

AUGUST NEWSLETTER



Reflection from Pastor John Denton

Last year, I shared the vision of *doubling our Kingdom impact* at Grace over the next five years, with a goal of growing 5% each year. That's a big goal! While we came just short of that 5% growth mark in our in-person worship attendance last year, I'm excited to share that this year, we are currently on track to meet it. Growth happens when everyone gets involved.

As a young adult in the church, I was drawn to the word *edify*. I know—it's a strange word for a young adult to latch onto. But to *edify* means to *build up*. As Christians, we are called to build each other up (Ephesians 4:29), and we are also called to build up the church (Ephesians 4:12). That vision of building the church together has always stuck with me.

I've been part of building teams where we physically went to a location and built a church. It's amazing to see a group of people come together and, over the course of a few days, build a sanctuary—then, on the very next Sunday, invite the town to worship and celebrate in that space.

That's what it means to *build something up*. What I loved most about those trips was working alongside everyday people—people I knew well—watching them step outside their usual roles to build a church. The accountant swinging a hammer. The schoolteacher installing windows. Kids from Sunday School helping push up a wall. The retired police officer plumbing a bathroom. And the list goes on. I could spend all day talking about the wonderful people I've built alongside. Together, *we built a church*. That is *edification*.

I'm reminded of a line from the Rend Collective song "*Build Your Kingdom Here*": *We are Your church*.

Doubling our Kingdom impact—building the church—starts with us: the accountant, the school teacher, the kids from Sunday School, the retired police officer—the people of the church. When I look out into the pews on a Sunday morning, I see builders. I see people who have been activated by Jesus to go out and be *good news* in the neighborhood.

This Sunday, we celebrate what God is doing at the church we've built together. Let's invite the community to join us. Let's each invite *that ONE person* God has placed on our hearts this week to come to church with us.

Worship. Group. Give. This is our engagement pathway—and at the center of it is our *ONE*. Doubling our Kingdom impact starts with you and me.

Fisher of Men,

Rev. John Denton



Men's Breakfast in August

Join us on August 2nd at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a full breakfast, good fellowship and time in the Word and in prayer. It is a great opportunity to feed your body and soul.



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
Anonymous Kindness

*"When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing."
-Matthew 6:3*

When I first graduated from college, I found myself needing to adopt a strict grocery budget –twenty-five dollars a week, to be exact. One day, while entering the checkout line, I suspected the groceries I'd selected cost slightly more than my remaining money. "Just stop when we reach twenty dollars," I told the cashier, and I was able to purchase everything I'd selected except a bag of peppers.

As I was about to drive home, a man stopped by my car. "here's your peppers," he said, handing the bag to me. Before I had time to thank him, he was already walking away.

Remembering the simple goodness of this act of kindness still warms my heart and recalls Jesus's words in Matthew 6. Criticizing those who made a show of giving to the needy, Jesus taught His disciples a different way. Instead of making giving everything about them and their generosity, He urged that giving should be done so secretly it's like their left hand isn't even aware their right is giving.

As one person's anonymous kindness reminded me, giving should never be about us. We give only because of what our generous God has so lavishly given us (2 Corinthians 9:6-11). As we give quietly and generously, we reflect who He is – and God receives the thanksgiving only He deserves. -Tom Bryan, Finance Committee

Financial Statement
As of June 30, 2025

	June 2025	YTD 2025	YTD 2025 Budget
Income	\$ 101,836	\$ 300,619	\$ 380,250
Expense	\$ 52,600	\$ 268,604	\$ 375,242
Net Income	\$ 49,236	\$ 32,015	\$ 5,008

Note: Income includes 6-month distribution from the Legacy Fund; and unbudgeted \$45,249 from the government Employee Retention Credit program.

Save the Date: Women's Event

*The Next Women's Event is on Saturday, September 20th
10:00am to Noon.*

"A Life time of Service...Our God is an Awesome God!"

