

Grace Messenger

October 2018



NALC Disaster Response had a teleconference with the Carolinas Mission District and is staging emergency response for Hurricane Florence, one of the strongest hurricanes recorded. Sustained winds of over 140 miles per hour have caused South Carolina to issue mandatory evacuation orders for millions of people. As store shelves are emptied, NALC Disaster Response will be transporting Bibles, flood buckets, health kits, school kits, baby kits, and other emergency relief supplies to North Carolina, South Carolina and other areas as the need is identified. Mary Bates, the NALC's Disaster Response Coordinator, is posting an update daily. For more information, contact Mary at disasterresponse@thenalc.org or 740-509-1132. Please pray for the millions of families in the path of Florence.

October Outreach Break

On Sunday, October 7, Grace will welcome Mary Bates, National Disaster Relief Director for the North American Lutheran Church, as our guest presenter for the fourth quarter Outreach Break. Mary oversees the training and coordinators of volunteers, the management of donations and serves as the lead person on the ground whenever disaster hits anywhere in the United States. In the past 12 months alone, she and her teams of more than 2,000 volunteers have been hard at work in south Texas (following Hurricane Harvey), in Florida (following Hurricane Irma), in the Ohio River Valley and in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (following severe flooding). They also provided ongoing support for NALC congregations working in Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

NALC teams delivered more than 20 semi-truck loads of material goods to Texas and Florida and three cargo containers to Puerto Rico, at a cost of more \$1.2 million dollars for items such as flood buckets, quilts, health kits, school kits, layettes, flooring, kitchen/bathroom cabinets and other building supplies. In addition, they made two shower trailers available for the volunteers on site.

Mary will share with us the work of her ministry and she will encourage Grace members to consider volunteering to be onsite when a disaster strikes or to be more actively involved in the collection of supplies for the next disaster. She is an extremely engaging speaker and you will be inspired by what she shares. Make sure to attend Adult Sunday School on October 7 at 9:15 a.m.

Lord Speak To Us

Lord, speak to us. My young son recently asked how we can know that God hears our prayers when we are not able to hear His answer. This is an understandable question from a child looking for a concrete or audible response in a conversation. Many of us have most likely wondered this same thing at one time or another. The answer to what seems like a simple question is unique to each of us. God speaks to us in a variety of ways. It may be through a comforting bible passage, the lyrics to a song, or the beauty of nature. Another powerful way He speaks to us is through the faithful acts of others. At Grace, we are abundantly blessed with people who selflessly share their gifts with their church and their community. We were recently reminded of one person in particular whose compassion to others and service to her church continues to carry the message of God's everlasting love. For many years and in many ways, Mary Ellen Fulmer served her church and her church family by generously giving of her time, talents, and financial gifts. In her kind and quiet manner, Mary Ellen delivered God's message loud and clear! - Lynda Farrell

1 Peter Inductive Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, October 10, Pastor Brodbeck will lead an inductive Bible study on the book of 1 Peter. The study will last for six weeks, concluding on Wednesday, November 14. The class will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., and will meet in YW102.

Inductive Bible studies draw the participant into personal interaction with the Scripture and with the God of the Scriptures so that your beliefs are based on a prayerful understanding and legitimate interpretation of the Scripture. When you study the Bible inductively, the benefits will be beyond anything you have ever hoped could happen in your own personal understanding of the Word of God.

Participants in the class will use the Bible itself as the primary source of information about the text. They will explore the Scriptures apart from conclusions drawn by Biblical scholars. Commentaries, books, footnotes and other information about the text are consulted only after participants have made a thorough examination of the Scriptures for themselves. Study notebooks will be provided, so participants only need to bring something on which to write (and even that will be provided!).

Safety Stewards Needed for Sunday Worship Services

Our Safety Stewards monitor the church to keep a watchful eye on our Grace rooms, halls and parking area and respond appropriately to crisis situations on Sunday mornings before, during and immediately following worship services and Sunday School Classes. A team of two safety stewards maintain a watchful eye while making rounds and properly monitoring and communicating with other safety stewards.

