

Monthly Newsletter

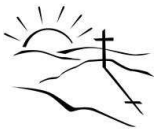


Welcome!

It's so easy for us to lose hope and feel defeated. Often times we get caught up in the "tragedy" of life and fail to miss the glory of God's entire plan. Those who closed the book on Good Friday failed to see the power of Christ's resurrection that was just around the corner. In God's covenant promise of a Savior, God, Himself, chose to bear the entire consequence of our sin, though He committed none. Sunday did come, just as He promised, and through nothing we did. We can't earn this salvation we can only receive it. As you prepare for Easter, ask God to allow you to begin seeing His plan through to the end. Jesus, while He endured the cross, was able to do so, knowing that His sacrifice would allow us to have the full grace and mercy of God.



Tuition is due
April 1



And God raised Him up again,
putting an end to the agony of death,
since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Acts 2:24

The Thief on the Other Cross: A Good Friday Monologue

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

I don't belong here. I really don't. Paradise is the last place I expected to end up after all I've done. Let me tell you my story.

I am -- I *was* -- an armed robber, I guess you'd call it. Me and Jake and the others would live in caves in the Judean hills near the road

from Jerusalem to Jericho. We made our living by violence. We wouldn't take on people in the big groups that passed. They traveled together for safety. But a family alone would be an easy mark, as well as anyone fool enough to travel by himself.

Brandishing a strong staff would usually do the trick. Threaten them with a beating

and they'd give up without much of a fight. But I've been known to break a few bones in my day, God forgive me. I don't think I actually killed anyone, but then I never stayed around long enough to find out.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honor in Jericho at the home of a rich tax collector

Special points of interest:

- 2012-2013 Registration is currently being accepted
- Spring Break, March 30 - April 6
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 6, 7 pm
- Grace Family Easter Egg Hunt, April 7, 10:30 am
- Easter Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 am
- PUSH Food Drive. April

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The Thief on the Other Cross (cont.)

named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a *long* moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then He smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in My Kingdom. How about it?"

I drop my eyes, say something non-committal, and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word He says. Jesus is talking about His Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven. I want so much to go up to Him after He has finished and take Him up on that forgiveness thing, but I just can't bring myself to do it.

I wish I had. It isn't much later when me and my friend Jake -- the guy on the third cross -- get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch us, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison. No mercy for the likes of us.

And so it happens that on the same day that they crucify Jesus, they crucify me and Jake -- one of us on His left, the other on His right. This ain't no normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Self-righteous Pharisees are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a savior, save yourself -- *if you can!*"

Jake begins cat-calling, too, if you can imagine that. I yell over at him, "You miserable thug, don't you have any fear of God? Can't you see that we're going to die just like he is? Show a little decency! We're getting

exactly what we deserve, but he ain't done nothing wrong."

Jake quiets down and the Pharisees lose interest. But I can't get Jericho out of my mind. I can't forget Jesus' eyes, His words, His Invitation. And so I call over to Him, though it's getting hard to breathe and talking makes it that much harder.

"Jesus!" I say. He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I was there in Jericho. I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?"

He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little. He *does* remember.

"I never forgot what you said. I wanted to say yes, but just couldn't. And now look at me -- look at *us!*"

He is in bad shape -- exhausted, in excruciating pain, back oozing, breath labored. He isn't going to last long. I can see that. But somehow I can see *beyond* all that. He *was* the Messiah, *is* the Messiah, no matter what those priests and Romans and Pharisees have done to Him. And when He dies, he will be with God. In a few hours, maybe less, He will be vindicated. He will reign in that Kingdom He told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now.

He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes.

"Jesus," I say, "when You come into your Kingdom, would You remember me?"

His words are labored, His lips parched, but I can still hear Him pretty well. "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with Me in Paradise."

His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. *I do!* That's what gets me through those next few hours until they break my legs to kill me. I *do* believe Him!

And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. Pretty amazing, don't you think?

