

Fall 2011

get connected



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH





Thank You for taking the time to check out the GRACE Connect Guide!

It is our desire to see everyone at GRACE in community with others: connecting, growing, and serving. Inside you will find a variety of small groups and events that are designed to strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

We believe that being in fellowship with others in the body of Christ is essential for spiritual growth. Life is not meant to be lived alone so join a group and start doing life together.

Jim Bryars,
Pastor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. CHILDREN	VI. WOMEN
III. YOUTH	VII. FAMILY
IV. ADULTS	VIII. SINGLES
V. MEN	IX. SERVICE

VISION

At GRACE, our mission is to disciple people through a life changing encounter with the gospel of God's grace. We aim to do this by...



Presenting Christ



Providing Community



Practicing Charity

SCHEDULE

Fall 2011 • September - December

SIGN UP

After you find a group that you are interested in, there are two ways to sign up for or get more information about the group:

1. Use the contact information provided to get in touch with the person in charge of that group.
2. Call the church office at **251-345-3303**.



CHILDREN

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Every Sunday morning, the children of GRACE meet in age-designated classes to learn and engage the Word of God in an exciting manner. With stories, music, and games that combine to teach the children truths from the Scripture, our children will grow and develop a better understanding of who the Lord is and His plan for their lives. The theme for the fall is “God is Loving” each class’ theme and age groups are listed below for the fall.

Children’s coordinator | Scott Parks | jscottparks@bellsouth.net | 251-648-4845

Rainbow Promise

This class is for our *preschool* group. They will look at God’s love in the book of Genesis and the stories of Creation, Noah’s Ark, Joseph’s adventures, and much more.

Classroom 1A | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 am | Matt & Jennifer Bergoon

Kingdom Safari

This class is for our *PreK and Kindergarten* students. It focuses on God’s love through the accounts of various animals throughout the Bible, like the ark, talking donkey, lions and bears, the big fish, the lost sheep, and more.

Classroom 1B | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 am | Tony & Charlene Garcia; Bo & Martha Winter

God’s Top 10 List

Our 1st and 2nd graders will learn that God is loving as they study the story of Exodus and Moses receiving the 10 Commandments.

Classroom 2C | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 am | Johnny & Randi Arendall

Amazing Grace

Our 3rd – 5th graders will learn about God's love through studying the lives of Abram and Lot, Hannah, Zacchaeus, Peter, the Samaritan woman, and more!

Classroom 2B | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 am | Elizabeth Cook; Ermia Knight

Cars with Candy

What is more fun than hanging out with all your friends and eating CANDY?! This October, we will be hosting our third annual "Cars with Candy." This outreach event of our Children's Ministry is a way to connect with members of the local community and have a great time in the process. Bring your friends, families and kids, decorate your cars, and come up with creative ways to hand out candy for all who come by.

Grace Community Church | October 31, 6:00 – 8:00 pm (Setup @ 5:30) | Scott Parks | jscottparks@bellsouth.net | 251-648-4845

Elevate

Elevate is a new opportunity for the children of GRACE to come and experience how to worship the Lord in spirit and truth. Combining fun and exciting music with clear teaching from the Scriptures, Elevate will begin in the month of October and will take place the first Sunday of each month as part of our Sunday Evening Fellowship.

Grace Community Church | October 2, 5:30 pm | Scott Parks | jscottparks@bellsouth.net | 251-648-4845

YOUTH

The youth today are bombarded with messages and ideas daily, many of which are unhealthy at best. These ideas are so pervasive, that without the light of the Gospel, the possibility of becoming lost in darkness is high. Our goal is to provide an intentional, safe, and fun place for our youth to develop a solid foundation based upon God's Word and His Reality. We will do this through Teaching, Immersive Experiences, Community, and Discipleship.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

High School

This fall we will be digging into Genesis; developing a foundation and big picture perspective for the rest of the Gospel and looking to develop a sound understanding of Scripture in a practical and hands-on way.
Classroom 2E | Tory & Jennifer Albertson | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Junior High

This fall, we will go through a series called “Your Word is Truth.” This study is aimed at seeing all of life through the lens of Scripture.
Classroom 2A | Danny & Leslie Collier | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Fusion

On the first Sunday of every month we will be having an experiential group building time that will enhance the lessons from Sunday Morning Bible Studies, fusing the theoretical and theological with our day in and day out lives. Fusion will begin in the month of October and will take place each month as part of our Sunday Evening Fellowship.

