



# THE GOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012



**Mission 911**  
P.O. Box 3157  
Corpus Christi, TX 78404

You are invited to attend and help sponsor a great event benefitting **Mission 911**. It's a fundraiser on March 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi, Texas and the theme is "Building the Bridge Out of Poverty."

The fundraiser dinner is sponsored by TXU Energy and will include a simulation of poverty. This poverty simulation will help you to understand the needs of our neighbors in this community struggling with poverty and you will learn of opportunities to help.

Our Fundraising Committee wishes to express their enthusiastic support for **Mission 911**, a faith-based shelter developed to meet the needs of the homeless in Corpus Christi, Texas. **Mission 911** opened its doors in June of 2000 and since then has assisted homeless men, women and children through its programs. We see **Mission 911** as a faith-based organization that serves the community by providing apartments, employment, spiritual support and hope for the people in poverty. **Mission 911** allows for a family-style sense of belonging which is often missing among those struggling in poverty. The community of residents at **Mission 911** becomes family for those who have no family. This unity allows the residents to strive for self-sufficiency and higher self-esteem.

We are counting on you to help the people of **Mission 911** and this great event, "Building the Bridge Out of Poverty." Please take a moment to look at the enclosed details and consider how you may support this event on March 3, 2012 and the work of **Mission 911** in our community. To make a contribution or to find out more about sponsoring "Building the Bridge Out of Poverty," contact **Mission 911** at (361) 882-0911. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Mission 911 Fundraising Committee  
Tony Reyes, Kathy Rios, Mary Tom Heftte, Anita Schulz,  
Chip Blackshear, Lisa Boggs, Pam Mayfield

*Coming to Grace Church:*

## Building the BRIDGE OUT of POVERTY



Dinner & Poverty Simulation  
Saturday, March 3, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

**Individual Tickets \$100 per person**

*See Lisa Boggs, Anita Schulz, Mary Tom Heftte*

### Available Sponsorship

**\$2,000 Platinum** – Company logo on all advertising and banners for the event. Seating for 30 people for dinner and poverty simulation

**\$1,500 Silver** – Company logo on banners and signs for the event. Seating for 20 people for dinner and poverty simulation

**\$1,000 Bronze** - Company logo on banner for the event. Seating for 10 people for dinner and poverty simulation

# Grace United Methodist Church

14521 Northwest Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, TX 78410-5501

[www.ccgrace.org](http://www.ccgrace.org)



"LIKE US" FOR  
UP-TO-DATE  
INFORMATION!

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday: 9:00a – 5:00p  
Fridays: 9:00a – 12:00p

## CONTACT US

[GraceUMC@ccgrace.org](mailto:GraceUMC@ccgrace.org)

**361-933-0109 ext.**

### Pastors:

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[stanwhites@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stanwhites@sbcglobal.net)  
Home 933-0702 / 290-1762

### Director of Youth Ministry:

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[katrios2002@msn.com](mailto:katrios2002@msn.com)

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### Director of Music Ministry:

Anita Schulz  
[aschulz@stx.rr.com](mailto:aschulz@stx.rr.com)

### Pianist:

Mary Anne Christian  
[musicmamdoremi@yahoo.com](mailto:musicmamdoremi@yahoo.com)

### Praise Band Director:

Kirk Tumlinson  
[KirkTumlinson@gmail.com](mailto:KirkTumlinson@gmail.com)

### Methodist Healthcare Ministry Counselor:

Rick Sanchez 361-442-3670  
[rsanchez@mhm.org](mailto:rsanchez@mhm.org)

← CUT OUT AND POST ON FRIDGE →

## Pastor's Column: Why Lent?

Pastor Stan Whites

Hi Folks,

As you receive this newsletter, the season of Lent will be upon us. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, and we will once again come together on that evening to begin our journey towards Easter.

