



*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Church Staff & Officers

David J. Wilcher

Lead Pastor

Kyle Bobos

Pastor of Children's Ministries

Todd Crusey

Pastor of Community Life

Grayson Baird

Director of Student Ministries

Elders

Dan Brink

Jon Green

Mike Hume

Mark Moore

Andy Yung

Deacons

Matt Bradshaw

Mike Bellin

Amy Bottorff

Justin Chandler

Jeff Cranford

Mark Hill

Scott Johnston

Steve Kovach

Rob McIntosh

Mike Ryan

Sunny Yung

Grace Church is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Reflections

If...the church fails to reach out with love and with compassion to those outside her bounds—the doubting, the alienated, the hurt, even those with self-inflicted hurts, people with lifestyles we neither like nor think the church should countenance—then she is in danger of failing to notice Christ shining through the eyes of those unsuitable souls.

...When [the church] is tempted to categorize and pigeonhole and brand with a mark, she runs the risk of exclusion from Christ's companionship. Her job is to offer the stern challenge of reconciliation to irreconcilables, bringing in the unwilling with the offer of love and the recalcitrant with the promise of God's forgiveness, and proclaiming to all souls everywhere Christ's sovereignty and kingship, which conveys to an incredulous world of individuals the means of grace and the hope of glory.

— John Andrew (1931-2014)
in My Heart Is Ready

The church, like ancient Israel, is constantly tempted to be concerned exclusively with itself and ignore the unsaved world outside. Internal affairs are the principal concern of Israel, new and old, and insofar as this attitude prevails, the Jonah syndrome continues. God sees Nineveh, but his people do not. And because they do not, they really do not understand Him.

— Roger S. Greenway,
Apostles to City

Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!
See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are ever before me.

— Isaiah 49:15-16

It is of great importance for Christian believers to have, from time to time, a reasonable, sane, mature person stand up in their midst and say "God is..." and go on to complete the sentence intelligently. There are tendencies within us and forces outside us that relentlessly reduce God to a checklist of explanations, or a handful of moral precepts, or an economic arrangement, or a political expediency, or a pleasure boat. God is reduced to what can be measured, used, weighed, gathered, controlled, or felt. Insofar as we accept these reductionist explanations, our lives become bored, depressed, or mean. We live like stunted acorns in a terrarium. But oak trees need soil, sun, rain, and wind. Human life requires God. The theologian offers his mind in the service of saying "God" in such a way that God is not reduced or packaged or banalized, but known and contemplated and adored, with the consequence that our lives are not cramped into what we can explain but exalted by what we worship.

— Eugene H. Peterson
Reversed Thunder

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Lord's Day

January 14, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

Praise

Call to Worship

Romans 11:33-36

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

People: How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Leader: Who has known the mind of the Lord?

People: Or who has been his counselor?

Leader: Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?

*All: For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

¹ As a courtesy, please program all communication devices to silent mode. Thank you!

Song of Praise

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty!

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

At the Name of Jesus

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 1:18

*“Come now, let us settle the matter,”
says the Lord.
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson,
they shall be like wool.”*

Confession of Sin

*Leader &
People:*

*Lord, you come to us, but we do not recognize you;
you call, but we do not follow;
you command, but we do not obey,
you bless us, but we do not thank you.
Lord, you accept us, but we do not accept others;
you forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us;
you love us, but we do not love our neighbors.
Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission, but we still insist on our own;
you identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor,
but we do not bother to find out what is happening to them;
you suffered and died for the sake of all,
but we do not give up our comfortable lives.
Please forgive and help us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

Psalm 103:8-13

The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will he harbor his anger forever;
he does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Song of Thanksgiving

Thy Mercy My God

The Peace of God and Announcements

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you!

People: *And also with you.*

*If parents prefer, children 4 years old – 2nd grade
are invited to attend Children's Church in the Education Building at this time.*

The Prayers of the People (concluded with the Lord's prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen!

_____ *Commitment* _____

The Offering

The offering is a way for members and friends of Grace Church to support the church's mission and ministry. If you are our guest today, please feel under no compulsion to give.

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 17:1-16

Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word."

2 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: 3 "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there."

5 So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 "Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food." 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" 11 As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

12 "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

13 Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.

Sermon

Mr. David Wilcher

GOD OF THE FORGOTTEN
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

COMMUNION

Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion is a family meal for Christians. We welcome all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation which proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we

encourage you to spend this time in prayer using the prayers that follow as guidelines. We hope that this time is helpful as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, and with his people, the church.