Monthly Events

These will be announced once we are able to work out individual schedules of the youth and their families and will include group activities like movie nights, game nights, and bowling.

Quarterly Events

We will be having a kick off Camping Trip to Blakely State Park in September. This will be a time for the Junior High and High School youth to get to know each other, worship together, and eat some good ole fashioned camping food; can anyone say S'mores? Come ready to get your hands dirty and to experience the Word of God in a practical way!

September 16-17 | Tory Albertson | Sonofalbert@gmail.com | 251-220-0110

COLLEGE

College Students Luncheon

All University students are invited to the Pastor's home for lunch immediately following the second worship service. We look forward to seeing you there! Pastor Jim Bryars' Home, 6520 Charingwood Dr. N. | Sunday, October 9 | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

Fall Retreat

On September 9-11, there will be a weekend-long retreat for college students at Twin Lakes Retreat Center. Speaker Nathan Tircuit will discuss the topic of Dangerous Grace. Look for more information coming in the future.

Fall 2011 Bible Studies

Two Bible studies will be offered this fall: "The Gospel and Life" and "The Kingdom and Jesus," which is a study on the Gospel of Mark. Time and date will be determined based on student schedules.

Lanier Wood | lanier.wood@ruf.org | 205-532-4804

Weekly Dinners

The Woods' will be hosting dinner at their home on Thursday nights. This is a time for fellowship and to build relationships with other college students.

Lanier Wood's Home, 108 Cosgrove Drive | (Weekly) Thursday | Lanier Wood | lanier.wood@ruf.org | 205-532-4804

Christian Medical Ministry of South Alabama (C.M.M.S.A.)

Christian Medical Ministry exists to glorify God by training a new generation of health-care providers to bring the healing of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. C.M.M.S.A. is a discipleship-based interdenominational ministry focusing on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to students at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, establishing new believers in the faith and equipping believers to bring the gospel to the world through health-care.

Duane Baxter | dbaxter@cmmsa.org | 251-654-3535

Large Group Bible Study

This bible study is open to all classes and includes dinner and a devotional. It is a way to get connected to further opportunities and hear more about C.M.M.S.A.

Dr. Robert and Kelly McGinley's Home | August 24, 6:00 pm | Duane Baxter | dbaxter@cmmsa.org | 251-654-3535

Small Groups and Bible Studies

These are two ways that students can get connected to other students and local physicians for fellowship and to discuss God's Word. They are a great way to get fed spiritually and physically during your years in medical school. All medical students, residents, and their spouses are invited to join.

Starting September 5 | Duane Baxter | dbaxter@cmmsa.org | 251-654-3535

Student Luncheons

These luncheons provide an opportunity for students to have lunch and hear from speakers talk about their faith as a physician, experiences in medical missions, how to manage finances, etc. First and second year medical students are invited to join.

Biomedical Library Conference Room | Time/Day TBD | Duane Baxter | dbaxter@cmmsa.org | 251-654-3535

ADULTS

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Proverbs

This class is taught by Brad Steffler and Tim White. They are moving through the book of Proverbs and focusing on practical application of the lessons taught in Scripture. Once a month, the class has an open forum, during which class members are able to ask questions concerning Scripture and the Christian life.

Fellowship Hall | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30-10:30 am | Tim White | 251-895-3606

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

This class focuses on Biblical prayer; time will be spent on the Lord's Prayer, as well as different types of prayer found in Scripture. The class will also hear testimonies from different class members to build community and get to know one another. It is taught by Matt Spivey and Shane Black.

Classroom 2D | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30 am | Matt Spivey | 251-377-0578

Prayer Team

During the Sunday School hour a group meets for prayer in the CMMSA Office. You are invited to join the group immediately following the first service. The group prays for the needs of the church and for specific prayer requests known in the congregation.