For those of us who might be new to the idea of "Lent," it is a season observed by many churches which provides an opportunity to reflect on our brokenness. Many intentionally choose to "give up" or "take on" some tangible item or practice for the purpose of focusing more fully on our need for God, and on strengthening our relationship with God.

In my preparation for the season to come, I ran across a thought that I would like to share:

At the beginning of Lent, we may have been wrestling with what to "give up" or what to "take on" during this season of penitence. Whatever we decide to do or not to do, this is a time of change, of movement, of going from what we are... to the place or condition where we want to be. In the Old Testament, Abram heard the call of God to move to a new land, and we can only wonder at the strength of that call.

What would it take to get us to move to a new land?

Moving from an old place to a new place in our spiritual lives may be what we are called to do, and such a move will require an act of will, too.

What will it take to get us to make that move?

~[www.esermons.com](http://www.esermons.com)

As I read and pondered that thought, I recalled that it was Abram's faithfulness to God's call and his willingness to move that opened the door for much of what God has accomplished in our salvation history. Without Abram's courage, we must wonder how different our lives and world might be.

Well, it might be hard to believe, but we, too, hold the ability for God's salvation to go forth and grow in our personal journeys as well as in the world around us. How willing are we to courageously move in ways that allow God to work through us this Lenten season?

Would we be willing to commit to a personal devotional time with God each day? Might we kneel beside our beds each morning, asking God to lead us through the events and encounters that lie ahead? Is it beyond our ability to get involved in one of our Lenten study groups, or to faithfully participate in worship or Sunday school every Sunday between now and Easter? Could we possibly let go of some habit or hobby during this season so that we might do something that would allow someone else to experience the goodness and promise of God?

There are many ways in which we can move in our personal faith journey that will open up opportunities for us and others in the coming weeks. It is my prayer that each of us will consider where God might move us so that we may experience and share God's salvation this Easter.

Something to think about...

*Pastor Stan*

*Lent*

**Bridges to Contemplative Living  
Begins Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

Mary Tom Hefte and Jimmy Platt will gather on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., (beginning Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>) to facilitate a contemplative study published by the Merton Institute for Contemplative Living. The cost of the book is \$6.50.

The *Bridges to Contemplative Living* series offers a tool to encourage a more contemplative lifestyle. Developed around a key theme for integrating contemplative living into our everyday lives, each session follows this format:

- Begins with a Psalm passage for reflection
- Provides an introduction that offers continuity, context and connections between the theme of the session and the readings.
- A reading from Thomas Merton, the heart of each session, leads us to deep places within ourselves and offers insights into the paradoxes of life.
- A second reading from another spiritual writer complements Merton's writing. This "voice" often represents insights from another religious tradition.
- Contemplative dialogue, non-threatening, a "safe place" for open sharing and discussion, follows. The focus is on listening rather than thinking about how to respond to what we hear.
- Ends with a prayer.

Register through the Communication Card in Sunday's bulletin, or via e-mail to [Admin@ccgrace.org](mailto:Admin@ccgrace.org)

**Blood Mobile Returns**

**February 26, 8:30 – 1:00 p.m.**

**Goal: 22 donors (photo i.d. required)**

Did you know that each unit of blood donated can help up to three people? And the rarest blood type is "the one not on the shelf" when it's needed! The following poem, written by Jack Patterson, was offered by Joyce Dungan. It reflects on one man's experience as a blood donor.

I gave my blood, Christ gave His.  
I gave a pint, He gave His all.  
The needles were small and sharp.  
The nails were large and dull.  
The chair was soft, and restful.  
The cross was rough and painful.  
The technician was kind and gentle.  
The soldiers were cruel and mean.  
The crowd approved my sacrifice.  
They that passed by reviled Him.  
Mine was O positive.  
His was positively all.  
Mine, at best, will prolong life for a while.  
His, without a doubt, can forever save us all.

