



You can also download a copy of these announcements from [www.gcfweb.org](http://www.gcfweb.org)

## This Week

### April 22 - 28, 2007

#### Sunday, April 22nd

9:00 am – Worship Service

Mid School Gathering, Youth Building

10:45 am – Worship Service

High School Gathering, Youth Building

6-7:30 pm – Beyond Sunday - missionary Audra Phillips, Youth Building

#### Monday, April 23rd

7-8:45 pm – Women’s Bible Study

#### Tuesday, April 24th

9:30 am – Moms of Grace Free Tuesday

7:00 pm – Elder Meeting

#### Wednesday, April 25th

6:30-8:30 pm – Grace Institute – Auditorium

7-8:30 pm - Grades 3-5 Break Out, Rm 108

5:45-8:00 pm - Mid School Paintball at Paintball Palace

7-8:30 pm – High School Activity

#### Thursday, April 26th

9-11:00 am – Women’s Bible Study

## Growing Grace

Envelopes for giving to the Growing Grace Campaign can be found in the office, information center, or the usher table in the back of the auditorium.

Total pledged: \$1,651,900

Total Given: \$1,245,778

## Financial Update

	FYTD (July 1-Mar 31)	April (current)
Budget	\$322,089	\$38,913
Giving	\$304,168	\$21,549
Expenses	\$310,222	
Roy Eanes Benevolent Fund Balance		\$1,338

## Ministry Opportunities

Your help is needed to provide donations for the Silent Auction coming up at the Cinco de Mayo Dinner. The proceeds will go toward the high school/college Mexico Mission trip. Donations can include items or services that you or your business can provide. Or possibly you could auction off “talents” or “gifts” you have received from God. Possibilities are endless: crafts you can make or teach, food you could make or meals you could share, musical people can serenade or teach music. Gardening, picnics, boating, hiking trip, house cleaning. . . you name it!

Be creative and see how you could help by using your “gifts”. Please contact Debbie Cope, Silent Auction Director, at 896-3362 or email her at [d\\_cope95@yahoo.com](mailto:d_cope95@yahoo.com) or see her at the sign up table with any ideas, contributions or questions. (We could also use a couple of people to help the night of the auction. Please let Debbie know if you can help.

## Other Opportunities

### Relating to Your World, Tonight!

This evening at 6-7:30 pm, Beyond Sunday is hosting our own missionary, Audra Phillips, to further discuss how best to relate to our world. As we continue to talk about understanding who we are as Christians and what that means for our daily lives, Audra’s experience will help us understand what that means in practical ways for today’s culture. This is an excellent time to bring your small group for further discussion, too. Child care is provided. We will meet in the Youth Building.

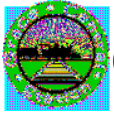
### Discovering Grace Class 101

A Discovering Grace Class 101 is scheduled for Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> right after the second service in the auditorium. The purpose of this class is to help you become a fully functioning part of the Grace Community Fellowship family; to learn the purposes, strategy & structure of Grace; what it means to be a member and the values and vision of GCF. Lunch is provided. Sign up now at the Information Center in the back of the auditorium or give us a call to let us know how many will be coming at 683-9205. Child care through grade 5 is provided by reservation when you sign up for the class.

### Cinco de Mayo Friendship/Sweetheart Banquet

The Men of Grace are sponsoring a Cinco de Mayo Friendship/Sweetheart Banquet and Silent Auction including a wild evening of Mexican cuisine, entertainment and surprises. Bring your sweetheart or friend, or for that matter – come alone and celebrate that long honored

holiday, Cinco de Mayo! The proceeds go to the high school and college's mission trip to Mexico this summer. Get your tickets in the foyer. The fun starts at 6:00 pm with the silent auction and 7-8:30 pm for the banquet. Cost is \$20 per couple or \$10 single.



## Grace Central Station

### Children's Ministries Upcoming Events:

- 5/17 — Staff Fun Night BBQ from 6:30-8:30 pm by Youth Bldg
- 5/18 — 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Kidz Jam in Youth Building from 6-9 pm
- 5/20 — Teacher Appreciation Sunday — both services
- 6/10 — 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation at both services
- 6/16 — Family Jam Kick Off Mini Carnival, 1 — 4 pm
- 6/17 — First Sunday of Summer Teaching Schedule

## Pertinent Information

### Questions and Answers About The Benevolent Fund (Roy Eanes Fund)

*What is the purpose of the church's benevolent fund?* The benevolent fund is designed to help church members who have a financial need.

*What criteria are used to determine a family's need?* Normally, funds are only given if the need is due to reasons beyond a person's control. This might include things such as medical issues or a job lay off.

*Who makes decisions about the disbursement of funds?* The elders of the church decide on a case by case basis. Usually, an elder is contacted about a need and a decision is made.

*How much money do people receive when a request is made?* This varies greatly on a case by case basis. A normal range would be \$50 to \$200.

*How is the benevolent fund supported?* Church members are encouraged to give to the fund above and beyond their giving. The fund balance will range from a few hundred to a thousand dollars.

*Can a church member give to the fund and designate who should receive the gift?* This is against the policy of the church and a violation of IRS rules. Individuals are allowed to designate gifts to the church for specific activities or programs. However, gifts may not be given to the church and passed through to another individual. The church may not give a tax deductible receipt for a gift that is designated to an individual. The council of Elders may designate a specific individual for receiving funds through the benevolent fund. In this case, funds can be designated for that individual. This type of designation is rare. Checks made to the benevolent fund that are designated for an individual will be returned.

*How can money be given to individuals?* We recommend money be given directly to the individual. If anonymity is important, money could be given through a trustworthy 3<sup>rd</sup> person.

### The IRS ruling on Cash Tithes

The Internal Revenue Service no longer allows a taxpayer to deduct undocumented cash put in the offering basket. However, if you put the money in an envelope with your name on it the person who keeps the records of giving can issue you a receipt at the end of the year that is acceptable to

the IRS. Paying by check is still the preferred method. Call Loren Stubbart at 726-0660 if you have any questions.

## Check out the Website

Remember to check out the church web site at [www.gcfweb.org](http://www.gcfweb.org). On the website you will be able to find information about Grace ministries, as well as a calendar of events taking place in the church. In the diaBlogs, you will find regular thoughts and opinions from the church staff regarding matters of culture or whatever is on their mind (see below). You can also check the library section to download recordings of sermons and Grace Institute sessions for your own study time or something to listen to at work.

## Got an Opinion?

This week's blogs

Jon writes, "Many times in my life I've been told that talking to someone about Jesus is a "war" There's warfare going.. ."

Tracy writes, "... I guess I'm most concerned by some of the "Christian" submissions. Is this our best. . ."

Our pastors (and missionaries when possible) take turns writing on various topics pertaining to our culture, our community, and whatever is on their minds (which is sometimes scary). You can view their blogs on our website at [www.gcfweb.org](http://www.gcfweb.org) and contribute your thoughts as well -- if you want to.

## Happy Days

Birthdays — Today: Joel Bauer, Amanda Colonia

April 23: Aaron Chase, Kendra Lister

April 24: John Helman, Chris King

April 25: Olivia Gaines, Kendra Laube

April 26: Deanna Hart, Rita Lombard

April 27: Tracy Cook, Haley Stuhr

April 28: Gavin Hyde, Sarah Meehan, Greg Shepherd

Anniversaries —

April 28: Graig & Rena Brown (#17)