CMMSA Office | (Weekly) Sunday, 9:30 - 10:30 am | Francie Albertson | 251-591-5546

Community Groups

Community Groups are the best way to get connected at Grace. These small gatherings are usually held in people's homes all throughout the week. Each group usually consists of about 6 – 14 people who are seeking to know Christ and His people better. Community groups are a great way to create and cultivate meaningful relationships and are a great place to practically experience the love of Christ through His body – the church. There are currently ten groups, and our goal is to continue to provide new groups to better assimilate people into the life of the church.

Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303 | Scott Moore | 251-423-8238

Crown Financial Class

What does God say in the Bible about money? Are you wondering if you are doing the best with the resources that you have? Are you following God's methods to prepare for your future and to be free to follow His plan for you? Are you looking for Biblical wisdom to inform the financial decisions you will make throughout your life? If so, sign up for the Crown Financial Small Group Bible Study meeting this fall and study various aspects of Biblical stewardship.

Dennis & Noel Fell | dfell@jaguar1.usouthal.edu | 251-666-7895

Special Needs Ministry

This is one of Grace's newest ministries. We have a desire to serve and come alongside of families impacted by special needs. While this has been a part of the heartbeat of Grace for quite some time, it was not until recently that this ministry began to fully blossom. Our present focus is creating special events like, nights at Pump it Up, Marriage Conferences for Parents with Special Needs Children, as well as assisting children with special needs during our Sunday morning services. As we continue to gain the Lord's wisdom and direction for this ministry it is our ultimate goal is to bring glory to our only hope – Jesus Christ.

Scott Parks | jscottparks@bellsouth.net | 251-648-4854

MEN

Men's Bible Study

Men's Discipleship, a new group study, will begin this fall. The goal is for men to come together to be encouraged and better established in their faith. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21, at 7:00 pm. This will be a time to communicate the benefits and commitments of participating in these small groups. Each small group will then meet separately for seven weeks according to the time best suited for the group. The fall study will focus on understanding God's story in the Old Testament and your place in it. You will learn how the various pieces of the Bible you may have stored in your mind fit together into one grand scheme. We will study the New Testament in the spring. To participate, please sign up at the foyer tables or call the church office by September 16th. Small group leaders will be Jim Bryars, Scott Moore, and Shane Black.

Grace Community Church | Pastor Jim Bryars | 251-753-6337 | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

Deep Sea Fishing Trip

On Saturday, September 24, the men will take a deep sea fishing trip out of Dauphin Island. We will meet at the church at 6:15 Saturday morning to carpool to Dauphin Island, where the boat leaves at 8:00. The trip will last six hours and will cost \$115.00 per person (this includes a 15% gratuity). To reserve your spot, make a \$20.00 deposit to John Aiken or the church office before September 24. The rest of the cost can be paid at the dock the day of the trip.

John Aiken | johnandcarol292@gmail.com | 251-591-0542

WOMEN

Women's Bible Study

In the Women's Bible study, we seek to provide an environment that will encourage and enable women to read and study God's Word with growing understanding and joy. In this environment we find ourselves building relationships among women that encourage us to love God, our families, our church, and our neighbors. This fall, the women of Grace will be studying the book of Isaiah, the book quoted in the New Testament more than other Old Testament book. Isaiah is a magnificent presentation of God's redemptive plan. Join us on Thursday mornings for a time of fellowship and learning. Child care is available upon request.

Grace Community Church | (Weekly) Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30 am | Beginning September 15 | Becky Bryars
| 251-533-0096

Book Club

This is an opportunity to enjoy stimulating literature from every genre and fellowship in an enriching environment. The books for the semester will be voted on during the first meeting in September, and each book discussion will be lead by a different member, so please come bringing your suggestions. We will meet the first Thursday of every month and refreshments will be served.(Monthly) Thursday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm | Vicki White | whitetv@comcast.net | 251-379-6582 | Joy Burroughs | 205-394-1765

Christmas Decorating

Come join us as we prepare the church building for the Christmas season. We will be decorating the worship center and fellowship hall. As an added bonus we can preview some of the tastes of Christmas with a cookie exchange. Each lady is invited to bring a plate of her favorite Christmas cookies. Bring several copies of the recipe to share and take home some new recipes and a plate of assorted Christmas cookies.

