Grace Evangelical Church www.graceontheweb.org January/February 2019

The phrase, Sanctity of Life, refers to the belief that human life is sacred, holy, and precious. At Grace we set aside Sunday, January 20th, to focus on and celebrate how precious **all** life is. We have many in our Grace family who have honored the sanctity of life. Below is the story from one of our own.

My first husband and I had been married for six years and we wanted to start a family. We tried for one and a half years to get pregnant, we were both tested, and no issues were found. The night before I had an appointment scheduled for additional testing, I kept getting this message, "take a pregnancy test". After work, I took a pregnancy test and it was positive. I went to my appointment the next day and my pregnancy was confirmed. The doctor did the normal tests to check that all was well with me. The doctor called me that next Monday and said I needed to come in for another blood draw. He called me the day after the second blood draw and said he needed to meet with my husband and I that day. He advised me that I may have leukemia and that my white blood count was thirty times higher than it should be. He set up two appointments that day in Kansas City, one with a high-risk pregnancy doctor and the other with a hematologist. The high-risk pregnancy doctor suggested I terminate the pregnancy and get started on the leukemia treatment. I would be risking my life and the baby's life if I continued. He thought I would miscarry because there were no documented cases of a woman with leukemia being able to get pregnant or carry the baby full term. I explained to the doctor that I was only thirty-three and I was not ready to die, my husband said the decision was mine to make. The hematologist was not optimistic either. He wanted to start oral chemotherapy and said the baby would not be affected because the bad white cells were too big to pass through the placenta.

My husband and I immediately called our pastor and met with him and his wife when we got home. We lifted this up to the Lord for a clear direction on how to proceed. We had many people lifting us up in prayer during this time. Several churches in St Joseph were prayer warriors for us. I continued with the pregnancy and paid visits to the Community Blood Center for infusions to remove as many bad white cells as possible. My local doctor continued with weekly blood draws during the pregnancy. My leukemia was chronic myelogenous, so it was somewhat controllable but could go into the blast phase at any time.

About three weeks before we were to deliver the local doctor thought there was an indication that the leukemia was going to the blast phase and arranged for me to go to St. Luke's for delivery. My son, Jeremy, was born May 19, 1991 and was a healthy baby. Six months after he was born I had a bone marrow transplant from my younger brother, Todd, who was a perfect match. I have received so many blessings from the Lord!!

Patty Dike, Leukemia Survivor



A new year has arrived. I am always amazed at what may transpire within in a year. 2018 is now in the record books and 2019 ready to be written. I love what scripture says about the importance of the present. The gift of the experience we have in today. In my opinion, if we all had been given the for-knowledge of the events that would take place beginning January 1st of last year we would have been overwhelmed and immobilized.

The present is a gift that lends itself to hope and uncompromising opportunity. Filled with wonder of the unknown. The present promotes the exercising of our faith and reliance on God's word and relationship with him. The present allows for us to lean on our dependence on our all-knowing creator and heavenly father rather than the temporal security of what we attempt to manage or sustain.

2019 will offer some curveballs, and some home runs. One thing is for sure though, our God is with us and is our ever-present help through it all. May 2019 be a year in which we live in the present with our God that holds our future secure.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5th and 6th Grade Outing:

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, January 13^{th} from 12:30 to 5:30pm. Our 5^{th} and 6^{th} graders will be going out to eat and participating in an activity of their choice together in town. We are asking that all children bring \$5 with them to help with any incidental costs of the activity. A sign up will be available beginning Sunday, January 6^{th} . More details will be made available Sunday January 6^{th} once the 5^{th} and 6^{th} grade 11:00 Sunday school class votes on the details of this adventure.

Family Nerf Night:

Attention all families! Please make plans to attend our First Ever Family Nerf Night. The event will take place Friday night, January 25th from 6-9pm at Grace. All High Five Kids and their families are encouraged to attend. This is a family event so each child will need to have their parent/guardian with them. More details will be coming out soon. So, keep your eyes and ears open. We are excited about all the Nerfdom that will be taking place...

