



GRACE NOTES



Teach Us to Pray

At one point in their journey with Jesus, the disciples ask a poignant question that eventually every disciple of Jesus asks: Lord, can you teach us to pray? The disciples have had enough of their ways and want to know God's way. They have had enough of trying to love and live under their own power, and they seek what Jesus has.



Teach Us to Pray. It is a longing to be filled and transformed for the purposes of God in this world. It is also a request that has come to the fore among the leadership at Grace Covenant.

You may recall how the officers of Grace Covenant spent last year reading and reflecting on *Sailboat Church*, a book by Joan Gray, former Moderator of the PC(USA). Dr. Gray states that prayer is the biggest single difference between churches that fall flat in exhaustion and churches that flourish with vibrant life. Her call is for churches to discover anew the power of God in and through prayer.

In light of this, we will be focused on the practice of prayer both in Sunday worship and on Wednesday evenings this winter and spring. From January 17 to March 20 we will be going through a sermon series dedicated to exploring prayer—what it is, why we do it, and how to live into the practice so that we do find ourselves relying not on ourselves but truly on God's power and love.

For five weeks during Lent, the sermon series will be accompanied by a special worship opportunity on Wednesday evenings. During this time, space will be given for participants to practice different ways of praying. See page 7 for details on the Lenten prayer program.

The true and proper work of the Christian, the most active workers and thinkers and fighters in the divine service in this world have at the same time, and manifestly, been the most active in prayer.

- Karl Barth

Warmly in Christ,
Bobby



THIS ISSUE

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- ♦ Calendar, pp. 8-9
- ♦ WNS Returns, p. 12

Christian Education and Discipleship

Sunday School

Held every Sunday from 9:45-10:30 a.m.

The Nursery Crib Room (Rm. 103) and Sunday School are available for children ages 2 and up.

The Vanguard Class, Basement, Room B4 - This year the men's class will be looking at each of the fathers in scripture. How did they fare? What was their legacy? How does this inform us how to be men and fathers in our church family? This exciting study that will continue to shape the men of our church to face each day being who God created us to be.

Forum of Grace, Room 212 - A newly combined class that will be going deeper into the theology and scripture of the Parables. A great class to come for lecture and some discussion.

Good Books, Room 303 - See page 3 for more details.

Pre-K, Room 102 - For our youngest Disciples there is a heavy emphasis on knowing one another, getting in tune with the teachers and their classmates, as well as just starting the process of knowing what God's Love is, and just who is God anyway?

Early Elementary, Room 209 - This year they begin with the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs of our faith and move with the seasons through the liturgical year.

Pilgrims' Prep, Room 302 - Confirmation is a big deal, here at GCPC even more so as we plan to take our Confirmands on an annual trip to Scotland following their confirmation! We spend our first year in preparation, getting to know one another and finding out how God has an awesome purpose and plan for our lives.

Youth Mentors - This mentoring program has been walking through the little-known books of the Bible. Every word that comes from the mouth of God is precious and awesome; this class is all about getting together and seeing how that Word is present in our life each day.

Sunday School Schedules for January:

January 3rd	NO Sunday School classes scheduled; coffee and time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:30 a.m.
January 10th	All regular Sunday School classes scheduled to meet at 9:45 a.m.

Good Books-Room 303

Good Books is diving into a new book January 3-February 7. It is called *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation* and by James K. A. Smith. Following in good Augustinian fashion from our study of Augustine's *Confessions*, this book explores the idea of education, its relation to worship, and the question, "What if education wasn't first and foremost about what we know, but about what we love?" Next week (1/10) we'll be discussing chapter 2, "Love Takes Practice: Liturgy, Formation, and Counter-formation."

Reading ahead makes conversation thrive even more, but all are welcome even if you have not had a chance to read.

