



Protestant Fellowship Community Newsletter October, 2023

“The Gift of Grace”

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ... ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:15, 17

What is this “Grace” that Paul is addressing in his Epistle to the Romans? Sometimes we may be like the lawyer who wanted to know if he was living a godly life. Jesus asked him about the Law, that is, what is said in Deuteronomy and Leviticus. The lawyer answered correctly, and then, just to be sure he was doing everything correctly, he asked who was his neighbor.

So, do we ever ask what we have to do to earn this “Grace” that Paul talks about? In the beginning of chapter 5, Paul assures us that our faith in Jesus Christ is what justifies us, that is, reconciles and restores us to a right relationship with God. And this faith gives us access to God's Grace. The Epistle of James instructs us that we need to do good works as evidence of our faith; faith without works or good deeds is not real faith; perhaps it is just knowledge.

Faith is hard to understand; there are many questions that faith does not answer. What exactly will the pearly gates look like; will they be made of real pearl; how big was the oyster that made the pearl? These may be some of the questions. Can you imagine God (a patient fatherly older gentleman) nodding and answering each question with “That is an interesting question. Why do you need to know?”

At Christmas time, many of us like to pick up gifts and shake them to guess what is wrapped so beautifully. God's Grace may not be that type of physical gift. Grace is offered and we can choose to take it.

God of Amazing Grace, Guide us to accept Your indescribable gift to each of us each day. Guide us to treasure Your Grace as we live our lives looking forward to sharing in Your Glory. In the Name of the Promised One who came pay the spiritual debts of us all.



Amen.

Prayerfully submitted by John Hodges

Worship Services for October, 2023

**Each Sunday at 2:00 pm from the chapel with Prelude at 1:45;
also on ACTV channel 976 / 980 (HD)**

All are Welcome to join us in the Chapel on Sunday Afternoons

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023	<p>World Communion Sunday</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Susan Sciarratta, Pastor at the Willows in Hatfield, a Living Branches Retirement Community. Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.</p> <p>Organist: Jane Smith; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	
Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023	<p>Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>Rev. Mark Rudolph, St. John's Anglican Church in Southampton, PA.</p> <p>Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston. Prelude will begin at 1:30.</p>	
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023	<p>Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>Robert McQue, resident of Ann's Choice will preach.</p> <p>Organist: Joan Kirk; Pianist: Betty Kingston</p>	
Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023	<p>Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>Rev. Amy Martin, Pastoral Associate at Ann's Choice. One-quarter of her time supports the Mission of the Protestant Fellowship Council.</p> <p>Organist: Ann Keeseey; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	
Sunday, Oct. 29, 2023	<p>Reformation Sunday</p> <p>Worship Service with Psalms and Songs and Hymns of Praise to proclaim the Word of God. Prelude by Bud Williams and Betty Kingston will begin at 1:30. This service will focus on understanding what the role of God's Grace should be in our lives. A scripture passage and short meditation will be delivered before each hymn.</p> <p>Organist: Bud Williams; Pianist: Betty Kingston.</p>	

Ann's Choice Pastoral Associate

As the Pastoral Associate, Rev. Amy Martin devotes one-quarter of her time supporting the Mission of the Protestant Fellowship Council.

Stop by her office in Liberty Commons to introduce yourself and meet her. Or you can call and leave a message for her at (215) 443-3831; or send her an email (Amy.Martin@erickson.com); or write a note on an offering envelope and leave it in the offering plate at Chapel worship.

Contact Rev. Martin, or leave a note on an offering envelope to receive this newsletter in your cubby or by email.



Quiet Reflections and Prayers:

The Chapel at Ann's Choice is open daily for private reflection when worship services and other events not being conducted.

Protestant Page on the Resident Website:

You may find worship bulletins, hymns, newsletters and other information about the Protestant Fellowship at www.acresidents.org.

Bible Study:

Weekly Bible study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Liberty Commons Music Room. Zoom access is available on request prior to Wednesday morning. Rev. Na is leading the Bible study in October on a variety of New Testament topics. Contact Rev. Na at (215) 443-4925, Pastoral Ministries offices in Liberty or Kang.Na@erickson.com for more information about the Bible study or connection information for using Zoom.

All are welcome so that together we might encourage and challenge one another on the hard road that is Christian discipleship.

“Second Saturday” Cinema, in October, 2023:

October 21

On Saturday, **October 21** we will present the 2000 movie *Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace* in the PAC at 7:00 pm with a pre-show at 6:45. This feature depicts German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer's last years, his participation in the German resistance and his moral struggles. This program is sponsored by the Protestant Fellowship Council as a ministry to residents, friends and staff at Ann's Choice. **No** donation will be requested, as your presence is your donation.



Supporting Our Ministry and Mission:

You can help support the mission projects and ministries of the Protestant Fellowship. Donations may be enclosed in an envelope addressed to Rev. Martin and taken to any clubhouse front desk. Donations by check are preferred; please make the check payable to “A. C. – Protestant Fund”.

On the memo line, please write “Donation.”



Supplies for Operation Christmas Child

The Protestant Fellowship Council is collecting items for shoebox gifts that will go to children around the world. The Protestant Council is being joined in this project by the Catholic Council and the Jewish Residents Council.



Items should be new and unused; creams and liquids are **not** allowed; toy weapons and violence related toys are **not** allowed. School supplies, personal care items and clothing are allowed. A list of approved items is posted on the Protestant Fellowship page of the resident website, www.acresidents.org. Monetary donations will also be accepted and used to buy additional gift items.

Are You Called to Serve on the Protestant Fellowship Council?



The Council has the responsibility to lead and manage the ministries and worship of the Protestant Fellowship. There are different, important roles for this ministry of leadership. Forms are available in the mailrooms, in the Narthex (lobby) of the Chapel and in Pastoral Ministries for giving us your suggestions of fellow residents (including yourself) who might be called to this service and ministry.

In December, at the annual meeting of the Protestant Fellowship, we will hear reports of our activities and ministries during 2023 and will elect (i.e., call) new members to serve on the Council beginning in January.

Pray for discernment. Contact any Council member for more information.

Rose Gardens and Chestnut Pointe:

Monthly Protestant Communion services have resumed in the Continuing Care communities. Pastoral Visits and Home Communion are still available.

Also, each week, worship bulletins and hymns are delivered to new residents at RG and CP and to those who have asked for them on a regular basis. Contact Pastoral Ministries at (215) 443-4831 to volunteer or if you have questions.

Protestant Fellowship Council

Our purpose is to bring glory to God in all that we pursue in and through the Protestant Faith Community

Members of the Protestant Fellowship Council in 2023

Fr. Ernie Curtin	MT-214	Polly Riddle	BG-120
Dolores Ehrenfeld	BC-312	Bob Swan	BR-201
John Hodges	BC-412	Lynn Swan	BR-201
Helen Hughes	DT-307	Janet Wentz	PV-107
Robert McQue	BR-301	Bud Williams	TC-107

Donations for Ukraine Relief and for Turkey / Syria Earthquake Relief:

Since March 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine more than \$ 21,900 has been sent by the Protestant Community to help with relief efforts. And we have been supporting relief efforts for those devastated by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; a total of \$ 4,000 has been sent to Samaritan's Purse.

Spiritual Retreat on October 14:

The Protestant Fellowship will host an all-campus spiritual retreat in the Multipurpose Room from 10:00 to 2:00. The retreat will be led by Rev. Sean Tripline. The deadline has been



extended to **October 5.**

Don't miss this inspiring time of prayer, reflection and spiritual growth.