Super Bowl Sunday:

As the adults are making plans to watch the super bowl on Sunday, February 3rd and pig out, we are getting ready to host the kids that will be coming to Grace to get away from all the football fans. We will have games, crafts, food, fun and a movie. To attend, preregister all kids that will be coming in High Five Children's church. Party starts at 5:00pm and all kids should be picked up 30 minutes after the end of the game.

STUDENT MINISTRY

January -

- 6 Crash: Board Game Bonanza 6pm in the Reset Room
- 20 Food Kitchen Attend first service, done by 1:30p Lunch provided Sign Up in Reset Room

February -

- 3 Super Bowl Party // 5p in Reset Room Bring snack(girls) or 2L(guys) to share
- 21 Game Night @ Living Community 7-8pm // Sign Up in Reset Room
- 27 Mission's Midweek // 6:30p in Reset

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 10-14

High School Summer Experience Lake of the Ozarks June 23-27 Middle School Camp

In Christ alone...

Nicholas Pierce

Youth Pastor // Grace Evangelical Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT GRACE

A great way to connect to the bible and others at Grace, is to attend one of the many studies we are currently teaching. There is a copy of the classes at the information desk and you can join a class any Sunday. New classes will start the first of March, watch the bulletin for details.

HALLMARK CHRISTMAS MOVIES GET ONE THING RIGHT

Every year around Thanksgiving I hear and read posts from groups of women discussing their excitement for the impending onslaught of cheesy Hallmark Christmas movies. To be honest, I myself have gotten caught up in the cornucopia of corniness a time or two (but I did a bunch of push ups and set ups afterwards to regain my "man card"). Despite their cheesiness and corny titles like: *Merry Kissmas; Annie Claus is Coming to Town; Christmas Under Wraps* – Hallmark absolutely nails one thing in its movies - that need everyone has for good friends who can give them perspective in their life, especially during tough situations.

In some ways this is what Grace Growth Groups are striving to provide for each person that calls Grace Evangelical their church. We want to create groups of individuals coming together in friendship in order to grow in relationship with God and others. From this growth in relationship with others, it's our prayer that individuals will begin to view their lives with new spiritual perspectives. That they will realize they are not alone in their struggles when it comes to their faith, family, finances, or friendships. As a result of this new perspective there will be growth relationally among the Growth Group and most importantly growth spiritually in God.

If you have not had a chance to be part of a G3 (Grace Growth Group) and would like to try one out, or perhaps you were part of one and would like to get back into one, then I would encourage you to check out the G3 sign up table in the middle of the church lobby starting January 6th. We have a variety of groups that meet during the week and think you can find a perfect one for you. All it takes is a step of faith to try something new. What better time to try than right now as we step into 2019!

Any questions about Growth Groups, but NOT about Hallmark Movies, call me (Pastor Ken) or email me (<u>ken@graceontheweb.org</u>) or call the church office at 816-279-2090.

REPURPOSED (over 40 singles)

These amazing people have made friendships and enjoy Christian fellowship each month. We laugh and shed a tear together and engage in fun activities. Through it all, we find strength and hope. Here is what is coming up over the next two months.

► <u>REPURPOSED (Singles over 40)</u>

Saturday, January 19th, we are heading down to eat lunch at Cinzetti's, Italian buffet in Overland Park. We will leave at 9:45am and return about 3:00pm. Cost per person is \$13 and payment is **due at sign up**. With only two Sunday's to sign up, this will fill up fast.

► Sunday, February 3rd - This is Super Bowl Sunday, and we "know" the Chiefs will be in it, right? Mark your calendars (seriously!). There will be stuff going on here in the chapel for football-watchers and football-haters.

► All sign-ups are at the Single's Kiosk, located across from the kitchen serving window.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS OF GRACE (over 50)

This group has the best time connecting with old friends and making new ones. Each month we have a potluck supper, where you can savor some of the finest food from the best cooks around, followed by special presentations by a speaker or musical group. Join us the second Monday of the month.

Monday, January 14th, we will be starting the new year right. Resolutions are fine, but what if you lived with Christian purpose? We will have people from Grace that will address living with reason and intentionality, even in the second half of life. We will address questions, such as, what keeps you from putting your feet up and coasting along in life? And, if you could see ahead five years, what would you want your walk with the Lord to look like? We will enjoy some video clips about these topics.