Grace Community Church | December 3, 9:00 am - 12:00pm |
Amanda Upshaw | upshawhomes@yahoo.com | 251-604-8632

FAMILY

Sunday Evening Fellowship

Join us the first Sunday of each month for prayer and worship. At 5:30, we will come together to pray for our nation, our church, our surrounding community, as well as our individual needs. The children and youth are invited to attend Elevate and Fusion. Following the time of prayer, everyone will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner.

Grace Community Church | (Monthly) First Sunday, 5:30-7:30 | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

Taste of Grace

This is an evening designed for those who would like to find out more about Grace Community Church. It is a night of fellowship, conversation and inquiry. Dinner will also be served. If you are interested in attending on Friday, November 4th, please sign up in the foyer or RSVP by Monday, October 31st to the church office.

Friday November 4th, 7:00 pm | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

Discovering Grace

Discovering GRACE is for those who are interested in looking further into membership at GRACE. Your attendance at Discovering GRACE does not commit you to membership but is the first step towards it. This class will discuss the vision, beliefs, and membership at GRACE. The series begins with dinner at Pastor Jim's home on Friday, September 30, at 7:00 pm and continues the following three Sundays at 4:00 pm. Register at the tables at both exits of the sanctuary or call the church office.

GRACE Community Church | Fellowship Hall | Sunday, October 2, 9, and 16, 4:00 pm | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

Grace on the Grounds

A Sunday afternoon of church-wide fellowship, food, music, and games here at the church. Games are planned for the little ones and the young-at-heart. The church will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers and cold drinks. Those attending should bring chips, salads, vegetables, or desserts - anything to complete our meal. There will also be information about ways you can get connected into the life and ministry of the church. Plan now to be a part of the fun!

Grace Community Church | September 25 | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

Christmas Eve Service

Join us on Saturday evening, December 24th, for a special Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family as we celebrate the season of our Lord's birth!

Grace Community Church | December 24 | Church Office | office@gracemobile.org | 251-345-3303

SINGLES

Whether you are a single college student or a professional, the Singles Group at Grace is a great place to learn more about Christ, find love and encouragement in community, and join with others to serve our church, city and world. The Singles Community Group meets every Sunday at various homes. During these times the group discusses that Sunday's sermon. The goal is to learn more about the Bible as well as apply it to each individual's current situation. Those who attend may bring their own meal.

There are also "Singles Socials" throughout the season where the main goal is to get to know new people as well as enjoy genuine Christian fellowship. The first Social will be on Sunday, September 18th immediately following the second service. Food will be served in the Fellowship Hall. All who are interested in knowing more about the Singles Group at Grace are encouraged to attend. For more information, you can contact:

Chris Colvin | colvinc6@gmail.com | Katherine Bealle | klbealle@gmail.com | Ted Skolits | tskolits@gmail.com

SERVICE

There are numerous ways to connect with others through serving at GRACE. The events listed below highlight some of these opportunities, but for a more complete listing, see the ministry survey on our website or call the church office.

Hillsdale

Over the last few years, the Lord has continued to open doors in the lives of children in the Hillsdale and Mobile Terrace Communities. During our times together, we focus on helping the children with homework, as well as bringing enrichment in math and reading. The opportunities to grow are wide open with the addition of a new computer lab in 2010. Helping these students become academically successful while delivering the gospel in word and deed makes this ministry exciting and fun.

Hillsdale and Mobile Terrace Communities | (Weekly) Wednesday, 4:30 pm | Scott Parks | jscottparks@bellsouth.net | 251-648-4854

Trinity Gardens Bible Club

Those who come out to Trinity Gardens can expect to play games, share their faith, to eat, love and to be loved. Bible Club usually lasts just over an hour and is a great time for people of all ages.

Trinity Gardens Dotch Community Center | (Weekly) Wednesday, 4:00 pm | Scott Moore | scott@gracemobile.org | 251-423-8238 | Charlene Campbell | 251-605-8429

Christmas Blessing

At GRACE, our community groups are invited to adopt families in the communities that we minister to. The goal is to provide families with their needs for Christmas. Starting at Thanksgiving, the community group leaders receive a list of needs from their adopted family. The group then works together to bring their “Christmas Blessing” to the families before Christmas Eve. This event has proven to be just what it says to everyone involved – a BLESSING!

Thanksgiving – Christmas | Scott Parks | jscottparks@bellsouth.net | 251-648-4854

get connected



GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH