



After 20+ years of ministry (*and with one co-pastor being a church educator as well*), we've accumulated quite a few resources – so many, in fact, we sometimes lose track of them all. While digging through some of our many articles, we came across one that speaks to every church, in every place. Although GCPC does a pretty good job of living up to these signs, we still thought it worth sharing. Enjoy!

## Remember the faith that unites us, the faith we have in a loving and empowering God.

We have faith that God has called us here for a purpose. Whenever we feel the most anxious about the future, let's remember some of the signs of healthy congregations and pledge to live that way:

**Expressing gratitude.** Pay attention to the work done by many people within our congregation. No one person or group of persons does it all, and every person's contribution to our life together is worthy of appreciation. Gratitude is a sign of resurrection living, a way of celebrating our life together.

**Keeping promises.** These include the promises we make both as individuals and as a congregation. For instance, every member of the congregation promises to abide by the decisions made by the Session; elders and deacons make promises to serve the other members and to respect each other. We are obligated to keep our promises. At the same time, we realize that as human beings, we will make mistakes and sometimes break our promises. That's why forgiveness is an important part of being a Christian and the chance to try again.

**Living truthfully.** One of the hardest parts of "truth telling" is when we have to speak hard truths to each other. We have the responsibility to be compassionate, but to not shy away from speaking truthfully to each other, especially when it comes to our life together as a Christian community.

**Offering hospitality.** This is one of the hallmarks of the Christian faith. True hospitality means welcoming people without them having to earn our welcome. It means welcoming strangers, but it also means continuing to welcome people after they become part of our faith family, and not taking anyone for granted.

Keep living this way and we'll not only overcome our anxieties about the future, but we'll be a shining example of what a Christ-filled community looks like. And that's not a bad thing to be.

- Mitch & Sue

**LOVING  
GOD  
LOVING  
PEOPLE**

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." – *Hebrews 13:2*

**Visitors delight us.**  
Our goal is simple: make all people feel welcomed, not overwhelmed.

We were all visitors once and remember how it feels to try a new place of worship. Attend as often as you want. Visitors are welcome at all GCPC events, classes and small groups as well as in worship. We will always be glad to see you!

Join us for coffee in between our two services or grab a cup of coffee in Heartland Hall on your way to Sunday School class. Heartland Hall is located next to the Sanctuary. There are always people to visit with or things to learn about if you want to just hang out.

## **REAL FAITH REAL STORIES REAL GRACE**

**For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love and a sound mind.**  
*- 2 Timothy 1 v 7*

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210

phone: 913.345.1256  
fax: 913.345.1198  
web: [gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)

# Grace Creates Faith Stories

## Grace Creates Faith Stories

### *Summer Sunday School is Coming Soon!*

This summer the Children and Adult Ministry Teams are joining together to create an intergenerational Sunday school experience. Children, youth, and adults will come together to explore personal faith stories and enjoy creative expressions of our faith. It will be a great time to learn together and enjoy getting to know each other better.

GCFS will begin Sunday June 16. Look for more details in the June newsletter.

**Did you know that the Connections and Care Team is a partner with our pastors in providing pastoral care?**



It's true! Chelly King and Nancy Kalesz are working together with Revs. Sue and Mitch to provide care to our members. Together we provide emergency and home visits, arrange for meals with our Deacons, supply some medical equipment, and will even come stay the night at the hospital so that family can get much needed rest. If you have a surgical procedure coming up, or in the event of an emergency, please call the church office (913-345-1256) and let us know. For an "after-hours emergency," calls or texts may be sent to Rev. Mitch at 973-970-5751, or Rev. Sue at 973-970-5752.

## Per Capita Update

As part of a connectional church, Grace Covenant pledges to support the operations of our General Assembly, Synod of Mid-America, and Heartland Presbytery through a per capita pledge of \$49.07 per member of Grace Covenant. This equals a pledge of \$24,780.35 for our 505 members. We have collected \$4,754.03 as of April 21, 2019. We invite each member to prayerfully consider giving his/her \$49.07 to offset this expense in our budget.

