grace WEEKLY

To PARTNER *with* GOD in TRANSFORMING people from unbelievers to *fully devoted* DISCIPLES of Jesus to the GLORY OF GOD.

December 22, 2013

NEW TO GRACE CHURCH?

Please make sure to fill out a Let's Connect Card! Our Information Center in the Welcome Area is open each Sunday morning to help you find information about the many ministries we offer. If you need further information, please feel free to call our church office at 239.694.2797.

We have two worship services each week and various programming on Wednesdays:

Sunday	10AM	Contemporary
Sunday	11:30AM	Traditional
Wednesday	6PM	Various Programming

(Information on Wednesday programming and classes can be found throughout this Grace Weekly.)

We love kids! During the 10 AM Sunday service, we offer a full Children's Worship experience. Children are invited to go directly to Grace Place, which is located in the Fellowship Hall. We have a nursery available during all Sunday worship services to provide a safe and welcoming environment for children, newborn to three years of age. The nursery is equipped with toys, books and loving people to provide for the needs of your child. In addition, we have a beeper system to contact you, if your child needs you.

Join us for a free continental breakfast on Sundays served in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 - 11:30 AM!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

We count, because people count…

Fort Myers Shores Campus: 10 AM - 117 | 11:30 AM - 43 | Wednesday - 182

Cape Coral Campus: 8:30 AM - 291 | 10 AM - 604 | 11:30 AM - 343 | CR - 167 | Online - 150

Fort Myers Central Campus: 8:30 AM - 30 | 10 AM - 133 | Wednesday - 146

Grace Community Center: 10 AM - 177 | Celebrate Recovery - 75

Total Worship Attendance: 2,513

GIVING: *Fort Myers Shores Campus*

General Fund: 12/15/2013 $4,251.50

Give Online! Make a one-time donation,
or set up an automatic monthly donation.

egracechurch.com/donate

GRACE NEWS

DARE TO DREAM - God did not create us and save us so that we could sit around waiting to die and go to heaven! He created us and saved us so that we could participate in his activity in the world. In this study you will be challenged to wake up to the God-sized dream inside of you, develop a life mission statement, and commit yourself fully to your God-given life mission. This will be an amazing way to begin the New Year, and all 4 sites of Grace Church will participate in the experience.

ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

We have some great plans for this season, including:

TODAY **BLUE CHRISTMAS -** Not everyone is filled with holiday cheer, and not everyone looks forward to the merriment of the Christmas holidays. Life situations and personal losses can make the season especially painful for people who are suffering. Anyone who has lost a loved one, is struggling financially, has an illness, or is going through difficulty is invited to a special Christmas service **TONIGHT** at 6 PM. We will share in a service of reflection, meant to be a light in the midst of the darkness. This service is a wonderful way for you to reach out to hurting friends by inviting them to the experience.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - You will not want to miss Christmas Eve at the Shores! The 6 PM service will have a more contemporary feel to it, as well as a special time with the children during the service. The 8 PM service will be more traditional, and we will share in Communion. Both services will end with candle lighting. This is a perfect time to invite friends and neighbors to experience worship at Grace Church. Nursery is provided during both services for children under the age of 4.

NEW **NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW HOURS -** Beginning on Monday, January 6, our office hours will be 9 AM - 1 PM.

At Grace Church, we seek to REACH people who are far from God, CONNECT them to God and other Christ-followers, FORM them to be more and more like Jesus, and SEND them into the world to serve God and others!

REACH

Contact Ellen Donald
edonald@egracechurch.com or visit the REACH wall in the Welcome Area.

ANGEL TREE - Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Angel Tree ministry! Thanks to your generosity, many children will experience unexpected love this Christmas!

FOOD PANTRY - Canned food and dry goods are always welcome in our food pantry! This time of the year can be especially hard on families and we want to help. Next time you are shopping, consider picking up a few extra cans of vegetables or a few extra boxes of macaroni and cheese. Buy One Get One offers are also a great way to contribute to the food pantry. You can bring them by the office between 10 AM - 2 PM or drop it off on Sunday mornings in the basket located in the Welcome Area.