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Therefore, lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Song of Communion

Behold the Lamb

Prayer of Consecration and the Words of Institution

Prayer for those not communing:

Prayer for Covenant Children (Not Yet Confirmed)

Lord Jesus, thank you for placing me inside your family, the church. Help me more and more to know you, to love you, and to follow you as your faithful disciple. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you, as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my needs, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking only to you, the author and finisher of my faith. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment

Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

Distribution of the Bread and the Cup

Grace Presbyterian uses wine in the celebration of Holy Communion. If you prefer non-alcoholic grape juice, please take a cup from the outer circle of the tray. Please hold the elements until all have received so we can celebrate this meal together.

Song of Commitment

Lord for Your Glory

Benediction²

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Dismissal

Minister: Now, let us go forth to serve this community and the world as those who love our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL: *Thanks be to God!*

The pastoral staff and other church leaders are available following the service to pray with you or to answer your questions about the Christian faith or Grace Church.

Worship Music³

Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents with Grace Presbyterian Church.

Brent Allmon, saxophone
T.J. Darst, bass
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar
David Kang, violin
Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

² The benediction is much more than a wish or even a prayer. It is a renewed ordination of the people of God to their service to each other, to their community and the world. God declares his own favor toward his people.

³ All songs except hymns are copied under CCL # 1214497. The hymns are reprinted from *Trinity Hymnal* (© 1990, Great Commission Publications). Used by permission. All Scripture is quoted from, unless otherwise indicated, the *THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION*®, *NIV*® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by *Biblica, Inc.*™ Used by permission

Sermon Notes

1 Kings 17:1-16

GOD OF THE FORGOTTEN

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

Community Group Questions

1. Have you ever found yourself in a situation that was more than you could handle or cope? Please discuss.
2. Why is this story a strange way to introduce Elijah? Who is confronting whom in the story?
3. What does it mean that Elijah leaves? What does he take with him? Why is God's presence critical?
4. Why the story about this widow? Where is the setting of this story? Why is that significant? Is God bound by any boundaries?
5. What does she have left in this life? What is she expecting? What does Elijah ask from her? Do you think this request is obscene? Why or why not?
6. How does the widow respond to Elijah's request?
7. How do we normally respond when God asks anything from us?
8. How does God provide abundance in our lives? Who is the prophet that Elijah points us to? How does this story parallel the story of Jesus and the woman at the well?

Welcome, Guests! We are excited you're here with us today. We hope that you were warmly welcomed and would love for you to be a part of Grace. Please take a moment to fill out the visitor information on the back of the bulletin, tear it off and drop it in the offering plate or give it on to an usher.

Parents of Infants - Three-Yr-Olds: Our nursery and early-childhood classes provide a warm, nurturing, and well-supervised environment. Our workers welcome the opportunity to love your child! When using the nursery, please check in and label all items (bags, cups, etc.) with your child's name. If you need assistance or have any questions about the Nursery, please contact our Nursery Coordinator, Kate Weimar, at nursery@gracewoodlands.org.

Cry Room: A cry room is available for the comfort of our new parents in order to ensure that everyone enjoys our services. It is located in the back of the sanctuary and it is well equipped (comfortable rockers, changing table, etc.) but if you are in need of anything, one of our ushers will be glad to assist.

Sunday Mornings at Grace

8:30 am Prayer

9:30 am Christian Education Classes

10:15 am Coffee Break

10:30 am Worship

11:45 am Intercession

Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry: To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. We would like to invite you to be a part of this uprising at 8:30 each Sunday morning in the Prayer Room (114). Join us as we pray for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes: Grace offers adult classes at 9:30 am so we can come together to learn more about the Christian faith, find encouragement to grow in character and wisdom, and grow more equipped to engage our neighbors, those nearby and those across the world, with the gospel of grace. We invite you to join in on this opportunity for fellowship, discussion and teaching.

• **Foundations of Christian Doctrine**

Anthony Bocciardi

We live what we believe. But how well do our most cherished convictions compare with the foundational tenets of Christianity that form our compass? Anthony invites us to grow in being the fragrant aroma of Christ, so that we and our neighbors can envision a different, better kingdom even as we struggle to live out our faith in our present-day culture.