# Thank You!

## Thank you to our Holy Week volunteers

It took many hands to make our Holy Week services so meaningful and beautiful. Together you created experiences that helped the congregants reflect and connect with the incredible acts of God through Jesus. Thank you to: the readers, soloists, musical ensembles, decorators, set-up and clean-up crews, Worship Team, Confirmation youth and our staff, Rebecca, Miles, and Patrick.....and ALL who had a part!



# Music Notes

## Holy Week Music

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MUSICIANS who shared their gifts this past Holy Week. Your music "moved us to a more profound... Alleluia!" – Fred Pratt Green, hymnist

## Looking Ahead

**5/4 – Saturday at Aberdeen Village; 2:00pm**  
Chancel Choir and Charter Ringers will be combining to present a concert to their residents, families, and friends **in the Village Green Room** at the main entrance. Come and join us. All are welcome!

### 5/5 – Second Sunday of Easter

GCPC Orchestra will play in both 8:50 and 11:05am worship services.

Orchestra rehearsals are:

- Wednesday, May 1, from 7:30–8:30pm
- Saturday, May 4, from 10:30–11:30am



## Bell Fest XXXI May 5, 6pm

**This year's theme is:**

***"I'm Gonna Ring When the Spirit Says Ring"***

Come and hear toe-tapping spirituals and gospel music on the bells. There will also be a tap-dance, sing-a-longs, a vocal duo, and a humorous, funny, delightful (?) emcee! You will love this program! **All are welcome!**

## MISSION & MUSIC TRIP

### Dates to Remember

**Thursday, May 16:**

**M&M Youth, Parent, & Sponsor Meeting; 6:30–7:30pm**

Get your tour book & draw your secret pal. Make prayer bracelets and talk about the trip.



**Wednesday, June 19:**

**M&M Final Prep Night for All Students and Adult Sponsors going on the trip; 6-9:30pm**

**8:00pm Ex! & Ex! Ringers present their Final Rehearsal Concert** for parents, friends and family. Actually...for everyone! Come see the concert that will be presented on the **M&M Trip**.

## Mission & Music Concerts

- **Sunday, June 23, 10:55am Worship;** Parkway Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, TX (our host church)
- **Sunday, June 23, 2:30pm;** Brookdale Trinity Towers Senior Living, Corpus Christi, TX
- **Date/Time TBD** Metro Ministries Soup Kitchen, Corpus Christi, TX
- **Thursday, June 27, 6:30pm** Red Cross, Corpus Christi, TX
- **Sunday, July 7, 10am (One service Sunday)** Grace Covenant Presbyterian; We sing our songs and share our stories with an all Congregation Luncheon to follow.

## Save the Date!

- **Sunday, August 4, 8:50 and 11:05 am** Kansas City Men's Ensemble will provide musical leadership in both worship services.

# Children's Ministries

## May Sunday School

May will bring the end of the Sunday school individual classes. We hope everyone will come enjoy the Grace Creates Faith Stories intergenerational program beginning June 16. Eastertide is the time after Easter when the sanctuary is still dressed in white to celebrate the glory of the resurrection. It is a time to for expressing gratitude for God's grace and love. During these last weeks of classes, children will consider God's gift of forgiveness. The story of Mary and Martha will show us what devotion and service look like. The story of the ten lepers will teach the children that praise and thanksgiving can be as simple as saying "thank you."



**Bring a friend and join the fun!**

**May 5, 12, 19**

**8:50am and 11:05am -**

Awakening to Worship (Room 12)

**10:00am Sunday School**

**2s & 3s:** Lisa Cox and Tatum Cox (Room 23)

**Preschool 4s & 5s:** Danielle Dalton and Lara Schesser (Room 25)

**K-1st Graders:** Christy Soule and Katie Hearn (Room 14)

**2nd-5th Graders:** Matt McBride, Jenny Stromberg, Jerel Williams (Room 10)

**10:45am Choir**

**K-5th Graders:** Lara Schesser (Room 15)



## Explore God's Grace and Gratitude Each Day

When your children are at home, use these tools to explore God's grace and gratitude each day. Find these tools at: [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads)

