

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Reflection from Pastor John Denton

Who sits next to you in the pew? For many of us, we have sat in the same row, the same area, and the same side of the church for decades. I haven't sat in the pew weekly for a few years now, but at my last church, I would sit in the fourth section of pews, in the front four rows. This was where everyone I knew sat. This was where other families sat. This was where we sat on Sunday mornings for over ten years.



I have a two-part Pew Challenge for you to take this month.

The first challenge is this, look around you in those pews. Are your friends missing? Has the person who normally sits behind you been home sick? Is the family that sits next to you not at church?

I want to invite you to reach out to someone you normally sit by who hasn't been at church. Let them know that you are praying for them, thinking of them, and looking forward to seeing them one day soon. Simply check in to say hello. I believe this small effort could make a big impact in the life of the person you are reaching out to.

The second challenge might be a little more difficult. When you are sitting in the pew this month, look to your right and left, then in front of you and behind you. Are there any open pews? My guess is the answer is yes.

I want you to pray for those pews to fill up. Then, I want you to ask God to place one person on your heart to invite to church the following week. This could be a spouse, a child, a grandchild, a neighbor, or a friend. It is through invitation that those close to us come to know the Lord and that we build God's Kingdom together.

I worked with someone for a few years who would say, "All we need is an ad in the Yellow Pages, and the church will grow." This was after the phone book went out of print in 2009, but that's beside the point!

It is easy to want a solution for church growth that doesn't involve us sending a text message, making a phone call, or inviting someone to church. We should have a strong social media presence, spend money on marketing, and send out mailers. All of these are great options, but none of them replaces the power of a personal follow up or an invitation.

Church growth isn't just about filling empty pews. It's about connecting people with Jesus, building relationships, and sharing the love of God with those around us. Sometimes, all it takes is a simple message to let someone know they are missed. Other times, it takes the courage to invite someone to come and sit beside us.

Take the Pew Challenge this month. Reach out to someone who is missing, pray for those who could fill empty pews, and invite someone to join you next Sunday. You never know how God might use a simple invitation to change someone's life.

Thanking God for you,

Rev. John Denton

Ways you can give your tithes, gifts and offerings:

- In person at the weekly worship service.
- Online at www.gpcvista.org. Choose the "Donate" button and you can pay by credit or debit card or with a PayPal account or scan the QR code to the right.
- Mail or drop off to the church office (if office is closed, drop into the mail slot near the front door to the Fellowship Hall) at 1450 E. Vista Way, Vista, CA 92084

Stewardship Corner

Taking Care of the Flock

'Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, 'This is what the Lord God says: "Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should the shepherds not feed the flock?" ' Ezekiel 34:2-4

Friends are gifts from God. You've read it on a zillion bookmarks. And God wants us to be good stewards of all His gifts.

To be a good steward of anything we have to put selfishness aside. It's so easy to be self-centered with work or plans. We assume our friendships will be the same when we get around to making time for them.

From time to time, we all get wrapped up in our world. We are focused on trials and joys, and we want everyone else to be wrapped up in them as well. However, we are not called to be just sheep in God's flock, but shepherds. Gos wants us to take care of each other in times of sickness, build up in times of weakness, to share in each other's joy and to find the sheep who have strayed or are lost.

Today, ask yourself how you can be a better steward, or shepherd, of the flock. Has God put someone in your life who needs to hear your testimony or needs a firm but gentle friend to steer them back on track? Is there someone who needs your encouragement or just a little more time with you/ Whom do you need to thank for being there for you? Ask God to show you who needs your care and you will find that His gifts, and his flock, will multiply.

Financial Statement
As of September 30, 2026

	Sep 2026	YTD 2026		YTD 2026 Budget
Income	$ 58,851	$ 569,330		$ 582,315
Expense	$ 62,487	$ 521,238		$ 581,817
Net Income	$ 3,636	$ 48,092		$ 498

Note: Income includes 12-month distribution from the Legacy Fund and the money collected for the Solar capital campaign

Christian Education

Trunk or Treat was a SPOOK-TACULAR success! We welcomed over 150 people to campus for fun, games, jump houses, treats and lots of candy! There were community members, preschool families and Grace members enjoying fellowship, cotton candy, popcorn and of course, CANDY!

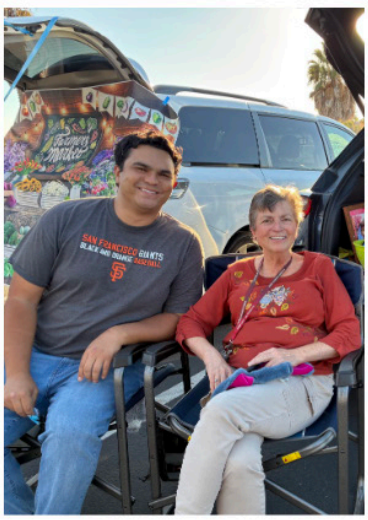
Thank you to everyone that brought a decorated trunk, donated candy, volunteered and prayed for this event. It was a wonderful evening!









