



8989 Woodlands Pkwy, The Woodlands TX. 77382 / Phone: 281-296-0911 / www.gracewoodlands.org

*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

Insanity is everyone expecting you not to fall apart when you find out everything you believed in was a lie.

— Shannon L. Alder

The loneliest moment in someone's life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is stare blankly.

— Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald
The Great Gatsby

You see, because there is a sovereign God, we have only three choices: We can ignore God, we can fight God, or we can submit to God. To ignore Him is foolish, to fight Him is silly, and to submit to Him is exciting...[Choosing submission] is the wise course, because it is the only game in town.

— Steve Brown
If God Is In Charge...

"I have, by God's grace, learned as a member of the Christian community what is the nature of God's mercy, which does not leave me to overcome my sin by my own effort, so I have something to say to the fellow-sufferer who does not know where to look for hope. And what I have to say depends utterly on my willingness not to let go of that awareness of myself that reminds me where I start each day — not as a finished saint but as a needy person still struggling to grow."

— Rowan Williams
Where God Happens

Grace Presbyterian Church

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 4, 2018

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship¹

_____ *Praise* _____

Call to Worship

Isaiah 55:1,2

Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

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

Song of Praise

Come and Welcome

Prayer of Adoration

Song of Adoration

My Jesus, I Love Thee

Private Praise and Adoration

Renewal

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Confession of Sin

*Leader &
People:*

*God, forgive our doubting, questioning hearts.
Like those who witnessed Jesus' miracles of healing
and heard his proclamation, yet spurned belief,
we too have seen wonders, yet have hardened our hearts.
We confess the many times that our pessimism
has caused others to doubt themselves and your Spirit,
the times that our criticism has wounded others,
the times that our dejection has dampened the enthusiasm
of those inspired by your Word and work.
O God, forgive us and in your mercy renew us,
that with open hearts we may believe
and never pose an obstacle to the faith of others.*

Private Confession and Reflection

Words of Encouragement

— from Isaiah 49:15; 66:13

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!
As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you!

Song of Thanksgiving

Rock of Ages

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!

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

2 Kings 1

1 After Ahab's death, Moab rebelled against Israel. 2 Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers, saying to them, "Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, to see if I will recover from this injury."

3 But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, "Go up and meet the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?' 4 Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!'" So Elijah went.

5 When the messengers returned to the king, he asked them, "Why have you come back?"

6 "A man came to meet us," they replied. "And he said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you and tell him, 'This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending messengers to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!'"

7 The king asked them, "What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?"

8 They replied, "He had a garment of hair and had a leather belt around his waist."

The king said, "That was Elijah the Tishbite."

9 Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "Man of God, the king says, 'Come down!'"

10 Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men.

11 At this the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. The captain said to him, "Man of God, this is what the king says, 'Come down at once!'"

12 "If I am a man of God," Elijah replied, "may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

13 So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. "Man of God," he begged, "please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! 14 See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!"

15 The angel of the Lord said to Elijah, "Go down with him; do not be afraid of him." So Elijah got up and went down with him to the king.

16 He told the king, "This is what the Lord says: Is it because there is no God in Israel for you to consult that you have sent messengers to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Because you have done this, you will never leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!" 17 So he died, according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken.

Because Ahaziah had no son, Joram succeeded him as king in the second year of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah. 18 As for all the other events of Ahaziah's reign, and what he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

A FATHER'S LEGACY
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

Just As I Am

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

Satisfied

Benediction²

— 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

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.

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.

Worship Music³

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

Brent Allmon, saxophone
David Fox, keyboard
Damon Henrichs, guitar
David Kang, violin

Debra Moses, flute
Rae Moses, piano
Jennifer Reddick, flute

Sermon Notes

2 Kings 1

A FATHER'S LEGACY

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE PROPHETS

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

Community Group Questions

1. Have you ever been in a crisis that you knew you could not handle? Please discuss. When a crisis hits, where do we run to for help?

2. How did Ahaziah follow in his father's footsteps? Is it fair to judge someone when their environment or upbringing contributed to their behavior? Why or why not?

3. Is Ahaziah punished for anything that his father did or did not do? Please discuss.

4. Do our failures and flaws affect other people, especially our families? What are some of the ways that we see the impact on those around us? What example do others see?

5. Who was affected by the choice of Ahaziah? Why do you think that Elijah called down fire on those who represented the king?

6. Contrast the approach of the first two messengers with the last. Are we really any different than the first two messengers? What does that tell us about how one should approach God?

7. How is it possible that a people filled with pride and entitlement can approach God and not be consumed as well?

8. How does this story tell us about Jesus, our great prophet, the faithful messenger from God? What should he had received from the people? What did he get instead? Why?

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 am each Sunday morning in the Prayer Room (114). Join us as we pray for the expansion of God's Kingdom.

Easter Lilies: If you would like to purchase an Easter lily to place in the sanctuary for Easter morning, in honor of or in memory of someone, please pick up an order card from the round table in the Narthex. Place the card and your check, earmarked lily, in the offering plate. Sunday, March 25th is the deadline to place your order. After the 2nd service on Easter be sure and take your lily home with you.

Holy Week: On March 30th at 6:30 pm we will have our Good Friday service. This year's Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 31st from 10 am - 12 pm at Cranebrook Park. We will gather at the park for brunch, fellowship, and egg hunting. Please sign up in the Narthex to bring food and/or drinks. We also need eggs...lots of eggs. Please bring plastic eggs filled with candy or small toys and drop them in the collection baskets between now and Sunday, March 25th. Please do not fill eggs with products containing peanuts, chocolate, or loose, unpackaged candy. On Easter morning, Christian Ed classes will not meet, but we will have two Worship services at 9 am and 10:30 am. The nursery will be provided during both Worship services.

Find & Interact with Members and Online Giving:

- **Grace Online Directory:** The link can be found on the church website under the Connect tab. **In addition to accessing the church directory, you can join groups and print your giving statements.** 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 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](http://gracewoodlands.org) and use your directory username and password for the app.
- **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.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes: Join us next week in the ongoing special series featuring our local ministry partners. Come meet them and hear about their work in the community.

• **Hope: Fuel for the Journey**

Missions Team

Hope, common to all people, is the fuel for the journey of life. As Christians, our ultimate hope is in Jesus Christ and the complete restoration of the world through him. At Grace we support organizations and individuals who bring hope to the world in a number of ways—hope for a better tomorrow, hope for healing, hope for a safer next step, hope for safety for our children, and hope for security in Christ. In our 6-week series we will hear from local ministry partners who work daily to bring hope to their clients or their congregation. Our guests will include Redeemed Ministries, PACN, Oaklawn Presbyterian Church, Montgomery County Women’s Center, Cornerstone Team Counseling and Interfaith of The Woodlands.

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. *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! Tonight we will have our Princess/Super Hero night. Feel free to dress up and invite friends.
- **VBS** will be June 4th-8th. Mark your calendars! Registration will begin in March. We will have two work days on Saturday, April 14 and May 19 from 9 am - 12 pm. VBS Set-Up Week will be May 29th - June 1st. See Kyle if you are interested in volunteering in any way.
- **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 or Natalie Webster. Since locations and times can change, please join the PlayGroup in E-Connect for updates.
 - March 9th- Deb Kovach's House
 - March 23rd- Falconwing Park

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 we are in Christ. Join us on Sunday mornings in Room 206.
- **SNF (Sunday Night Fellowship)** On Sunday evenings we gather to eat, fellowship, 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 different relationships we have in our lives and what it means to usher the love of Christ into all of these places.
- **Game Night** on March 10th. Join us for a night full of card games, mafia and more! Drop-off at Grace at 7 pm and pick-up 9 pm! Dessert will be provided!

- **Tutoring at Tamina:** Come and serve at the Tamina Community Center from 3:45-5 pm on Tuesdays to tutor, play with, and love on a great group of kids.
- **Save The Date:**
 - **RYM Texas:** Calling all 7th & 8th graders (if you will be in Junior High in the fall this is for you too!) Join us for camp the first week of June. RYM Texas will be June 4-8, 2018 in Hawkins, TX. Our camp speaker will be Richie Sessions, he is fabulous! Great teaching and fun activities (high ropes course, horseback riding, waterslide, lazy river, giant rope swing and much more!) For more information, please reach out to Grayson for any questions you may have.

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

- **Women's Bible Study:** The Thursday morning group meets from 9:30-11am in the youth room and will be going through Tim Keller's study on The Gospel of Mark. The fee for material is \$5. Childcare will be provided. The Wednesday evening group meets from 7-8:30 pm also upstairs, and they will be going through Elyse Fitzpatrick's book entitled *Found in Him*. You will need to purchase the book on your own for the evening study. Questions, contact Kristen Chandler .
- **Girls' Night Out:** Join us at the Black Walnut Cafe (9000 New Trails), Thursday, April 5th 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, March 20th. Join us at Stadia Sports Grill (89595 Six Pines Dr #1110, The Woodlands) for dinner and fellowship starting at 6:30 pm.
- **Men's Discipleship Breakfast:** Our twice monthly men's breakfast meets next at 6:30 am on Tuesday, March 13th 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:

- **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. We would love to have you join us. Contact Laurel Stevens or Dan Brink for more information.
- **Meals Ministry:** There are 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. 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.

- **Reception Today!** Meet Karen Gould from Pregnancy Assistance Center North (PACN) in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the service. Learn more about PACN's ministry and ways that we can help support women and men facing unplanned pregnancies or sexual health concerns.

- **ESL:** GraceMissions is starting an ESL ministry in order to reach out to our friends and neighbors who are non-native english speakers. Teacher training was held on Feb 3rd, but we still need volunteers to serve as classroom assistants. Classes will begin in mid-March. To learn more, join the ESL group in the church database.
- **March Partner Prayer:** Please join the Missions Leadership Team in praying for these two mission partners throughout the month of March.
 - Rev. Juan Carlos & Mrs. Samara Martínez, RUF at Rice University
 - Rev. Charles & Dr. Bonita Davidson
- **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
 - William & Katherin Bondurant | RUF | Texas A&M University
 - 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
 - Terry & Mary Rose Dykstra | RUF International | University of Texas
 - Joe & Felicity Congdon | MTW | Yokkaichi, 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 January 2018.

	<u>January</u>
Projected Budget	70,858
Actual General Fund	43,549
Variance	(27,309)

Banners Explained: The change of colors for Lent and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as our journeys. The color purple is a visual reminder of our need for repentance and self-examination.

On the banner to the right is an acanthus. It is the leaf that you see all over classic Greek and Roman architecture. It is a thorny plant, and a few have speculated that it may have been the source of the crown of thorns. Within Christianity, the thorns are a symbol of pain, and of sin and its punishment. It was regarded in ancient times by pagans as a symbol of death and rebirth.

On the other is a thistle. The thistle is a symbol of temporal sorrow and the curse of sin from the story of the Fall. Because the thistle is a thorny bush, it also is often portrayed as the source of Christ's crown of thorns. Because thistles flourish to crowd out useful crops, they have also been used to represent the "tares" or weeds written of in Matthew 13.

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 that 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.