**Grace Sightings:** the weekly Bible story and age appropriate activities for your family to do at home.

**Audio Recordings:** the weekly Bible story brought to life by endearing readings and sound effects.

**E-books:** the quarter's colorful illustrations, Bible stories and Grace Sightings, in ibook and Kindle formats.

## Children and Worship

**Awakening to Worship** is our wonder and worship program for children ages 4-1st grade and meets following the children's sermon weekly. We invite children in elementary school to continue participating and experiencing worship as they move into the sanctuary for worship with the wider family of Grace Covenant.

- **Worship Bags** are in place to help busy hands and hearts.
- **Worship Bulletins** are available from the ushers every week. There are two age levels.
- **Worship Leaders** are invited to light the candles weekly, read in worship, and assist in other ways. Stay tuned on this one! Watch for more news about this in the new year.
- **Children's Choir** will sing in worship occasionally.

## Awakening to Worship Leaders Needed for May

We are looking for Awakening to Worship greeters and storytellers for May. To sign up please contact Kristy Shaw at [kristinashaw@everestkc.net](mailto:kristinashaw@everestkc.net). Thank you!



## Walk MS Team

Team Grace Covenant finished their walk to fight multiple sclerosis on Saturday, April 27, at the 2019 Walk MS held at the Kansas Speedway. Congratulations to the team members: Riley, Jennifer, Jennifer B., Mike, Beth and Jane. Also thanks to our virtual walker Jodi!

Walk MS brings together a community of passionate people for one powerful cause: to end MS forever.

# 2019 VBS - To Mars and Beyond!

## To Mars and Beyond!

### Vacation Bible School, June 3-7

Get ready to blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! It's going to be an amazing week with our theme, **To Mars and Beyond**, as kids discover the wonders of God's universe. They'll become voyagers on a journey through space, exploring where God's power can take them. They'll lift off to distant planets on special missions to collect power sources. Along the way, they'll learn how God walked with heroes of the Bible, and that God is always with them, too. Add to the adventure with out-of-this-world fun, learning, and timeless Bible stories that inspire kids to give glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine! **Invite your friends!**



You can register online at: [cokeburyvbs.com/gracecovenantpc2019](http://cokeburyvbs.com/gracecovenantpc2019) or pick up a registration form at the church. For more information contact Lindsay Bucl at [lindsaybucl@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaybucl@gmail.com) or Rev. Sue at [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).



## celebrating our children

### Fellowship & Lunch • June 9 at 11am

After a week of VBS, our children see their faith family tell a story and understand the idea that this story is worth listening to. They learn that people care about them, prepare for them, change spaces to engage them, and take time to know them.

Children also learn that the stories of the Bible connect us and that God loves it when we gather in fellowship and fun as a faith family.

Let's partner together and celebrate the contribution of our children to GCPC, and their role in the life of the church!

**WE NEED HELPERS for set-up, serving food, and clean-up!**  
Sign-up by emailing Rosemary Gibson at [regibson1945@gmail.com](mailto:regibson1945@gmail.com)

This FUN event is supported by Connections & Care, Children's Team and the Welcoming/Marketing Team.....and relies upon the support of the congregation.

INFLATABLE FUN!

LAWN GAMES!

:: MENU ::

Hot Dogs & Sides  
Cookies & Drinks

**GCPC MEMBERS PLEASE BRING**

- Last Name A - D :: bring COOKIES
  - Last Name E - M :: bring VEGGIES/FRUIT
  - Last Name N-S :: bring BEANS/SALADS
  - Last Name T - Z :: bring CHIPS/DIP
- (Drop off your item on tables outside HH **before** worship at 10am on June 9)

# Grace Studies

**May 5**

## **Maya Quiché Guatemala Partnership**

Come hear about the partnership and their impact in the lives of people in Guatemala and the USA. Class meets in Heartland Hall

## **Our Giving Story: Stewardship and Finance QA**

Join Rev. Mitch and Matt McBride as they discuss the biblical background behind giving to God's church and answer questions about our current financial picture.