Are you interested in becoming a Safety Steward? Do you have questions about the Safety Steward Ministry? Please call with any questions or to sign up. Safety Steward Ministry Coordinator, Steve Garrett (937) 238-7000

Adult Sunday School courses

The next session of Adult Sunday School courses begins on Sunday, October 14, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. Participants will have two offerings from which to choose.

Dr. Eugene Swanger returns again this fall with an extended look at the birth narratives of Jesus. This will be an excellent lead-in to the quickly approaching Advent Season. His class will meet in N108.

Pastor Powell will also teach a study on the Ten Commandments and their connection to the Christian's mandate to make disciples. His class will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Both classes will meet each Sunday morning through December 23rd, with the exception of Sunday, November 18 (the date of the fall congregational meeting). Bring a friend and enjoy these two excellent educational opportunities.

Surviving the Holidays

If the thought of facing the upcoming holiday season makes you wish you could hibernate from mid-November through New Year's Day, please know that you are not alone. Many in our congregation and community have the same experience after the death of a loved one. Though you try as hard as you can, celebration often takes a backseat to survival.

To offer hope, on Sunday, October 28, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Grace will sponsor "Surviving the Holidays." This gathering in our Fellowship Hall is open to anyone grieving and anticipating the coming season with mixed feelings. This event is free of charge, and is open to all in our church and community who may benefit from it. Child care may also be arranged in advance.

Whether your loss was recent or time has dulled the ache, come and enjoy light refreshments with friends, while speakers extend encouragement and inspiration from their experiences of God's healing love.

To help with planning, we request that you register either through the Sign Up Central form in the Sunday bulletin, by calling the Grace office at 399-6257, or by emailing Pastor Brodbeck at tom.brodbeck@grace-nalc.org. This will be especially helpful if you will need child care. For questions, please contact Pastor Brodbeck.

Congregational Workshop October 13

An all-congregation workshop, led by The North American Lutheran Church, will be held at Grace on Saturday, October 13, 2018. Please mark this date and plan to participate! Following that workshop, our Call Committee will create an up-to-date Congregational Profile and submit this to The North American Lutheran Church. In the weeks thereafter, our Call Committee will receive, review, and respond to the Pastoral Profiles they receive from The North American Lutheran Church. Our Call Committee will submit a name/candidate to our Grace Council and, if approved, our Council will submit this name/candidate to our congregation for a vote. It's time to begin praying for our Call Committee and this significant time in the life of Grace!



Ministering to the Residents of Springfield Manor

The mission team for the Springfield Manor would like to report that we have just reached a milestone of two years of regular services being held on the second Sunday of each month.

There has been a regular group attending along with some residents as their schedules permit. The service looks very similar to Grace's Sunday service, delivering hymns, prayers and a message based on the chosen scripture. The biggest change has been the willingness of the residents to take part in the offering of prayers for themselves and others.

What is new for Grace is the opportunity for our members to be leaders of these services. If you have an interest in serving in this way come to several services and pray for discernment for this possible call. If you would like to know more contact Steven Schumacher at 937-624-7074 or come worship with us. The next service is on October 14th at 2:30PM.

Springfield Manor Resident John Varney Celebrates 100th Birthday

Dawn Turner, Springfield Manor Activities Director, hosted a wonderful celebration for John Varney's 100th birthday on August 31. Varney enlisted with the U.S. Army in December 1941 and served as a drill instructor, before leaving the service in 1946. Varney spent time both in the U.S. and overseas, earned a bronze star and purple heart as he served his country with honor in World War II. On September 8 Springfield Manor arranged for John to go on the Honor Flight to Washington D.C., he was joined by two 99 year old Veterans.

Pastor Powell opened the ceremony with the invocation and closed with prayer. In addition, Grace member Ron Coss organized a celebration for a military hero that included a 21-gun salute by the Marine Corps League 963. The Charity Guild presented him with a pillow and the Agape Guild donated \$100 to the small resident store in honor of John. Numerous Grace members were in attendance.





SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRACE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

4:00-6:00 P.M.

CALL 937.399.6257 TO REGISTER

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit #158

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