



Grace 2 U Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication of
Grace Presbyterian Church

Dawsonville, GA

July 2025
Volume 20 Issue 3

JULY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Pastor David's Article/
Discipleship Team
- 3** Fellowship Team
- 4** Social Justice Team /
Grace Notes
- 5** Women's Ministry /
Prayer List
- 6** Mark Your Calendars /
Usher & Liturgist
Schedule
- 7** Birthdays /
Anniversaries



I've been reading the new Mark Twain biography published in May of this year. It's a big one, 1173 pages, so I should probably mention that I'm reading it sloooooowly. I tend to decide in advance how long I want to spend reading a new book and give myself a page count per day or number of chapters to complete at each sitting in order to finish in a timely fashion. Knowing this one would be a large investment of time, I decided I would read at least one chapter a day, which should put me right at 69 days to finish the whole thing.

As of today, I am about halfway through the book, but more than two-thirds of the way through Twain's life. The story is well-written, and the subject is a fascinating human being. What has most captured my attention recently is the extraordinary growth in Mark Twain's character and humanity as he aged, especially related to cultural attitudes concerning slavery, Black people, women, and Native Americans. The man was blessed with an impressive intellect and an insatiable curiosity. He was constantly learning from his experiences and from his conversations and relationships with those around him. Whenever he was willing to challenge his own presuppositions and beliefs with his observations and education from others, he would inevitably examine his own prejudices and modify his views from bigotry and/or systemic racism to something much more humanitarian and egalitarian.

It would be tempting to discount the views of a young Mark Twain as hopelessly bigoted and narrow-minded on the subjects of race and slavery, never imagining the growth in grace and understanding he experienced as he aged. I appreciate the man's honesty in evaluating his own positions and ideals as he determined what no longer worked for him in a changing world of differences and nuances related to culture and civil rights. He was willing to examine himself and do the work to make positive changes when necessary.

I am encouraged to remind myself that a regular examination of my own presuppositions and default positions might reveal an opportunity for growth in my own life. What have I tended to believe that might not be true? Where have I adopted an inflexible position that no longer serves me or the people I love? What creed or doctrine have I made non-negotiable when other grace-filled, devout Christ-followers disagree? Who are the unwitting targets of my own biased assumptions and unexamined bigotries? Where do I need to change for the better?

I get the impression that Mark Twain did not enjoy admitting he was wrong about anything. But when he did, he enthusiastically embraced change wholeheartedly to his benefit and the blessing of those around him. Change for the sake of change is not automatically a good thing. Change for the sake of growth, improvement, and advancement, however, is just what we are looking for. Best of all is the idea of examining ourselves in the process of sanctification, where we are transformed into the image of Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Holding fast to a false bias just because I have always believed it is as unwise as continuing to do something the wrong way just because I've always done it like that. May we as followers of Jesus Christ and

members of Grace Presbyterian continue the good work of sanctification: celebrating our growth, rejoicing in our progress, abandoning what no longer works for us, and examining our own hearts and lives for anything that isn't true.

Grace to you,
David



DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Let's Get More "Discipley"

"Complete, unwavering discipleship to Jesus is costly, eventually leading to a risky contradiction with dominant culture. Most of us, surely, are not much inclined to that costliness that seems nothing short of heroic. Most of us will settle for a lesser discipleship. Even that lesser discipleship, however, inconveniences."
Walter Bruggemann

A few weeks ago, we lost one of the best biblical scholars of our generation. Dr. Walter Brueggemann died on June 5th. He was a professor emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. You can read his full obituary here... <https://tinyurl.com/2393y3dt>

Being part of a small congregation like ours offers a unique opportunity for deep connection and meaningful action. While we may not have vast resources, our strength lies in the collective commitment of each member. We are all called to be disciples of Christ, which means more than just attending services; it means actively living out our faith in ways that

transform both our congregation and the wider community. Imagine the impact we could have if each of us committed to taking one small step—whether it's joining a group Bible study to deepen our understanding of God's Word, volunteering for a church committee or event, or simply offering a kind word to someone who's struggling. When we share our time, talents, and resources, we not only support the vital ministries of our congregation but also strengthen the bonds of fellowship that make our community so special. This also includes our commitment to stewardship—wisely managing the gifts God has given us. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps us build a more vibrant and supportive spiritual home for everyone. Remember the words of James 2:17 (NIV) “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Our call to discipleship extends beyond the walls of our church. Christ's message is one of love, compassion, and service to the world. We are challenged to be His hands and feet in our neighborhoods. By actively engaging in our congregation through things like group Bible study and embracing stewardship, and by intentionally serving our community, we truly become living testaments to His love, allowing our light to shine brightly for all to see. How can you take a step today to more fully embrace your role as a disciple of Christ? As the Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 6:9–10 (NIV) “Let us not become weary in doing good... let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

I am looking for 2 or 3 members to work with me on the 2025 stewardship campaign. We'll develop the theme, schedule, communications, objectives, etc. Drop me a note at cachuff@cba1.com or call/text (717) 991-2234 to let me know your interest.

