



THE GRACE MESSENGER

Grace United Methodist Church

Mission: To love God completely and to serve Jesus Christ unselfishly



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From The Pastor

July 2019



The Theology of the Fourth of July (written by Ira Stoll)

July 4 is a religious holiday. For this insight, thank John F. Kennedy. On July 4, 1946, Kennedy — then 29 years old, the Democratic nominee for a Massachusetts Congressional seat, and still a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve, was the featured speaker at the City of Boston's Independence Day celebration. He spoke at Faneuil Hall, the red-brick building where long ago the colonists had gathered to protest taxes imposed by King George III and his Parliament.

Kennedy began by talking not about taxes, or about the British, or about the consent of the governed, but about religion. *"The informing spirit of the American character has always been a deep religious sense. Throughout the years, down to the present, a devotion to fundamental religious principles has characterized American thought and action,"* he said.

For anyone wondering what this had to do with Independence Day, Kennedy made the connection explicit. *"Our government was founded on the essential religious idea of integrity of the individual. It was this religious sense which inspired the authors of the Declaration of Independence: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.'"*

It was a theme that Kennedy would return to during the 1960 presidential campaign, when, in a speech at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, he described the Cold War as *"a struggle for supremacy between two conflicting ideologies; freedom under God versus ruthless, Godless tyranny."* And again in his inaugural address, on January 20, 1961, in Washington, D.C., when he said, *"The same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe — the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God."*

Whatever Kennedy's motives were as a politician for emphasizing this point, on the historical substance he had it absolutely correct. The Declaration of Independence issued from Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, included four separate references to God. In addition to the *"endowed by their Creator"* line mentioned by JFK in his July 4 speech, there is an opening salute to *"the laws of nature's God,"* an appeal to *"the Supreme Judge of the World,"* and a closing expression of *"firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence."*

A signer of the declaration, Samuel Adams, writing to a friend on July 9, wished the declaration had been issued earlier: *"If it had been done nine months ago, we might have been justified in the sight of God."*

George Washington, announcing the Declaration of Independence to the troops in a General Order dated July 9, wrote, *"The General hopes and trusts, that every officer and man, will endeavour to live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country....knowing that now the peace and safety of his Country depends (under God) solely on the success of our arms."*

The theology of the country's founding has tended to get lost in the decades since Kennedy's death, to the point where if someone unveiled the document anew today, hard-core separation-of-church-and-state types might even see it as a violation of the First Amendment's clause prohibiting Congress from establishing a religion. The Declaration's concept of God-given rights certainly is not without its flaws. God, alas, tends to be quite reticent when it comes to weighing in on disagreements about the definition of rights. Some extremists invoke God's name while attempting to deprive others of rights. Atheists and agnostics, of whom there are increasing numbers these days, are left out.

For all that, there are some signs that a recovery is brewing of the theology of July 4. The Tea Party movement, after all, is not only a call for smaller government (*"taxed enough already"*), but also a conscious effort to recall the vision of the founders, of the original Boston Tea Party. Dave Brat, the economics professor who upset Eric Cantor in a recent Republican primary for to represent Virginia's seventh congressional district, said during his campaign, *"a belief in God and the faith of our Founders leads to strong moral fiber. That's probably the most important ingredient in this country."*

So, amid all the fireworks and barbecue smoke this July 4, consider pausing for a moment to reflect on the one our founding fathers called the Creator. As Kennedy realized, the American Revolution — and thus the country we live in today — started with God, and with the Founders' belief in rights that are his gift to us. Whatever your religious views, or lack of them, if you are an American, it's at least worth understanding the idea on which our nation was founded. Praying for a God-filled 4th (and beyond), Pastor David



Stewardship Report As of June, 2019

Offering Report as of June 30, 2019

2019 Budget:	\$	400,331.00
Needed for 2019 Budget YTD:	\$	200,165.50
Budget Rec'd YTD:	\$	156,599.26
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$	-43,566.24
Weekly Offering Needed:	\$	7,698.67
Expenses YTD:	\$	

Please put Grace as a priority in your financial planning. Our combined gifts keep the Church's mission alive and growing. Thank you so much!! Sincerely, Pastor David



Circle of Hope:

No Meeting until September

Johnnie Sanders Circle:

No Meeting until September

Lucy Lee Shuler Circle:

No Meeting until September

Young at Heart

Join us at Andy's on Wednesday, July 10th, at 12 noon for good food, fun, and fellowship. We are grateful to Joanne Mason who so willingly monitors blood pressure for our members at each meeting. We hope to see y'all there on July 10th. Please invite other Grace members to join us!



**Look Who's
Specializing in Just
About any thing to
Better GRACE!**

Especially with WiFi and Internet Issues!!