Men's Breakfast



Join us on Saturday, November 7 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall for a full breakfast, good fellowship and time in the Word and prayer. It is a great opportunity to feed your body and soul.

Christmas Advent Craft Faire



Nov. 15, 2026

Time: 11 am - 1 pm

Christmas Advent Craft Faire



We are excited to announce our plans to offer a wonderful selection of unique handmade cards, wooden displays, quilted zipper bags, baked goodies, Christmas crafts & more!

All proceeds are donated to Grace Presbyterian Church.

Grace Presbyterian Church,

1450 E. Vista Way,

Vista CA 92084

Free to attend!

Questions? Please contact Sue Bouchard if you are interested in participating.

Save the Date: Carols, Cookies, & Christmas Sweaters



Volunteer Spotlight: Tom Bryan



TOM BRYAN

I haven't met that many people in life who are willing to stand up in front of a church congregation and present an annual budget or share about stewardship. For as long as I have been at Grace, and probably longer, Tom Bryan has been that person.

Thank you, Tom, for chairing the Finance Committee, for standing in front of the congregation, and for boldly sharing about what it means to be good stewards of all that God has given us. We truly appreciate all that you do to lead the business side of Grace.

Believe it or not, Tom isn't just a numbers guy! Tom loves serving at Men's Breakfast, organizing the breakfast, cooking in the kitchen alongside the men of the church, making eggs, sharing in conversation, and talking Padres baseball. Make sure to come eat breakfast with him sometime soon at Men's Breakfast.

Thank you, Tom, for all you do at Grace. I feel blessed to call you a friend, and it brings me great joy to serve alongside you in ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church. ~ **Rev. John Denton**

Faithful, dependable, steady, willing and wise are some of the words that describe Tom Bryan. One way he shows his love for God is by organizing and managing the monthly Men's Breakfast. After taking care that all the details are covered, Tom cooks the best ever scrambled eggs! He is the last one out of the building after all the work is done. Tom exemplifies the heart of a servant. ~ Ron Ryan

Our congregation is deeply blessed by the life and ministry of Tom Bryan, a man who truly embodies what it means to live a life aligned with God's purpose. From managing behind-the-scenes operations to lifting our community up in prayer, Tom's absolute reliance on God is a cornerstone of our spiritual family.

- A Prayer Warrior: In seasons of uncertainty or hardship, Tom's immediate response is anchored in hope rather than panic. He prays continuously for our church body—regularly carrying the burdens of the sick, the brokenhearted, and the searching.
- A Servant Leader: Tom leads by example, always prioritizing the spiritual growth and well-being of others. His leadership is never about title, but about serving the church with a humble and devoted heart.
- A Wise Steward: Balancing faith with practical action, Tom plays a vital role in planning our budgets, managing assets, and funding ministries. Through his own life, he models that financial stewardship is an act of worship, ensuring our church grows sustainably while remaining generous to the wider community.

Thank you, Tom, for your unwavering faith, your dedication to prayer, and the steady leadership that strengthens us all every day! You are a blessing in my life! ~ **Sue Weston**

I have the pleasure to work with Tom as an Elder and on the team that evaluates Pastor John's annual performance as Pastor and Head of Staff He is a very dedicated person who gives his all to the church whenever he is needed! He serves the Lord and Grace with dignity and integrity! He has been a rock for Grace and has made me feel always accepted since I joined the church! ~ Ken Bouchard

Tom Bryan has a been an incredible leader, steward, servant and friend to Grace for many years. I have had the privilege to work with Tom as an Elder, Finance Committee Chair, Church President and in many other very important areas for almost 13 years. His knowledge and leadership are top notch but his heart for the Lord and caring for the Church and its people is truly what stands out to me. But Tom does not do it alone, his wife Mary has been an incredible blessing to Grace as well. Mary and Tom are a wonderful example of what it means to follow the Lord and to shine His light to all those around them. Thank you Tom, and Mary, you are truly a blessing to Grace, and to me! ~ Christie Elliott

Growing in Faith, Trust, and Gratitude



It has been a wonderful October at Grace Preschool! Our students have been diving into the story of **David and Goliath**, learning what it means to trust in God, our families, our teachers, and our friends. We are discovering that trust looks different in each of these relationships. We **trust God** to guide us through difficult moments, comfort us when we are afraid, and remind us that His plans are greater than our own. We **trust our teachers** to teach with love, offer comfort, and guide us with patience and kindness. We **trust our families** to protect us, guide us, and provide a safe place to grow. We **trust our friends** to play kindly, care for one another, and build lasting friendships. Just like David, we are learning that even when challenges seem big, we can face them with courage because God is always by our side!