This story is fictional, of course, though it is based on the account in Luke 23:32-43. The criminals described by the Greek word lestes, "robber, highwayman, bandit." Since Josephus used this as a derisive term to refer to the Zealots, some have thought that it might mean "revolutionary, insurrectionist, guerrilla" here. (lestes, BDAG 594; K.H. Rengstorf, lestes, TDNT 4:257-262). However, in this story I take the thief as a highwayman or bandit, like the one who had robbed the man in Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37).

Grace Presbyterian Church's Holy Week Services April 1-8



*Palm Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 am
Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm
Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 10:30 am Saturday
Easter Worship Service, 10:30 am*

Class Nicknames

Parent's Morning Out	Clownfish
2 Year Olds	Doodlebugs
3 Year Olds MWF & TTh	Superstars
3 Year Olds M-F	Monkey Business
4 Year Olds M-F	Busy Bears
4 Year Olds M-F	Little Engines That Could

Enrichment



Happy Spring everyone! I cannot believe how fast this year is going by! The children of Grace House are growing and love sharing their (mostly) related thoughts and knowledge about what we are exploring during Enrichment time. During Enrichment time for the month of April we will learn about taking care of the Earth and we will take a special look at kites. We will also be preparing for the preschool's annual Spring program which will be held in May.

*"Mortals join the happy chorus
Which the morning stars began..."*

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
God's children are invited to join the mighty chorus
of joy, which began at creation's dawn: Job 38.4-7*

April Birthdays

Parent's Morning Out

7th Malachi Burchette

2 Year Olds

2nd Mrs. Ericca Morris

6th Bryson Horn

13th Ethan Stutzman

24th Amy Pacheco

3 Year Olds

26th Emma Hicks

29th Spencer Johnsen

29th Allyson Sykes

4 Year Olds

13th Emma Tarter



Clownfish



It is hard to believe April is here! Your children have been showing us how much they have grown this past year! They have begun to talk and listen to each other as well as to us! We have been prompting them to use please and thank you. We are all enjoying getting outside each day so please remember to apply sunscreen as the weather warms and send a hat with your child. This next month we will be reading and singing and talking about how things seem to wake up and bloom during Spring! We will continue to concentrate on language, counting, colors, and shapes. We will also be trying to do some simple crafts each week. Thank you so much for sharing your children with us! They are truly a blessing.

Objectives:

- Continue to encourage children to use their words when interacting with others
- Encourage counting, colors, and shapes
- Continue with circle time
- Read and sing
- Do small crafts and coloring

Doodlebugs



Spring is definitely here and we're hoppin'. We're enjoying the wonderful weather as much as we can so please remember to put sunscreen on your children before sending them to school. Avoid flip flops, sandals, and crocs because the mulch gets in them and they spend a lot of their outside time trying to get it out of their shoes. We're making notable progress with sharing and taking turns, using words to express our feelings, and everyone's favorite, pottyng! We're also practicing for our spring program and hope you'll be able to join us. The children sing REALLY loudly in class so hopefully they won't get stage fright on the big night. In addition to learning about the wonderful things happening with the new season, we'll also continue learning about Jesus' work, his death and resurrection, and how the story doesn't stop there. The children look forward to the stories from "the Jesus book" as they've come to call it. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Sandra and Ericca

- Color - Blue
- Shape - Cross
- Bible story - Easter, the Apostle's continuation of Jesus' work
- Seasonal themes - Spring

Superstars



We were happy to celebrate the beginning of a new Spring season in the Superstars class! In March, we learned how our brilliant Creator set up life cycles, designed the rainbow with endless beautiful colors, and sent his Son to take away our sins. We also tracked the weather each day and discovered that, this year, March did *not* come in like a Lion, but was more like a Lamb all month. We thank God for beautiful weather! In April, we will continue to talk about new life and life cycles with caterpillars, bunnies, chicks, and plants. We even get to take care of an incubator of chicken eggs and watch baby chicks hatch! We will learn more about clouds and rain, and celebrate Earth Day by exploring how we can help take care of God's beautiful creation. Our letters in April will be X, Y, and Z and we will focus on the color blue and the oval shape. The children are doing so well learning to write their names and recognize numbers. They really are Superstars, and we enjoy watching them shine! Ms. Jodi and Ms. Beth

