# Tidings of Grace



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

August 1, 2025

Volume 28 Issue 8

## Questions of Faith

As school begins again and fall discipleship programs re-start at church, I've been thinking about effective teaching practices. Most teachers, whether at school or Sunday school, know the importance of asking thought-provoking questions. Of course, students of all ages can also ask the teacher thought-provoking questions. When I taught religion as Chaplain at Columbia College, I had a "stall tactic." When a student asked a question that I didn't know the answer to, I would turn the question back to the class, "What do you all think?" The Socratic Method of teaching involves an on-going dialogue between teacher and students. The teacher asks thought-provoking questions, and students actively participate by asking questions of their own.

Jesus taught in the Socratic method, even though Socrates died 400 years before Jesus was born. Jesus also taught in the rabbinic method, by not giving simplistic answers, but rather proposing honest questions. Join us on the journey with Jesus, as we study his questions and respond in faith. Our sermon series will be accompanied by *Grace Groups*, small groups meeting at various times. (See below for the available groups and times.)

## August - September - "Questions Jesus Asked: A Six-week Study in the Gospels" by Magrey R. DeVega\*

August 10 - Luke 9:18-27 "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

August 17 - Matthew 8:23-27 "Why Are You Afraid?"

August 24 - Luke 12:25-31 "Why Are You Anxious?"

August 31 - Mark 8:34-38 "What Do You Live For?"

September 7 - Luke 6:27-36 "Whom Will You Love?"

September 14 - John 1:35-38 "What Are You Looking For?"

\*Rev. DeVega has been the senior pastor at Hyde Park UMC in Tampa since 2015. He has a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary and is the author of 10 books.

In the Power of the Holy Spirit,

Cathy

#### **Grace Group Opportunities**

(Get more details and sign up at <a href="https://www.gotgraceumc.org/grace-groups">www.gotgraceumc.org/grace-groups</a>.)

#### Sundays

- 40ish-50ish Group with Janet & Ricky Waters (9:45AM—10:45AM)
- Young Adults Group with Amber Forrest (9:45AM—10:45AM)

#### **Mondays**

• Wisdom of the Ages with the Pastors (11AM—12PM)

#### **Tuesdays**

• Newell Dental Group with John & Mary Chris Newell (6PM-7:15PM)

#### Wednesdays

WINGS Class with the Pastors (6:15—7PM)

#### Thursdays

Stone Roastery Group with Pastor Cathy (10AM—11AM)





#### **RTB Construction Lead Needed**

Buff Waters is stepping down from his position as the head of construction for RTB. Thank you for your years of service!

We are looking for someone to take over this role.

#### Our set-up dates will be:

Nov. 22, Nov. 29 & Dec. 6.

#### **Contact Elisa Atkins:**

elisa@gotgraceumc.org

We also need a Music Leader!

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#### **CHURCH WEBSITE:**

www.gotgraceumc.org

**Grace Groups** 

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Page 2



Join us for Sparks Sunday School! Asbury Building 9:45am—10:45am



#### NURSERY

Infants - Class 107 Toddlers - Class 105

#### **PRESCHOOL**

2K-3K - Class 111 4k-5k - Class 112

#### **ELEMENTARY**

1st Grade - Class 208

2nd Grade - Class 210 3rd Grade - Class 207

Siu Grade - Class 207

4th Grade - Class 209 5th Grade - Class 211 Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children & Family Ministry / Contact: yolada@gotgraceumc.org

# BLAST

Bible Learning And Spiritual Training

#### Sunday Mornings during Worship 8:45, LifeSong Contemporary 11:00, Traditional

BLAST (1ST-4TH), BLAST, Jr. (4k, 5k), Mini (2k, 3K)

Let your children join us after the Children's Message during our LifeSong and 11:00 services

#### Activities for August:

8/3	The First Sin
8/10	Joseph & His Brothers
8/17	Joseph Helps His Family
8/24	Baby Moses
8/31	The Rurning Rush



"The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6: 5–15

#### Weekly Schedule For Our Preschool and Elementary children

8/3 What is Prayer?

**Preschool:** Storybooks & Stuffies **Elem:** God wants us to talk to him.

8/10 How Should I Pray?

**Preschool:** Who is our greatest teacher and how do we to talk to Him **Elem.:** The Bible helps with prayer

Elem.: The Bible helps with pray

8/17 Our Father in Heaven
Preschool: Importance of Jesus
Elem: God Hears Our Prayers

8/24 Hallowed Be Your Name!

Elem: Games in the gym

**Preschool:** What is the Lord's Prayer? **Elem:** Worship God through prayer.

8/31 Your Kingdom Come Preschool: Play Games

#### **UPCOMING GRACE KIDS AND FAMILY EVENTS**





#### **Schedule of Events for the Year**

#### Aug 2025

8/2 - Back to School Bash @ Lake Site
8/6 - Wed. Night Kids classes begin
8/10 - Presentation of the 3 rd grade
Bibles

#### Sept 2025

9/29-10/10 - Fall Break

#### Oct 2025

10/11 - Fall Fest at The Way 10/24-25 - NA Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee

#### Nov 2025

11/23 - Cookies with Santa 11/24-28 - Thanksgiving Break

#### Dec 2025

12/10-13 - RTB (Return to Bethlehem) 12/22-1/2 - Winter Break

#### Jan 2026

1/18 - Gingerbread Bash

#### Feb 2026

No event

#### Mar 2026

3/21 - Easter Egg Hunt 3/29 - Kids' Palm Procession 3/30 -4/1 - Spring Break

#### Apr 2026

4/5 - Easter Butterfly Release

#### May 2026

5/3 - Children's Sunday, TBD 5/27-28 - Kids Club school Half Days

#### Jun 2026

6/15-19 - VBS (Snowball Mountain Challenge)

**Please Note:** Events are subject to change. We will let you know when events open up for registration throughout the year.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL & OTHER YOUTH NEWS

9:45 - 10:45 AM in the Youth Room Middle & high schoolers explore the morning's message from a studentspecific perspective, discussing how we can apply "big church" sermon lessons to our own lives throughout the week.

Youth Breakfast at the Way Wed., August 6 at 7AM

**Second Sunday Youth Breakfast** August 10

#### **Sunday Evening:**

August 24 - Open House / Bring your Grownup to Church night

**GRITS Breakfast & Bible Study** 

Tues., August 26, 7AM, Youth Wing

#### August 31 - Labor Day Weekend

No SS or Evening Youth Enjoy your weekend!

Save Me a Seat: Gunday Nights 6-7:30 pm in August & September



We all know the feeling... Walking into an unfamiliar dinner party with sweaty palms, a racing heart, & the looming question: "Where do I belong here?" The same scary scenario can be transformed into excited anticipation with something as simple as a text from a friend: "I'm saving you a seat!"

Join us on Sunday evenings at 6 pm as we journey through the seating arrangements of the gospel story, & discover that we've saved a seat for you too!

#### Learn more!

We've got a lot going on (Sunday school, Wednesday night small group, confirmation, breakfasts, meet-ups, & more!) so make sure you're staying up to date with the student ministry department through our online calendar & weekly emails!



More Student Ministry on pg. 8

Rebekah Bryant, Youth Director at Rebekah@gotgraceumc.org

#### **Grace Music Departments**



Greetings from Sanctuary Music at Grace!

Hopefully the summer has given you a renewed sense of purpose and vision for the upcoming fall, and what a season it will be! Please note the events and special services bulleted below and keep your ear to the ground for more.

- August 2, 9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Fall Rehearsal Retreat Grace UMC choir room. All are welcomed and encouraged to join us!
- August 6, 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Wednesday rehearsals
- September 13, 4:00 p.m. Limited Time Only (LTO) chamber choir in concert - Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church. LTO is a semiprofessional choir based in Columbia, specializing in choral art music. Chris Leysath will be accompanying on piano and organ.
- Sept. 21, 11:00 a.m. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the current Grace Sanctuary - Our history and devotion to Methodism in North Augusta will be celebrated in word and music. Chancel Choir will be joined by brass ensemble, and offer a piece commissioned for the Grace Centennial (2003).

