



Grace United Methodist Church  
14521 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78410  
(361) 933-0109 ♦ [www.ccgrace.org](http://www.ccgrace.org)

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK, TOO!

**December 8, 2011**

**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** extension

**Pastors:**

Stan Whites **205**  
[srpastor@ccgrace.org](mailto:srpastor@ccgrace.org)  
Home 933-0702 / 290-1762

Mark Montgomery **204**  
[assoc.pastor@ccgrace.org](mailto:assoc.pastor@ccgrace.org)  
Home 288-2007 / Cell 726-9332

**Director of Youth Ministry:**  
Kathy Rios **203**  
[katrios2002@msn.com](mailto:katrios2002@msn.com)

**Director of Children's Ministry:**  
Kandi Tumlinson **206**  
[kanditumlinson@gmail.com](mailto:kanditumlinson@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator/Finance:**  
Pat Pike **221**  
[Finance@ccgrace.org](mailto:Finance@ccgrace.org)

**Administrative Assistants:**  
Sandy Callis **200**  
[admin@ccgrace.org](mailto:admin@ccgrace.org)

Cathy Roznovsky **202**  
[GraceUMC@ccgrace.org](mailto:GraceUMC@ccgrace.org)

**Director of Music Ministry:**  
Anita Schulz **208**  
[aschulz@stx.rr.com](mailto:aschulz@stx.rr.com)

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

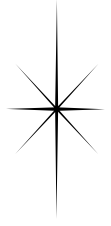
**Praise Band Director:**  
Kirk Tumlinson  
[KirkTumlinson@gmail.com](mailto:KirkTumlinson@gmail.com)

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

↑ CUT OUT AND POST ON FRIDGE ↓

*A Traditional Christmas Cantata*

# Lead Me Back to Bethlehem



*Rediscovering the  
Joy, Peace, and Love  
of Christmas*

**11:15 a.m.,  
Sunday, Dec. 18**



The Grace UMC Sanctuary Choir is presenting its Christmas cantata, "Lead Me Back to Bethlehem." This musical piece, written by Pepper Choplin, leads us through the Christmas story using original music, along with some familiar carols. All of us in the choir have felt God's presence during our practice sessions as we've worked on preparing for the performance. We hope that the congregation experiences the miracle of the birth of the Christ child and His redeeming love through our musical presentation.



*Then...*

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

In the Spirit of Christmas, you're invited to join Grace United Methodist Church in celebrating the birth of the Baby Jesus.

- 5:30 p.m.** Family Service: There will be no candles at this service designed especially for families with small children. Every child present is encouraged to take the part of one of the characters in the Christmas story: prophets, Marys, Josephs, angels, shepherds, sheep, donkeys, Wise Men, camels. There are no limits to the number of any of the characters. Simple, make-shift costumes are encouraged, but not required. At various points in the story, the characters will get up from where they are sitting and be led to the manger scene. *Families with babies born since last December 25 will be invited to become part of the nativity scene near the end of the service.*
- 7:00 p.m.** Praise and Worship Candlelight Service
- 8:30 p.m.** Traditional Christmas Candlelight Service
- 11:00 p.m.** Midnight Candlelight Service

## Pastor's Column: Pass It On

Rev. Stan Whites

Hi Folks,

Just yesterday, Tina and I bought our Christmas tree and began to put up the lights outside our house. As I was looking down the street at all the different decorations, it dawned on me just how many different family traditions we all have when it comes to our understanding of celebrating Christmas. I wish that there was some way that we could find the appropriate forum to share some of the many customs that we have grown up with and passed down to our kids.

I can remember my first Christmas with Tina's family. There were many similarities to my family's experience, except that when it came to opening presents, they calmly and orderly took turns. I love the way that everyone in the room mentally and relationally took part in the opening of everyone else's gifts. It allowed for a togetherness and connection that was seemingly absent in my family ritual.

In my family experience, Christmas morning could better be described as a type of "controlled chaos" with my two sisters, one brother, and I tearing into our gifts with such reckless abandon, it is a wonder that no one lost an eye or was seriously injured in the process. But no matter how wild we were in our Christmas festivities, one rule that was never broken was that we never started until the whole family was there. Our time together was so important that we just couldn't leave anyone out.

