

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHOIR

The Chancel Choir has been taking a break during the summer, but will be starting back up soon. This is the best time of the year to consider joining the choir; there is no fear of blending in or not disrupting the routine—everyone is coming in fresh to start a new season.

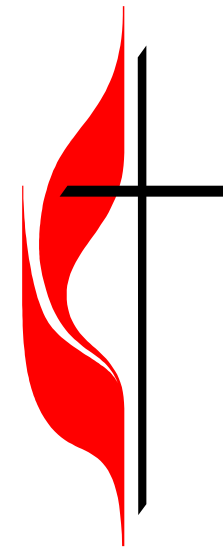
Our choir sings at the 11:00am worship services, and rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 9:00. Wednesday rehearsals will resume September 7. There is no audition required; anyone who can carry a tune is welcome. We have a wide mix of experience levels represented in the choir, so chances are, there is someone just like you already in the choir. If you are not the best music reader, we can always seat you next to (or in front of) one of our experienced adults or one of our Flagler student interns. We have no maximum number—the choir is never “full.” When we run out of seats in the choir, the students sit on chairs outside the loft, and move in whenever we sing. There is room for you!

Each chorister is assigned a Sunday folder, a rehearsal folder, and a singer's copy of *The Faith We Sing*. Your folders are fixed weekly with the music for that week in order. You never have to worry about finding music. We sing a wide variety of styles—hymn arrangements, classical anthems, spirituals, and recent works—all set in a musical setting with integrity. I spend a lot of time choosing music for the choir, and strive to find music that is spiritually uplifting and meaningful. Life is too short to do otherwise. I want every Sunday service to be inspiring and encouraging. Serving in the choir must be a fun, enjoyable experience. Although we strive for excellence, I never put you “on the spot” or pressure you to be perfect.

We sing two major programs annually. The Christmas Cantata will be December 3, and the Easter Musical is usually on Palm Sunday. We rehearse a little longer than usual the four weeks before the cantata, and we normally have a dress rehearsal the Saturday morning preceding the cantata.

If you love to sing, know that you are welcome in the choir. We have a lot of new folks in our church, so I wanted to make sure you knew what was involved, and invite all of you to join us. For more information, please call me at 904-794-2184.

~Dan, the Music Man



Grace Notes

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Grace United Methodist Church
St. Augustine, Florida

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Our Mission Statement:
"Help people find life in Jesus Christ."

August 2011



Moments of Grace

As you know, Christ Church Mission has successfully merged with Grace United Methodist as of May 1, 2011. This merger came after many attempts to start a new Methodist Church in the Millcreek/World Golf Village area. What is the state of our union?

We have been working very hard at joining the two congregations into a new and vital congregation. The 5p.m. casual/contemporary worship seems to be working very well. We hired a new praise team leader, Michael Munn. Michael's primary skills include Worship Leader, vocalist, acoustic and electric guitar, drums, arranging, song writing, training, team development and teaching. Mike says he sings like Darrell Evans, plays Lincoln Brewster, writes like Matt Redman and motivates people like William Wallace. He is a great addition to our church staff and I would like our other worship services to experience his zest for worship and praise! We are grateful to Crossroads United Methodist Church for being willing to share Michael with us.

Through the merger we are unified in worship and mission with parallel values and vision that God has blessed through this union. We have seen this displayed through the selfless attitudes of both congregations in serving one another and joining in the mission of God's Kingdom. We have been able to maintain the missionary efforts of both congregations as we come together. One key benefit that we have received, due to the leadership of Rev. Jim Walker, is adequate funding to give us the time we need to make the merger happen. While all of the outstanding issues surrounding the merger have been resolved one issue deserves special recognition and celebration; that is our Merger Fund. While the Northeast District was willing to help fund the merger the level we received was beyond our expectations. Previous donors were given the opportunity to re-gift there fund from the Christ Mission Building Fund to a new merger fund, have them returned to them, or give the funds to the Northeast District New Church Development Committee. The results of this re-gifting process seven (7) individuals received back \$ 30,105.00; the North East District New Church Development Committee received \$ 48,916.94 and donations to the Grace Church Merger Fund received \$ 161,641.16. Our Grace Church Merger Fund will be used to fund new audio/visual equipment for the sanctuary, remodeling Sunday school classrooms, address salary shortfalls, fund outreach programs and address other merger issues as needed.

The blend of new leadership within the ranks of our already successful congregation is such an amazing blessing. We received 40 new members from the Christ Mission group and many of them are serving as officers on our Administrative Board and Council on Ministries. One of our first combined ministry projects together is our Vacation Bible School scheduled the week August 8-12 from 9 a.m. until noon. The Inside Out & Upside Down is an exciting and stimulating way for kids, 1st through 6th grade to have an experience of discipleship. We will receive another group of new members after our afternoon new member orientation on August 21st at 4 p.m. We are projecting an additional 20 new members after the class is complete. A new ministry sponsored by our acting Lay Leader Ron Miller, is the restart of our United Methodist Men's Group. We are scheduling the first meeting for Saturday, September 24th as a breakfast meeting. The guest speaker will be Charlie Seraphin, who is respected in the sport arena and is a Christian representative from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We also have a combined ministry underway that will address Disaster Preparation and Relief. You will soon see guidelines for dealing with hurricanes and plans for how we will respond to disasters as a congregation. We are also making plans for new ways to bring our congregation together in fun, fellowship and mission over the 2011-2012 years. There are great things in store for us as we move forward answering God's call upon us. Pray and work for an ever expanding blessing upon our new union in ministry!