Looking Ahead to November: A Heart of Gratitude

In November, we will explore the story of **Jesus and the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11–19)**, focusing on the importance of gratitude. Our students will learn to recognize God's blessings, appreciate the people around them, and give thanks with joyful hearts.

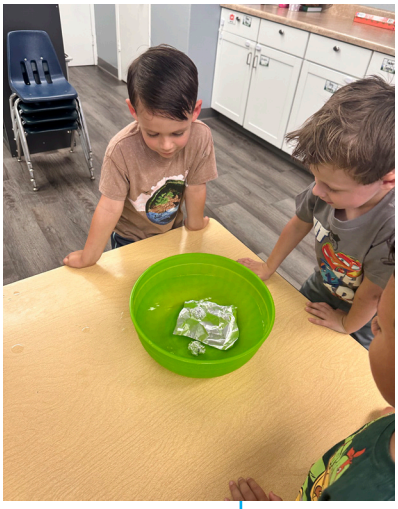


We are especially excited for our annual **Preschool Thanksgiving Feast on Friday, November 20th**! We are expecting nearly twice as many guests as last year. Thanks be to God for the incredible growth of our preschool family!

Volunteers Needed! With growth comes more opportunities to serve! We are looking for church volunteers to help serve our already-prepared Thanksgiving meal on **Friday, November 20th, beginning at 11:00am**. If you would like to help, please contact Director Frankie at Preschool@gpcvista.org.

Our Preschool Family Continues to Grow!

We are excited to share that we welcomed **three new students this month: two preschoolers and one toddler!** We now have **24 students enrolled** across our Toddler, Preschool, and Pre-K classrooms. What a blessing to see this ministry continue to flourish!



We are incredibly thankful for our dedicated teaching team: **Ms. Miriam** in our Toddler classroom, **Ms. Abby** in Preschool, **Ms. Denise** in Pre-K, and **Ms. Jade**, our floating teacher who supports each classroom, provides teacher breaks, and helps maintain safe supervision and classroom ratios. Their love, patience, and dedication help our children grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually each day.

Thank you, Grace Presbyterian Church, for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support. Together, we are growing not only as a preschool, but as a church and a family of God's children, both young and old!

-Grace Preschool Staff





DEACONS CORNER - Pyong Dusang

The Deacons of Grace Presbyterian Church Vista assist families by offering a reception for the family and friends following a memorial service for a loved one. Pyong heads the team of deacons responsible for hosting and serving the reception based on the catering service requested by the family.

"The office of deacons as set forth in scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith." (Book of Order G-6.0400 excerpts as found on https://ljpres.org/deacons/)



Join our **Grandparents@Prayer** via email monthly.

Generation G: Leaving a Spiritual Legacy

(or Hot Topics on Grandparenting)

-by Gramma P*at Whisler*



We hear a lot about blessings. Did you ever sneeze and someone nearby says "God bless you?" Did He because you sneezed or what did the person who reacted to your sneeze mean to happen? This really is mainly an habitual statement rather than an actual spiritual request. What do you think about blessing when talking to our grandchildren?



GOD'S WORD: "The Lord bless you and keep you.". Numbers 6:24

This month's GP Hot Topic: OUR WORDS CAN BE BLESSINGS

A biblical definition of "blessing" refers to God's favor, approval, or gift, emphasizing emotional, physical, and spiritual dimensions. Do we wish blessings upon our grandchildren? Sure, we do!

One if the greatest gifts grandparents can offer is the intentional blessing of their children and grandchildren; meaningful words that speak affirmation and encouragement into the lives of the next generation. Do we want to bestow that gift? Sure, we do!

It's biblical:
"God's **blessing** makes life rich; nothing we do can improve on God." Proverbs 10:22 (msg)

"God, come back! Smile your **blessing** smile: *That* will be our salvation." Psalm 80:3 (msg)

There's a lot of blessing going on in Matthew 5. The Beatitudes from Jesus' mouth poured out a lot of blessings that can be demonstrated by us grandparents and passed on to our future generations.



DO WE WANT THEM TO:

- have the kingdom of heaven? *Our words should reach them spiritually;*
- be comforted? *Our words should help in sadness and pain.*
- inherit the earth? *Our words should speak to them gently.*
- have their yearnings filled? *Our words should show them our godly beliefs.*
- show mercy? *Our words should show kindness to all*
- see God? *Our words should speak to them purely, truthfully, honestly*
- be called God's children? *Our words should be peaceful*

Understanding the importance of blessings invites spiritual growth. They illuminate God's character and deepen our relationship with Him. We as grandparents have the responsibility of carrying out God's blessings. It doesn't have to be easy.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for showing a guiding light by words that we find in the Bible. You are certainly the Master of Creation and we will follow you. May our grandchildren hear your beatitudes from us and find a desire to follow you. In Jesus Name. Amen

Action: Bless a child with your words.

A Thought and a Smile: "Blessed are the cracked, for they shall let in the light." — Groucho Marx.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS
9:30am Prayer Group
10am In Person Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Online Worship

MONDAYS
6:30pm Evening Bible Study
7pm AA

TUESDAYS
8am Food Pantry Distrib.
10:30am Staff Meeting (no 11/24)
2:00pm Meals of Grace

WEDNESDAYS
6:30pm AA Men's Group
7pm Worship Band Reh.

THURSDAYS
10am Women's Bible Study (no 11/26)
7pm Choir Rehearsal (no 11/26)

FRIDAYS
8am Food Distribution (no 11/27)

SATURDAYS
9:30am Soul Line Dance Class

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 	2	3 9:15am Preschool Chapel	4 2:30 ASP Tutoring	5	6	7 8am Men's Breakfast
8	9	10 9:15am Preschool Chapel 12:30pm Worship Com. 6:30pm Deacons	11  Office Closed	12 8:30am PEO 9:15am Bible 101: Spanish	13	14
15 11:15am Christmas Advent Craft Faire	16	17 9:15am Preschool Chapel 6:30pm Session	18 12:30pm Finance Com.	19	20	21
22 *Thanksgiving/ Stewardship Sunday* 11:15am Christian Ed. Comm. 1pm Connections Lunch	23	24 Office Closed	25 7pm Choir Reh Preschool Closed	26 	27	28 9am Hanging of the Greens 10am PCSS Show
29	30					



9	Wayne Campbell	21	Laurie Allen
11	Mary Beaman	24	Karen Campbell
	Anna Nash		Steven Stockman
12	Gary Eldridge	29	Ian Barrie
17	Kathy Spindelman		Ron Nolf



9 Scott & Linda Huston (46 years)

If you have a birthday or anniversary in November and your name does not appear above, please contact the church office at 760-724-0077 to update our records. Thank you!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Weston Baucke

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian's Son)

Brooke
(Paradis' Granddaughter)

Cathy Browning

Carley
(Maria's Haigh Niece)

Barbara Coley
(Kim Sparkman's Sister-in-law)

Bob C.
(Tom Krasovic's Friend)

Dusenberry Family
(Kim Sparkman's Brother)

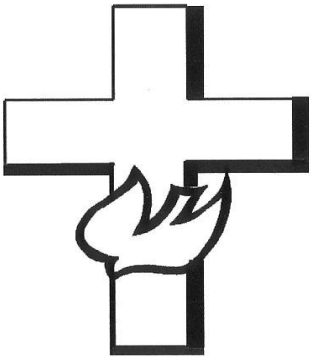
Connie Ethridge
(Kim Sparkman's Sister)

Laurie Gilmore
(Pat Sexton's Sister)

Betty Haver

Haigh Family

Keith & Corey
(The Long's Friends)



Peg Long

Luke
(Karen England's Family)

Alice Nolf

Ron Nolf

O'Malley Family

Ed Paradis

Maureen Russell

Steven Sailors

Judi Salazar

Tricia & Ken Sanger

Sawyer Family

Stockman Family

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa's Sister)



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Vista, CA 92084

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www.gpcvista.org

Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY GROWS

facebook.com/GPCVista

Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff	Rev. John Denton
Director of Church Operations	Christie Elliott
Preschool Director	Frankie Zavala
Preschool Teacher	Miriam Mojica Santos
Preschool Teacher	Abigail Beaman
Preschool Teacher	Jade LaBarber
Preschool Support Staff	Denise Stockman
Dir. of Community Relations	Maria Haigh
Interim Children's Ministry Director	Sue Weston
Music Director	Jayne Parker
Organist	Frances Hummel
Praise Band Leader	Scott Huston
Financial Specialist	Albina Lumetta
Choir Section Leader	Chris Nolf

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
& PRESCHOOL

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS A CONFESSING CHURCH,
and we believe:

That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the way of salvation.

That Holy Scripture is the triune God's revealed Word,
the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life.

That God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life.