• **Gospel Mercy**

Damon Webster

Jesus issues a steep command to all his followers: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." What does this mean for the heart that cries out? How are we to reflect mercy in the world? Damon invites us to consider how a deeper grasp of God's mercy transforms suffering into freedom.

• **Intro to Grace Presbyterian**

David Wilcher

Whether you are on the fast track toward membership or the walking path toward learning more about us, this introductory class about Grace Presbyterian Church is for you! This is a great chance to better understand the mission and ministry of this church, as well as to interrogate the pastor with any questions you might have.

Join us weekly at 9:30 - upstairs in the Education Building.

Community Groups: To be part of the church is to be part of a community. Community is where we connect, build relationships, study, and serve together. Groups consist of 8-15 people meeting regularly in homes, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. Most groups meet on Sunday nights, but other times are also available. **Community Groups resume tonight!** A full list and descriptions of our current groups is available in the Narthex. Two groups meet immediately after the service. If you'd like to learn more community life at Grace, please contact Todd Crusey at todd@gracewoodlands.org.

Children's Christian Education classes are offered for Preschoolers (2-3yrs old), Pre-K and Kindergarten, 1st-2nd Grade, 3rd-4th Grade, and 5th-6th Grade. Classes meet in the Education Building at 9:30 am 2nd Grade and under are on the 1st floor, 3rd Grade and above meet on the 2nd floor.

- **Children's Church** is offered for children ages 4 years old through 2nd grade. During passing of the peace, the children line up with their leader in the back of the sanctuary to exit worship. During the song of communion, children will rejoin their families to observe communion with the rest of the church body. We gather in room 108 in the Education Building to sing songs, pray, and hear a children's sermon. We also collect a children's offering during the service. This format is designed to model worship for our children and teach them the importance of meeting together as the body of Christ.
- **SNiCK and 56ers** All children, 8 weeks through 6th Grade, are invited to join us on Sunday nights from 5-7 pm. We eat and laugh and play during our time together. The goal is to have fun at SNiCK through friendship and fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors! We resume tonight!
- **PlayGroup** is an active gathering of moms and dads making space for fun, friendship, and adventure for our young children. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month. To get involved, contact Deborah Kovach (281-900-4059) or Natalie Webster (904-651-2166). Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates.
 - Jan 26th- Chick-fil-a on 2920 near Kuykendahl Rd at 10:30am
 - Feb 9th- Valentine's Party at Natalie Webster's House
 - Feb 23rd- The Woodlands Children's Museum

Student Ministry:

- **Christian Education:** On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15, we gather to know more deeply about our Lord and Savior and who are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings in Room 206.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship)** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat together, fellowship together, and to see the person and work of Jesus more clearly in our lives together. Jr. High meets from 5-7 pm and Sr. High meets 7-8:30 pm. Relationships are at the heart of what it means to be made in the image of God. Join us this semester as we discuss all the differing relationships we have in our lives and what does it mean to usher the love of Christ into all of these.
- **Tutoring at Tamina:** Come and serve at the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5:00 pm on Tuesdays to tutor, play with, and love on a great group of kids. Any questions, contact Grayson for more information.
- **Save The Dates:**
 - **Ranchopalooza-** March 2-4, 2018. This is a weekend retreat for high school students to unplug and retreat from our busy schedules to be present with God and one another.
 - **RYM camps:** Junior High will be attending RYM Texas, which is June 4-8, 2018. High Schoolers will be trekking to RYM Colorado, June 11-16. There will be a brief meeting about camps following worship on January 21 up in Room 207.

Women's Ministry Events and More! Please join the Women's Ministry on E-Connect to get involved.

- **Women For Women begins Jan 23rd:** Women for Women is a confidential support group that invites women to embark together on a healing journey to know our Wounded Healer more fully. The group will meet Tuesday evenings beginning with an orientation on January 23rd. We'll springboard our discussions from the book to be told by Dan Allender. Each week there will be assigned reading and writing. Enrollment is limited so please contact Joy Zeigler soon.
- **Rain Walks** is a grief support group for women who are dealing with a significant loss in their life, either recently or in the past. Please come to listen (and share if you like) as we discuss our journeys and ways to "walk" through our loss. We meet once a month, year round. Dates and times vary each meeting. Our NEXT MEETING will be at Black Walnut Café on Wednesday, January 17th starting at 8:30 am. Contact Sabrina Amell for more information.
- **Women's In-Town Retreat:** We're excited to be hosting our annual Women's Retreat January 19-20! It will be based on Alistair Begg & Sinclair Ferguson's book Name Above All Names. For those who signed up, we'll see you there! Bring your Bibles if you want and get ready to dig in deeper as we study

the person and work of Jesus Christ. No need to purchase the book, but you're most welcome to if so desired. Contact Kristen Chandler with any questions.

- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, February 1st we'll meet at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like! Questions, contact Courtney Lott .

Men's Fraternal:

- **Brew Night:** Our next monthly men's gathering is set for Tuesday, January 16th. Join us at Stadia Sports Grill (89595 Six Pines Dr #1110, The Woodlands) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm. Come and go as you like.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast meets next at 6:30 am on Tuesday, January 23rd at the Egg & I on Research Forest. A breakfast buffet is available at \$10 per person. Steve Wilmoth is teaching a study on the Person and Work of Jesus.

GraceCares:

- **ESL Informational Meeting:** GraceCares is looking to serve the needs of our community by offering ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes. ESL is a great way to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are non-native english speakers. No prior experience or training is required. GraceCares will provide training and resources, but we need teachers! If you are interested, please plan to attend an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 21st** from 12-2 pm. *Lunch will be provided.*
- **Autumn Grove:** Just a few minutes drive from Grace, Autumn Grove Cottage, a sixteen resident assisted living home, provides care to men and women with Alzheimer's. A small group from Grace visits roughly once a month for about 30 minutes or so to sing, pray and visit with the residents. Our next visit will be **Today at 1:15**. We would love to have you join us. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are many seasons and events in life when we all need the help and encouragement of our community. The Meals Ministry seeks to enter into these times by providing meals and other means of support. If you are in need of meals, or would like to help provide meals for others, please contact our Meals Coordinator, Rhonnie Bellin.
- **Serve and Care for Grace Church members and congregation.** If you would like to know the best way to support and help those who might have financial or physical needs in our church and community, we would encourage you to consider giving to the Deacon's Fund. It is through the deacons and their ministry that Grace church provides for, supports and comes alongside those who are in need. If you have questions, please contact Matt Bradshaw.
- **Prayer Ministry:** Our desire at Grace is that we take seriously the privilege of prayer and there are several ways you can participate. If you become aware of a prayer need, please communicate this to us in one of the following ways:
 - In writing: Fill out the back page of the bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
 - By phone: 281-296-0911 (Church Office)

Your requests will be communicated to our Church Staff, Officers, and our Prayer Team. If you would like to be on our Prayer Team, please let us know.

Missions Service Opportunities & Events: Contact John Zeigler for more information or to be added to our GraceMissions email list or to connect with a missions team advocate.

- **January Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of January.
 - Rev. Dennis & Mrs. Jane Hermerding, King's Cross Church, Cypress, TX
 - Rev. Wil & Mrs. Mary Nettleton, RUF at Trinity University
- **Short Term Mission Opportunities:** Looking to expand your worldview? Consider one of the following missions trips MTW has coming up. Contact Wendy Dempsey at wcdempsey@gmail.com for info.
 - **Prayer walking in Marseille, March 10th-17th, 2018**
 - **Vision Trip to London, April 14th-21st, 2018**
- **Local Mission Partners**
Tamina Community Center | Conroe, TX

Montgomery County Women's Center | Montgomery County, TX
 Cornerstone Recovery | The Woodlands, TX
 Interfaith Family Services | The Woodlands, TX
 Pregnancy Assistance Center North | The Woodlands, TX
 Redeemed Ministries | The Woodlands, TX
 Three Local Refugee Pastors: Pastor Thong Lun & Pastor Mang Tiak -Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship, Pastor Bhadra Rai & wife, Ruth -Canaan Bhutanese Church of Houston, Pastor "Andre" Onokoko Shang -International Ministries for the Propagation of the Gospel | Houston, TX
 Blake & Ryan Arnoult | RUF | University of Houston
 Juan Carlos & Samara Martínez | RUF | Rice University
 Open position | RUF | Texas A&M University
 Dennis & Jane Hermerding | King's Cross Church | Cypress, TX
 Leo & Ellen Schuster | City Church | Houston, TX
 Bill Thomas | PCA Southwest Church Planting Network | Dallas, TX
 Oaklawn Presbyterian Church | Houston, TX
 Grace Presbyterian Diaconate