~Jack Patterson, 2011 ADRP Chairperson  
(Association of Donor Recruitment Professionals)



♡ *Love Letters*

Thank you for the caring notes, cards, visits, and overall care and concern for Frankie and me (and the family) throughout our most recent "MD Anderson Adventures". We couldn't have done it without you!

~Frankie & Ruthie King

**To Our Trustees:**

Thank you, Trustees, for how blessed I am for the privilege of doing the Lord's work alongside each of you and Grace church, to have you doing the Lord's work on their behalf. I am grateful for you.

~Richard Shurley

*Trustees:*

Johnnie Bickham, Judy Macek,  
Mick Machen, Mike Boggs,  
Robert Rios, Scott Taylor,  
Susan Cornett, Ted Van Blarcum

## A Message from the United Methodist Southwest Texas Conference

David Seilheimer, Treasurer

Our Southwest Texas United Methodists have again surpassed themselves in generosity and faithfulness. Total giving to apportioned causes as well as the percentage of apportionments given are both up during 2011. In addition, giving to advance special causes totaled \$1,408,252. Total giving through the SWTX Conference to both Apportionments and Advance Specials totaled \$12,114,451.

What does this mean in terms of ministry? It means that...

- ✓ United Methodists and their money have been and will continue to be at work helping to rebuild after the wildfires in the Bastrop areas.
- ✓ Emergency needs in the Philippines from the 2011 typhoons are being met. In fact, we gave more than \$200,000 to emergency relief in the Pacific Area.
- ✓ Our churches have supplied 3,811 Malaria nets this year, which are saving the lives of children in Africa.
- ✓ Our Imagine No Malaria campaign is supplying medicine, education, and health services which have saved thousands of lives in 2011.
- ✓ Pastors and their spouses who have served the church faithfully for many years are receiving sustainable pensions for their work in the United Methodist Churches.
- ✓ Thousands of children and youth are having the opportunity to develop their faith through MidWinter and Summer Camps.
- ✓ There is an effective minister who mentors youth directors and leaders in churches across the conference to other Methodist-related colleges in Texas.
- ✓ The United Methodist Church has a presence on campuses across Southwest Texas, ministering to college students.
- ✓ Our faith and generosity brings us together in changing the world.

### Special Note from Pat Pike

**Grace UMC Financial Secretary:**

**Apportionments** are the way in which local churches combine their financial resources to enable our vision for mission and ministry at every level of the United Methodist Church. In 2011, Grace United Methodist Church paid 100% of its apportionments! Thanks be to God!

Of our 336 churches, 280 gave 100% of their apportioned share for the connectional ministry. All seven districts gave more than 90% of their apportionments. Three of our seven districts—Corpus Christi, Kerrville, and San Angelo—gave more than 99% of their apportionments.

“Ministers frequently find themselves in fierce competition with people and institutions who offer something more exciting to do than they do. But our task is the opposite of distraction. Our task is to help people concentrate on the real but often hidden event of *God’s active presence* in their lives. Hence, the question that must guide all organizing activity in a parish is not how to keep people busy, but how to keep them from being so busy that they can no longer hear the voice of God who speaks in silence.”

Henri Nouwen  
The Way of the Heart

### The Evolution of Tithing... It’s Catching On!

Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, your church relies on your regular contributions. Grace UMC appreciates the efforts of its members to make consistent donations throughout the year—especially during popular winter and spring travel periods. To assist you, Grace UMC has established a convenient electronic giving option for setting up regular contributions.

Many members are now working with their banks to set up automated drafts as well. If you give to the church through an automated draft account with your bank, please remember to make the “change of address” for Grace UMC: **14521 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78410**

Contact Pat Pike at 933-0109 x221 to consider the option that might work best for you.





## A Way to Get Your Foot in the Door!

### It's Lay Reader and Prayer Minister Training

**6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> OR 12:30 p.m., Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

If you've thought of assisting with worship on Sundays through reading scripture or offering prayer, this training opportunity is for you! In order to be added to the rotation schedule, we ask that all Lay Readers and Prayer Ministers—current and hopeful—attend the training session that works best with your schedule.