Family Night Supper

We will take a summer break from Family Night Supper in July. We will resume on August 28, 2019 at 6:00 PM. Hosts will be the Young Adult Class. Have a great summer!



From Jay Cunningham:

Dear Grace M. Church,
Thank you all for welcoming us into your church and making us a part of your family. I appreciate the gifts and will put them to good use. But more importantly, is all of the love that y'all have shown us, and we love and appreciate y'all too.

Sincerely,
James M. Cunningham III

From Will Balkum:

Dear Grace Church,
Thank you for the bible and calendar. I look forward to using them both at college. Thank you for your continued support and guidance.

Love, Will



Because We Care

Heartland Residential: Raye Hellams,
Mary Jo Rogers
John Flynn

Ellen Sagar: Jane and Bernard Bishop
Kat Willard

Summit Hills, Sptbg: Elwood Eason
White Oak, Sptbg.: Dr. Bob Kincheloe
Inverness, G'ville: Betty Rash
Home: Ruth Roof

Cumberland Village, Aiken: Carolyn and
Johnny Turner



Chancel Choir

The Grace Chancel Choir will take some much deserved time off during the month of July and August. During July the special music will be provided each Sunday

by the following:

July 7 - Tommy Bishop, Organist
July 14 - Clyburn-Whitener Class
July 21 - Upper Room Class
July 28 - Young Adult Class



The
Church Office
will be
CLOSED
Thursday
July 4 - Friday,
July 5, 2019

We are deeply appreciative for all the recent newsletter submissions. Please be encouraged to continue this trend! It takes all of us working together to have the best possible newsletter. **Deadline for the August Grace Messenger will be July 17th.**



July

4 Katie Wagner

5 Brenda Childers,
Ben Hudson,
Melva Ledwell
Bates Scoggins

8 Leslie Owens

12 Keith Ivey

20 Sonja Dunbar, David Mahan,
Kathie Sinclair (T)

21 Daniel Dunbar, Michelle James

23 Mike Jolly

24 Regenia Greer

25 Pete Berry, Bob Kincheloe,
Roger Worley

30 Dot Quinn, Nancy Simmons

31 Makayleigh Ham, Bob Love

Birthday Blessings For You

*As you celebrate today,
Remember, God is Near;
For He is there leading you
Into another year.
Know the Lord walks with you
And is always by your side;
He holds the future in His hands
And will always be your guide.
So trust to Him the years ahead,
Whatever may unfold,
And take each day as it comes
With the blessings that it holds.*



Baptism of James Harrison Cash

James is the son of Garrett Harrison and Katherine "Katie" Jane Langley Cash and was born on November 12, 2018. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Langley and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cash. His great-grandparents are Mrs. James W. Ford and the late Mr. Ford; Mrs. Ellis E. Langley and the late Mr. Langley; Mrs. Betty Phillips Paris and the late Edwin Carlos Graham; and the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Cash.

Grace welcomes James into the family of Christ.



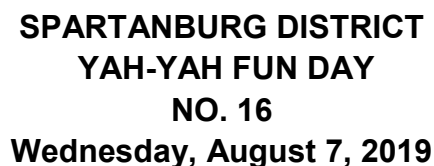
Salkehatchie Summer Service - Union Camp 2019

The Union Salkehatchie Camp came to a close on Saturday, June 22nd after an exciting week of being the hands and feet of Jesus. This year five homes were repaired: one in Jonesville and four in Union. Seventy adult leaders and youth worked in extremely hot temperatures to improve these five homes. Grace is so appreciative to host the annual Salkehatchie Summer Service in Union. We are thankful for the continued support of caring and hardworking volunteers from around the state in much needed ministry. A special thanks to the Upper Room Class, the Young Adult Class and the Clyburn/Whitener Class for feeding the campers a delicious Sunday lunch. Thank you to Sheryl and Rusty Price for being the photographers, to Fran and Bob Love for inviting the campers to the Young Adult Sunday School class, to Tommy Bishop for including them in our choir, to Karen Hibbard for coordinating all the lunches and suppers and to Pastor David for a wonderful worship service!! Much appreciation goes to all who helped in any capacity with meals, decorations, treats, set up, and clean up. Grace members make an amazing team.



Salkehatchie
SUMMER SERVICE

Union Camp June 15 - 22, 2019

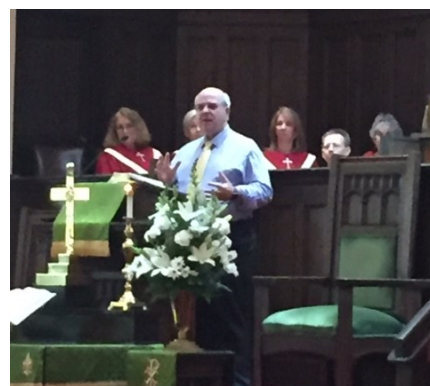


Rabbi Yossi Liebowitz and Rev. Dr. Paul



Registration is limited to 300 persons who enroll by August 5th. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center table.

