

So Glad Y'all Are Here

“Hey! We’re Glad Y’all are Here!” That’s what the sign says when you walk into Grace Community Church. It has a nice southern ring to it. It suggests that this is a place where people will welcome you warmly. A smile, a handshake, a tour on the way to the coffee pot. After that you find a seat and hope you will be able to keep up with the way *this* church does it.

You ponder, do you sit for the songs and stand for the prayers, or do you stand for the songs and sit for the prayers? Either way, you don’t want to look like you have no clue. Will you like the songs sung? Are they too peppy or are they too slow? Will you like the preaching? Will you learn something, be entertained or will it be like a lecture at college? Does the church have a good children’s program? It would be nice to have a few hours break. In case of emergency, will you be able to find the bathroom?

There are lots of questions on the first visit or two. We look for what we like. If you like it, you will be back. If you don’t like it, then the FBI couldn’t find you. Sadly, the church has been reduced to a choice of comfort and convenience. If you have the time, like what you see, and no one offends you, then this might be the place you come when you need a little pick-me-up. It is either a *good* church or a *bad* one.

In our western culture, when deciding what is most important, *ME* becomes the center of concern. In other words, what goes on must meet *MY* expectations. There once was a study that revealed that 90 percent of people’s thoughts during the day are centered on themselves. “I love me!” more than anything else.

What Paul was inspired to write to the church of Ephesus is revolutionary to this mindset. Instead of Church the way I like it, the perspective moves from an earthly one (where I am) to a heavenly one (where God is). In other words, the Church is not for us, but it is for God’s good pleasure. Jesus is the Leader of the Church and we follow Him. “*And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all*” Ephesians 1:22-23. This new thought means that *the Church* seeks out God’s desires and does that mission regardless of how convenient it is. Heaven has come to earth, and so have those priorities.

The early Church was anything but comfortable. “*Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also*



chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground” Hebrews 11:35-38. Can you imagine the early Church gathering? Some would enter with missing eyes, arms or legs. They may have burns and bandages. Their bodies were permanently scarred from the brutality of oppressors. It may have resembled a wartime triage center. Yet, they all came to gather without comfy chairs, air conditioning or full praise bands performing on stage. They came together because they were “*Being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit*” Ephesians: 22b. The most important thing was not that they had a nice place to meet. The most important thing was that God desired to make *them* His dwelling place. “*Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, “I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE”* 2 Corinthians 6:16. “*And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.*” 2 Corinthians 6:18.

This is the view of the Church from God’s perspective. So, when we gather before the Lord, we are not just going to a place. Rather we are encountering a loving God who sent His only Son to die for our sins on a cross so that we might be acceptable to Him. That is the comfort that *He* wants. He wants to be with us. He wants to be *IN* us. So, the next time you read those words, “Hey, I’m so glad y’all are here!”, think that it is not so much from the people in the room, but God who indwells all those who have committed their eternal soul to Him through Jesus Christ. He really is glad you’re here!

Pastor Robert

Back to School

It's back to school time again! Some of you are probably feeling excited. Some of you may be a little sad that summer is over. You may feel nervous or a little scared about going back to school because of all the new things that you will have to face. You will have new teachers, some new friends, and some of you may even be going to a new school.

On the first day of school, the teacher will probably ask some questions to see how much you already know. When the teacher asks a question -to which you know the answer, you might wave your hand excitedly in the air and say, "I know! I know!" It is a great feeling when you know the answer, isn't it?

In Mathhew 16:15-16, the disciples are going "back to school." Can you guess who their teacher is? Right! Jesus is their teacher. Jesus

Take A Minute



Sharing with
Your Children

By Yvette Perrin

often took his disciples aside to teach them important lessons about the Kingdom of God. This was one of those days. Jesus began his lesson that day by asking his disciples a question.

"Who do men say that I am?" Jesus asked (Matthew 16:15).

I imagine that one of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say that you are John the Baptist."

Then another of the disciples raised his hand and said, "I know! I know! Some people say you are Elijah."

A third disciple raised his hand and said, "Some people say that you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets."

"Very good," Jesus said, "that is what other people are saying, but who do you say that I am?"

You know, I think that Peter was so excited that he forgot to raise his hand. I think he just



called out to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said, "You are right, Peter. You didn't learn that from listening to other people. It was taught to you by my Father in heaven."

The lesson that the disciples learned that day is just as important today as it was then. Many people in our world today still do not know who Jesus is. You and I need to be ready with the answer, "He is the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

Dear Father, when people are searching for the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?" help us to be ready with the answer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

AUGUST

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2  COMMUNION	3	4 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	5 	6	7 Men's Bible Study 10 am	8
9	10	11 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	12	13	14 Men's Bible Study 10 am	15
16	17	18 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	19 	20	21 Men's Bible Study 10 am	22
23  Monthly Birthday Celebration!	24	25 Worship Team Practice 5:30pm; Men's/Ladies Bible Study 7pm	26	27	28 Men's Bible Study 10 am	29
30	31	1 	2	3	4	5

COMING SOON

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

FOOD, GAMES, MUSIC, CRAFTS, PRIZES

SAT., AUG 1 — 10 AM to 2 PM



Labor Day Cookout, Perrin Home, Sept. 7th 4pm. Bring a side, a chair and a friend!

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY ON OUR WEBSITE! ONLY 2-3 SENTENCES NEEDED. SEE TRACY WOOD IF INTERESTED!

GCC Birthdays This Month

Wanda Barksdale, Louise Davis, Alena Latysheva-Tharpe, Glenn Byron

Foster Children Ministry

Male 10 years old 12/10/2015
Male 1 month old 01/05/2026

If you would like to sponsor a child see Patricia Johnson

Hospitality

Our fellowship meal is an extension of our service where we gather together to share the love of Jesus. The meal is served buffet style with guests and seniors going first. VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED. If you would like to help out see Diana Matthews

Join Our Family

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Grace family, see Pastor Robert.

Supplemental Bag Ministry

Each month GCC prepares and distributes bags filled with paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items to members of our community. Help is needed to deliver bags as well as donation of items. For more info, see Patricia Johnson.

GCC Online



Want to watch our sermons online? Go to www.gatherwithgraceva.org. scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the watch or sermons link. This will take you to our YouTube channel, where you will find one years worth of sermons. Or if you prefer, go to our Facebook page at facebook.com/connect2gcc to watch live every Sunday morning or whenever you like!



Awana's is back Sundy, August 23!

If you would like to volunteer or register a child, go to gatherwithgraceva.org, or see Betty Shook, Diector of Awana, Yvette Perrin, Awana Secretary, or Pastor Robert.

August Fellowship Menu

August 1: Potluck
August 8: Potato Bar
August 15: Sandwiches
August 22 Chicken
August 29: Spaghetti





The function of the Board of Grace Community Church is to support a Holy Spirit-led movement for all people to discover and demonstrate a growing relationship in Jesus Christ.

Grace Community Church Board Members:
Robert Perrin, Pastor and Chairman of the Board; *Glen Matthews*, Church Representative, Facility and Maintenance Coordinator; *Tracy Wood*, Church Representative, Operations Coordinator; *JoAnn Carmen*, Treasurer; *Betty Shook*, Secretary. Please contact Tracy (434-825-9112) or Glen (434-664-5202) with any concerns or suggestions you would like the GCC board to address.