On Monday, February 11th, Dr. Galen Johnson, retired history Professor from Missouri Western, will share his insights on Lincoln and the American Presidency. Dr. Johnson's speeches are absolutely engaging, and with President's Day right around the corner, he will bring history to life!

It seems early to talk about an event happening in April, but this is no ordinary conference. It is the Springtime Jubilee in Branson, MO, April 8th-10th. We attend each year, and the 2019 edition should be a sell-out. Featured speaker is Dr. Robert Jeffress. He is the senior pastor of the 13,000-member First Baptist Church in Dallas. Entertainment includes music by the Dixie Melody Boys, and Gaither Vocal Band; comedy by Tim Lovelace and much more! This will be a wonderful time of encouragement, singing and fellowship. Cost is \$170 per person (after \$20 discount) for two people per room, includes the conference and two-nights lodging. Breakfasts available at the hotel, and you are responsible for all other meal. A \$75 deposit is due at sign-up (checks payable to Grace), full payment is due by Friday, February 1st. PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFERING BAG OR WALL SLOT. No refunds after February 1st, you may try to find someone else to take your reservation. For more information talk to Pastor Dave.

"Hands of Grace"

January - Pregnancy Resource Center

Each January we kick off the new year with a baby bottle drive for the Pregnancy Resource Center. Starting Sunday, January 13th we will have bottles in the lobby ready for you to fill with spare change or a check to help support the PRC. Their mission is to provide Christ-like service to pregnant, at-risk, and post-abortive women; addressing their spiritual, physical and emotional needs; equipping them to make healthy, life-affirming decisions. Their vision is to be prayerful, be professional, stay relevant, be accountable and have a persevering spirit. Please make checks payable to the Pregnancy Resource Center and have your bottle turned in by Sunday, February 17th. This is your opportunity to come alongside the women in our community that need our support during a difficult and precious time.

February - Pivotal Point Pantry Drive

Pivotal Point Transitional Housing offers a unique approach to helping families and singles overcome homelessness and pursue self-sufficiency. In an effort to help individuals renew their lives and find their way to a permanent home, Pivotal Point Transitional Housing provides a Christian environment where life skills training, support and encouragement all contribute to a brighter future. We will collect pantry items for Pivotal Point and their tenants the month of February. Bins will be located by entrance E and entrance C. A list of all items needed will be available at the information desk or on the Hands of Grace page @ www.graceontheweb.org.

February - Night to Shine

Last year we partnered with Huffman United Methodist Church as they hosted "Night to Shine". This is an unforgettable prom night, centered on God's love for people (14 and older) with special needs. They are still in the planning stage for this event, but we wanted to make sure you penciled this in on your calendar for February. For further information regarding this event you can contact the church office and watch the bulletin.



We are planning a day filled with fun and fellowship along with the football game on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3rd. Pre-game events get underway that morning when we encourage everyone to wear their favorite team apparel to church. To help InterServ with their pantry needs, we are asking you to bring a can (or five) of soup Sunday morning to bless our partnering agency that provides food for our community. *We will have tables in the lobby by the main entrance for you to place your soup on.*

That evening, many G3 groups will be holding parties and watching the game in their various meeting locations. Check with your leader for details.

A party will be held at church for the children of those attending the adult fellowship gatherings. Children age 4 through 6th grade can arrive at church no earlier than 5:00pm and must be picked up within 30 minutes of the game's end. All children must be pre-registered in Children's Church.



UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

Puttur, India - December 27, 2018 to January 7, 2019 Tegucigalpa, Honduras - February 15 - 22, 2019 (open group)

2019 Focus on Missions

"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21

We will start our Focus on Missions week with prayer in the library on Monday, February 25th and going through Thursday, February 28th. You will be able to sign up for one hour times slots from 6-9pm. Friday evening, March 1st, we will listen to the missionaries share about their work in the missionary field following dinner. Saturday morning, March 2nd, we will have breakfast at Grace and be able to visit with the missionaries and spend some one on one time with them. We are working with Hands of Grace on a project to show support for some of the agencies they work with in our community. You won't want to miss this opportunity to do a mission trip without leaving your home town.