January 3 - "Introduction: Faith and Learning Take Practice" &
Chapter 1 "The Human Person as Lover"

January 10 - Chapter 2 "Love Takes Practice: Liturgy, Formation, and Counter-formation"

January 17 - Chapter 3 "Lovers in a Dangerous Time: Cultural Exegesis of 'Secular' Liturgies"

January 24 - Chapter 4 "From Worship to Worldview: Christian Worship and the Formation of Desire"

January 31 - Chapter 5 "Practicing (for) the Kingdom: An Exegesis of the Social Imaginary Embedded in Christian Worship"

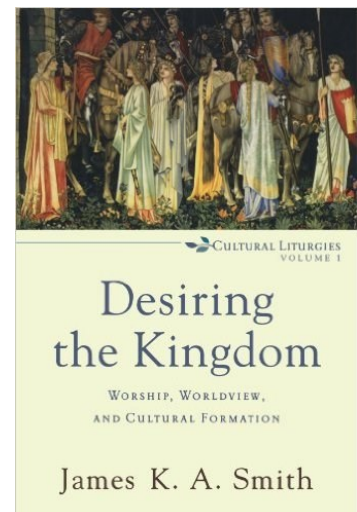
February 7 - Chapter 6 "A Christian University Is for Lovers: The Education of Desire"

Upcoming books for the winter and spring:

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Strength to Love* (Feb. 14 - Mar. 27)

Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian* (Apr. 10 - 24)

John Calvin's *The Christian Life* (May 1 - 22)



Presbyterian Women

Women's Circles Meet Tuesday, January 12

PW Circle 1
7:00 p.m.
1727 Park Avenue
Hostess: Laura Leigh
Savage

PW Circle 2
11:00 a.m.
Vanguard Room
Hostesses: Nell Dick-
enson & Pat Aldridge

PW Circle 3
9:30 a.m.
Social Room
Hostesses: Jane
Londrey & Eleanor
McClanahan

Church News

Ordination and Installation of Officers

On Sunday, January 24, we will have a service of ordination and installation for the officers in the class of 2018. Ray Davis and Bill Jacobs will be installed as Ruling Elders and Susan Boze will be ordained and installed as a Ruling Elder.

Mary Gray and Lisa Cardwell will be installed as Deacons and Margaret Harvie and Steve Kemp will be ordained and installed.

We also give thanks for those Elders and Deacons who have finished their active term. Cheryl Jacobs, Caroline Leith, and Everett Reveley are rotating off of the session, and Courtney Clements and Jennifer Schooley are rotating off of the diaconate.

Thank you all for your service to God and Grace Covenant.

Below is the officer structure for 2016:

SESSION

<i>Class</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>
2016	Katie McCullough	Mission - Chair
2016	James Atchison	Finance - Chair
2016	Pete Sizemore	Admin & Personnel and Nominating-Chair
2017	Rob Turner	Worship - Chair
2017	Virginia Hudson	Evangelism - Chair
2017	Lewis Rosebro	Property - Chair
2018	Susan Boze	Christian Education - Chair
2018	Ray Davis	Evangelism and Admin & Personnel
2018	Bill Jacobs	Stewardship - Chair, and Property

DIACONATE

<i>Class</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>
2016	Phil Coltrain	Glass Office - Chair, and Deacons Fund
2016	Itunu Adekoya	Prayer - Chair
2016	Jessica Reveley	Justice - Chair
2017	Jan Kessel	Care - Chair
2017	Sallie Leys	Greeters/Ushers - Co-Chair; Meals - Co-Chair
2017	Dawson Watkins	Deacons Fund - Chair, and Care
2018	Dottie Ray Koch	Fellowship
2018	Cynthia Holmes	New Members - Chair
2018	Mary Gray	Greeters/Ushers - Co-Chair; Meals - Co-Chair
2018	Lisa Cardwell	Fellowship - Chair, and Deacons Fund
2018	Steve Kemp	Media and Technology - Chair
2018	Margaret Harvie	Visitation and Flowers - Chair

Church News

**COMMON
GOOD
RVA**



“What’s My Place in the World?”

Common Good RVA is hosting its next conference on Saturday, January 23, at the Veritas School (3400 Brook Rd, Richmond, VA) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$10, and registration is open online at Event Brite and search Common Good RVA 2016.

The conference is aimed at helping Christians find their place both in God’s story and Richmond’s story through their work in the world. The keynote speaker is David Kim, Executive Director of Redeemer’s Center for Faith and Work in New York City. He will explore the intersection of faith and work, and he will be accompanied by testimonies from local practitioners who have found their place contributing to the common good of Richmond.