BLUE CHRISTMAS - Do you have a neighbor, friend, or family member who has suffered a loss recently? Whether it is the loss of a loved one, a relationship, or a job, the holiday season can be difficult for a lot of people. This is where you come in. Will you reach out to invite them to our Blue Christmas service? This experience will include scripture, music, communion and more, all as reminders that in the middle of their loss, there is hope. The service is tonight at 6 PM – there is still time for you to be a catalyst for healing for your loved one.

CONNECT

Contact Robin Morrison
rmorrison@egracechurch.com or visit the CONNECT wall in the Welcome Area.

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY - Our Central campus will be hosting a New Year's celebration, and you are invited! There will be delicious food, music, give- a-ways, and much more, all in a beautiful outdoor courtyard setting. This is a safe, sober way to have fun and be with your Grace Church friends and family on New Year's Eve.

SAVE THE DATE - A Taste of Chocolate Women's Ministry event will be held on Saturday, January 11 from 10 AM – 1 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are $8 and are on sale Join us for lunch, powerful testimonies, music, arts and crafts, and CHOCOLATE. Questions? Call Carol Kennedy at 239.694.5943.

THANK YOU - We would like to extend many thanks to the Connect Team and everyone who made our Night of Worship and Community Dinner such a great experience on December 11! We appreciate you and your ministry.

FORM

Contact the Church Office
shoresoffice@egracechurch.com or visit the FORM wall in the Welcome Area.

REGISTER NOW FOR MEN'S RETREAT 2014 - Join with men from every Grace Church campus at the Christian Retreat Center on Fort Myers Beach! "Sons of Grace: The Character of a Godly Man" will be led by Pastors Jorge and Wes and other special guests. The dates are February 7–9, 2014. Registration is just $50, which includes all meals. Limited lodging is available for an additional $50. Sign up online at egracechurch.com/men today!

PREREGISTER NOW FOR 2014 WOMEN'S RETREAT - From December 8 - 31, you have the opportunity to preregister for what will be a relaxing, filling, 2 day spiritual retreat. The early registration price is just $80, and it will include lodging, materials, and meals! The retreat is April 12 - 13, so mark your calendars, and log onto egracechurch.com to register today. Please contact Paulette Jones for information at 239.896.7370.

DARE TO DREAM - God did not create us and save us so that we could sit around waiting to die and go to heaven! He created us and saved us so that we could participate in his activity in the world. In this study you will be challenged to wake up to the God-sized dream inside of you, develop a life mission statement, and commit yourself fully to your God-given life mission. Classes will begin Wednesday, January 8th. Pick up your dinner at 6:15, and bring it to classroom 2! Class starts promptly at 6:30. You will only need a Bible, a journal, and a pen. To register, please write "Dream" on your Let's Connect card.

SEND

Contact Neil Johnson
njohnson@egracechurch.com or visit the SEND wall in the Welcome Area.

GLOBAL MISSION CONFERENCE - February 26 – March 2 is right around the corner! Are you interested in hosting a missionary in your home or helping with our planned events for this exciting week? Simply write "Missions" on your Let's Connect Card, and someone from the team will get back with you.

WELCOME HOME NEIL - Praise God for the work he is doing in the world, and for the safe return of the Ghana mission team.

FAITH PROMISE - Has God been faithful to his part of the Faith Promise you made with him? If so, now is the time to give back. He is active at work in the world, and calls you to be a part of the wonder of it all!

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AGE LEVEL

GRACE PLACE - Children have a high priority at Grace Church. On Sunday mornings, kids have their very own worship experience at 10 AM! Designed for Pre-K through 5th grade; kids enjoy the excitement of a high energy environment with worship, Bible message and games. They also connect with God and make new friends in small groups. Kids, join us at Grace Place in the Fellowship Hall!

E-TEAM - Pre-K through 5th grade students, Wednesday nights from 6 - 8 PM is where it is happening! Children learn about Jesus in a safe and nurturing environment through Bible stories, worship, crafts and games. Free dinner is served.

STUDENT MINISTRY - Students grades 6-12 are invited to join us on Wednesday night for a fun time of hanging out, playing games, worship, and a message about how God wants to relate to us! We begin with a free dinner at 6 PM and ends at 8 PM

RECOVERY

Contact shoresoffice@egracechurch.com

IS HOLIDAY EATING CATCHING UP TO YOU? - Our low impact aerobics class is FREE, you are among encouraging friends, and you can do the exercise program, regardless of your fitness level. You will feel better and look better too! Join us on for a workout on Monday and Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Choir Room. All are welcome!