Our guest speaker for Sunday morning is Pastor Keith Haywood with Operation Mobilization. Born and raised in Georgia, Keith accepted Christ at the age of nine. At eighteen he attended the Bible College of Wales in Swansea, UK. During his two years at this missionary training school, Keith surrendered to God's call to full-time missions. Keith met his wife, Rita, at BCW. After earning their diplomas, Keith and Rita marred and went to work with OM's LOGOS and DOULOS ships. They ministered in more that 50 nations through teaching, preaching, training, administration and leadership. Keith later led OM USA's human resource division as Vice President of Mission Personnel, overseeing a team whose focus was on recruiting, and caring for American missionaries serving overseas. Keith is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Intercultural Leadership from the Bethany Center for Global Studies in Bloomington, MN, and teaches seminars and coaches churches to develop fresh strategies and structures to better mobilize the church from the top down. "I am burdened by the fact that less than 5% of US churches have any type of strategic involvement in the Great Commission. If this truly is the last command of Christ, then should churches not make this a priority in their ministry? I want them to see their roll in the plan of God to bring salvation to the people of the world and then walk alongside them as they take steps to become more personally involved in God's mission."

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your gifts of food and sending us encouraging Christmas cards that reflect the love of Jesus. We are blessed to be part of a church family that shares the true meaning of the Christmas season.

> With love, The staff at Grace Evangelical Church

With Appreciation

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant and the support through all the past years. It helped Don(and me) so much!

Love, Marilyn Bischoff

Thank you all for the prayers and the plants at the time of the passing of both my brother and father. Knowing that people care helps so much. May God bless you, Michael and Nancy Sifers

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, kind words, and prayers through this difficult time of loss. We love our church family. Brian, Sheila, Jordan and Taryn Miller

Dear Grace Family, We were so touch by the beautiful colorful bouquet. My dad loved flowers. Thank you for the cards and flowers, and your presence at the visitation and funeral. Our love to all, Dennis, Linda and Kristen Jennings

To Mission Committee, A big thank you for the holiday love gift. We appreciate the gift as well as the support from Grace. Jim and Connie Maxey **Giving Hope Ministries**

Grace Mission Committee, Thank you so much for your love gift. Thank you for your ongoing years of support (16 years so far). We are so grateful to know that we have people like you who are serving right alongside us in ministry. Merry Christmas and God bless, Rvan and Monica Reeves Cru at KSU

Grace Evangelical Church. Thank you for your generous donation. Our holiday was a little more blessed because of you. Thank you so much for helping us have a wonderful meal with family and friends. Thank you and God bless, Pivotal Point Transitional Housing Residents

Thank so much for your gift to help with the Backpack Buddies. For every \$5 donated, Second Harvest can provide nearly 15 meals to nourish our neighbors. Your support has an impact on building hunger-free communities in St Joseph. Sincerely, Chad Higdon. Second Harvest Community Food Bank

Thank you for your donation to Catholic Charities - St Joseph Emergency Assistance Fund. Your gift provides great hope for those who come to Catholic Charities for emergency assistance. This effective stewardship, combined with your willingness to support, make our community better. God Bless, Susan Walker **Catholic Charities** 7

COUNCIL MEETING

- **Pastors:** Darrell Jones, Dennis Jennings, Ken Maxey, Dan Blakely, Chris Olson, Nick Pierce, Dave Ernst
- **Elders:** Tony Bryan, Joe Huber, Rick Lipira, Ted Myers, Frank Stanley
- **Deacons:** Mark McMain, Gary Reynolds, Matt Wieners, Mike Yuille