Our English Pastor has arrived! Grace members were delighted to meet and welcome Rev. Melvyn Cooke on Sunday, June 30, at a Welcome Breakfast hosted by the Circle of Hope. We enjoyed a delicious pick-up breakfast followed by an introduction by Fran Love. Rev. Melvyn then gave an informative “getting to know you” talk so we could learn more about him. Everyone enjoyed just listening to his wonderful, flowing British accent! This was followed by our worship service in which he charmed us with his sincerity, knowledge, and humor. We also learned about one of his favorite treats Marshmallows!! Grace members look forward to this special time with Rev. Melvyn, especially as he plans English services for us to enjoy.

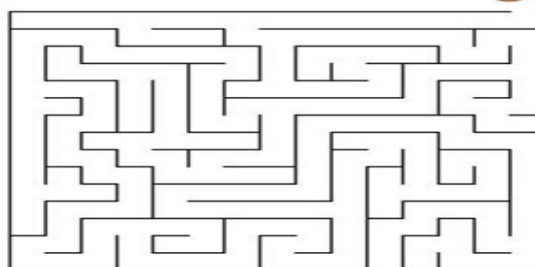


“Geronimo”

are looking forward to attending the Nar-
roway Dinner Show, "Geronimo", on Satur-
day, July 13th. They will enjoy a delicious
meal graciously served by the actors them-
selves, followed by top notch entertainment!

4th of July Maze

Uncle Sam has bought a new hat for the parade.
Can you help him find his way through the maze to collect it?





Christian Education Sunday!

August 25th

Christian Education Day is being planned for Sunday, August 25, from 9 am until 10 am. We will have the opportunity to show our appreciation for GUMC Christian Educators as well as to recognize our rising third and sixth graders. A delicious pick-up breakfast will be provided by Brenda Childers and her Hostess Committee. Our regular Sunday School classes will begin at 10:00 am.

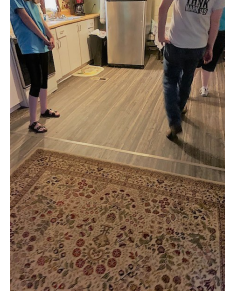
Happy 4th of July!



Salkehatchie Lancaster Camp

June 15 - 22, 2019

Grace is proud of a great group of youth led by Grayson Fallaw, who worked at the Lancaster Salkehatchie Camp June 15 - 22, 2019. They are Allie Owens, Delani Rash, Katie Wagner, Grant Harris, Jon Nick Gault, Jacob Gault, and Clint Smallwood. We appreciate them serving as Salkehatchie servants, being the hands and feet of Jesus.





"Yee Haw" VBS June 9 – 11, 2019

Our 2019 Vacation Bible School at Grace, **Yee Haw, Celebrating God's Greatest Gift** was on June 9 - 11. Many volunteers planned, decorated, donated, and worked together to make our VBS a success for 17 children. Inspired by Stampede Sherry and Rawhide (Pastor David) McSpurt, the children kicked up their heels at Yee-Haw VBS as they stampeded through the wild frontier and celebrated God's greatest gift of all—**Jesus**. Many thanks to each volunteer who decorated, provided meals, led the music, taught lessons, made projects, and played games! **Everyone had a Rootin' Tootin' good time!**





ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT 2019

"A Future with Hope: Seeking a More Excellent Way"

"A Future with Hope: Seeking a More Excellent Way" was the theme for the 2019 S.C. Annual Conference held at the Greenville Convention Center June 2 – 6, 2019. Bishop Jonathan Holston preached the opening worship service on Sunday evening. He reminded us that "If we allow God to live in us that God will change the world". The evening ended with communion.

Each day, Monday – Thursday, began at 7:30 AM with a communion worship service. Later in the morning, we enjoyed the Bible study taught by Drs. Gregory and Susan Jones.

Many reports were heard during the week from different divisions of the Methodist Church.

A budget of \$16.8 million was passed for the 2020 ministry budget. The body voted to sell The Methodist Oaks in Orangeburg because of a very large financial deficit.

During the week, clergy and laity elected eight delegates each to attend both the General Conference 2020 and the Jurisdictional Conference 2020, along with two alternates.

There were thirty-six women and men licensed as local pastors in an impressive examination and licensing service. They were commissioned on Monday evening at the worship service.

