

**UMM-** UMM will continue to find members of Grace, and local and world wide missions to support with our funds raised throughout the year. Below are some things on our plate.

- \* Meeting every 3rd Monday, unless otherwise communicated (not July)
- \* Continue to push brick sales
- \* Consider or arrange off site meeting (Bowling?)
- \* Feb 16th UMM Spiritual retreat at Mt. Horeb (1 day) used to be at Christ UMC in Myrtle Beach
- \* Feb 25th ? Fish Fry at Rehoboth UMC
- \* Mar 5th Serve Shrove Tuesday dinner
- \* Apr 21st Serve Easter sunrise breakfast
- \* May Onion sale
- \* June Serve dinner Thursday at VBS
- \* June BBQ at UMW yard sale
- \* Aug Fireflies game
- \* Oct Serve dinner at Trunk or Treat
- \* Dec Disperse available funds to designated recipients

Quarterly trash pick up on Piney Woods Rd.

Point of Contact: Marlin McPhail mmcphail24@gmail.com

**Membership** – Brian Strickland and Christine Shelton joined Grace. Our current membership is 271. Point of Contact: Joyce Sweeney

**Girl Scouts-** Grace has 6 Girl Scout Troops meeting here, along with monthly Service Unit leader meetings.

Thinking Day event will be held here on Saturday, February 2 for all troops in service unit.

Girl Scout Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, March 10

May SU leader meeting will be a potluck using fellowship hall on Tuesday, May 7.

Point of Contact Cindy Goodrich

**UMW-** 2019 Officers:

President- Cindy Goodrich

Vice- President- Carol Cranford

Secretary- Judy Copley

Treasurer- Darlene Simpson and Lula Stroman

\* Officer training was held on Saturday, January 12 with 3 Grace officers in attendance.

\* Reading Program – Potluck Breakfast meeting today, January 26 as previously planned at 9am in UMW room. Reading category is Education for Mission. Next event is Sunday, March 17 with Salad luncheon after 11 am church service, with reading category being Leadership Development.

\* December 19 meeting was Annual Secret Sister Reveal Dinner at 5:30pm at the Chocolate Factory Cafe. Secret Sister program being currently organized for 2019.

\* January 16th meeting was annual Missionary Birthday Party and Pledge service. “Stuffed purses” were donated to Killingsworth Home. Members voted on mission organizations to receive the remainder of monies in treasury.

\* February meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17 at 4pm at Francis Burns UMC, where we have been invited to attend their Prayer and Self-Denial Service.  
Point of Contact Cindy Goodrich

**SPRC** – The team held their first meeting January 14<sup>th</sup>. Training for SPRC PowerPoint was completed. District training is Sunday January 27<sup>th</sup> @ Mt. Hebron UMC. Area of specific training include sessions based on Church Staff size. Point of Contact: Billie Thompson  
billiethompson711@gmail.com

**Worship** – Services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Prayer Vigil and Easter Services have been added to the calendar. Point of Contact Sam Jones, Murray Snow

**UMYF- Will** host meetings during the school year with a break during Summer months. Meetings will be resumed when the next School year begins. Point of Contact Sam Jones, Jeremiah and Betsy Smoak

**Sunday School** – Sunday School - a planning meeting was held with the following:

- agree to continue with 5th Sunday ALL age Bible trivia & challenges
- agree to continue with CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH where his available lessons lend themselves.
- Our new split younger age groups struggle with attendees and curriculum is being tried we have never used before on the PreK
- Transportation for children was seen as an obstacle and discussion as to how to get parents to bring their kids or how to coordinate transportation for those children who want to come to church with their parents' authorization
- Since the latest safe sanctuary class we look forward to updated roster of volunteers to help us with Sunday School.
- We have discovered that when there are no nursery workers, our PreK class picks up the slack
- Child profiles are needed in a central location for all children. Those distributed in November have not all come back. We will keep blanks in each room with a central file to be established.
- A hunt in conjunction with Trustees to sort out usable v. trashable white boards, bulletin boards etc. Susan Floyd has volunteered to try and save as many as possible with recommendations on cleaner and product to use going forward
- Adult classes continue to be on auto-pilot with the addition of a Bible based class led by Mary Mason with 8 folks showing interest including those whom have never attended Sunday school

-Scheduled events:

2/10 Sunday school teacher appreciation breakfast 9:30a Blessing of the food -  
10:00 regular class with delayed start - bring a friend for a special surprise  
3/3 CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH. Mike Jennings LENT at 9:50am  
3/6 Lent begins ; Ash Wednesday

3/31 Sunday School Bible Challenge for ALL ages – Billie Thompson  
 4/14-20 Lex/Rich 5 spring break  
 4/14 CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH- “Easter” - Mike Jennings during fellowship time  
 LOFT CLASS breakfast- pick new book  
 4/18 Maundy Thursday  
 4/20 Easter egg hunt?! Waiting to hear from Children’s’ Council  
 4/21 Easter Sunday School  
 Trivia challenge for ALL ages led by Betsy Smoak and Susan Floyd  
 5/12 Mother’s Day  
 5/26 Sunday School Program = All ages Bible challenge - Billie Thompson  
 6/8 Sunday school - End of year party 10a-1p--water balloons, stomp rockets, beach ball volleyball - lunch  
 5/27 Memorial Day  
 6/6 Last school day for students  
 6/30 Sunday School Bible Challenge for ALL ages – Billie Thompson  
 7/4 Independence Day  
 9/2 Labor Day  
 9/15 Sunday school open house in Sanctuary – each class to make bi-fold / other  
 10/26 Trunk or treat?! Waiting for confirmation from Children’s’ council  
 10/31 Halloween  
 11/28 Thanksgiving  
 11/30 Acolyte training party advent church prep 10a-noon  
 12/1 Advent begins  
 12/1 CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH Mike Jennings on ADVENT at 9:50a

