QUESTIONS: Bob Wissmann ([562-889-2728](tel:5628892728))