By God's grace in Jesus Christ, *Jim*

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. James I. Reeher **Associate Pastor: Rev. James Walker**
Office Administrator: Janet Rusin **Music Director: Dan Shorb** **Organist: Robert Meade**
Sexton: Bob Rusin **Head Usher: Rose Register** **Deaf Interpreter: Barbara McColskey**
Nursery Attendant: Amanda Butler **Rob Sims & Chip Hawthorne: Children's & Youth Leaders**
Kathy Walker & Jaycie Leibin: Children's Ministry **Michael Munn: Contemporary Music Minister**

Grace United Methodist Church
8 Carrera Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084





LIVING AS PEACEMAKERS
2011 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EVENT
of The United Methodist Church

2011 FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
June 1 - 4 2011 Tampa Convention Center Tampa, Florida

More than 1,600 delegates - 860 lay and 759 clergy - gathered for the opening session of the Conference at the Tampa Convention Center. Well known music and worship leader Marcia McFee led the conference singing. Delegates then got down to work.

The agenda for this year's conference was Bishop Timothy Whitakers's theme "Transforming the World by Living as Peacemakers". During the conference there were several speakers who emphasized various aspects of peace, from ethics to pastoral care, to justice, to leadership. They emphasized the topics "Who is our God?", "Peace in a Godly Life", and "Peace Flowin' Like a River", an impassioned message on inclusiveness and unity in the Body of Christ. All the messages were extremely soul searching.

Also during the conference the churches that had paid 100% of their apportionments were honored and I'm very pleased that Grace UMC was included in this group. Apportionments are our churches way of contributing toward the work of the church in many ways in enabling to carry out its mission and its missionary. Thank you friends.

Many reports and resolutions were presented to the conference and were approved. A complete record is in the church office for your review.

Elections were held throughout the conference in order to elect delegates, both laity and clergy, to the 2012 United Methodist Church General Conference which will be held at the Tampa Convention Center. You will find a complete list of those elected in the church office.

There was a great deal of business conducted at the 2011 Annual Conference and I was honored to be a part of the laity attending. The key note speaker, Russ Graces asked, "Where are the Laity?" We've turned over ministry to paid professionals. We need to unleash the power that's in us---Are we listening?

May God bless us all,
Marjorie Sauerhoff
Annual Conference Delegate

Lay Servant Courses

OAK CREST UMC

5900 Ricker Road
Jacksonville
½ mile south of 103rd St.

September 23 & 24

Friday, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Chose one:

BASIC or

ADVANCED:

Prayer

Lay Pastoral Care Giving

All classes are \$30.00

Tuition covers materials, and lunch.
Must attend Friday & Saturday
to receive credit.

For further information, call
Gwen Dubé, District Director, 751-4912
Or email: ggdube@comcast.net

Contact your church office for
registration form.
Deadline for registration is Sept.16



Promise of Hope

2012 Women's Retreat
March 2-4

Life Enrichment Center
Fruitland Park, Florida

Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Sue Hauptert-
Johnson

Bible Leader:
Emily Sterling

Music Leader:
Maureen Still Band

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust I him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NLT)

The Life Enrichment Center is located under the oak trees on the shores of beautiful Lake Griffin in Fruitland Park, just north of Leesburg. This 400-bed conference and retreat center offers Christian hospitality through its adult-friendly sleeping rooms, meeting rooms, worship space with A/V capabilities, and a dining hall with full-service meals overlooking the lake. Each sleeping room offers two beds with private bathroom. Centrally located in Florida's Lake County, the quiet, serene setting offers a perfect place for reflection and revival.

The meeting rooms, dining room and lodging buildings are all within a short walk of each other with level paved paths. Guests can use the prayer chapel, walk the "Path of Silence" or nature trail, sit on a swing by the lake, or take a prayerful walk in the labyrinth. Whether you are here with a small event or large conference, you will experience renewal as you learn, relax and grow here at The Life Enrichment Center.

The women of Grace Church have decided on this particular weekend, March 2-4 for the 2012 retreat.

Since registration fills up quickly, we will need to have your credit card information **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15, 2012**, to guarantee our date. We will then go onto their website to register as soon as registration opens October 1, 2011.

For more information you may contact Martha Hasty, martha.hasty@gmail.com, call her 904-461-3914, or Janet Rusin at the church office 904-829-8272, gracemeth@comcast.net.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS TO OUR GRACE CHURCH FAMILY



*Amanda Butler
Nursery Attendant*

"Miss Amanda", our new nursery attendant, comes to us from the former Christ Mission Church. Her very qualified, loving and patient demeanor brings a very special touch to our nursery and its small temporary occupants.

Amanda is presently studying for her nursing degree at St. John's River Community College.

Stop by the nursery on Sunday 8:30am-12:00pm

and also from 4:00-6:00pm to meet and welcome her to our church family.



*Jaycie Leibin
Children's Church
Teacher*

"Miss Jaycie", our new children's church teacher, also comes to us from the former Christ Mission Church. Her patience, love of children and crafting skills add a very special dimension to our little ones at the 5 pm worship service. Her "Children's Moment" during the service adds a special touch, as she teaches about the love of Jesus.

You will find Jaycie doing arts and crafts in

the upstairs Sunday School room with the young ones during the 5pm service. Be sure to welcome her to our church family.