Prayers for Honduras Mission Team

Honduras Mission Trip- From January 1-9, a team of seven folks from Grace Covenant (Sarah and Matthew Oatts, Susan Pillsbury-David, Ron David, Sallie Leys, Lindsey Wetherby, and Bobby Hulme-Lippert) will be joining with another 16 folks, some of whom are from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Kilmarnock, Virginia, for our annual Honduras mission trip through KHISH. KHISH is an organization that works alongside the people of southern Honduras to provide medical and dental treatment to those in need. Please be in prayer for this group as they prepare for the trip.

Preparing for the Season of Lent

Sermon Series on Prayer

January 17-March 20, 2016

Sundays In Worship & Wednesday Evenings Starting at 6:45 p.m.

The season of Lent begins Wednesday, February 10. There will be a 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship service in the chapel that evening. Then, for the following five Wednesdays there will be a service of worship following each Wednesday Night Supper. Services will go from 6:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and take place at the back of the Fellowship Hall (the partitions will be closed so that the back section can be used for worship). The focus of each of these services of worship will be prayer. Below is the schedule of services – we hope you can join in worship on these evenings!

Wednesday, February 17 – Prayer: Praying Through the Lord's Prayer

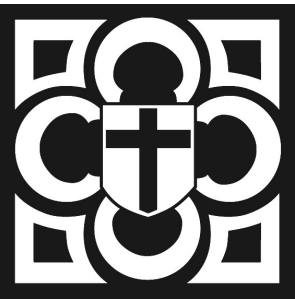
Wednesday, February 24 – Prayer: Praying with Luther

Wednesday, March 2 – Prayer: Lectio Divina

Wednesday, March 9 – Prayer: The Prayer of Examen

Wednesday, March 16 – Prayer: A Heart for God's World

On Wednesday, March 23, there will not be a Wednesday Night Supper or program. Instead, we will have a meal on Thursday, March 24, for Maundy Thursday. At 7:00 p.m., we will have a Maundy Thursday Service worship service in the sanctuary.



January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3 9:15 Prayer Team (Social Rm) 9:30 Coffee and Care NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:55 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Hour Honduras Mission Trip	4 6pm– Finance Committee Mtg. 7pm CE	5	6 4pm Care Team 4:30pm Carol Cho 5:30pm Junior Cho 7:30pm Chancel C
10 9:15 Prayer Team (Social Rm) 9:30 Coffee and Care 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Hour	11 6pm Admin Committee 7pm Worship Committee mtg 7pm CE mtg	12 9:30am PW Circle #3 11am PW Circle #2 7pm PW Circle #1	13 4pm Care Team 4:30pm Carol Cho 5:30pm Junior Cho 6pm WNS Returns- Program 7pm Chancel Choir
17 9:15 Prayer Team (Social Rm) 9:30 Coffee and Care 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Hour	18 7pm Session meeting	19 6pm Deacons meeting	20 4pm Care Team 4:30pm Carol Cho 5:30pm Junior Cho 6pm WNS 7pm Chancel Choir
24 9:15 Prayer Team (Social Rm) 9:30 Coffee and Care 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Hour	25	26	27 4pm Care Team 4:30pm Carol Cho 5:30pm Junior Cho 6pm WNS 7pm Chancel Choir
31 9:15 Prayer Team (Social Rm) 9:30 Coffee and Care 9:45 Sunday School 10:55 Worship 12:15 Fellowship Hour			

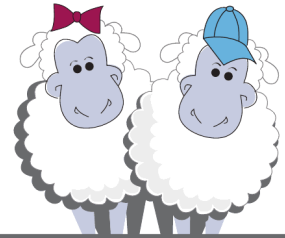
ay	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GCPC Closed	2
ir oir hoir	7 9 am CDC Chapel	8	9
			→
ir oir Honduras ir	14 9 am CDC Chapel	15	16 1-6pm-Piano Recital (Fellowship Hall) 5pm- Parent's Night Out
ir oir ir	21 9 am CDC Chapel	22	23
ir oir ir	28 9 am CDC Chapel	29	30

Dear Grace Covenant Family:

With the coming of this holiday season, we recognize a significant change in the leadership of our own board of directors as Cherry Corley steps down from the presidency. During her time as board president, we have accomplished many significant goals. In this year alone, we have completely renovated and opened a new classroom that meets all quality and safety standards, and increases the capacity of our school by 24 children. Nine CDC families, through this partnership built with our church, have become members of GCPC. We upgraded the drainage system under the playground, which used to be solid concrete, paving the way for a playground upgrade in the future. Our curriculum enrichment has grown from chapel and choir to also include an intergenerational program with Greenfields and annual field trips to the pumpkin and strawberry patch. We've raised teachers' base salaries, created an across the board stipend to help with insurance costs, and created a paid leave of absence policy to help teachers who are in a difficult situation. As many of you are aware, the church was generous enough to financially aid the CDC in our time of need, and Cherry kept us on track for regularly repaying that debt while paving the way to other supportive opportunities in the future. Under Cherry's leadership, we approved several scholarships to families in need, greatly helping those families through difficult situations. We have continued to create a supportive and close-knit community, where we show God's love not just in the big things like scholarships, but the compassionate and generous way we create policies and procedures to benefit those in our community. We are so grateful to have come so far under this leadership, and want to acknowledge and appreciate all of the hard work that Cherry contributed to help make these goals a reality.

We would also like to thank you so much for your hospitality during our Christmas reception on December 9! We had so much fun in gathering for fellowship and celebration of God's love. Each class was able to share a song or two with the crowd, and our pre-school class was able to give their rendition of the nativity story. We had a turnout of over 200 people, and we are so blessed to have all been able to gather together. This week we celebrate Jesus' story, then move into learning all about the winter season in January. Thank you again,

Nicole Flournoy



Mission and Justice Ministry

STEP's Jobs for Life Program

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church

Tuesdays 6:00-8:30 pm

February 16, 2016 – June 7, 2016

The Missions Committee invites you to join in an upcoming outreach ministry at Grace Covenant, called STEP's Jobs for Life. The Jobs for Life program uses a biblically based curriculum paired with a team of mentors, pastors, and business leaders to help students discover who they are, what gifts and interests they possess, and what roadblocks they face in achieving their goals. Jobs for Life is a "soft skills" training program helping participants to gain, maintain, and thrive in employment.

The following opportunities are available to share your experience and gifts:

Mentors/Champions: Each participant is paired with a champion/mentor, who accompanies him/her on this journey through the program. This is a wonderful opportunity to offer a listening ear, encouragement, and one's own experiences. Mentors/champions join in the Tuesday evening dinner and classes, 6:00-8:30 pm, and share at least one contact (text, phone, email, meet up, etc.) during the rest of the week.

Dinners: Each class begins with fellowship around a meal from 6:00-6:30 pm. As with our CARITAS ministry, we're looking for folks to sponsor and prepare meals to share and enjoy with participants, family members, mentors, and teachers in Jobs for Life. Expected guests for meal preparation each week, is around 35.

Childcare: We'll also be providing structured childcare time for children of participants, while their parents are in class. The time commitment for this volunteer role is Tuesdays from 6:00-8:30 p.m. (dinner is included). You can volunteer for every Tuesday, or simply on some Tuesdays that you have available.

Business Relations: We need spokespersons who own businesses and some who are a part of the businesses community to serve as special guests throughout the JfL program (i.e. employer roundtables, mock interviews, etc.). The business relations guests will also serve as references and provide networking opportunities for the JfL graduates.

If you would like to learn more or volunteer, please contact Nelson Reveley at nmr2uf@virginia.edu or (804) 387-8094.

WNS

Wednesday Night Suppers

WNS in the New Year

Wednesday Night Suppers this past year were great! An average of 85 people attended WNS each week. The WNS programs featured a great speaker series, the joy and laughter with friends and family, crafts for kids, and a wonderful gathering place for the ministry of Fellowship at Grace Covenant.

A big part of the joy of WNS have been the fantastic meals. With a commitment this fall to fresh and local ingredients ordered through Relay Foods, Kendall Appich has been creating some excellent dining experiences for us each week, while keeping in mind the various dietary needs of our church family.