Contact Kathy Borhauer if you have questions. 387-3433 or 548-7638

## Membership report December 2011 through January 2012

by Sandy Callis

### 2011 END OF YEAR REPORTING:

**Average Worship attendance: 314**

**Average Sunday School attendance: 140**

#### Added To Membership:

Baptisms: 12

By Faith or restored: 32 (Includes 12 confirmation)

UMC Transfer: 8

From other denomination: 15

#### Removed:

By Death: 9

UMC Transfer: 6

Other Denomination: 3

Charge Conference: 47

Withdrawn: 3

**Total Members 2011: 853**

### JANUARY 2012

**Average Worship attendance: 316**

**Average Sunday School attendance 2011: 148**

#### Added To Membership:

Stefany Simmons

Bill Henry Simmons (infant baptism)

#### Removed:

Howard & Elizabeth Luttrell

**Total Members 2011: 852**

**Total Visitors:** 17; Linda Upton, Maranda Upton, Victor Gutierrez, JT Maddox, Megan Moses, Luis & Lupe Pacheco, Galdino Rocha, Ann Cain, Melissa Lowder, Chris & Kirsten Noyman, Carl Marshall, Vanessa Reynolds, Mark & Sandy Surface, Dorothy Butler, Harry Carter, Diane Green, Chris & Julie Shuttlesworth

## SOUPER BOWL VICTORY!

**\$836** was raised for the Russia Initiative. Combining that with the communion rail offering and a couple of added gifts, the **\$2,000 goal was met!** The camp outside Vologda will get its septic system! Also, the *Men's Mud Bug Soup* won the most votes for "best soup" followed closely by the *Seeker's SS class for its Corn & Shrimp Chowder*. Congratulations to all!

V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!

## From the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Jeff Stracener, Chairperson

The SPRC met in January to address a number of staffing issues at Grace. We are currently accepting applications for the soon to be vacant Praise Band Director position. The window for applying will close soon. The expectation is to have a replacement named by the end of February. Grace will not be getting an Associate Pastor prior to this summer's pastoral rotations. Pastor Stan and the SPRC are working with the conference leadership to fill the void left by Pastor Mark's departure. The SPRC recognizes the added load this vacancy places on the Senior Pastor and the staff at GUMC and appreciates their efforts to keep Grace moving forward.



If anyone knows the whereabouts of the two plates that were hanging above the water fountain between the restrooms in the Narthex hallway, please call Mary Lutz at 241-6844, or E-mail [marylutz6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marylutz6@sbcglobal.net).

## FROM THE LAUNCH PAD!

### Two New Adult Sunday School Classes

We will be re-organizing a Young Adult Class that will be aimed at *non-married, young people in their 20 and 30's*. It will meet in A-137.

We'll also be adding another adult class aimed at *parents of young families*. It will meet in the wiggle room. It all begins this Sunday, Feb. 12.

### UMW Opens February Meeting to All Mary Tom Hefte will share her experience from the Russia Mission Trip

For the February 21 meeting, Mary Tom Hefte will offer a presentation on her Russian trip. The meeting will be open to all interested in hearing about the work of the Methodist Church in Russia. We will meet for refreshments at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and have her presentation begin at 9:30 a.m.

## “I love Wednesday evenings!”

Anita Schulz, Director of Music Ministries

*“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13: 15-16*

Hello, from Anita! As I sat pondering what to write for this newsletter, the above scripture came to mind. It has been 11 months since my return to the position of Director of Music Ministries here at Grace. For those of you who do not know me, I resigned from the position for 2 ½ years to work on my Master's degree. When I had completed my work, I had no intention of returning to the position—it was not available and I was not looking.