Guest Speaker: Alice Wolf

Signups begin Aug. 24 - Bring a friend!



RECIPE: A Healthy Cake for Jayne's 25th Anniversary at Grace!

Adapted from <https://www.melskitchencafe.com/lemon-yogurt-sheet-cake/>

Ingredients:

- 2 ³/₄ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¹/₂ teaspoon baking soda
- ¹/₂ teaspoon sea salt
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon zest, from about 3 medium size lemons
- 1 ³/₄ cups coconut sugar
- 4 large eggs
- ¹/₂ cup coconut oil
- ¹/₄ cup no-sugar added applesauce
- 1 cup plain low-fat plain Greek yogurt
- ¹/₄ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Berries or fruit in season for topping cake

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Grease a 9X13-inch baking pan with coconut oil and set aside.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the lemon zest and sugar and lightly rub together with your fingers until well combined (this releases the oils in the zest and amplifies lemon flavor). Whisk in the eggs, oil, apple-sauce, yogurt, lemon juice and vanilla; mixing well.

Stir in the dry ingredients with a wooden spoon or spatula until just combined (don't overmix!).

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 25-35 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean or with moist crumbs.

Cool completely before covering in berries and serving.



Nov. 2, 2025

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.

sbsuebouchard@gmail.com or text/call 760-419-2334

Vacation Bible Camp 2025

One more BIG thank you to everyone for supporting Vacation Bible camp, True North, this year. It was an amazing week of watching God touch lives and faith grow. With generous donations of your time, talents and gifts we welcomed preschoolers through grandparents on campus and enjoyed worship, crafts, games, Bible Adventures, snacks and Scripture lessons daily. We are looking forward to 2026, **Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God!**



Volunteer Spotlight: Sue Weston

At Grace, we are truly blessed to have Sue Weston as part of our church family. Sue serves with unwavering conviction, joyful energy, and a heart deeply rooted in Christ's love. Whether she's leading a team or organizing a ministry event, Sue brings others alongside her with grace, strength, and a contagious passion for serving.

Working closely with Sue not only inspires a love for doing God's work—it makes it fun. Her laughter and smile brighten every room, and her leadership naturally draws people in. She has a remarkable gift for connecting with others, especially the children of Grace, and shares Christ's love in a way that is both tender and powerful. Sue, your faithfulness, joy, and servant's heart make an immeasurable impact. We are so thankful for you.

- Frankie Zavala, Preschool Director

From the start of pursuing ordination, I was always told to make sure to take the Clerk of Session out for tacos often. Although I have failed at treating Sue to Mexican food often, I hope that doesn't stop her from seeing how much she is appreciated at Grace!

As the Clerk of Session Sue is responsible for handling all of the churches governing documents, minutes, membership rolls, as well as helping ensure policy and procedure are upheld. Sue is also a huge resource to me while I moderate session.

Over the last few years Sue has worked long hours making sure our rolls are accurate. She has also poured over hundreds of hours of session minutes and by laws, as well as helped implement changes to bring us into the digital age. We are so thankful for this wonderful ministry.

I feel like a common theme with all of our leaders is serving in many areas. Sue does just that. She is also actively involved in the launch of our preschool and sits as the chair of the Christian Education Committee at Grace. Her ability to bring others alongside of her in ministry has helped us as we have grown in Children and Youth the last few years. We have dozens of faithful leaders who are all trained and ready to serve in Christian Education thanks to Sue. The expression "if there is a will, there's a way" comes to mind. Sue always helps the church find the way! Thanks Sue for everything you do! - Rev. John Denton



It has been such a joy and honor to know Sue Weston for all of my time at Grace. She is such a valuable asset for so many reasons but if Nancy Tiburski says that Sue is the only one she would let take over as Clerk of Session, you know Sue is special. Sue has done a remarkable job as Clerk, as an Elder, as the Chair of Christian Ed., running VBC, among everything else that she has done over the years. Sue is thorough, organized, and most of all caring. I am thankful for Sue and her awesome husband, Duane, and appreciate the love that they have poured into Grace. Let's also not forget that they support the right baseball team, Go Padres! - Christie Elliott, Director of Church Operations

When newly married, my hubby and I attended a Gary Smalley marriage building series in which Gary asserted, using *camping* as his case in point, that it's the mishaps not the smooth sailing in life that create strong relationship bonds.