After such incredible success in the kitchen this fall it is with sadness that Kendall will be departing from our kitchen on Wednesday Nights (but of course not from our church!). We celebrate that Kendall has achieved new heights with a promotion at work and she no longer has the hours available to manage and cook the meals each Wednesday. We will miss Kendall's loving hand, but look forward to seeing her and Chase at the dinner table each week!

For the coming season we are proud and excited to announce Aleasha Jacques as the new cook for the WNS program.

A New Cook

Aleasha comes highly recommended from a much beloved source, and has been working hard with Christopher and the CE Committee to create a menu plan that reflects GCPC's commitment to quality organic food. We will still be making the same kinds of purchases from Relay Foods, and still look forward to a varied menu that is great for our bodies and great for our taste buds.

Aleasha's first Wednesday with us will be January 20th [the CE Committee will be cooking the special Honduras feast as a labor of love for our church family and those who are returning from the mission field], and we hope that you will make a special effort to come out and greet her and say, "Welcome!" to the GCPC family.

A New Price

WNS has long been an incredible value for our church family and friends. To continue that spirit and in order to allow the church to be the best steward of its resources, the CE Committee lead through prayer, create a new cost structure for our WNS suppers.

Beginning with the January 20th meal, WNS fees will be: Adults \$7.00, Seniors (over 65) \$5.00, Children under 5 are free, with a \$15.00 max for families.

And to make paying each week even easier, we will now be able to accept credit and debit payments.

Thank you to all of our church family for your support with this change, as well as to our CE Committee for the research committed to arriving at this new price.



WNS are a touchstone for our church each week, and it wouldn't be possible without the support of our church family, and the tireless work of the WNS set-up crew. Many thanks all around, and we will see you on January 13th for our special Honduran meal!

WNS Pre- Lent Schedule:

January 13- Honduras Presentation

January 20- Intern Lauren Voyles Presentation and Lesson

January 27- Ann Lokuta - Relay Foods in our City

February 3- Reverend Dr. Brian Blount, on his new book *Invasion of the Dead*

Mark your calendars now for a great mid-week event going on at our WNS program.

On February 3rd, the President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Brian Blount, will be here giving an incredible presentation on his latest book, *Invasion of the Dead*.

February 10- Ash Wednesday Service

Parent's Night Out

Enjoy a night out for some last minute shopping or to just relish a dinner out during the busy holiday season. Grace Covenant is happy to offer this blessing up to our families again on **Saturday, January 16**, from **5:00-8:00 p.m.** A charge of \$5 per child will help defray the costs of child care, though there is a \$10 maximum per family with more than two children. **Please RSVP by 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 14**, to the church at info@grace-covenant.org or 359-2463 with name of child and age.

Some updates of note:

- A lead teacher from CDC will serve as the host each month
- Please do not forget to sign your child/children in and out during PNO
- We ask that you please bring a diaper bag with ample supplies for the evening
- Please do not allow your children to bring food with them to PNO. This is due to allergies and the safety of all children. We will provide a safe and appropriate snack for them

Please RSVP by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, to: info@grace-covenant.org or 359-2463 with name and age of child.



Announcements

Openers and Closers

January 3- Brian Baird

January 10- Jake Savage

January 17- Cal Gray

January 24- Pete Sizemore

BIRTHDAY WISHES

- 1- Anne Norris
- 1- Juliette White
- 2- Brenda Harris
- 2- Bill Jacobs
- 3- Marcia Manning
- 6- Caroline Johnson
- 6- Taylor Reveley III
- 6- Patty Richwine
- 7- Cherry Corley
- 8- Warren Zirkle
- 9- Kathy Winston
- 11- Adrian Chenoweth
- 11- Leo Chenoweth
- 14- George Norris
- 16- Donnie Appich
- 17- Steve Kemp III
- 19- Will Bridenstine III
- 21- John Pope
- 22- John Gray
- 22- Allison Spangler
- 23- Libby Rosebro
- 26- Susan Boze



Follow GCPC on Instagram!

Grace Covenant is on Instagram. Follow [gcpc_rva](#) to see what's happening around GCPC.

Weekly Sunday Morning Prayer

The best way to start a Sunday morning, or any morning, is with prayer. Each Sunday morning from 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. in the Social Room we have a time of prayer and all are welcome to participate. It is a prayerful time when hearts are quieted and focused on God, joys and concerns are shared, and prayers are raised in word and in spirit. It is a special time of caring, friendship, and blessing; please come and pray with us.