Organ Update: Our organ is managing to hold strong despite the extreme summer temperatures. The work on our instrument was impeded due to shipping delays and an ill-fitted component, but will soon be underway once all parts have been checked and received. More updates to follow!





Worship Songs have a huge impact on those who attend worship. Michael Keltz, Director of Contemporary Worship

**Contemporary Worship Spotlight** 

#### **Buff Waters**



**Song:** "Rattle" by Elevation Worship

#### Lyrics:

Saturday was silent, Surely it was through But since when has impossible, Ever stopped

Friday's disappointment, Is Sunday's empty tomb

Since when has impossible, Ever stopped You?

There's a line in the song that says "Since when has impossible ever stopped you." That line speaks to me on a deep level because so many times in life we feel like the hard times won't stop and seem insurmountable. But if we lean on God instead of our own understanding, nothing is impossible.

#### Wednesday Inspiration Nights at Grace (WINGS)

#### WINGS Dinners Served from \*5:30PM-6:10PM

Doors open at \*5:15PM; Meal begins at \*5:30 (\*time change) Wesley Center Auditorium

Our weekly fellowship meal (followed by programs for all ages) are a great way to meet other People of Grace...and get out of cooking dinner for your family!

#### Cost: \$8/adult and \$6/kids (10 & under)

Payments can be made when registering on Realm Connect or in-person (cash/check/card).

#### Please register for dinners by the Monday before at 12PM in one of the following ways:

- Realm Connect App or at onrealm.org/GotGraceUMC
- Complete a YELLOW Registration Card during worship (place in offering plate)
- Register online at www.gotgraceumc.org/wings
- Call Church Office (803-279-7525)

Grace

We appreciate your cooperation in paying for meals that you register for, as food is ordered in advance based on registration numbers.



(Please Note: Salad bar offered for August)

- Aug. 6 BBQ Chicken & Hash brown casserole (Kids Menu - Grilled chicken sandwich)
- Aug. 13 Honey Baked Ham & Mac 'n Cheese (Kid's Menu - Corn Dogs)
- Aug. 20 Hamburger steaks, rice/gravy (Kid's Menu - Hamburgers)
- Aug. 27 Oven Roasted pork loin, Sweet potatoes, baby lima beans (Kid's Menu - Mini Pizza)

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR KIDS & YOUTH



live in *community* with one another, inside and outside of the church. **Guest Song Leaders: Happy Ukes** 





#### **MEN'S MINISTRY**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6



The UMM Meal and Programs have wrapped up for the Season and will return in September

#### **CONTACTS for UMM:**

**Richard Thomas** (rich.thomas757@gmail.com OR 706-691-6059) or Rusty Coble (RustyCoble3@gmail.com or 706-373-8402)

### **WOMENS MINISTRY**



#### **GRACE PILLOW MINISTRY**

Saturday, August 23rd at 9:30AM, Wesley Center Hope to see you then!

The Grace Pillow Ministry will mark its 11th year of providing pillows to local breast cancer and heart patients.

What is the Pillow Ministry, you might ask? Our ladies gather to make 200 small pillows that are given to local breast heath centers, oncologists offices, and heart health centers. It's a time to fellowship with others while at the same time providing pillows to others who are experiencing very difficult times in their lives. It's an outreach for all in North Augusta who would like to participate to help others.

You do not need to know how to sew- we need: stuffers, pinners, baggers, and other nonsewing activities. If you would like to sew and have a sewing machine, please call Linda Smith, 803.474.0536. We will complete the pillows by 12noon and then enjoy a free light lunch.

Contacts: Linda Smith, lidon0794@gmail.com or Kathy Batten, batkat@comcast.net

**ADULT MINISTRIES** 

#### Adult Bible Studies & Small Groups are Back!

While most Adult Ministry programming takes a hiatus over the summer, it is time to get back into the swing of things!

#### **WINGS Classes**

Our WINGS classes for August—September kick start back on August 13th (see page 4 for more information about our WINGS Lift-Off event on August 6th).