Busy Bears



Welcome back from Spring break Busy Bears! I hope you all are ready to work hard as we only have 38 school days left! Where has all the time gone? We have a packed month of learning of God's great creations. From dinosaurs, frogs, and butterflies to the most exciting (for us) chicks. We will have an incubator in our class and will be watching them as they grow into baby chicks and hatch. Our Bible lesson for the month will be the Fruit of the Spirit and how God wants us to use them in our life. We will spend a lot of time in review of our alphabet, shapes, colors, and sight words as we prepare for our upcoming voyage to Kindergarten. We will celebrate Earth Day (April 22nd) and Arbor Day (April 27th) in our class with a special snack and craft.

Just a reminder to please try to get your children to school at 9:00. When they are late, they are missing valuable program time. Many things (Chapel, Enrichment, Circle Time) start at 9:15.

Monkey Business



We wish everyone a wonderful Easter! The children are doing well at recognizing numbers 1-12. We will be working on letters Y, R, & D. Our topics for April are rain, clouds, growing plants, blooming flowers and trees, bluebirds, and baby chickens. We will continue talking about the life of Jesus that we started the last week on March. Our Bible verse is Psalm 84:1. The children are doing a great job remembering the Bible verses. They are a delight to have in class and a joy to see them grow and accomplish a task. Thanks for sharing them with us. Mrs. Mona, Mrs. Beth, Mrs. Chris, and Mrs. Sharla.

Little Engines That Could



During April we will finish our Letter Book with letters "Y" & "Z". We continue to work with counting to 100, counting by 2's, by 10's & even counting by 100's! We will have a focus on life cycles for baby chickens, frogs & butterflies. Our class will even get eggs as we watch for them to hatch into chickens! There will also be a special craft with "dino" eggs! April also brings Earth Day and Arbor Day where we will learn to protect & keep our world clean. Our Bible lesson will focus on The Lord's Prayer & the meaning behind this prayer. Finally we will begin practicing for Spring Program. Have you visited the library this week with your child? Mrs. Lori & Mrs. Katie

Registration 2012-2013



We are now accepting registration for the 2012-2013 school year. Space is limited. In order to secure your spot for next year, the registration form along with the \$30 registration fee must be turned in. If you have any questions, please contact Carla.

Teacher Appreciation

Please continually pray for your child's teachers and our staff.

GHP Graduation

Please join us for

Grace House Preschool's Graduation Ceremony

on

Thursday, May 31

6:30 pm

Grace Presbyterian Church.

There will be a reception following.



Vacation Bible School
Divine Reversal
July 16-19
6:15 – 8:00 pm



Upcoming Dates

March 30—April 6	Spring Break
April 30-May 9	PUSH Food Drive
May 3	Spring Program, 6:30 pm
May 28	No School, Memorial Day
May 30, 31	Beach Days
May 31	Graduation, 6:30 pm
	Last Day of School

Parents will be needed to help with our events. If you are able, please call Carla at the church office or contact your child's teacher.

Spring Consignment Sale



We had another successful consignment sale, with gross earnings over \$14,000. After paying our consignors, we netted \$5600 before our expenses. A great big thank you to the many volunteers and consignors. Without you, this would not have been the success it was. Clean up was completed in RECORD time and we were even calling consignors to let them know they were able to pick up their unsold items early! We had unexpected volunteers show up for clean up and that was such a blessing! It was especially fun to see the consignors faces when most had very little, if anything, to pick up! You are all a blessing! A special thanks to Heather Davsko for her endless hours of work in preparing and coordinating a successful sale. Also special thanks to Danielle Wiebking for coordinating our volunteers and Angela Phelps for coordinating our advertising. A good bit of our money will be used for scholarships, create a new classroom for the fall, and the balance will be used classroom items and improvements. If you want to get a jump start on pricing for the fall sale, Carla has tags in her office 50/\$1. **Please note – in the fall we will ONLY BE ACCEPTING 2 7/8" x 1 3/4" stringed tags.** Also, if you would like to help with the preliminary sale to do list over the summer, see Carla as well.

