

NOVEMBER 2018



GRACE FOR YOU

Official Newsletter of Grace Presbyterian Church

WWW.GRACECHURCH-PCUSA.COM

RISK-TAKING MISSION & SERVICE

BY PASTOR JOSH

In our recent newsletters, I've been talking about aspects of Missouri Methodist Bishop, Robert Schnase's book *"The Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations,"* which argues that "fruitful congregations" engage in five specific practices: 1) Radical Hospitality, 2) Passionate Worship, 3) Intentional Faith Development, 4) Risk-Taking Mission & Service, and 5) Extravagant Generosity.

So far I've written about Radical Hospitality and Extravagant Generosity. This month, I'm writing about *Risk-Taking Mission and Service.*

Congregations that engage in Risk-Taking Mission & Service perform acts of mission and outreach to show the love of Christ to their community even if those people will never become a part of the congregation. Schnase argues that honest engagement in this practice is critical to promoting the congregation's vitality and forming members into Disciples of Christ. A church that cannot engage willingly and generously in mission will also be unable to practice Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, or Extravagant Generosity - all of which are dependent upon the time and talents of members and friends of the church.

This mission and service is called "risky" because it should take us out of our comfort zone. It should be outreach programs where we engage other people face-to-face, and be something that we would never do were it not for our desire to be followers of Jesus Christ. With risk-taking mission comes uncertainty, discomfort, resistance, and sacrifice that pushes us beyond our normal circle of relationships within our church community. You should be meeting and building relationships with new people BOTH in the congregation AND in the community.

Schnase points out that congregations that engage in Risk-Taking Mission & Service not only raise money to support missions but they also organize mission teams to recruit and train volunteers to work directly in hands-on mission.

These congregations provide various levels of involvement so that people of different ages, stages, schedules, and skill sets can all be a part of the mission in one way or another.

The mission projects/programs are organized by the members and are based upon their passions. These projects/programs also collaborate with denominational, local service agencies so that the church's missional concerns are interwoven into the networks of community service. Plus, it keeps the members from having to "reinvent the wheel" each time.

These congregations also actively invite newcomers, visitors, and even unchurched people to participate in these programs. The majority of unchurched people connect with a church for the first time by participating in some mission project - because unchurched people, especially young adults, want to be involved in making a difference in the lives of others. It's just that, for so long, they didn't see that happening in most churches outside of a Sunday worship service. Seeing a congregation not only "talking the talk" but also "walking the walk" attracts those unchurched people participating in the project to form relationships with church members and to want to know more about the church.

Remember, **Sunday, November 25 is Commitment Sunday.** On that day, we will not only make financial commitments to God's Mission here at Grace, but we will also make commitments of our time and talents by signing up for Seasonal Team and other upcoming projects. Take a risk and try something new for the sake of your own desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.



SOWING AND REAPING

—
harvest season | grace presbyterian church

The 2018 Harvest Team:

Tom & Marsha Anderson, Bob & Alta Chapman, Dale Houzenga,
Mickey Portell, and Bill & Joyce Sternberg,

Theme & Worship

The Harvest Team's theme for this 2018 is "**Sowing & Reaping**" and will focus on the ways we sow compassion, generosity, and love into our community in response to the blessings we've already reaped from God. The Harvest Team has chosen to use the visuals on the screen as a part of our worship experience. The Harvest Team will guide our focus to the ways we should be extravagantly generous in giving of our time, talents, and treasure so that others can also reap the benefits of God's extravagant grace. One of the ways we will experience God's generous grace is through a **Service of Healing & Wholeness on October 28th**. **Communion** will be served on **November 4th**. Rev. Rich Hadley, a veteran and chaplain, will preach on **Veterans' Day, November 11**. The season will culminate with **Dedication Sunday on November 25th**, where we will dedicate our tithes to the mission of the church and offer ourselves to serving the church's mission by signing up for the 2019 Seasonal Teams along with other church events.

Hospitality & Mission

The Harvest Team is providing us with several ways to welcome and serve our community.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT: We are looking forward to having LOTS of kids come out to Grace to trunk-or-treat on **October 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**. Our Facebook event already has over *400 people* saying they are interested in attending! Please pick up a bag of candy every time you are out shopping and bring it by the church on Sunday so that we can ensure we don't run out of candy like we did last year. Also, if you can volunteer your car, please speak to Brenda Wilson. Let's do a great job of making the children of our community feel welcome!

VIKINGS' VAULT: The Vikings' Vault is the new food pantry at Jefferson College. The pantry's purpose is to keep college students from dropping out of school because they can't afford food or hygiene items. By staying in school, they have a better chance of getting a higher paying job for the future.

The Harvest Team will be collecting food and hygiene items on **Sundays, 10/21, 10/28, & 11/04**.