#### Register for classes at www.gotgraceumc.org/wings!

- "Questions Jesus Asked" Grace Group (in Family Foundations Classroom)
- Disciple 2 Bible Study on Luke & Acts (book—\$10, in New Life Classroom)
- "The Men We Need" discussion group with Misfits Small Group (in Women of Faith Classroom)
- **GIFTS in the Evening Craft Group (in Seekers Classroom)**
- GriefShare Support Group (https://www.griefshare.org/groups/268015, in Daughters of Grace Classroom, this group starts August 6th)

#### **Grace Groups**

We all have questions for God, but growth happens when we turn things around and ask what Jesus wants to know about us. Join one of the many short-term Grace Groups that will be occurring throughout the week to discuss our upcoming "Questions Jesus Asked" sermon series (see page 1 for a list of groups).



VOLUNTEERS
It takes many hands to make the various programs throughout Adult Ministries run smoothly.
We are looking for some hospitality helpers for several uncoming programs! for several upcoming programs!

- **WINGS Greeters** (Wednesday afternoons):
  - Welcome our dinner guests and pass out nametags
- WINGS Check-in Team (Wednesday afternoons):

Help dinner guests use our simplified Realm payment process as they arrive for dinner.

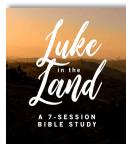
**Veterans Thanksgiving Event Planning** (Leading up to November 19th):

Help us say thank you to our Grace UMC veterans, and veterans from our local VA hospital, by helping to coordinate our annual Veterans Thanksgiving Meal & Program.

Contact Amber Forrest (amber@gotgraceumc.org) for more information.

#### LADIES BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Begins August 5, Tuesday mornings at 9:30 for this DVD driven (with homework) study that will focus on the Gospel of Luke.



Follow Kristi McLelland through Israel as we study snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place.

Over 7 sessions, challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus through teaching videos that take you to locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, you'll see how Jesus, the Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for everybody.

#### **Weekly Groups**

#### **Adult Sunday School Classes**

Cokesbury...LWC

Family Foundations...LWC

Journey...AB

New Life...LWC

Seekers...LWC

Stillwell...LWC

Daughters of Grace...LWC

Women of Faith...LWC

Young Adults...UWC

Upper Wesley Center (UWC) Lower Wesley Center (LWC) Asbury Building (AB)

#### For Leader contact info, visit www.gotgraceumc.org/adults.

Want to start a new Sunday School Class or Small Group? Let us help you share the news!

amber@gotgraceumc.org

#### **Small Groups**

#### Mondays

Wisdom of the Ages (11AM) Happy Ukes (7PM)

#### **Tuesdays**

Ladies' Bible Study (9:30AM) Shuffle & Deal Card Group (1PM)

#### Wednesdays

Wednesday Morning Breakfast Crew (8:30AM) Men's Upper Room (9:45AM) Upper Room Encouragers (10AM) Bridge Group (12:30PM) Disciple FastTrack (6:15PM) GIFTS Craft Group (6:15PM) GriefShare (6:15PM)

### <u>Thursdays</u>

Misfits (6:15PM)

Bridge Group (9:30AM) Ladies' Book Club (1st Thur. @ 1:30PM) Caring & Sharing (6PM) The Way Small Group (6:30PM)

#### **GIFTS in the morning DISCONTINUED**

From Mary Jane Wisenbaker The GIFTS group which has met on Thursday mornings at 10:00 no longer meets. If you are looking for a similar experience, GIFTS Craft Group meets Wednesday nights at 6:15 on the first floor of the Wesley Center.

Rev. Ashley Buchanan, Associate Pastor of Nurture & Missions (abuchanan@gotgraceumc.org)

Your Bolivia Medical Team Returned on July 28 - A Look Back







Ty, Lisa and Katie



Sean helping Ryan with vitals



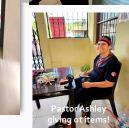


















Rev. Patrick Taylor, Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Discipleship (ptaylor@gotgraceumc.org)

#### We're on the Way to a new season at the Way!



In preparation for our Worship Kick-off on Thursday, July 31, many wonderful volunteers gathered to help us prepare the space to make a great impression! Our Worship service isn't an isolated event, it's the first of our resumed weekly Thursday night gatherings, and we wanted to give you a look at what that's going to look like! Every month at the Way will have a *theme* or *focus*. (Spoiler: Our first one is *Love thy neighbor as thyself*!)