12 STEPS FOR CHRISTIANS - The next meeting of the new Recovery Ministry will be held in January. Watch this spot for more information.

QUIT SMOKING NOW - Make your New Year's resolution a reality by signing up for a FREE class offered every third Saturday at the Grace Community Center from 10 AM - 12 PM. You must register for classes by calling 977.819.2357. Take the step toward better health!

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORKS! - And if you have a problem with drinking, you are not alone. Join us Thursday evenings at 8 PM in the Resource Room. You will find a warm welcome and will get help from people who have been there.

ARE THE HOLIDAYS STRESSING YOU OUT? - If you, a family member or friend are going through stressful times and need someone to listen, pray for and encourage you, get a confidential Stephen Minister. Mark your Let's Connect Card, or call Leigh Jarvis at 239.574.7161.

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SHARI:

This week I am happy to share the Advent writing of Derrick Scott III. "This Advent and Christmas season, I am endeavoring to empty myself. I have no idea what that means. It is a prayer, a meditation, a desire of the heart. I have a packed schedule as always. There are gifts to buy, goodwill to give and parties to attend. But in the secret place of my soul, I want to see Him this year. I want to see His glory like Mary and Joseph, and the shepherds and wise men saw. I want to grasp deeply in my heart the truth that in the manger was everything I ever wanted and needed. I wonder what might happen to my devotional life, if I could see Him. I wonder if my schedule would change if I cleared the room in my heart so that it is He and only He there. I wonder if my approach to justice and mercy would change as a result of seeing Him. This year, I am endeavoring to empty myself of all that is unnecessary so that my eyes can see Jesus as the source of my salvation." Thank you Derrick, for sharing your heart with us!

I love being your Pastor!

God Bless,

Pastor Shari

Pastor Shari Lacey
slacey@egracechurch.com

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 10AM - 2PM

LEADERSHIP

Lead Pastor	**Jorge Acevedo***
Campus Pastor	**Shari Lacey***
Director of Worship and Youth Ministries	**Michelle Weger***
Director of Children's Ministries	**Beverly Cox***
Administrative Assistant	**Beth Rice***
Care Team	**Judy Edwards**
Reach Team	**Ellen Donald***
Connect Team	**Robin Morrison***
Send Team	**Neil Johnson***
Facilities Leader	**Matthew Williams***
Finance	**Charlotte Nesta***
Nursery Coordinator	**Gail Leindecker**
Organist/Traditional Choir	**Erich Bredehoeft**

*You can easily send an email to these staff members by using their first initial and last name @egracechurch.com
EXAMPLE: Doe, John= jdoe@egracechurch.com
Other inquiries can be sent to shoresoffice@egracechurch.com

GRACE CHURCH...*one church in **many** locations!*

GOD'S VISION FOR GRACE CHURCH IS:

To partner with God in transforming people from unbelievers to fully devoted disciples of Jesus to the glory of God.

FORT MYERS SHORES CAMPUS

14036 Matanzas Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33905
239.694.2797

Worship Times:
10 AM - Contemporary
11:30 AM - Traditional

CAPE CORAL CAMPUS

13 SE 21st Place
Cape Coral, FL 33990
239.574.7161

Worship Times:
8:30AM - Traditional
10 &11:30 AM - Contemporary

FORT MYERS CENTRAL CAMPUS

2415 Grand Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239.334.3160

Worship Times:
8:30 AM - Traditional
10 AM- Contemporary
6:30 PM (Wed) - Contemporary

GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER

4151 Hancock Bridge Parkway
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
239.656.1320

Worship Times:
10 AM - Contemporary

GRACE COMMUNITY CENTER THRIFT STORE

4151 Hancock Bridge Parkway
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
239.656.0122

Hours:
Tues-Sat: 10 AM - 4 PM
Wed: 10 AM - 5:30 PM

FORT MYERS CENTRAL THRIFT STORE

2415 Grand Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901
239.244.5712

Hours:
Saturday - Monday
10 AM - 3 PM

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