I've only known Sue Weston for a few years, but in that time we've bonded over the wackiest mishaps as we've served together on the Christian Education Committee and, since VBC is called Vacation Bible CAMP, Smalley's theory has proved true in our church family.

I treasure having Sue in my life. I giggle every time I remember an early Zoom CE meeting that my friend accidentally attended thinking it was the Bible Study Fellowship Zoom link I sent her... or when I was "helping" Sue in the kitchen before an Advent Dinner and didn't do what she asked... oh, and how about my discovering at the first VBC that my new favorite snack food is Cheez-its! I'm addicted. The next year Sue bought a case of Cheetos for VBC snack declaring "she had to get them" since they were Karen's favorite. I could go on...

As the head of Christian Ed at Grace Pres, Sue leads with love, strength, humor, patience and faith and I am so blessed to know her.

- Karen England, Cheez-its aficionado

What a joyful and lively summer it has been at Grace Presbyterian Preschool! July has been full of laughter, discovery, and spiritual growth as our students dive into summer camp activities and explore rich weekly Bible themes. The preschool has been buzzing with energy—not only from the excitement of summer, but also as new students join our community and settle in.



Our dedicated teachers have been working hard to create a nurturing environment where every child can reach important developmental milestones while learning about God's incredible love for them. It has been a true blessing to hear our students talk more and more about God, His amazing creation, and what it means to love like Jesus.

Last month, we sent home children's Bibles with each family, and we've been overjoyed to hear the impact they're having! Multiple parents have shared how these Bibles have become a treasured part of their family time—reading together, asking questions, and growing in faith. What a gift to see God's Word alive in both the classroom and the home!

Looking ahead to August, we are excited to announce that our **toddler classroom is now full**, and we are actively looking for **another teacher** to help expand our capacity in the preschool. We are so thankful to have **16 children on campus**—a joyful reminder of how God is growing this ministry. As we prepare to begin our **second**



year here at Grace, we ask you to continue spreading the word about our school and walking alongside us in prayer, encouragement, and support as we grow in God's love together.

In preparation for the new school year, the preschool will be **painting classrooms, organizing materials, power washing fences**, and ensuring a bright, welcoming space for both preschool families and our church visitors. **Volunteers are needed August 13–15 from 8:00am to 12:00pm**. If you're able to lend a hand for an hour or a day, your help would be greatly appreciated as we prepare our campus to reflect the love and care we strive to offer every child and family

who walks through our doors

Finally, we're thrilled to share that **Family Chapel** will resume on **Tuesday, September 30**. If you would love an opportunity to welcome our preschool families with muffins, coffee, and Christ-like hospitality, we would be so grateful! Please reach out to Director Frankie at preschool@gpcvista.org to get involved.

Thank you, Grace family, for your continued love, prayers, and support. We are so blessed by this community and excited for what God has in store in the months ahead!



— Grace Presbyterian Preschool Team

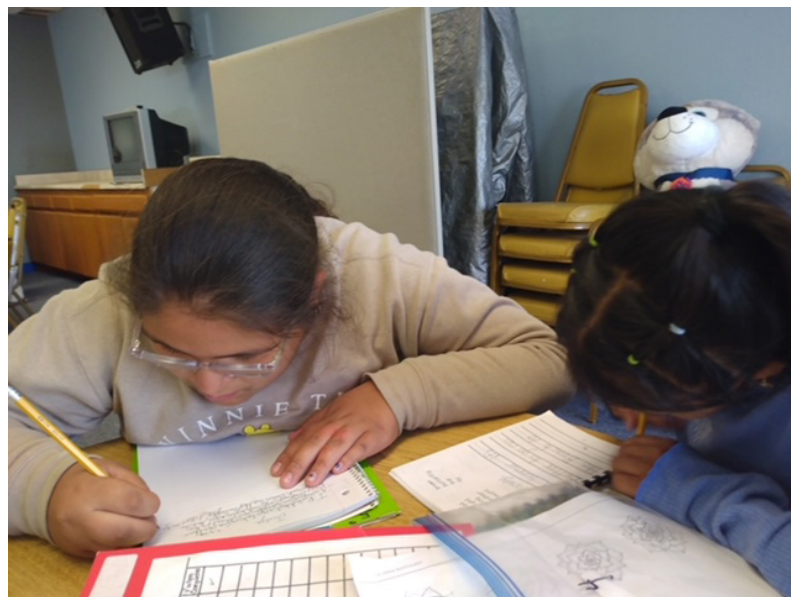
60th Anniversary Pictures

Thank you to all of you who provided pictures, rosters, and programs to show 60 years of Grace. They will be available to retrieve after church on the patio on August 3 and August 10. After that, the office will have them.



Mission Spotlight: After School Program

This month our Mission spotlight shines on the After School Program. For over twelve years we have partnered with our neighborhood school, Foothill Oak Elementary, to provide tutoring to struggling students. In that time over 220 students have received help. Over 100 volunteers from our church and community have provided one-on-one and small group help for these children. Maria Haigh is



director of this mission outreach. Each Wednesday of the school year faithful volunteers assist Kindergarten through 5th grade students in the areas of reading, math, and homework. Because



of this help the children have not only improved academically, but have developed better self-esteem, study skills, and social confidence. We have been blessed to receive some of our former students as high school and college age volunteers. They want to give back to the program that gave them the help they needed.

We are looking for volunteers for the fall semester. Any former or current volunteer will be happy to share their experience with you. Please see Maria Haigh when you feel that nudge.

Please continue to pray for the program and all the students and their families, the teachers and staff at Foothill Oak Elementary school.

Join our
Grandparents@Prayer
via email monthly.

Generation G: Leaving a Spiritual Legacy (or Hot Topics on Grandparenting) -by Gramma Pat Whisler



Do you ever realize during prayer time how generalized we can be. I pray for peace, happiness for my friends, my children and my grandchildren. One of the special times in our Thursday morning bible study is our prayer time. We name specific people, we request specific events, and we are always thankful. Have you heard of praying scripture? This can be a project with our grandchildren. Here's how it works:

GOD'S WORD: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. *James 5:16b*

This month's GP Hot Topic: **PERSONALIZING PRAYER**

Let's take a look at a few scriptures (there are many more), pray them and personalize them with our grandchildren.

VERSE	SCRIPTURE
Matthew 6:6	But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
Being personal	<i>We don't always have to pray with others. If we speak to Him in secret, it will please the Lord.</i>
Matthew 21:22	If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.
Being personal	<i>How do our beliefs coincide with what God wants? We don't get everything we ask for.</i>
Psalm 42:8	By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life.
Being personal	<i>This is a good one for grandchildren who are uncomfortable with the night. David loved music and sang the Lord's songs. Encourage them to sing God songs at bedtime. (sing with them)</i>
Isaiah 38:5	'This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears;
Being personal	<i>This is a good scripture if your grandchild is crying. Make them aware that the Lord knows about the tears. They are not alone.</i>
Isaiah 63:7	I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which He is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us— yes, the many good things he has done.
Being personal	<i>When discussing prayer, our grandchild should know that prayer is not just a list of requests but should also include things for which we are thankful.</i>

- **Prayer:** Lord God, we know that YOU know each of us personally. Help us to pass this thought on to our grandchildren. Thank you for knowing even the hairs on our head. Your blessings are in scripture. May we pass them on too. In your Son's name. Amen.
- **Action:** Use your favorite scripture or one above to personalize with your grandchild. Tell them how it pertains to them.
- **A Thought and a Smile** LOOK FOR DETAILS COMING OUT SOON ABOUT CELEBRATING GRANDPARENTS' DAY OF PRAYER SUNDAY WITH US AT GRACE. BE SURE TO INVITE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL GUEST!



SUNDAYS

9am How to Read the Bible Class
9:30am Prayer Group
10am In Person Worship (Sanctuary)
10am Online Worship

MONDAYS

7pm AA

TUESDAYS

8am Food Pantry Distrib.
10:30am Staff Meeting
2:00pm Meals of Grace

WEDNESDAYS

6:30pm AA Men’s Group
7pm Worship Band Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

10am Bible Study

FRIDAYS

8am Food Distribution

SATURDAYS

9:30am Soul Line Dance Class

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 8am Men’s Breakfast
3 11:15am Worship Committee	4	5	6 10:00am Coffee w/ the Pastor 12:30pm Personnel	7 9:15am Bible 101	8	9
10	11	12	13 9am B & G	14 9:15am Bible 101	15	16
17 11:15am Christian Ed. Meeting	18	19 4:30pm Fellowship Committee	20 1pm Finance	21	22	23
24	25	26 6:30pm Session	27	28	29	30
31						



- 2

Ron Rosol
- 5

Glenna Spindelman
- 7

Pyong Dusang-West
- 13

Mary Bryan
- 14

Jim Aliaga
- 23

Duane Weston
- 24

Dustin Allen
- 27

Abigail Beaman



- 13

Bill & Carol Eldridge (48 years)
- 17

Mark & Susan Hiltbrand (40 years)
- 18

Ben & Christie Elliott (24 years)
- 31

Duane & Sue Weston (40 years)

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

Rex Bassett

Barbie Nicholson

Apollo Bostian
(Elizabeth Bostian’s Son)

Parker Family

Bev Bush

Judi Salazar

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Hannah Dukes

Tricia Sanger

John Earnest

Santiago
(Maria Haigh’s Brother)

Gary Eldridge

Robert Sawyer
(Terry-Jeanne’s Son)

Helen Frederick

Terry-Jeanne Sawyer

Betty Haver

Sparkman Family

Chandy Jacob
(Annie Kumar’s Brother)

Arcilia Tauber

Annie Kumar

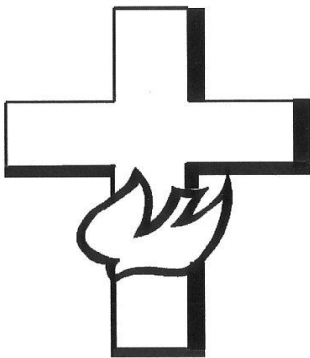
Whisler Family

Suzy Long

Mary Wilhem
(Arlene Cratsa’s Sister)

Eliza Newton
(Sailor’s friend)

Judy Woolsey





GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1450 E. Vista Way
Vista, CA 92084

Phone: 760-724-0077

Fax: 760-724-2534

E-mail: info@gpcvista.org

www.gpcvista.org

Address Service Requested

WHERE GOD'S FAMILY
GROWS



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Church Staff

Pastor/Head of Staff

Director of Church Operations

Dir. of Community Relations & Sunday School Coord.

Preschool Director

Preschool Teacher

Toddler Teacher

Custodian

Music Director

Organist

Praise Band Leader

Financial Specialist

Hand Bell Choir Director

Choir Section Leader

Rev. John Denton

Christie Elliott

Maria Haigh

Frankie Zavala

Lesley Stong

Miriam Mojica Santos

Savannah Haigh

Jayne Parker

Frances Hummel

Scott Huston

Albina Lumetta

Pat Sexton

Chris Nolf



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.