

# GraceNOTES

The official newsletter of Grace United Methodist Church in Arlington, Texas

September 2019

[www.Graceumcarlington.org](http://www.Graceumcarlington.org)

## EVERYBODY'S GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER!

Pamela Pinkerton-Whitley

On Sunday, September 1st, a new Sunday school series was launched for **all** classes at Grace. We are using the study book: **Evangelism, "Unscripted – Sharing the Gospel as Life Happens"**. We're talking about how to share the gospel through everyday conversations not lectures. We're having round table discussions on how to connect with people. God has given us the responsibility to share the gospel. However, sometimes we struggle with how to share the good news with people. That is where these small group classes come in.

At Grace, we're blessed to have a variety of Sunday school classes and each class is unique. What's exciting about everyone studying together is that we have an opportunity when we leave the building to discuss the lesson with family and friends. The more we talk about sharing the gospel, the more comfortable we become. We're trying a new thing at Grace, getting everyone involved, growing and learning together.

This month, we celebrate another year of Sunday school. The studies have moved, stimulated and motivated each of us to build our faith and connect God's stories with our own. Summer is coming to an end. It's time for our **Sunday School Explosion/Back to Church celebration**. Did you know that over 31,000 churches now participate in National Back to Church Sunday on September 15th? We're focused on involving everyone in the Church in an effort to reach out and invite someone to give church a try. Share your thoughts on what Sunday school means to you and how it has impacted your life on our Grace Facebook page.

Let's share "good news"! Our mission: **"to bring people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ, by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God's grace"**.

*Experience Grace!*

Pam Pinkerton-Whitley, Grace Media



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**Grace UMC Arlington** seeks to bring people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ by making disciples through our words and actions in cooperation with God's Grace.  
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# Announcements

I receive email updates from the East District, Central Texas Conference United Methodist Church. As God would have it, the most recent email update included information on trainings and workshops to strengthen us individually and as a church. Please note that this information is for everyone.

**Lay Servant Ministries Classes - Leading Worship.** This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship. The class is grounded in the classic patterns of Christian worship and practice of leading worship. Dates and Times: **September 14** (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and **September 21** (9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) Location: Britton UMC, 4200 Britton Road, Mansfield, TX. **Cost: \$15.** Co-facilitators: Chris Buse and Karen Goodwin. To register, email Chris Buse at cbbuse@hotmail.com

**Hospitality Best Practices – First Impressions...Lasting Impressions.** You're Invited - Central Texas Clergy and Laity. Churches of every size see first-time guests each year. While some guests choose not to return because they simply aren't ready to go back to church, others don't return because of what they experienced when they did come. Knowing the difference between what welcomes and what overwhelms (and acting on it) is vitally important if you want guests to return. In this workshop, Melanie Smollen, president of Faith Perceptions, will share with us common themes she has gleaned from over 10,000 first-time guest experiences. Her workshop will include best practices in

hospitality, creating and nurturing a culture of hospitality, how to be intentional in welcoming, following up with and retaining guests. Participants will develop a clear understanding of hospitality culture and ways to become more welcoming by using resources and best practices that leave guests feeling welcome, accepted and wanting to return. See your church through the eyes of a guest. Understand common reasons guests (and millennials) do and don't return. Learn best practices for hospitality from the parking lot to follow-up. Develop specific action steps for your church to improve your guests' experience.

**Register Today** for one of two conference-wide hospitality workshops for both clergy and laity. **Dates/Location** - September 11th Workshop held at Central UMC, Waco. September 12 Workshop held at Arborlawn UMC, Fort Worth. **Workshop Time:** 9:00am- 3:00pm (8:45 coffee and fellowship, workshop starts promptly at 9:00). **Early Bird Registration:** \$30.00 per person (lunch, morning/afternoon refreshments, copy of "Fusion" by Nelson Searcy). For more information, please contact: Rev. Meg Witmer-Faile at megwitmer-faile@ctcumc.org or Cindi Blackburn at cindiblackburn@ctcumc.org

**Mental Health First Aid** is an 8-hour course that teaches how to help individuals experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. If we identify problems early, we increase the chances people get the help they need as soon as possible. Together through initiatives in the Central Texas Conference and a funding grant from Texas Health Resources we are able to offer the MHFA 8 hour course free of charge to

our congregations and communities. If you would like to take the MHFA course please join us on Wednesday, September 18, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. **Location:** Central Texas Conference Service Center, 3200 E Rosedale St., Ft. Worth, TX 76105. **Cost: Free.** Contact Katherine Hunter (katherinehunter@ctcumc.org) to register.

Pamela Pinkerton-Whitley

## September

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>Labor Day</b>	3 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	4 Prayer in sanctuary 5:45 pm Worship mtg 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	5 <b>Grace Prayer Call</b> 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	6	7 St Andrews Men's Bible and Breakfast 8 am
8	9	10 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	11 <b>Patriot Day</b> Worship mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	12 <b>Grace Prayer Call</b> 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	13	14 College Prep 8-10 am St. Andrews Food Bank 8 am
15 <b>Sunday School Explosion/Back to Church</b>	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	18 Prayer in sanctuary 5:45 pm Worship mtg 6:15 Outreach 6:15 Bible Class 7 pm	19 <b>Grace Prayer Call</b> 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	20	21 Prayer 9 am
22 <b>UMW Sunday</b>	23 <b>Fall Begins</b>	24 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm	25 Worship mtg 6:15 pm Bible Class 7 pm	26 <b>Grace Prayer Call</b> 6:45 – 7am 605-313-5111 Access code 663679	27	28 Prayer 9 am UMW / UMM 10am SPPRC 11am
29 <b>Jersey and Jeans Sunday</b> Info. Meeting After Sunday School	30					

## Save the Date!

**Joint Youth Rally/Fall Festival. Sunday, October 27th**