We will then take the items over to the Vikings' Vault on Wednesday, 11/07 to donate.

Canned Food Items Needed: *fruit, tuna/salmon, potatoes, chicken, soups/stews, chili, tomatoes, beans, ham/spam, veggies*

Other Food Items Needed: *dried fruit, apple sauce, peanut butter, jelly, oatmeal, popcorn, nuts, coffee/tea, instant mashed potatoes, olive/canola oil, ketchup/mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, crackers, dried pasta, pasta sauce, rice, dried beans, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, honey, cake mix, icing, cookies/graham crackers, granola bars, salt/pepper, cooking spices, BBQ sauce*

Personal Hygiene Products Needed: *dish soap, napkins, deodorant, paper towels, bar soap, toilet paper, hand soap, kleenex/tissues, shaving cream, disposable razors, laundry detergent, packages of socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, packages of t-shirts, body wash*

Baby/Infant Products Needed: *infant cereal, infant formula, diaper wipes, diaper cream, diapers, baby food, baby lotion, baby shampoo*

HARVEST SEASON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



Clyde's Buddies Ministry - Wednesdays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Harvest Team has chosen to continue the work of the Peace Team and host two nights of the Clyde's Buddies Program on November 7 and 14. Information about the events for those nights is forthcoming. Please speak to **Mickey Portell** if you have any questions.

Veterans' Day Bar-B-Que Potluck - November 11 after worship

Veterans' Day falls on a Sunday this year. The Harvest Team will honor the veterans in our church and community with a Bar-B-Que Potluck lunch following our worship service.

The bar-b-que is provided by *Smokee Robinson's* in Kimmswick.

We ask that all Grace members bring a side to share, and invite anyone among your family or friends who is a veteran to join us on this day. We will sing patriotic songs in the fellowship hall during our meal time.

Speak to **Marsha Anderson** if you have any questions or are bringing a guest.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY



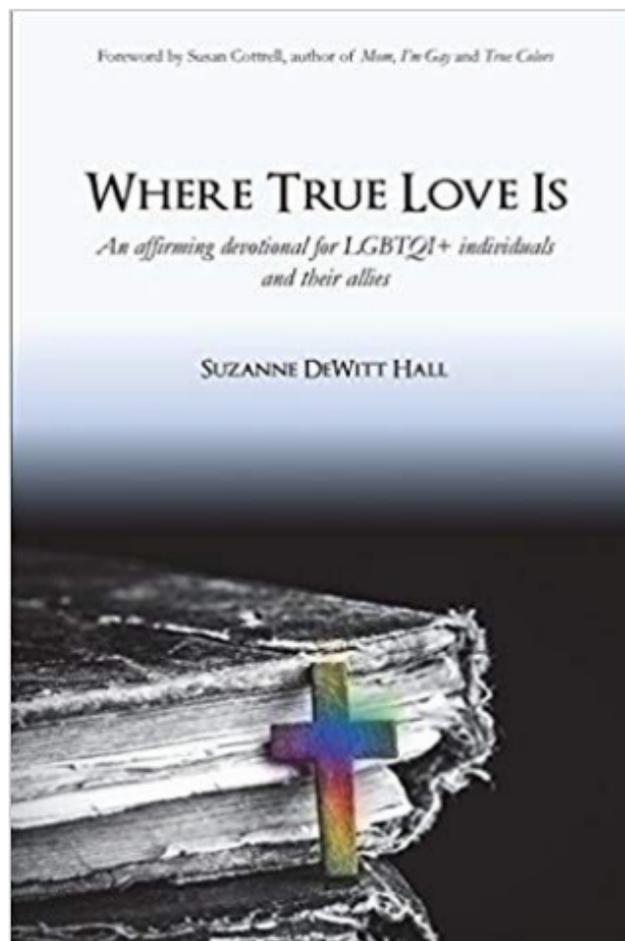
Bible Study: "Where True Love Is" by Suzanne DeWitt-Hall Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 pm - October 18 through December 20

The study of the devotional, *Where True Love Is* by Suzanne DeWitt-Hall continues this month and into December. Suzanne and her wife Diane have generously offered to lead a study of Suzanne's devotional and to invite the entire community to participate in the study as well. So far we have around ten people from at least three different churches participating in the study.

The study continues on **Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm**, in the Fellowship Hall.

For more information, please go to the church's website (under "Sharing" and "Small Groups"): <http://www.gracechurch-pcusa.com/small-groups.html>

**This devotional study is for ALL people!
Feel free to join us, even if you haven't been able to attend yet!**



Calm and Bright :

200 Years of Silent Night

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.gracechurch-pcusa.com
@gracechurchcrystalcity

The 2018 Advent/Christmas Team:

Chris Gladden, Amy & Bob Petschonek, Mark Trautwein,
Paula Westbrook, Lillian Manning, & Pat Breeze

Theme & Worship

The Advent/Christmas Team's theme for 2018 is "**Calm and Bright**". This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night". This hymn has become the best-loved worship moment of many Christians - even those who only come to church one a year. Something magical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright" - peace and light for the world. This worship series will celebrate the carol's message over the entire season of Advent and into Christmas as we highlight its call for our lives that can guide us all year long. Many events during this season will be very familiar but there are a few beautiful changes and powerful additions as well!

Hospitality & Mission

The Advent/Christmas Team has several ways for welcoming and serving our community and getting the congregation involved with the work of the church:

November 27 & December 4, 2018: *Words on Wood* at 6:30 pm. Two different opportunities to get a jump on making some decorations for your home or for making a unique gift for someone special. More info coming. Please see Amy Petschonek with questions.

December 2, 9, & 16, 2018: We have adopted **3 teens from the Homeless Youth Initiative** this year. These kids provide us with a list of items that they need to help them survive the school year and some items they would like to have. **The Team is challenging you to donate 10% of what you spent on Christmas gifts last year.**

Our support of these teens is crucial to get them through high school and on to college so they can become upstanding citizens and break the cycle of homelessness. You will have the opportunity to donate on three Sundays, December 2, 9, & 16.

Chris Gladden will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Dec 16, 2018: The Advent Team is serving **Brunch after Worship**. The Team is supplying all of the food and drinks. **In lieu of bringing a dish, we will take up a collection to benefit Ride-On STL.** This is an equine program that is located in Kimmswick, MO. They are a comprehensive therapy, conditioning and learning non-profit organization serving adults and children with disabilities, veterans and youth in and around the St. Louis area. We hope you could donate the amount of money you would have spent on bringing a dish. Any questions concerning Ride-On STL, see Lillian Manning.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



Twin City Christmas Parade Float Preparation - November 24

Twin City Christmas Parade work day at Kirk Jackson's garage. Time to be announced. All are welcome to help decorate the float. All supplies will be ready and waiting. We just need more hands to make the work go faster. More info on the parade is upcoming. Bob & Amy Petschonek are coordinating this event

Twin City Christmas Parade - November 26



We will have children ride on the float as well as a small bell choir.

The Harvest Team will serve hot cocoa, coffee, & cookies to the community from the gazebo. To help with making cookies or serving cocoa/coffee, speak to the Harvest Team members.

This year's theme is **Jingle Bells!**

Hanging of the Greens - December 2 - during worship

Hanging of the Greens with Clyde's Buddies.

If you would like to keep the same buddies you had before, please get together and let Chris Gladden know.

There are lots of ways that the children and adults can help with Hanging of the Greens, a traditional way that we can help decorate the church.

Watch for a sign-up sheet coming soon.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES



Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service - December 21 @ 7:00 pm

Come to this special evening service that occurs on the night of the Winter Solstice (the longest night of the year). The service focuses on comforting those for whom the holidays are difficult or painful either because of the loss of a loved one, personal struggles, or conflicts with family and friends. If you or someone you know will have their first Christmas without a loved one, this service is especially for you/them. The service is also a powerful reminder that even though the dark night feels long, Light is arriving soon...



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services - December 24 @ 4 pm & 11 pm



We will have two services to celebrate the birth of Christ: one at 4:00 pm, focused on families, and another at 11:00 PM. Communion will be served at both services.

Please plan on joining us at one of these services as it promises to be something very special - one you don't want to miss.

Bring all your family & friends!

Agape Feast - December 30 - during worship

For the 3rd year in a row, we will celebrate the Christmas season with our annual Agape Feast.

Bring your favorite sweet bread to share and your travel mug for hot coffee or cocoa. We will worship by singing Christmas Carols and enjoying each other's company as a church family.

Feel free to wear your warm pajamas (or just dress casually).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Retraction from October 2018 Newsletter Article

In an effort to promote transparency as to the work of the Session of Elders - the body responsible for governing and making decisions for the congregation - we published a copy of the September 10, 2018 Session minutes in the October 2018 newsletter.

Part of those minutes included notes about the initial planning meeting of the Harvest Team on September 9, 2018. As their mission project, the Harvest Team expressed a desire to help make sure that kids in the area have sufficient food. Part of the discussion was about questions of "lunch shaming" within our own Crystal City Schools. The Harvest Team wanted to know if the school engaged in such practices, and if so, how they could help make sure the kids had what they wanted for lunch. A member of the Harvest Team was assigned to investigate. Such an action also necessitated approval of the Session, so it went to the Session at their meeting on September 10, 2018.

The motion to investigate these questions was approved by Session as a motion and was noted in the Session minutes. The phrase "lunch shaming is going on" was recorded in the minutes of September 10, 2018 meeting.

After the Session meeting, the person responsible for learning about the school's policies spoke to a congregation member employed by the school, who found that there was **NO SUCH ISSUE with "lunch shaming" in the Crystal City School System**. Seeing that there was no issue, the Harvest Team redirected their mission efforts to a new mission project in which the church is currently engaged.

However, the minutes of the September 10, 2018 Session meeting were published in the October 2018 Newsletter with the motion and statement about "lunch shaming" still included. Session Minutes, while they are always available to be viewed by anyone who asks, are not typically published so publicly. The inclusion of the statement about "lunch shaming" should have been removed before public distribution, and was an oversight.

Grace Presbyterian Church knows that there is no such issue over "lunch shaming" occurring in the Crystal City Schools, and apologizes for any harm or concern the public release of our minutes may have caused. This was meant to be an internal dialogue until the questions could be answered. And the answers revealed that there was NO ISSUE with "lunch shaming" in the Crystal City Schools.

Grace & Peace,
The Session of Grace Presbyterian Church
Rev. Joshua Noah, Moderator



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YOGA

Senior Exercise Class

Grace Presbyterian,

105 Bailey Rd, Crystal City

Saturdays in November, 9:30-10am beginning Nov 10th

Monthly Fee:

\$10 for public; \$8 for Y member

This class will help you build strength, improve posture, flexibility and balance through combinations of breathing and postures.



To register stop by the Jefferson County Y or call 636-931-9622.

GRACE WEEKLY EVENTS

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THR

11/01/18

6:30 - 8:00 pm - Where True Love Begins

FRI

11/02/18

SAT

11/03/18

GRACE WEEKLY EVENTS

SUN

11/04/18

9:30 am - Adult Bible Study
10:45 am - Worship, Viking Vault Collection
11:45 am - Hospitality Hour

MON

11/05/18

9:00 am - Prayerful Beginnings (Library)

TUE

11/06/18

WED

11/07/18

9:00 am - Park Work 9:30 am - Quilters/Handwork
11:30 am - Best Lunch in Missouri
6:00-7:00 pm - Clyde's Buddies
7:00 pm - Choir Practice

THR

11/08/18

6:30 - 8:00 pm - "Where True Love Is" Study
(Fellowship Hall)

FRI

11/09/18

SAT

11/10/18

GRACE WEEKLY EVENTS

SUN

11/11/18

9:30 am - Adult Bible Study
10:45 am - Worship - Rev. Rich Hadley, preaching
Last Day for Vikings' Vault Donations
11:45 am - Veterans Pot Luck Dinner

MON

11/12/18

9:00 am - Prayerful Beginnings (Library)
6:00 pm - GEM Meeting
7:00 pm - Session Meeting

TUE

11/13/18

9:30 am - Morning Bible Study
1:00 pm - Afternoon Bible Study

WED

11/14/18

9:00 am - Park Work
9:30 am - Quilters/Handwork
11:30 am - Best Lunch in Missouri
6:00 - 7:00 pm Clyde's Buddies
7:00 pm - Choir Practice

THU

11/15/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town
6:00 pm - Music Jam
6:30-8:00 pm - "Where True Love Is" Study

FRI

11/16/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town

SAT

11/17/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town
8:00 am - GPC Families Breakfast

GRACE WEEKLY EVENTS

SUN

11/18/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town
9:30 am - Adult Bible Study
10:45 am - Worship - Rev. Rich Hadley, preaching
11:45 am - Hospitality Hour

MON

11/19/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town
9:00 am - Prayerful Beginnings (Library)
7:00 pm - Deacon Meeting

TUE

11/20/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town

WED

11/21/18

Pastor Josh Out of Town
9:00 am - Park Work
9:30 am - Quilters/Handwork
11:30 am - Best Lunch in Missouri
7:00 pm - Choir Practice

THU

11/22/18

THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY Church Office Closed

FRI

11/23/18

HOLIDAY Church Office Closed

SAT

11/24/18

GRACE WEEKLY EVENTS

SUN

11/25/18

9:30 am - Adult Bible Study
10:45 am - Worship - Commitment Sunday
11:45 am - Hospitality Hour

MON

11/26/18

9:00 am - Prayerful Beginnings (Library)
Twin City Christmas Parade

TUE

11/27/18

6:00 pm - Woods on Word

WED

11/28/18

9:00 am - Park Work
9:30 am - Quilters/Handwork
11:30 am - Best Lunch in Missouri
7:00 pm - Choir Practice

THU

11/29/18

6:30 - 8:00 pm - "Where True Love It" Study

FRI

11/30/18

SAT

12/01/18



