



JULY EVENTS...

UPCOMING EVENTS - GET CONNECTED!

- MORNING WORSHIP**
10:00 AM
- SUNDAY SCHOOL**
11:15 AM
- PRAYER MEETING**
4:15 PM
- EVENING WORSHIP**
5:00 PM
- WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP**
6:00 PM

- June 29-July 3 • PCA General Assembly, St. Louis, MO
- July 6 • SHINE meeting at 3:00 p.m.
- July 14 & 28 • WNF at 6:00 p.m.
- July 17 • Savannah River Presbytery mtg.
- July 20 • Joint Officers mtg. at 6:00 p.m.

Note: Join us for the Fifth Sunday Meal. Beginning August 29th we will have a "potluck" meal immediately following the worship service on the fifth Sunday of the month (2021 = August and October). More information to follow.



GRACE CHURCH
of the Islands PCA
6901 CONCORD RD • SAVANNAH, GA 31410



**Memorial Service
for Lydia Sharpe**

**Grace at Home
July 2021**

A monthly newsletter
from Grace Church of
the Islands PCA

GCI

Grace Church of the Islands

Presbyterian Church in America

6901 CONCORD ROAD • SAVANNAH, GA 31410 • 912.898.0170 • WWW.GCIPCA.ORG

Shepherding Christ's Flock

by Pastor J.C. Cunningham

Out of the many ways Jesus is described in the bible, one of my favorites titles is knowing Jesus as "the Good Shepherd (John 10:14)." Jesus is the loving shepherd who knows, leads, feeds, and protects his flock. He has laid down his life for them and will spend eternity with them. Even now as our risen and exalted Shepherd, he continues to keep watch over his sheep day and night (Psalm 121:4-8).

One of the ways that Jesus Shepherds his flock here on earth is raising up and using under-shepherds (elders) to bless his fold (1 Peter 5:2-4, Ephesians 4:11-14). During this past year, your elders have been studying this sacred duty of shepherding through Timothy Whitmer's book "The Shepherd Leader." We have learned about our duty to follow our Savior's footsteps and serve His sheep.

Christ calls us to spend time with the sheep to get to know them (John 10:14). We are to feed the sheep the manna from heaven, the Word of God (John 21:15-17). We are to conduct ourselves honorably and live lives worthy of the gospel, especially as

examples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3). We must seek sheep that have wandered, encourage the sheep that are downcast, and pray for all the flock that Christ has entrusted to us. Even though it is not fun or enjoyable, we must discipline rebellious sheep for the purity of the church, the glory of Christ, and the restoration of those wandering from the Lord (Matthew 18:17-20).

We are all humbled by this divine calling. We are sobered at the weighty responsibility of "keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account." On top of this, we are keenly aware that as shepherds, we are simultaneously frail sheep that are prone to wander from the Lord we love. Yet we joyfully give ourselves to the calling of shepherding because we love Christ and desire to bless Christ's flock.

Recently when I taught the children's communicants class, I sought to help the children realize that elders are not scary bad guys but are shepherds who love God's people and diligently want to help them grow in the faith. Likewise,

when you are contacted by your elder, don't view them as IRS agents seeking to audit you, or prosecutors seeking to condemn you, but as caring shepherds who want to serve you and benefit your soul.

Pray for us, that they would not fear man, but fear the Lord. Ask the Lord to keep us from sin and help us maintain a pure conscience before God and man (Acts 24:16). Plead with God that we would follow the apostle Paul and say at the end of our ministry "For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)." May Christ be pleased to use His under-shepherds to bless His sheep and glorify the Chief Shepherd!

SENIOR PASTOR
J.C. Cunningham

MINISTRY COORDINATOR
Tom Taylor

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Gina Harrell

ELDERS
Louis Watson - Clerk
Mark Board
Dave Roulo
Jose Veciana
Tom Taylor - Emeritus

DEACONS
David Lamson - Chairman
Joel Barry
Ron Nichols
Allan Chagan - Emeritus
Richard Towns - Emeritus



Haiti

Ben Baugh and Makenson - Haiti has had a spike in COVID cases, no group gatherings allowed and there is gang violence in and around Port au Prince.



FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Hope of LaGonave (HFL)



La Gonave is an island of Haiti located west-northwest of Port-au-Prince in the Gulf of Gonave. La Gonave is 37 miles long and 9 miles wide. The island is mostly barren and hilly with the highest point reaching 2,552 ft. There are no large cities in La Gonave so it is mostly rural areas with some agriculture as a primary source of income. Water or lack thereof is a big issue on the island. La Gonave is very poor, as is the rest of Haiti, and the government does not help the people, it hurts the people but the people of La Gonave are very hearty, resourceful and friendly people, in general on this island. They are like country people in the United States. They do what it takes to get by.

Hope for La Gonave (HFL) is a ministry that began in 2006 after the death of an American missionary there who was driving a motorcycle and had an accident. Grace church has had a relationship with HFL for over 10 years.

Why do we support Hope of La Gonave? HFL provides Reformed Christian catechism training and classical education to children on this island that otherwise would receive little or no education. They also get a hearty lunch every school day, which for many is the best and maybe only meal they get that day. For approximately \$1/day, you can adopt one of these needy children in La Gonave and meet their physical and schooling needs and also teach them God's Word and the Reformed

faith catechism.

Julie and I sponsor a young man there who is now about 14 or 15 years old. His name is Makenson Joseph. We have sponsored him for about 8 yrs or so. He is highly intelligent and a particularly good student. About 4 or 5 years ago, during a hurricane, a section of a building fell on his leg and because of the incident, one of his legs had to be amputated, just above his knee. One never knows how a hardship such as this will cause a person to react. We recently received a letter from this young man telling us how thankful to Jesus he is for our continued support of him and his studies and how we can pray for him as he continues to seek to serve the Lord in the island of La Gonave. Needless to say, we will continue to support and pray for this young man, and we are anxious to see how the Lord will use him in his life. We are praying he will grow up to be a godly leader in Haiti and perhaps God will use him to bring many others to faith in La Gonave and on the mainland of Haiti as well.

Please join us in praying for this young man and for the continued success of HFL as they strive to educate children and spread the gospel of Jesus to the Haitian people. And if you are interested in sponsoring a child in the HFL program go to their website at hopeforlagonave.org.

Jose and Julie Veciana

Music Notes by Gina Harrell • Director of Music

HOW GREAT THOU ART

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! (repeat)

When through the woods and forest glades I wander And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: Refrain

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin. Refrain

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art! Refrain

Summer thunderstorms - we have them often. But occasionally, one will capture our attention, and cause us to be in awe at the power and majesty of God. Such was the case that inspired the writing of "How Great Thou Art". But it is no short story. This beloved hymn passed from pen to pen and language to language over the span of more than 60 years.

One summer afternoon in 1885, Swedish lay pastor, Carl Boberg was on his way home from an afternoon service. He and his friends were caught in a fierce, but brief thunderstorm. That evening Boberg said that he opened his windows, and was captivated by the stillness and freshness of the land, in contrast to the fury of the earlier storm. He heard a church bell tolling, ending a funeral service. It was in this quiet hour that Boberg wrote the original version of the hymn, entitling it "O Mighty God" ("O Store Gud"). Many years later, he was surprised to hear his poem, which he had submitted to the newspaper, sung to the tune of a Swedish folk song. This is the tune we still sing today.

In 1907, Manfred von Glehn translated it into German. In 1912 Ivan Prokhanov translated it into Russian. In 1925, Gustav Johnson translated it into English. But it was in the early 1920's that British missionary Stuart Kline first heard it in Russian. He carried it with him as he ministered throughout the Ukraine, and over the next 30 years, he translated, edited, and added verses to it, finally publishing it as we know it, in 1949.

A worshipful moment, when a man was confronted with the majesty and holiness of God contrasted with the fleeting life of sinful man, is captured in the words of a hymn. Over the years, it is seasoned by the skill, tears, and praises of the saints, and preserved in our hymnal for our encouragement, inspiration and worship. How faithful is our God?!

And even though the singing of this hymn lasts for just a moment, as we worship God together, we are connected to its rich history and its source - God's people - the Church, in the same way that those momentary thunderstorms connect us to its source of power - our mighty, awesome God!

ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Bobby and Pam Welch
- 18 Pete and Jennifer Phillips
- 23 Brian and Nadya Purtell
- 29 J.C. and Aloha Cunningham

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Tom Taylor
- 8 Susan Barry
- 12 Kanan Harden
- 16 Abby Cunningham
- 16 Brian Purtell
- 18 Craig Harrell
- 19 Daniel Gibson
- 20 Jose Veciana
- 21 David Lamson
- 23 Bill Morris
- 23 Bobby Welch
- 24 David Watson
- 25 Emily Pigott

Leadership

STEWARDSHIP

Tithes and Offerings needed for budget YTD 2021: **\$169,494**

Actual Tithes and Offerings received YTD 2021: **\$148,673**

Average attendance for 6 months: 90 AM 45 PM

Ladies Bible Study

Mark your calendar. The Ladies Bible Study will resume on Thursday, August 12th at 10:00 am. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary.

Ecclesiastes

We will use the book in the LifeChange Bible Study series published by NAVPRESS (1913). We will be ordering books soon so do not wait to sign up.

From the Session . . .

The Session met on 6/22/21 and approved the following actions:

1. The Session approved a request to have a "potluck" meal immediately following the worship service on the fifth Sunday of the month (2021 - August and October).
2. The Session approved a request to begin Sunday School 15 minutes after the worship service and the Sunday School period will be 45 minutes long.

From the Diaconate . . .

The Deacons met on 6/01/21 and approved the following actions:

1. The Deacons are preparing a list of building and property improvements.
2. The Deacons are scheduling a church workday.