From the Minutes: 11-20-18 Council Meeting

- Members Absent: Ken Maxey, Mark McMain, Ted Myers, Matt Wieners
- Meeting opened with prayer.
- Motion passed to accept the Consent Agenda as presented with the following items approved:
 - 1. Minutes of September and October meetings and Email Votes;
 - September and October Finance Reports for General Fund Account, Storehouse Account, Special Projects Money Market Account, and Investment Account;
 - 3. Benevolence Committee Reports, September and October;
 - 4. Missions Committee Report, November.
- Motion passed to approve the Screening Committee's recommendations for 2019 Church Council positions to be put on the ballot and voted on by the membership at the annual congregational meeting on December 2.
- Motion passed to authorize an additional trained member to the Grace Security Team.
- Motion passed to accept the \$26,950.53 bid from YellowBlue LED to convert all remaining interior lighting to LED, excluding the main lobby and sanctuary pendants. Unspent 2018 General funds will be used.
- The Council conducted their semi-annual review of the membership rolls and authorized follow-up actions as authorized in the Membership Policy.
- Motion passed to accept the proposed General Fund Budget for 2019 as established with net expenses

totaling \$1,769,813.40.

- Motion passed to authorized a one-time added expense of \$711 to the 2018 Communion Supplies budget to purchase needed supplies for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service.
- Motion passed to use unspent 2018 funds to fund Capital Outlay items in the 2019 Budget.
- Meeting adjourned; Next meeting, December 1st, at 6:00pm.

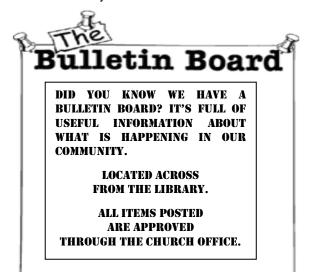
Respectfully submitted, *Chris Olson* Council Secretary

From the Minutes: 12-1-18 Council Meeting

- Councilmen and wives gathered for a Christmas Dinner and brief meeting.
- The proposed 2019 Budget for the Storehouse Account was presented and motion passed to adopt a Storehouse Budget for 2019 totaling \$153,349.00.
- Next Council Meeting will be a planning retreat scheduled to begin at 6:00pm, on Friday, January 18, 2019.

Respectfully submitted, *Chris Olson* Council Secretary

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<u>SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER</u>

If, indeed, it is a good thing to saturate ourselves in the Word of God, and to hide it in our hearts, then the evening study is a beneficial way for you to round out a Sunday. Setting apart one day of the week to have the Word poured into your life, through preaching and Sunday School in the morning, and then the evening study as a meaningful renewing of your mind at the end of the day, can really change your life. And, if you focus on improving the vertical aspect of your life, all the horizontal concerns and challenges become much more manageable. We are delving into the book of Deuteronomy, the same book Jesus used when He quoted Scripture when facing temptation. Come, and become stronger through the power of His Word, as Pastor Dave leads this study/discussion time, followed by prayer.

CANCER CARE MINISTRY

This ministry exists with the goal that no one impacted by cancer should have to make the journey alone. Some of the ways you can serve are: visiting those impacted by cancer, sending cards, taking meals, giving gift cards, driving to appointments and taking the person or caregiver out for lunch. There are also ways you can meaningfully touch lives at the Cancer Center, as a volunteer. Contact Brenda Lineback, via email at b_lineback@yahoo.com, or Pastor Dave at 279-2090.

	Finance	Report		
October Receipts General Fund Missions Fund Building Fund Specials/Reimbursed	\$136,290.83 \$22,446.60 \$0.00 \$11,319.68	Monthly General Fund Need to meet Current 2018 Budget is \$148,192.81 2018 Monthly Undesignated General Fund Giving through November Averaged \$148,449.47		
November Receipts General Fund Missions Fund Building Fund Specials/Reimbursed December Recpts. (thru 12-16-18) General Fund Missions Fund Building Fund Specials/Reimbursed	\$113,158.09 \$18,660.00 \$0.00 \$103,724.81 \$141,142.35 \$17,192.16 \$80.00 \$9,141.04	November 2018 Month-End E General Fund Storehouse Account Missions Fund Account Investment Account General Reserve Fund Building Fund Reserved Church Plant Fun	\$ 303,277.26 \$ 67,861.62 \$ 69,086.12 \$ 952,263.91 \$ 1,484.12 \$ 94,164.63	