Point of Contact Kim Neel

**Children’s Council** – Plans are underway for a Valentine’s Day party for children and Youth, Hosting Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat and the Children’s Christmas program. Point of Contact Karen Bryant

**Hospitality-** We held our first meeting of the year on Mon 1/07 and discussed a tentative plan for the Wed fellowship meals thru April. Our first meal was held on Wed 1/23 in conjunction with the 2019 General Conference Information Meeting, presentation & discussion.

There were 30 who came for the meal of sloppy joes, chips, salad, fruit, brownies & pumpkin pudding. Our Feb Fellowship Meal will be on Wed Feb 6 and will consist of homemade vegetable soup, homemade chicken minestrone soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, fruit, and dessert.

Looking ahead: Pancake Supper on Tues March 5<sup>th</sup>

Point of Contact Sharon Henke

**Evangelism- Committee** has met and will continue with Movie Nights and participation in the Irmo Okra Strut. The committee is also looking at new activities for 2019. Point of Contact Richard Love

**Safety Team-** During the past year the Safety Team has been meeting regularly to address safety issues related to Grace in the areas of Security, Fire safety, Medical (First Aide) and Inclement Weather.

In the area of Safety:

1. Provided a monitor for church office that enables Bill to view all outside camera (7) continuously.
2. Providing additional individuals to monitor activity in Narthex and observe outside camera during church services. This is a work in progress, currently utilizing Wheels Van drivers.
3. Richland County Sheriffs Department conducted Courtesy Security Survey in June 2018. Safety Team has evaluated recommendations and taken appropriate actions.
4. Improved the functionality and accessibility of camera system. Equipment for camera systems is located in a remote, hard to access, area in Education Building, making it inconvenient to view or review video. Safety Team purchased an inexpensive laptop that allows all the same functions and convenient viewing for Team members.
5. Jurisdictional signs (3) stating that church property is under the jurisdiction of Columbia Police Department have been place in the picnic shelter (1) and back parking lot (2).

In the area of Fire Safety:

Determined the need for two (2) additional fire extinguishers in Sanctuary. They were installed in June 2018.

In the area of Medical/First Aide:

Inventoried existing first aid kits and determine additional kits were needed. Two (2) first aid kits were obtained; located one kit in the old kitchen and one kit in new kitchen. Trustees found funds to purchase an AED (Thank you Trustees). Safety Team installed the AED in the Education Building, 1st floor across from Library.

Inclement Weather:

None

Focus of Safety Team going forward:

1. A recent assault/attempted robbery in our back parking lot has raised awareness of after hours safety issues on our property. Per Columbia Police Department our parking lot is frequently utilized for illegal drug activity. Safety Team to evaluate ways to increase security after hours.
2. Look into obtaining grant money that can be used to enhance safety and security at Grace.
3. Develop response plans for security events, fires, medical emergencies, and inclement weather. Point of Contact Mike Simpson

**Finance/Treasurer-** copies of Budget and monthly statements are sent electronically. Teh next Finance meeting is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup> to update plans for funds received and pledged. Point of Contact Roger Bryant

**Growth and Change-** the Growth and Change Committee has met three times: October 22 and November 26, 2018 and January 14, 2019. Those meetings have resulted in discussion of three of the committee's charges (A, B, C below).

A. Committee will inventory all current activities, ministries, and service/outreach opportunities of the church: Completed.

B. Committee will prioritize all activities, etc. by matching activities with resources.

The committee realizes that monetary and human resources at Grace are limited. The congregation is aging and, along with that fact, motivation for participation in and leading current activities is waning as well as desire/passion to begin new activities. Also, the size of the congregation is decreasing. The mission of the church in the future, thus, will have to change/adapt.

The committee feels the congregation is very interested in growing hearts for service, but this growth would have to be done in ways that the ages/financial constraints/time constraints/levels of motivation could handle.

Since most, if not all, current activities are self – sustaining, it would be difficult to prioritize activities and the committee is unsure how to do this without causing problems with negative repercussions.

C. Committee will develop a process to sustain church activities by recommending some activities for sunset as well as recommending new activities.

The committee feels that resurrection of discontinued activities is unnecessary. Much discussion took place on the subject of new activities and specifics on those discussions will be included in our final report to the council. It may be more advantageous for Grace to focus on one church – wide mission project rather than to “scatter” involvement amongst many different projects.

D. Committee will develop a process to implement and monitor progress of the Grace 2020 strategic plan.

This topic will be addressed at our next meeting, which will take place on Monday, February 11 at 7:00 PM. Point of Contact Carol Cranford

**Lay Member Annual Conference** The South Carolina Annual conference will be June 2-6. Point of Contact Joyce Sweeney

**Reports submitted by committees and compiled by:**

Billie Thompson  
Recording Secretary