One Friday afternoon in March of last year, Pastor Stan notified me that the person who held that position was resigning and he asked if I would prayerfully consider helping out during the interim as they looked for her replacement. I told him that I did in fact need to pray about it and I would get back with him. I went home, discussed the situation with my family and thought about my ability to return. Admittedly, I was hesitant. With a full-time teaching job and a full slate of piano students, I wasn't sure I could handle another thing on my plate. I prayed for God's guidance in this situation and I prayed that God would give me the strength and stamina to do His work, if needed.

**“Often music can express what words are incapable of conveying.”**

Well, the next morning I awakened to do my daily devotionals and there it was, in the *Upper Room* for that day, the scripture above with a message to ‘share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.’ Wow! That hit me like a ton of bricks. My heart was filled with the need to pursue the job as interim director. And God has fulfilled my prayer for strength and stamina as well. I find that some Wednesday evenings I may go to church feeling extremely tired but after a joyful evening of music and fellowship, I am invigorated! Getting to sleep has become more of a concern.

I love Wednesday evenings! Handbells meet from 6:30-7:15 p.m. followed by 7:30 choir rehearsal for the 11:15 service. The music plays an important part in the rehearsals, but the time we spend praying for one another and the needs of our church family are an integral part of each rehearsal. Many people express their joy for the Lord through their music. Often music can express what words are incapable of conveying. We close each rehearsal with prayer and a 4-part rendition of the Lord's Prayer, a cappella. The Lord works through each and every one of us, fine-tuning our voices and hearts as we prayerfully sing.

As the Director of Music Ministries at Grace United Methodist Church, my primary responsibilities are to direct and oversee the handbell choir and the sanctuary choir for the 11:15 service. As their director I invite any interested person to contact me if you would like to try us out. Grace is also blessed to have an extremely dedicated and talented group of musicians that form the Praise Band for the 8:50 service. If you feel led to share your gift of music to any of these opportunities, please contact me, Anita Schulz at [choir@ccgrace.org](mailto:choir@ccgrace.org) or 361-726-1149.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**2012 BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012**  
**RIVER HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

**FOUR PERSON GOLF TEAMS**

**FORMAT: SCRAMBLE**

**12:00 PM SHOTGUN START**

**Enter as a team or individual:**

- \$50 per Person (Cart included)
- \$200 per Team (Cart included)
- Hole Sponsors \$100.00\*

\*Contact Diane Baker (361) 767-3220 or Jeff Hunt (361) 726-0047



**ENTRY FORM**

YES, WE NEED A CART

NO, WE HAVE A CART

<b>PLAYER 1</b>		Phone
Address		E-Mail
HCP	Home Course	Attested
<b>PLAYER 2</b>		Phone
Address		E-Mail
HCP	Home Course	Attested
<b>PLAYER 3</b>		Phone
Address		E-Mail
HCP	Home Course	Attested
<b>PLAYER 4</b>		Phone
Address		E-Mail
HCP	Home Course	Attested

**Team entry fee must be enclosed with entry form.**  
**All handicap indexes will be verified!**

Mail entry form to:  
 River Hills Country Club  
 P.O. Box 260006  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78426-0006

## Announcing Scholarship Opportunities for 2012

February 2012



### How to Nominate or Get Nominated

Congregations may submit one nomination for each of the 3 scholarships listed.

Download nomination brochure, criteria and instructions

[www.umcswtx.org/scholarships](http://www.umcswtx.org/scholarships)

### Three Scholarships Available in 2012

#### Nominations Deadline April 1, 2012

- Scholarships are for United Methodist students who are members of a congregation in the Southwest Texas Annual Conference.
- High-school seniors through college seniors are eligible to be nominated by their congregation.
- Limit one nominee per church for each of the three scholarships.

#### Scholarships:

1. **Merit Award Scholarship** \$500 - \$1,000 to students attending any United Methodist-related institution of higher learning.
2. **Craven-Wilson TWU Scholarship** \$500 - \$1,500 to students attending Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth.
3. **Craven-Wilson LMC Scholarship** \$500 - \$1,500 to students attending Lon Morris College in Jacksonville TX.