*Class meets in Room 5.*

**May 12**

## **Washington and UN Offices**

Reformed theology teaches that because a sovereign God is at work in all the world, the church and Christian citizens should be concerned about public policy. In addition, Presbyterian forefather John Calvin wrote, "Civil magistracy is a calling not only holy and legitimate, but by far the most sacred and honorable in human life." The Rev. Mitch Trigger will be speaking about how we carry out public policy advocacy in the PCUSA. Come and learn about the work being done by the Presbyterian Church (USA) at the Washington and UN offices. *Class meets in Heartland Hall.*

**May 19**

## **Troubling the Waters for the Healing of the World**

Rick and Jo Randolph will speak about their recent trip to the ecumenical advocacy days. Through worship, educational and training workshops, and advocacy, the conference explored how to beckon the Spirit to "Trouble the Waters" as depicted in John 5:1-9, calling on God to bring healing to our nation and world.

*Class meets in Heartland Hall.*

# KAIROS – Peace, Justice, Earth Care

## **Caring for God's Creation Is Every Day!**

**Did you know that GCPC has "big item cardboard/plastic" recycling bins in the kitchen hallway?**

Can you, or your Team, be part of our recycling effort, reducing the amount of items sent to the waste stream? There is a sign-up sheet for a 2-week assignment posted above the containers.

**Join Kairos team members** as guidelines are developed with an eye to our PCUSA Earth Care Congregation Certification for use of renewable hospitality items at GCPC events. Contact Moderator Dave Pack, [kndpack2everestkc.net](mailto:kndpack2everestkc.net); or Earth Care Coordinator Jo Randolph, [jrandolph4407@gmail.com](mailto:jrandolph4407@gmail.com).

### **Sunday School Presentations With a KAIROS Bent:**

- May 5 Report from the Guatemala traveling group.
- May 12 Mitch Trigger on PCUSA Washington and United Nations offices resources
- May 1 Jo and Rick Randolph reporting on the Compassion, Peace & Justice Day and Ecumenical Advocacy Days events they attended in Washington, DC, April 4–8, 2019.

**May Meeting Change:** Sunday, May 19, after last service Room 21. ALL ARE WELCOME

## **Heartland Maya Quiche Partnership Renewed**

Members of Heartland Presbytery, and a contingent from Grace Covenant, journeyed to Costa Rica in March of 1984, hoping to receive a "gift of new eyes." GCPC was well represented in those early journeys including Don Frankland, Heidi Peterson, Jessica Peck, Janet Stranghoner, and Ky Weekly. We became acquainted with folk from the National Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Guatemala and we felt God leading us toward a partnership with our K'iche' brothers and sisters of the Maya Quiché Presbytery.

**At the April 2019 Presbytery meeting Heartland Presbytery unanimously approved a 5 year renewal agreement with Maya Quiché Presbytery continuing this important partnership of presence. THANK YOU GCPC for being faithful supporters over the last 24+ years.**

# Mission Team & Outreach Notes

## May Noisy Offering

Please begin saving your coins for the May Noisy Offering to be conducted on Sunday, May 12. The recipient will be Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA,) the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables PCUSA congregations and mission partners to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events.

## PW Birthday Offering

The 2019 Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering will be collected in May. Four projects have been selected to receive funding including:

- The Disaster Response Team of the Presbytery of Charlotte, NC. Donations will expand the ministry to support people affected by disasters by providing a warehouse, parking lot and fencing to hold materials for disaster recovery.
- Effingham, Illinois, Child Development Center. Donations will serve children and families of differing ability, through improvements to the center's playground- to include adding new play equipment and protective play surface.
- Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky/ Good Shepherd Community Nursing Center, Phelps, Kentucky. This organization provides care for people that are vulnerable due to age and poor health. PW's grant will help provide new wardrobes, bedside cabinets, nursing beds and mattresses.
- Wings of Refuge, Iowa Falls, IA. This grant will help fund a healing space for women victimized by human trafficking by helping to fund a larger safe home where women will find restoration, community, hope and transition to independent living.

## IHN Hosting

Grace Covenant will host homeless IHN guests during the week of May 5–12. This will be Grace Covenant's 60th time hosting IHN week! Thank you to the volunteers who will be hosting and providing meals this week. We ask you to pray for our guests.

## May Communion Offering

The May Communion Offering will be donated to GCPC's M&M trip. Your monetary donations will help support our youth who will be traveling to Corpus Christi, TX, this June. Their activities will include support of families whose homes were damaged in a hurricane and will be moving into a renovated or new home.

Donations of house warming gifts-in-kind will be shared with the families. Ideas include: Toiletries, Diapers, NEW Underwear and Socks, First Aid Items, Cleaning Supplies, Canned Goods, NEW Bed Pillows and Blankets, Box Fans, Utility Knives, and Leather Work Gloves. You may place your in-kind gifts in the box in the Weekday Entrance.

## Fair Trade Sales

Reminder...Fair Trade Sales are May 5, at the entrance to Heartland Hall between services and 15 minutes following the 11:05 service.

**SOLES 4 SOULS**  
WEARING OUT POVERTY®

## Soles4Souls says "Thanks Grace Covenant!"

The Soles4Souls shoe collection as of May 1 has a total of 202 pair of shoes kept from the landfill and repurposed to those in need! We are way below the totals from last year (900+). Won't you clean those closets and add your shoes to our collection ASAP?

## IHN Charity Auction

IHN's 8th Annual Charity Dinner and Auction "Homeward Bound" will be held on June 27, 5:00pm at the Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66221. Tickets are \$75 and available at [www.jocoihn.org/auction](http://www.jocoihn.org/auction).

## Two Health Questions - Part IV

Previous articles in this series described specific aspects of family history, ethnicity/race, age, weight, and inactivity as risk factors for the development of type 2 diabetes. Another risk factor, the metabolic syndrome, is the focus of this article.



The process of metabolism includes a set of chemical reactions that occur in the cells of the body. Two examples of these chemical reactions are digestion and the movement of substances from one cell to another. The metabolic syndrome is a cluster of metabolic conditions that could increase the risk for the development of type 2 diabetes. According to the second edition of the "Mayo Clinic The Essential Diabetes Book," the presence of three or more of these risk factors may indicate the existence of the metabolic syndrome.

The Mayo Clinic does not specify that any one or combination of certain factors place an individual at greater risk. The five factors include abdominal obesity, blood pressure, high - density lipoprotein cholesterol, fasting blood glucose, and triglycerides. Consultation with a health care provider and completion of additional diagnostic tests may help clarify the meaning of symptoms. This article includes more information about abdominal obesity.

The Mayo Clinic emphasizes the importance of exercise and explains that it helps with absorption of most of the glucose in the blood. Exercise helps to build muscle mass, which absorbs the glucose and burns it for energy. For individuals who are overweight or obese, the additional fatty tissue increases the resistance of the muscles and tissues to the body's own insulin. This situation, according to the Mayo Clinic, *"Is especially true when the excess weight is concentrated around the abdomen."*

**The June issue of Grace Notes** will include information about the final four risk factors of the metabolic syndrome.

**Part II of the article, "Mission Co-workers Speak for Advocacy"** will continue in the June issue of Grace Notes.

## East Hill Singers — November 10, 2019

**Concert Planning Update:** During the months of May and June, the Kairos Team will identify the resources needed for the time periods before, during, and after the concert. These resources will include children, youth, individual members, ministry teams, and other organized groups at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church. The Kairos Team will also plan the best ways to fund a delicious and nutritious dinner for the East Hill Singers after the concert.



## Thank you GCPC Family!

Thank you is not a strong enough expression for the appreciation Joe and I feel for the outreach of our church family after my auto accident of prayers, food, visits, cards, and calls. Mitch's sermon on Palm Sunday on what members are called to do — one was to look after each other, and I know I felt all the prayers and care from our church family. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

—Pat & Joe Collins

We want to thank everyone for the special reception, as we leave for our return to the Buffalo area. We sure felt the warmth of GCPC with all your hugs and best wishes. We loved the bag of best wishes, cookies, flowers, and the beautiful picture of the etched doors. It will hand in our home with joy. We will always be members of GCPC in our hearts and will miss every one of you. Hope to see you every Easter. Our new address is: 242 Hammocks Drive, Orchard Park, NY 14127. We have a spare room if you are ever in the area. We will love seeing you!

—Al & Judy Hook



# #JobJar - “Working in Ministry Together”

## Communion Help Needed

The **Worship Team** communion preparers are hoping to add more participants to the team. Currently there are two of us who alternate the odd/even months. The bread is ordered from Hen House. Currently the wine and grape juice are purchased by Chelly King. If you are interested in learning more about helping with communion, please contact Christine Hutchins, [cnhutchins@gmail.com](mailto:cnhutchins@gmail.com), or Chelly King, [chelly41RN@gmail.com](mailto:chelly41RN@gmail.com). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## Caring Visitors Needed

The **Connections and Care Team**, along with our pastors, are looking for members to volunteer to visit church members who are in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and their own homes. The visits are arranged around your availability and where you are comfortable visiting.



For additional details or questions, please contact Nancy Kalesz, [nancy.kalesz@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.kalesz@gmail.com), or Chelly King, [chelly41RN@gmail.com](mailto:chelly41RN@gmail.com). A brief training session will be provided prior to assigning volunteers for their first visit.

We are also looking for members to assist in sending cards to members that are home bound, at nursing homes and rehab centers. The job would be shared by four individuals. Postage and card cost would be reimbursed as needed.

Please contact Pat Collins, [p5c\\_70@yahoo.com](mailto:p5c_70@yahoo.com)  
(Note the underscore between the “c” and “70.”)  
or call 913-491-6603.

## VBS Help Needed

The **VBS decorating team** is looking for some extra help assembling items for our **To Mars and Beyond** adventure. We provide the supplies and plans, you provide the helping hands. We welcome anyone and everyone. Volunteer to help and have fun creating the magic for our children this Summer! We will meet Sunday, May 5, 12–2pm in Room 14.

## Serve on an Interfaith Planning Team!

We are looking for people interested in serving on an **Interfaith planning team**. The team will partner with Arab Ministries to plan for activities in which people from different faiths and different cultures can come together for music, fellowship, and food. The group may also work together to develop opportunities for Interfaith dialogue. ***Our first meeting will be Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 5.*** If you would like to join the team, please contact Revs. Sue or Mitch.

## Grace Event Crew

Calling all able body men, women, and young adults (high school) to join a small group being formed, the Grace Event Crew. This Crew would set-up and take down tables and chairs for **Connections and Care Team’s** church-wide events throughout the year.

Most set-ups will be done on a Saturday and take down would be immediately following an event on Sunday. Crew members can volunteer to set-up only, take down only or do both. Any assistance is welcome. Communication for an upcoming event will be done through an email that provides the details and requesting a reply of your availability.

We welcome a multitude of volunteers to make the Grace Event Crew effective. “Many hands make light work.” If interested, please contact Karen Fankhauser at 913-708-4485 or [kfank@everestkc.net](mailto:kfank@everestkc.net).

## Marketing GCPC

The **Welcoming/Marketing Team** is looking for some assistance in a few areas: **Photographers** to take photos at GCPC events, gatherings, special services, etc. to share with our team for social media; **Banner/Flag set-up/take-down** for special services, holidays, etc.; **Coordinator** to help with scheduling/developing a marketing calendar for our events/music events/services/classes (*not graphic design related*). No committee work associated with these volunteer jobs. If you are interested in helping with any of these areas, call or email Kim Krueger at 913-709-9555 or [kim.krueger@att.net](mailto:kim.krueger@att.net).

# Youth Page

## Welcome, Kyle!

It is exciting to welcome back past summer intern Kyle Becher to serve with us again this year! Having already built relationships with our students as well as having experienced this role first-hand in the past we are particularly excited as we look forward to what God can do through our ministry this summer!

Here is a note from Kyle:

*To the all the Youth and their families that I have had the privilege to work with this past school year as an Adult Sponsor, I want to say Thank You. I am also glad to not have to take time away from the Youth Program this summer and to be back to serve as your Youth Intern again this summer!*

*Four years ago, when I was the Youth Intern I saw it as a Leadership position that would benefit me when looking for full-time employment to try to find work as a Financial Advisor. Little did I know, that summer would start the snowball effect when realizing that I could make a career out of working with Youth. Today, I am proud to say that I am working towards becoming a Middle School Math Teacher. The time I had during the summer of 2015, was ultimately a life changer. Grace Covenant has always been somewhere that I have been proud to call my church home. A big reason why I still call this church home, is because of the Youth we have here. You all are incredible! I am excited for this summer, and ready to get out into the community and do some fun things that Kansas City/ Corpus Christi/Purdue has to offer.*

## Mission and Music Trip Update

This year we are headed for the gulf coast of Texas where we will serve with Presbyterian Disaster Relief to help those who have struggled with severe hurricane damage over the past year and a half. At this time we don't know exactly what project or projects our group will be assigned to, and we don't yet know specifically what type of labor we will encounter. We do know that there is much to be done and probably will be for several years to come. We expect to be serving in the Rockport area and our hosts have expressed great thanks to us for making this trip! We will be staying at a church in Corpus Christi and we will be singing and ringing at our host church, at least one assisted living facility, and likely for some of the folks who lost their homes during the hurricane. During the month of May our Outreach Team has generously offered us the opportunity to be the Communion Offering recipient please see the outreach page for more details.

## Confirmation

Our Confirmation capstone retreat is May 3-4 this year and we are celebrating Confirmation in worship on May 19. We have 9 wonderful, energy-filled students in the program this year and no lack of great conversation! It has been a joy to have them present their prayers of thanksgiving as well as scripture readings in worship these past several weeks. We look forward to seeing what God has in store for them!



## Graduating Seniors

With May upon us, we want to extend warm congratulations to all our graduating seniors in the class of 2019! They are: Lindsay Callender, Sam Cashman, Leif Johnson, Lina McCamon, and Charles Trigger. Grace Covenant *will always* do our best to be a safe place and a church home for you. Remember that this fall as you go out into the world!

## Summer Events

Mark your calendars now for the following youth summer events:

- May 16** M&M Youth, Parent, and Sponsor Meeting
- May 19** Confirmation Sunday
- June 3-7** VBS - need volunteers of all ages
- June 21-29** M&M Trip to the Texas Gulf Coast - completed 8-12th grade
- July 15-20** Massanetta - completed 6-8th grade
- July 15-20** Triennium - completed 8-12th grade



Session met on April 15, 2019 in room 5, with Reverend Mitch Trigger serving as moderator. In addition to the elders and Reverend Sue Trigger, Deacon Kathy Williams and Ryan Hussey were present.

**Consent agenda:** The minutes of the March Session meeting, as well as a few membership requests, were approved (total membership is now 488).

**Team minutes:** On behalf of the Mission team, Tim Hayden shared an order form for the tamale dinner to celebrate Heartland Presbytery's relationship with Maya Quiche on May 5. The order forms will be distributed to the congregation too. Tim also shared that the team is looking for IHN coordinators to replace Dave and Karen Pack. If new coordinators cannot be found, our involvement in the program could face significant changes.

Ryan Hussey proposed that Session approve forming a task force to evaluate our long-term childcare and early childhood development programs. This is not to say that either of our current programs will be ending, just that we are going to research ways we can better serve the community in the long-term. Session approved forming the task force. Congregation members interested in participating in the task force are encouraged to let Ryan or Rev. Sue know.

**Pastors' report:** The pastors submitted a report of their activities during the past month. There was discussion centered around encouraging members to communicate their expectations of pastoral care.

**Deacons' report:** Kathy Williams reported she is creating a monthly newsletter for the deacons which features a profile of two deacons every month.

**Executive Committee report:** There are updates needed to the GCPC bylaws. Nelson Townsend, Rev. Mitch Trigger and Cheryl Johnson will submit a draft of the proposed changes to Session in May. The changes will be voted on at the next congregational meeting.

**Old business:** Session heard a report from the Nominating Team, which is continuing to search for elder candidates. There will be a congregational meeting on June 16 to vote on the slate of elders.

**New business:** Acting on a motion from the Finance team, Session approved the 2019 budget with a deficit of \$153,000.

After sharing some joys and concerns of the congregation, Mitch closed the meeting in prayer and it adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Inclusive. Family Oriented. Welcoming.**

11100 College Boulevard  
Overland Park, KS 66210  
Phone: 913-345-1256  
Fax: 913-345-1198  
[gcpc.org](http://gcpc.org)



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**CELEBRATING GOD'S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!**

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Co Pastors**  
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
[Mitch Trigger](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org), [mitch.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:mitch.trigger@gcpc.org).....ext.18  
[Sue Trigger](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org), [sue.trigger@gcpc.org](mailto:sue.trigger@gcpc.org).....ext.15

**Director of Music Ministries**  
- Office hours: Monday-Wednesday, Friday  
[Rebecca Prater](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org), [rebecca.prater@gcpc.org](mailto:rebecca.prater@gcpc.org)... ext. 13

**Church Administrator**  
- Office hours: Monday-Friday  
[Patrick Bell](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org), [patrick.bell@gcpc.org](mailto:patrick.bell@gcpc.org) ..... ext. 10

**Director of Youth Ministries**  
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday  
[Miles McDonald](mailto:miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org), [miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org](mailto:miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org).. ext. 17

**Finance Administrator**..... Tara Hyder  
- Monday 8-4; Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 8-12

**Organist**..... Linda Dover

**Contemporary Music Coord.**..... Denice Trawicki

**Contemporary Music Drummer**..... Daniel Cole

**Technical Director for Worship**.. Miles McDonald

**Child Care Coordinator**.....Carolyn Chaffin

**Kid's Day Out Director** .....Kathy Connor

**Wedding Coordinator**.....Lara Schesser

**Funeral Coordinator** .....Mary Sue Thomas

**ELDERS**

Jacob Battaglioli	Bryan Evans
Harold Frye	Donna Goeckler
Tim Hayden	Judy Hook
Terry Kolich	Lynn Long
Julie Passet	Hilary Schmidt
Aaron Soule	Josh Sutherland
Nelson Townsend	Marcia Turner
Cheryl Johnson, Clerk of Session	

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Deacon Moderator .....Kathy Williams  
Executive Committee .....Bryan Evans, Donna Goeckler, Cheryl Johnson, Julie Passet, Nelson Townsend  
Newsletter Editor ..... Kim Krueger  
Prayer Chain.....Cheryl Johnson  
Presbyterian Women Moderator .....Vacant

**MINISTRY UNITS**

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators  
Connections and Care..... Lisa Feyh  
Worship and Music..... Sarah Evans, Barb Purvis, Anne Stroud

Education Ministry Unit Moderators  
Adult ..... Pat Collins  
Children ..... Erin Frye, Angela Krug  
Youth.....Susan Sutherland

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators  
Kairos .....Dave Pack  
Mission .....Mikki Walker  
Welcoming and Marketing .....Rosemary Gibson, Kim Krueger

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators  
Facility .....Marc Feyh  
Generosity and Finance..... Matt McBride  
Personnel .....Linda Bridges

**Worship Schedule**

8:50am - Praise Team Led Worship  
10am - Church School All Ages  
11:05am - Choral Led Worship  
Childcare is provided during Worship.

**Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines**

**June Issue** - Deadline, May 21  
**July Issue** - Deadline, June 18