As we approach our first Christmas in our new location, I wonder how many men, women, and children in our new neighborhood might not have a meaningful Christmas tradition... or a loving family with which to share this time of hope and promise. It is my prayer that each of us will recognize the importance of having everyone be a part of our Christmas this year, and seek to invite others to share the joy and love of our yearly tradition. Who is it that we should and could include in our Christmas celebration that would make our family more complete?

Something to think about!!!

In Christ,  
*Pastor Stan*



### Are you looking for ways to give back this Christmas season?

**Coats and Blankets:** These can always be used this time of year by the folks of Mission 911, Metro Ministries, The Women's Shelter and The Wesley Community Center. Wouldn't it be nice to offer them "new"?

**Derek's Boxes support the ministry of Mission 911:** Although there are already plenty of toothbrushes, if you, your family or small group want to construct Derek Boxes, they are always welcome. Here are the items needed: a plastic tub with lid to put items in (approx. 14 gal.); 1 set of twin sheets with pillow case; 1 bed pillow; 1 towel and 1 washcloth; 1 water thermos; toothbrush and toothpaste; toothbrush case; deodorant; hairbrush and comb; shampoo (not trial size); body wash (not trial size); journal and ink pen; wallet; 3 pair white tube socks; shaving cream; 2 disposable razors; a bible. The boxes need to be given to Anita Schulz by December 21. If you have questions about the Derek Boxes, feel free to contact **Anita at 726-1149**.

**Mentoring serves At-Risk children in the area:** Any kind of gift card, be it Wal-Mart or HEB, or gasoline is always appreciated. Actual food, like a Christmas dinner, or a turkey or ham, or gifts for the children of these families, even a Christmas tree, can be a blessing. A Wal-Mart gift card allows the family access to food if needed, Christmas gifts for the children, be it clothes or toys, just about anything they know they could use at this time of the year, will not be turned away. Presently, we have 8 families with children in the Mentoring Program totaling to 20 children. If anyone has any questions please contact **Judy Shurley 241-9750**.

**Celebrate Recovery serves those seeking to recover from their hurts, habits and hang-ups:** Celebrate Recovery is in need of individuals willing to pick up and drop off participants from Mission 911 on Friday and/or Monday nights. Also, this ministry would appreciate meals provided on Friday nights and/or donations for coffee and snacks for Monday nights. If you have any questions please contact **Sharon Brady 548-4771**



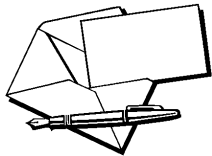
## SOMETIMES, SPONTANEITY ROCKS!

It couldn't have been "planned" with a better outcome. When members of the Trustees were leaving the new building after "checking it twice", the only thing left was to receive the keys from Ed Talley, Project Manager of the 11-month construction on Northwest Boulevard; and there were a lot of keys! So Ed did the most sensible thing, as project managers do. He grabbed a basket large enough to hold the keys. But this was not just *any* basket. On the day of the Ground Breaking in December of 2010, we presented "prayer rocks" to Ed that held our individual and collective prayers for the vision of Expanding Our Circle of Grace. Those rocks—and the prayers they held—were later added to the foundation of the new building. So when it came time to hand over the keys to trustee chairperson, Richard Shurley, Ed used that same basket that had once held the prayers of the people of Grace. Now, that, Mr. Talley, was a *very cool* thing to do!

## KIDS CHRISTMAS UN-SLEEPOVER

6-10:00 p.m., Friday, December 16

Come in your pajamas for dinner, crafts, games, videos and lots of fun! Register by email no later than Wednesday, December 14th at [kanditumlinson@gmail.com](mailto:kanditumlinson@gmail.com) or by phone at 242-3333 ext. 206.



### Love Notes:

#### *Congratulations and Blessings!*

We will be dancing in the aisles with joy as you dedicate your new worship center.