#### Questions?

Contact Ruby Miller,  
[rubob3@hughes.net](mailto:rubob3@hughes.net)

Chair, Scholarship Team

SWTC BHECM

16400 Huebner Rd.

San Antonio TX 78248-1693



#### Nominations Deadline April 1, 2012

#### Who's Eligible?

Download criteria & nomination form at  
[www.umcswtx.org/scholarships](http://www.umcswtx.org/scholarships)

# KIDS CORNER

Kandi Tumlinson, Director of Children's Ministries ☆ 933-0109 x206 ☆ [Children@ccgrace.org](mailto:Children@ccgrace.org)

## Children's Choir

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays!  
In the Children's Wing

## Wednesday Night Live Jr

meets from 6-8pm in the Children's wing. Bring a friend—don't miss out!



Saturday, March 3, 2012

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

For girls in 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade

\$40 registration includes book, lunch and t-shirt

(Registration forms available online or through the church office)

Being a young woman of God is an amazing gift – join us for a chance to learn all about the ways your body and mind are changing as you grow!

## CALENDAR DATES

Sunday, April 1, Easter Egg Hunt at 12:30 - Children 5th grade and younger welcome

June 11-13 - Vacation Bible School 9am-noon - Open to children 4 years old-5th grade (completed)

June 13 - VBS Family Night - 6-8pm - Food, games and fun!

## A new ministry comes to life! Pre-School Praisers!

WHERE: Grace United Methodist Church: 14521 Northwest Blvd.

WHEN: Beginning February 17<sup>th</sup> 9 am-10 am (and every Friday of the month thereafter)

WHAT: Songs, crafts, and snack

COST: \$10 per month per family (This is to help cover costs for craft supplies and snacks. Scholarships available for those who may need them)



## Youth

Kathy Rios, Director of Youth Ministries, [katrios2002@msn.com](mailto:katrios2002@msn.com)

check out the  
YOUTH CALENDAR  
[www.ccgrace.org](http://www.ccgrace.org)

## MIDWINTER WOW!!

The amazing

Grace Youth just returned from another session of Mid-Winter Retreat at Mt. Wesley retreat center in Kerrville. There were over 440+ teens; all worshipping God together and the activities during the day all revolved around the 12 tribes of Israel. A great and powerful time was had by all. Special thanks to the wonderful adults who helped make this trip happen: Jeff & Lisa Hunt, David McIntosh, Kim & Chad Grigg, Regina Findeisen, Morgan Cole, Laura Pike, and Justin Cantu. We could not do this ministry without willing, flexible and loving adults. I thank God for you! Parents, please talk to your children about their experience. Ask questions like, "What was the high point? What was the low point? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself?"

## Youth Assist with Gardening Project: Supplies Needed

Service project for the YWCA! The Amazing Grace Youth Group will do some landscaping for the YWCA on Sun., Feb. 19. We could use extra gardening help. We have around 5 flower beds to fill. Donations of soil, mulch or gardening expertise will be greatly appreciated!

Sea City Work Camp **TACO FIESTA** happens March 25<sup>th</sup>!

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
14521 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78410-5501

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**7:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 22**



*(Left to right) Knowledge, Tatenda, Dzago ("Struggle"), and Micha*

## *The Innovators*

Christian Accapella band from Zimbabwe

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH**

**8:50AM & 11:15AM**

Come hear the very talented voices of *The Innovators* on Sunday, February 19th.

Dzago (Struggle), Michael, Tatenda, and Knowledge have come to the US from

Innecity United Methodist Church in Harare, Zimbabwe to share their testimonies and God-given musical talent with the people at Grace UMC.

***Be there and Be Blessed!***

For more information about The Innovators, please visit [www.InnovatorsMusic.com](http://www.InnovatorsMusic.com)

To schedule a performance at your organization or ministry, contact Stefany Simmons at 361-547-1460.