GRACE UMC 417 RANDALL RD .

THE WAY
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

Every month will consist of a Worship service (like this Thursday!) to introduce it and get us thinking. Week 2 will be a discussion group to dive deeper. Week 3 will be a wildcard- a service project or outreach event- and then week 4 will be another discussion group to debrief,

share what we've learned, and reveal the next month's theme! This is in addition to other great

events that will be happening out at the Way!

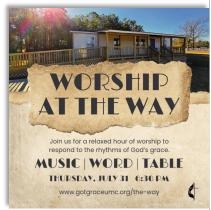
Pray for those who will seek the Way of Jesus for transformation!

Yours, Patrick

(See pg. 8, Breakfast at The Way)







FAITHFULNESS Page 7

#### We promise to uphold Grace with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness

OUR PRAYERS: as of July 30, 2025

**Doctor's Hosp.:** McKenzie Greenway, daughter of Jeff Greenway

Sid Randall, brother of Marilyn Braddy

Piedmont: Rob Lacer

Wellstar MCG: Willow Woodward-McGee (NICU), granddaughter

of Carol Smith-Mcgee

Lexington Med. Ctr. Rob Graybill, brother-in-law of Beverly Blevins

Recently discharged: Deb Persons, Suzanne Nuckols

Hospice: Henry Cribb

Hammond Square: Jean Bergstrom, Ginny Stewart, Judy Cox

NHC NA: Billy Watson

Oaks at Habersham, Savannah: Connie Sawyer

**Sterling Estates, Marietta:** CJ Bigger **Washington Commons:** Cynthia Gordon

**Prayer Needs:** Christi Markwalter, Billy Lotspeich, Bobby Oliver,

Dave Varn, Diane Banta, Jane Murdock, Faye Jowers, Pam Windley, Bev Whitney, Deb Persons, Beth Ann Young, Marianna Simmon Barbara Graybill, sister of Beverly Blevins Kimberly Fuller (hospital in Charleston, ICU),

sister of Kelsey Shull

#### **OUR SERVICE**

#### Sunday Greeters (11:00):

Aug. 3: Fran Faulkner, Pam Emory-Siedling
Aug. 10: Faye Mongomery & Rev. Cindy Fuller

Aug. 17: Charlene & Bob Miller

Aug. 24: Mary McCormack, Deb Persons

Aug. 31: Ann & Bill Anderson

#### **OUR WITNESS:**

How will you be a witness in the world this week?

OUR PRESENCE: July 27, 2025

On Campus: 8:30: 17 8:45: 146 11:00: 156

OUR GIFTS: Revenues thru July 27

**Month to date** \$85,836 **Year to date** \$680,558



#### BE GENEROUS Realm Connect Giving

We finished migrating to Realm and away from Secure Give this month. When you set up your recurring online gift in Realm Connect, please be mindful to select "giving" not "pledge". A pledge is a promise to give. An online gift is where the financial data is captured and scheduled. With questions, contact Emily emily@gotgraceumc.org

#### **Offering Envelopes**

Please let us know if you would like Offering Envelopes for 2026.

(yes or no)

Contact Emily - <a href="mailto:emily@gotgraceumc.org">emily@gotgraceumc.org</a>, or go to link to fill out form or scan the QR code.

Link is here: <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/</a>
<a href="mailto:e/1FAlpQLSfm8d4WtXbClpIFIGSkdZeTaeCgf5H8DdpssGSl2sgqNpM5XQ/">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/</a>
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<a href="mailto:e/1646">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/</a>
<a href="mailto:e/1646">https://docs.goo

#### **Stock & Crypto Donations**

Giving stock and crypto is now available with the Engiven integration through our giving platform, Realm Connect. It's simple to donate, navigate to our online giving form and select Stocks or Crytocurrency.