Unfortunately, those aisles will be in Austin (for David) and Industry (where BK will be leading a Charge Conference). Wishing we could be there in person to celebrate this long dreamed dream, we will nonetheless be with you in Spirit. May God grant you a fantabulous celebration and a fruitful future as you continue reaching out to welcome and to serve your community. We treasure our relationship, and our years with you. Advent blessings, Bobbi Kaye, David, Elisabeth, Sarah, Rebekah

#### *Thank you!*

The United Methodist Women would like to thank all of those people who helped make the Annual Bake Sale at the Harvest Fair such a huge success. Special thanks go to those women of the church who contributed their awesome baked goods to the sale. Thanks go out to others who provided monetary donations. All proceeds from the bake sale go directly to the general fund of Grace United Methodist Church. We look forward to next year when we can do it again. ~Carmen Tilton, UMW

#### *Thank you!*

We would like to send out a big thank you to everyone who has given to our family during this difficult time. We are so appreciative for everything and feel so blessed to have the support of such a special church family, it has truly made a huge difference! Thank you for allowing God to shine through each and every one of you. We are the most thankful for the prayers, please keep them coming! Love Abel, Erika, and Katie



### DO YOU HAVE PICTURES TO SHARE?

Media Team Leader, Shane Brown [ccgracemedia@ccgrace.org](mailto:ccgracemedia@ccgrace.org)

Church Historian, Mary Lutz [marylutz6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marylutz6@sbcglobal.net)

## FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- ♦ **Electronic Giving is Now Available** Grace United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the introduction of an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account (or processed using your debit card). Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year, or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. An authorization form is available through the church office.
- ♦ **We're coming to the end of the first three-year campaign: Expanding the Circle of Grace.** If you have not completed your first pledge, you still until the end of this month. You may mail your check to Pat Pike (Grace UMC, 14521 Northwest Blvd., CC TX 78410) or drop it by the church office during the week. Please note that the church office will be open half-days between Christmas and New Year's.
- ♦ **Special Note for End of Year Giving:** For tax purposes, all charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered. In order to have your gift to the church included in the year 2011, it must be either postmarked in December or received in the church financial secretary's office (Pat Pike) by **Friday, December 30.**

## Special Youth Christmas Project

The Amazing Grace Youth Group has been serving the residence at Mission 911 for almost two years now. There are families, as well as single adults living at the mission. We are collecting money and gifts for a single mom with four children and if we get enough; we would like to provide a little Christmas blessing for each and every resident that lives there.

The children are as follows:

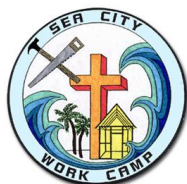
- 16 - Boy (Chris) adult medium shirt and 30x32 pants,
- 12 - girl (Jessica) size 12 - 14 (loves Justin Bieber:),
- 9 - Girl (Megan) size 12
- 7- Girl (Hannah) size 8

**Please have all gifts and monetary donations to Kathy Rios by Dec. 19.** We will wrap what needs to be wrapped and take to the Mission before Christmas. If you wrap your gift; please put from Santa!

**Next Youth Group: Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Next WNL: Wednesday, January 4**

*Coming in 2012: Tour of Service!*  
*Watch for details!*

**Special thanks** to all the youth and adults who helped decorate the Chapel at the Mission and took decorated sack lunches on Sunday. Sixth graders, the bags looked awesome!! We DID Christmas on Sunday! Sometime before Christmas, I will be making a trip to deliver the gifts. Watch my or Grace's Facebook page for details and you can come along!



**GRACE CAMP DATES ARE FIRM: June 17-22, 2012**

Sea City Work Camp applications are now available. Get one from Kathy or go to the web site [www.seacityworkcamp.com](http://www.seacityworkcamp.com). Youth Deans: Trevor Boyd, Brittanny Slusher, Chloe Mengers, Katie Baker, Emily Sacky, Ryan Rosas

**Don't procrastinate on this one! We fill up fast!**

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14521 Northwest Blvd., Corpus Christi, Texas 78410-5501

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX  
PERMIT NO. 690

Address Service Requested

**10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 11, 2011**

**New Worship Center Dedication & Celebration**

**Grace United Methodist Church**

**14521 Northwest Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Texas**

**Special Guest: Bishop James E. Dorff, Officiating**