Peace,

Chuck



FELLOWSHIP TEAM

First a few personal words: During my recent illness, I was showered with love and care from Grace Church. The cards, calls, flowers, food, visits, and prayers - especially the prayers- kept me going when I wasn't sure I wanted to. I cannot begin to express my gratitude. Know that I felt the love and care. Many thanks to the Fellowship Team for keeping things on track while I was away. You are the best.

Now we begin looking forward to our annual picnic on September 28, the last Sunday in September. The picnic will probably be at Veterans Park, but you'll know for sure in plenty of time. As usual, the church will provide chicken, with the attendees providing side dishes and desserts. It is always a fun time with unbelievable food and heavenly desserts. We hope everyone in the congregation will attend and bring family. Again, we will have the little yellow ducks for chances to win fabulous prizes. (If anyone would like to donate prizes, please see me.) A sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts will be posted in the hallway a couple of weeks in advance.

Thank you for being a part of Grace Presbyterian Church.

Blessings and love. Betty Powell



SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Thanks to the continued church support, our foreign outreach program is expanding God's word to more and more people in other countries in need of hearing his words. Brad and Colleen Taylor continue to spread the gospel to so many people. We are thankful to have them as our foreign missionaries. See a brief explanation of his most recent trip:

Report from Brad & Colleen Taylor – Missionary work in Uganda



Thank you for praying for my trip last month to Kayunga, Uganda to teach a Spiritual Life course at our Bible Institute from May 2-9. This was one of the best courses I've taught since joining World Reach in 2018. I had 23 dedicated young people, most of whom are pastors but who have little or no pastoral training. These students are hungry to learn and be equipped to teach & preach God's Word and reach people for Christ. The theme of the course was that the spiritual life is about having a growing personal relationship with God through Christ, a life which is centered on the Gospel. I started

with the basics about how to have a personal relationship with Christ, and covered other topics like the security of our salvation, growing in grace, abiding in Christ, etc. I taught them how to share the Gospel using the 5 fingers of your hand (the Evangelism Explosion outline) and they practiced it. One student shared that he went out on Sunday with a church member to visit a person in their community and shared the Gospel & led him to Christ using the method they had learned! It was a great week of class. Thank you for your generous giving which allows us to teach and equip people all over the world for Gospel ministry!



GRACE NOTES

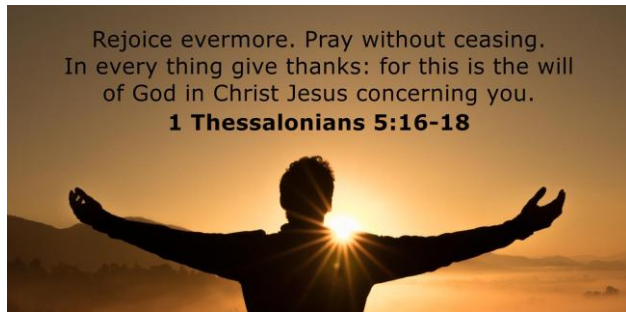
The choir will be taking a well deserved break during the month of July. Enjoy the special music we have planned!

The choir returns to practice August 6th at 7pm and we hope to see some of you there.

Grace2U, Gene Seese



The Ladies Bible Study will begin studying *Life Lessons from James* by Max Lucado on September 2nd. Feel free to order your book, or email the church office to order one for you: gracepresbyterian2@gmail.com.