Thank you for your generosity. For question or assistance, contact Emily, Business Administrator, at Emily@gotgraceumc.org

#### OUR GIFTS: July 6, 13, 20, 27

#### IN MEMORY OF:

#### Frank Berry

(Choir Fund) Chancel Choir

(General budget) Kristin Koch (Limehouse/Koch Family), Christine Limehouse, Don & Linda Smith, Gary & Jane Street, Stillwell SS class, Robert & Natalie Meadors, Mickey & Peggie Ruben; Joe &Terry Billiter, Kent & June Sullivan, Mary Jane Wisenbaker (Women of Grace Scholarship) Linda Smiley, David & Beverly Blevins

#### Bill Brownley, brother of Joanne Watson

(General budget) Kent & June Sullivan

#### **IN HONOR OF:**

#### Ted Thompson and his July 18, 94th birthday!

(General budget) Shirley Lankford

#### CHURCH COUNCIL



#### Summary of July Council Meeting

Grace UMC's Church Council gathered on July 15, 2025, with 22 persons in attendance, for updates on ministry, finances, and programming. Council Chair Tom Proctor opened the meeting at 6 pm with a prayer. Rev. Jamieson introduced Elisa Atkins as the new coordinator for Return to Bethlehem (RTB), scheduled for December 10-13. Key RTB needs include new leadership for Sets & Construction and for Music, and a forklift. A donation box will be added this year, with all proceeds going exclusively to RTB.

Please go to the <u>full report</u> or scan the QR code for these updates reported to the Church Council.



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#### **AUGUST 2025**

- Women of Grace Executive Mtg., Aug. 3, 4PM, Journey SS
- Staff Mtg., Aug. 5, 9:30AM, Conference room
- Ladies Bible Study, Aug 5 (Tues.), 9:30AM, Journey SS class
- Way Comm. Mtg., Aug. 5, 6PM, The WAY, 417 Randall Rd.
- WINGS Fellowship Supper, Aug. 6 "Kick Off Night," \*5:30PM, Wesley Center (Note: Doors Open 5:15, \*Meals 5:30PM)
- GriefShare, Aug. 6, 6:15PM, Wesley Center
- RTB Committee Mtg., Aug. 11, 6PM, Journey SS class
- WINGS Programming, Aug. 13, 6:15PM, Campus (see pg. 4&5)
- Grace at 3rd Thursday, Aug. 21, Cavalier's Coffeehouse
- Pillow Ministry & Lunch, Aug. 23, 9:30AM, Wesley Center

Please look in Newsletter for other events. Church Calendar: https://www.gotgraceumc.org/calendar

#### Grace United Methodist Church

639 Georgia Avenue North Augusta, SC 29841

Main Office: 803-279-7525 Fax: 803-279-1434 Email: info@gotgraceumc.org Website: www.gotgraceumc.org Child Development Center: 803-279-7528 After Hours "on-call" # for Grace Pastors 803-376-9310 Hospital Visitation & Pastoral Care: M/Th: Cathy, T/W: Ashley, F: Patrick

Weekend: Pastoral Rotation Schedule

**GRACE STAFF** 

Rev. Dr. Cathy Jamieson, Senior Pastor Rev. Ashley Buchanan, Associate Pastor Rev. Patrick Taylor, Associate Pastor Dr. John M. Newell, III, Support Pastor Dr. John M. Younginer, Jr., Pastor Emeritus Emily Mumford, Business Administrator Karen Bach Mays, Administrative Assistant Greer Rowland, Financial Secretary Chris Leysath, Director of Music Ministries Michael Keltz, Director of Contemporary Worship Rebekah Bryant, Director of Youth Ministries

Amber Forrest, Director of Adult Ministries & Communication Yolanda McCabe, Director of Children and Family Ministries Dana Lykins, CDC Director; Linda Dollar, CDC Finance Nancy Payne, Kitchen Manager

Chuck Faulkner, Grace Gym Administrator Ray May, Audio Technician; Thomas Wall, Media Technician Mary Chris Newell, Director of Kindermusik; Ashley Cullum, Kindermusik Teacher Elisa Atkins, RTB (Return to Bethlehem) Coordinator

<u>Top of label</u> goes along the <u>bottom of above</u>



#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

**MORE...GRACE STUDENT MINISTRY** 

GRACE OPPORTUNITIES