• **National Mission Partners**

Way & Amy Rutherford | RUF | Baylor University
 John & Chrissy Trapp | RUF | University of Texas
 Ryan & Laura Anderson | RUF | Texas Christian University
 Wil & Mary Nettleton | RUF | Trinity University
 Nathan & Falon Moretto | New City Presbyterian Church | Royal Oak, MI
 David & Kelly Richter | Christ the King Presbyterian Church | Somerville, MA
 Francis A. Schaeffer Institute | Covenant Theological Seminary | Saint Louis, MO
 Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) | Atlanta, GA
 Curtis & Marian Castleberry | RUF | University of Texas at San Antonio

• **International Mission Partners**

Jason & Sarah Pickard | RUF International | Texas A&M University
 Open position | RUF International | University of Texas
 Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Toyosu, Tokyo, Japan
 Charlie & Bonita Davidson | MTW | Monterrey, Mexico
 Andy & Missy Shadburne | MTW | Fremantle, Perth, Australia
 David & Eowyn Stoddard | MTW | Berlin, Germany
 Arab Baptist Theological Seminary | Beirut, Lebanon
 Kay Burklin | MTW | Refugee Liaison, Europe
 Mission to The World (MTW) | Atlanta, GA

Stewardship Update: Grace thanks you so much for your generous gifts and offerings to our Savior for 2017.

	<u>2017</u>
2017 General Fund Budget	817,800
Actual General Fund Receipts	860,318
Variance	42,518

During 2017, because of the ebb and flow of cash flow, Grace borrowed \$15,000 from a credit line at a local bank. Because of your year-end generosity, this loan is being paid off with the bounty of year-end giving.

Find & Interact with Members and Online Giving:

- **Grace Online Directory:** The link for member login can be found on the church website under the Connect tab. In addition to accessing the church directory, you can join groups and review your giving history. If you did not receive login instructions or would like to be added to the church directory, contact Dianna in the office at admin@gracewoodlands.org or 281-296-0911.

- **Grace Online Giving Portal.** If you would like to give online, you will need to setup an account. The link can be found on our website under the Care/Give tab.
- **Grace Church Mobile App (Elexio Community by Elexio)** is available for iPhone and Android and can be found by clicking the Apple App Store and Google Play icons on the church website. In addition to giving users access to the church directory and events, the mobile app also offers a mobile check-in option for the Nursery. To log on, replace "Domain" with gracewoodlands and use your directory username and password for the app.

Banners Explained: In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection. This color indicates ordinary time, which is the time between the major Christian Seasons.

The Banner on right symbolizes the Trinity, the belief that God is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and yet, one God. No part of the Trinity is ever out of alignment (moving independently) from the other parts of the Trinity. The circle represents eternity. The circle is frequently seen with the Trinitarian symbol, representing the eternal qualities of each part of the Godhead.

On the left, the circle of the Celtic Cross is a symbol of eternity as well but emphasizing the endlessness of God's love as shown through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The IHS in the center is the abbreviated name of Jesus in the greek and is a very old symbol, dating back to the first century. Each panels focuses on a central aspect of His work. The cross is framed with grapes, a symbol of our Lord's blood shed on the cross for us.

Missed a Recent Sunday Worship? MP3s of Sunday morning messages are available on the website at www.gracewoodlands.org under Media. You can listen online, download them or subscribe to the Podcast. If you need help or are having trouble, please contact the church office⁴.

⁴ Office Hours 8:30 am-3pm M - F Phone: 281.296.0911
 Email: admin@gracewoodlands.org Website: www.gracewoodlands.org

We are glad to have you as our guest today. Please use this page to let us know of your visit and to make us aware of any ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. You may deposit this page in the offering plate as it comes by, or give it to an usher or greeter. Have confidence that no one will call or drop by your home; this is for us to have a record of your visit or your prayer requests.

Name & Email: _____

Spouse & Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Children & Grade: _____

Please let us know if you are:

- Visitor Regular Attendee One time visit from out of town

I am interested in learning about:

- Community Groups Music Usher, Greeter Sunday Volunteer
- Children's Ministry Women's Ministry Student Ministry Men's Ministry

Prayer Request:

- I would like the prayer team to pray for the following needs or concerns:

- I would like to speak with someone about this prayer request or other spiritual concern; please have someone contact me at: _____.

Prayer of Belief...

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope.

I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness.

Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.