*I know
that You
can do
all things;
no plan of Yours
can be
thwarted."*

Job 42:2

Don't forget to return
your child's
communication folder
daily! This is an
important resource to
help with good
communication with
the parents and
teachers.

Preschoolers Uniting to Stop Hunger aka P.U.S.H.

Grace House Preschool will host the Third Annual Food Drive To Benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC

Area preschools in the Kernersville community are invited to collect canned/nonperishable food and non-food donations the week of April 30 - May 9. ON May 10th, each preschool will bring what they have collected to Grace House and 2nd Harvest Food Bank will pick up all that we have collected. In our first two campaigns, 4 area pre-schools collected over 1,000 pounds of non-perishable food. We already have 7 preschools committed to join us in this year's campaign. We will be inviting the Pre-K classes from participating preschools to help us load the truck on May 10th.

Most needed items include:

Canned meats, canned fruits, canned vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, flour, vegetable juice, and dry milk. Also needed are non-food items such as deodorant, toothpaste, disposable diapers, shampoo, toilet paper, and paper towels. Please NO glass products.

Children CAN make a difference!

Lots of help will be needed. We will be advertising with local media in Kernersville so that the entire community can have the opportunity to participate in this vital ministry. Also if you are able to advertise and/or collect in your church, let Christy in the preschool office know. We will also need help when the other preschools arrive - we will serve them snack (last year we had about 100 children!) and they will need supervisory help when the truck arrives. If you would like to be involved, please talk to Christy.



Lunch Bunch

Your children can stay an extra hour on Wednesdays and Thursdays for lunch bunch. Children bring their lunch and a drink with \$5 in their lunch box and enjoy an extra hour of food and fellowship with their friends. The children that have participated can't wait for the next time! You must sign up on the GHP bulletin board in the hallway. There are a certain number of spaces available per day. Checks can be made payable to Grace House.

Please note: GHP is not responsible for food sent in for lunch bunch. Parents of children with specific food allergies, please be aware you are taking responsibility for signing up and allowing your child to attend lunch bunch. According to our policies, no food may be shared from one lunch to another. For this reason please do not

See insert for
Summer Program
Registration

Weather

- Children must have weather gear such as hats, gloves, and boots. All items must be sent in with the lunch.
- When weather is severe, the school will be closed. School will be closed if the county is under a weather advisory (1) or two (2) hours of snow or ice. School will start at 10:00 am.



Grace House Preschool

Grace Presbyterian Church
360 Hopkins Road
Kernersville, NC 27284

Phone: 336.993.1305 x12
Fax: 336.993.1313
Email: director@gracehousepreschool.org



Grace House Preschool exists to focus attention on God's grace as He transforms us into a community that delights in Him, is marked by selfless care for others, and proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ with gospel-transformed words, relationships, vocations, and lifestyles resulting in the transformation of the communities of the Triad and the world.

Grace House Preschool was formed in September of 2003 as an extension of Grace House, a non-profit organization that was created to help meet the needs of widows and orphans. The Preschool began as a Parent's Morning Out Program, added 2 and 3 years old classes in August of 2004 and a 4 year old program in the Fall of 2005.

The Gospel is the center of all of our activities at the Preschool. We seek to support the "parent-child" relationship and not to compete with families, but hope to be a part in building relationships with families in our community.



Grace House Preschool
360 Hopkins Road
Kernersville, NC 27284