In Our Prayers: John and Susan Adams (Marsha Loftin), Asher Robinson, Jason Atkins (Jerry), Susan Atkins, Frank Ball, Ruth Ann Ball, the Barnes Family - Carey and his son Baron (Mary Ann Sheehy), Anna Claire Beavers (Marsha), Sarah Ellen Beavers (Marsha Loftin), Bill and Sandy (Dan Scott), Gretchen Blackwell, Emily Bond (Jared Dixon), Carmen, Cathy (Kristi Deutz), Lisa Conn, Trey Courtney, Jessica and Michael Couture's family (Margie), Patricia Crain (Ruth Ann Ball), Darren (Chris Yarbrough), Karen Davenport, Joan and Randy Davis, Mary Delasota (Bob Thornton), Mike Eason

(Joey), Marvin Fuller (Kelly), Quincey Gamble (Marsha Loftin), Jim Hambright, Patrick Hawkins family (Shirley), Clara, Hogan (Shirley), Margaret Hunt (Jim Hambright), Irena (Gretchen Blackwell), Robert Ivy, Jenna (Reece Neidlinger), Cindy Johnson (Amanda Herrit), Doug Jones (Margie O'Byrne), Julia (Kristi Deutz), Justin (Carmen), Cynthia Kodua, Shelby Lee, Linda (Jaycey), Martha's Family (Dan Scott), Reed Maurer, Anna McQuilken (Kristi Deutz), John Murray (Betty Banks), Eric Nelson (Katie), Mrs. Nichols (Lynette), Margie O'Byrne, Betty Powell, Mandy Power, Brenda Reagans (Kristie), Dustin Seymour, Kathy Silvio (Marsha Loftin), Nancy Smiley (Ruth Ann Ball), Jacob Stone (Nancy McCue), Susan (Ruth Ann Ball), Colleen Taylor, Ti (Shirley Schmelzinger), Viviana Torres, the family of John Trammel (Emma Teems), Carol Watkins, Bill and Sherry Weeks, Sandra White, Wilma & her husband (Sandy), Anonymous leukemia patient

Assisted Living: Sandy Grimes

Sympathy: The family of Zoe Putnam, the family of Joan Ronsiek



July 27: *Blessing of the Backpacks*

September 7: *Annual Congregational Meeting
to Elect Elders & Deacons*

September 28: *Church Picnic @ Veteran's
Memorial Park*

USHER /LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Liturgists:

July

7/6 Joyce Ball

**Communion Servers (Intinction): Margie O'Byrne,
Priscilla Taylor*

7/13 Kristie Homans

7/20 Christy Jordan

7/27 Margie O'Byrne

Ushers:

July

Joey & Kristie Homans,
Jane Miller

Marsha Loftin, Margie
O'Byrne, Barbara
Quintrell

Bob & Peggy Thornton,
3rd volunteer needed

Mike & Joyce Ball,
Nancy McCue

Liturgists:

August

8/3 Chris Seese

8/10 Joey Homans

8/17 Chuck Achuff

8/24 Grace Walden

8/31 Chris Seese

Ushers:

August

Jerry & Susan Atkins,
Elaine Coker

Bill & Joann Keller,
Barbara Quintrell

Gordon & Jeannette
Brand, Margie O'Byrne

Marsha Loftin, Bob &
Peggy Thornton

Elaine Coker, Jane
Miller, *3rd volunteer
needed*

Liturgists:

September

9/7 Nathan Steritz

9/14 Chris Seese

9/21 Susan Atkins

9/28 Peggy Thornton

Ushers:

September

Joey & Kristie Homans,
Marsha Loftin

Mike & Joyce Ball,
Margie O'Byrne

Bill & Joann Keller,
Barbara Quintrell

Jerry & Susan Atkins,
Nancy McCue



July Birthdays

2nd – Roberta Coleman

2nd – Peter Stasi

3rd – Daniel Manke

7th – Sandy Grimes

8th – Kayla Deutz

10th – Rev. David Jordan

12th – Barbara Quintrell

14th – Bettie Fore

17th – Randy Davis

23rd – Winfred Kelley

24th – Christy Jordan

29th – Karan Winters

30th – Nancy King

August Birthdays

3rd – Andy Clemons

4th – Jeannette Brand

8th – Sam McDuffie

11th – Joey Homans

16th – Abigail Herriot

17th – Ryan McDuffie

17th – Betty Banks

20th – Leigha Rainey

24th – Sherry Weeks

28th – David Muir

September Birthdays

1st – Gault Robertson

4th – Foster Kinney

6th – Grace Walden

8th – Grayson McDuffie

13th – Doris Greijack

14th – Frank Banks

19th – Betty Powell

19th – Jeanne Tompkins

20th – Martha Shaw

20th – Reagan Parrish

26th – Kristian Deutz

30th – Joann Keller



July

11th – Lynette & Nathan Steritz

16th – Randy & Barbara Crouse

25th – Ryan & Sam McDuffie

August

1st – Nancy & Warren King

3rd – Peggy & Bob Thornton

7th – Betty & Frank Banks

8th – Shirley & Dan Schmelzinger

10th – Chris & Gene Seese

September

5th – Alyssa & Peter Stasi

8th – Jane & Dan Miller