Rev. Sara White preached the service of Thanksgiving and Memory recognizing thirty-two pastors and eight spouses who passed away during the past year, and seventeen surviving spouses. Rev. Bobby Waddell, our pastor here at Grace from 1994 – 1998 was remembered. He was deceased on December 13, 2018.

Bishop Holston presided over the Recognition Service for Retiring Ministers. Thirty men and women retired from our conference.

The Annual Conference held two mission initiatives. One was to collect twenty-five boxes of non-perishable food for The Harvest Hope Food Bank in Greenville and the other was to prepare Elder Baskets to be given to Native American needy seniors.

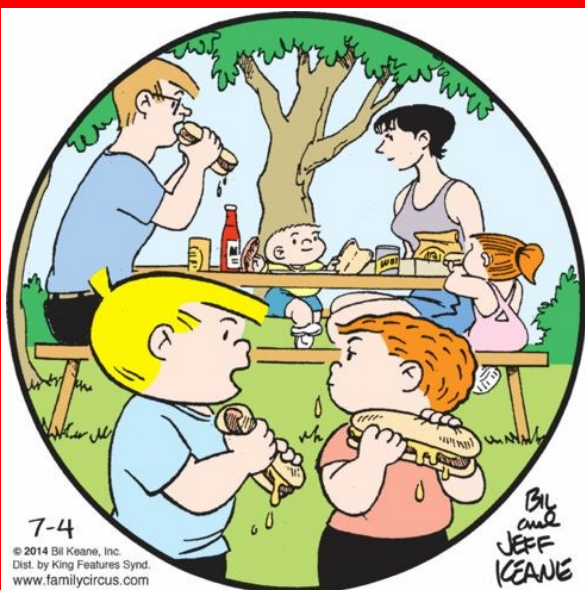
The 2020 Annual Conference will be held at the newly renovated Florence Center in Florence, SC, beginning Sunday, June 7, 2020 and going through Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

The Annual Conference 2019 ended on Thursday at about 2:00 PM after the fixing of ministerial appointments.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Frances Adams

Lay Member to Annual Conference



7-4

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"Today's a good day to eat hot dogs,
'cause that's what our fourth fathers
always ate."

F Freedom came with a price,
the price of Christ blood
shed on the Cross.

O Our Lord and Savior saved
us all from our sins.

U Unrighteous we may be,
but the grace us God set us
free.

R Rely on God, He will show
our paths.

T The truth is in God's Word,
the Bible, His Holy Book.

H Helping one another
along the way.

O Obedient to what God
wants us to do.

F Father, Creator,
God is He.

J Jesus died for our sins.

U United one day, we
believers will be in Heaven.

L Love one another as Christ
loved us.

Y You are a special creation
made from God, our
Heavenly Father.



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JUNE WAS ICP AWARENESS MONTH Intrahepatic Cholestasis of Pregnancy

As we consider our witness, we are blessed to have Allison and Brandon Gardner share their story with us. They are continuing their journey of wholeness after the loss of their son, Judd. Their tragedy has become a walk of faith that has already made a tremendous difference in many lives. As Psalm 30:5 says, *"Weeping may endure for a night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning."*

On Sunday, June 23, 2019, during the worship service, Grace surprised Allison and Brandon Gardner with a special show of support for their ICP awareness campaign. Brad Valentine explained the Gardner's story and then presented them with the first t-shirt showing Grace as a supporter of their cause. Grace shared a special moment with Allison, Brandon, and their families when we also surprised them with a luncheon and a show of support from donations of over \$2500 for **#juddslegacy** to help raise awareness of ICP. Brandon and Allison Gardner had lost their unborn baby boy, Judd William Gardner, just six days before a scheduled induction to this pregnancy complication. This condition, which causes intense itching, is said to be "rare" but is actually just rare in its diagnosis. Since the loss of their son in October 2018, they have been spreading awareness of ICP to both expecting moms and to health care providers. Their ultimate goal is to bring the diagnostic bile acid lab to South Carolina by purchasing the equipment needed and Grace United Methodist Church is joining in to help by selling the t-shirts shown below for **\$12.00** each with all proceeds going to **#juddslegacy**. Brandon and Allison's efforts have already saved several babies and this is just the beginning. Please help Grace U.M.C. help Brandon and Allison **"Fight the Itch."**

Please write the number of shirts you want beside the sizes you would like:

YS___ YM___ YL___ AS___ AM___ AL___ AXL___ AXXL(+ \$2)___ AXXL(+ \$3)___

Name: _____

Telephone # (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Number of Shirts Ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Call Brad Valentine (864) 426- 0983 or Grace U.M.C. (864) 427-1266 with any questions





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