What is Pilgrimage? It's a trip for the youth of GCPC who have completed the confirmation process. It's an opportunity to connect, not only with leaders and mentors in the church, but also friends on a journey that will put us in the shoes of the early reformation church in Scotland and England.

It's set to be an incredible trip that will take place in the summer of 2017.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Contributions improved significantly in November and total income exceeded expenses for the month.

November's contributions of \$47,900 were up over 50% from October's total, due primarily to unpledged donations, i.e., gifts from individuals who had not pledged or from those who gave amounts over their annual pledge. For the first eleven months of the year contributions are 8% lower than the same period last year, about one-third of which is due to a decrease in the amount of prepaid current year pledges. Total income in November was aided by \$8,200 in reimbursements of prior expenses from the Building Fund and the Child Development Center.

Expenses of \$58,200 in November were considerably lower than October's, when large amounts were spent on building repairs and improvements. Major items in November included \$5,900 for insurance and \$10,100 for mission donations, most of which went to the Honduras mission work. Income exceeded expenses in November by \$10,700.

November's Five Cents Per Meal offering was \$895, Loaves and Fishes \$1,071, and Mercy Fund \$134.



The Staff

Bobby Hulme-Lippert

Pastor

bobby@grace-covenant.org

Christopher Martin

Director of Music and Organist

martin@grace-covenant.org

Christopher Tweel

Director of Christian Formation & Pastoral Assistant

christopher@grace-covenant.org

Nelson Reveley

Parish Associate for Outreach & Adult Discipleship

reveley@grace-covenant.org

Denise Shafer

Director of Communications

denise@grace-covenant.org

Martha Rubin

Administrative Support/ Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@grace-covenant.org

Lauren Voyles

Seminary Intern

Church Office Hours:

Mon., Tues., and Thurs., 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.

Wed., 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Fri, 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon

Phone: (804) 359-2463

Fax: (804) 278-6298

grace-covenant.org

Sundays:

9:15 a.m.

Prayer Together in the Social Room

9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages
in the Education Building

10:55 a.m.

Worship Service
in the Sanctuary

12:15 p.m.

Congregational Fellowship
in the Social Room

Church Officers

Our Elders serve the church as leaders.

Our Deacons lead the church in service.

*Please feel free to approach them
with any questions or feedback about Grace Covenant's ministries.*

CLERK OF SESSION: Everett Reveley

ELDERS

James Atchison ('16)

- Finance (C-M)

Virginia Hudson ('17)

- Mission (M), Nominating

Cheryl Jacobs ('15)

- CE (M)

Caroline Leith ('15)

- Property (Co-M), CE

Katie McCullough ('16)

- Administration (M)

Everett Reveley ('15)

- Stewardship (M)

Lewis Rosebro ('17)

- Property (Co-M)

Pete Sizemore ('16)

- Administration (Co-M)

Rob Turner ('17)

- Worship (M)

MODERATOR OF THE BOARD OF DEACONS: Lisa Cardwell

DEACONS

Itunu Adekoya ('16)

- Prayer (M)

Lisa Cardwell ('15)

- Flowers (M)

Courtney Clements ('15)

- Visitation (Co-M),
Fellowship

Phil Coltrain ('16)

- Glass Office (M),
Deacons' Fund

Mary Gray ('15)

- Meals (M),
Visitation (Co-M)

Cynthia Holmes ('17)

- Fellowship (M)

Jan Kessel ('16)

- Care Team (M),
Transportation (M)

Dottie-Ray Koch ('17)

- Fellowship
(Food Committee)

Sallie Leys ('17)

- Greeters/Ushers

Jessica Reveley ('16)

- Justice (M)

Jennifer Schooley ('15)

- Guests Follow-Up,
New Members (M),
Deacons' Fund

Dawson Watkins ('17)

- Deacons' Fund (M)
Care Team

TRUSTEES:

Caroline Leith ('17)

John Roberts ('15)

Warren Zirkle ('16)

GCPC Child Development Center

Nicole Flournoy

Director

(804) 213-0200

director.gcpcdc@verizon.net

gracecovenantcdc.com