Three Month Calendar Of Events

JANUARY

- 1 Office closed New Years Day 1-5 - Renewal Winter Conference 1-7 Mission Team in Puttur, India 3 - Day of Prayer and Fasting 6,13 - G3 Registration Begins 8 - Nativity Set Take Down 13 - PRC Baby Bottle Collection Begins 13 - G3 Spring Session Begins 13 - Mission Committee Meeting at Grace 13 - India Mission Team Recap 14 - MSG Dinner Meeting 17 - Student Ministry Appreciation Dinner 19 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Grace 19 - Repurpose Bowling at Belt Bowl 20 - Sanctity of Life Sunday 25 - High 5 Family Nerf Night
- 27 Hands of Grace Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 3 Super Bowl Sunday
- 7 Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 10 Mission Committee Meeting at Grace
- 11 MSG Dinner Meeting
- 15-22 Honduras Mission Trip
- 16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Grace
- 24 Hands of Grace Meeting at Grace
- 25-28 Focus on Missions Prayer Week
- 27 Kids and Youth Meet with Missionaries

MARCH

- 1-3 Focus on Mission Week Events
- 3 Honduras Mission Team Recap
- 7 Day of Prayer and Fasting
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 10 Mission Committee Meeting at Grace
- 11 MSG Dinner Meeting
- 16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast at Grace
- 16 Church Wide Family Camp Out
- 24 Hands of Grace Meeting at Grace

January 2019								
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February 2019							
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Weekly Events Sundays

7:30am Pre-Service Prayer in Room 206 8:00am, 9:30am, & 11:00am Sunday Worship Services in the Sanctuary 9:40 & -10:55am Sunday School Classes 6:00pm Bible Study & Prayer in Library

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Midweek Ministries at the church for Children's High 5; Youth Reset; Adult Groups during Growth Group Sessions **7:30pm** RENEWAL meets for College Students & Young Adults

Thursdays 12:00-1:00pm All-Church Prayer Meeting in Library

Fridays 6:00-7:00am Early Morning Prayer Meeting in Lobby

March 2019							
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WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

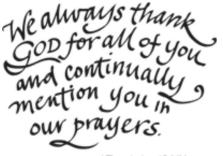
We are excited to be able to move in the direction we are being led by the Lord. Watch the bulletin for more information on what the Women's Ministry of Grace will look like for the new year.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

As we start the new year, we invite you to join us for some fellowship and a great breakfast. We will have an inspirational message from our group.

Our first meeting for the new year will be January 19th in the lobby at 8:30am. We will meet again on February 16th for our next fellowship event.

We are starting to plan for the Men's Retreat in May, please watch the bulletin for details.



I Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

ONLINE: <u>www.graceontheweb.org</u> - click GIVE MOBILE: download the church app, Grace St. Joseph TEXT: Text GECGIVE to 77977 (Msg. & Data rates may apply; visit https://pushpay.com/terms)

Regular Monthly Events & Meetings

(with some exceptions)

Church Council - Third Tuesday of each month.

Communion - Offered the last Sunday of the month. Anyone who has accepted Jesus as Savior and is living in relationship with Him is welcome to partake in communion at Grace. (gluten free)

Day of Prayer & Fasting - First Thursday of the month, we ask the church to individually make this a priority in their lives. We hold open prayer meetings in the library at 11am - 12pm and 12 - 1pm, and also 5:30 - 6:30pm.

Hands of Grace - Meets the fourth Sunday of each month to organize an outside ministry project where the church can volunteer to serve and take the love of Jesus to the community.

Men's Fellowship Breakfasts - Third Saturday of the month 8:30 - 10:00am.

Missions Committee - First Sunday of the month.

Movers & Shakers of Grace (MSG - over 50 crowd) meets for a potluck supper at church the second Monday of each month. Other trips and activities are scheduled throughout the year.

Open Door Food Kitchen - RENEWAL serves on the first Sunday; and Grace serves the first Monday.

RePurposed - Single adults over 40. Monthly outings are planned throughout the year including an annual retreat.

Valley Community Food Kitchen - Serve the evening meal on the fourth Monday of each month.

Women's Ministry - Watch the calendar for events sponsored by our Women's Ministry.

