

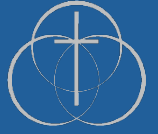


Summer 2026 Edition  
June-July-August

# GRACE METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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410-739-4364  
[pastorpettit@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpettit@gmail.com)



## From the Pastor's Desk ...

In January 2025, our newly formed Missions Team gathered to prayerfully discern how Grace Church could expand its impact—using our time, talents, gifts, and resources to serve others and bring glory to God. While continuing our existing partnerships (One Mission Cambridge, Overflow Café, Dorchester Winter Shelter, and Samaritan's Purse), we sensed the Lord stirring new directions in our hearts.

One of those directions stood out as especially bold: **church planting**. Healthy churches plant churches. It is one of the primary ways the Kingdom of God advances. According to Lifeway Research, in 2024 there were 3,800 new Protestant church openings in the U.S. but 4,000 closures—a net loss of 200 churches.

As church planting expert Ed Stetzer has noted, *“Without church planting, every denomination that’s growing would be shrinking and every denomination that’s shrinking would be shrinking more. Church planting is the most significant engine for evangelistic growth that we have.”*

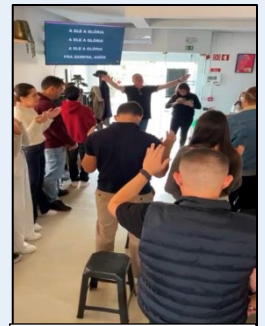
We don't have to look far to see the need. On the Eastern Shore, many historic churches that once stood as vibrant centers of faith have closed their doors, while new church plants are reaching fresh segments of our communities. We rejoice in the impact of The Garden Church in Cambridge, led by Pastor Andrew Cooper, which is effectively sharing the gospel with people who are now encountering Christ. To God be the glory!



Pastor Fábio Arantes

At our January meeting last year, I believed church planting was still several years away for us. Then, in March, we received a timely invitation from Rev. Leo Parks, the new Missional Strategist for the Northeast Conference of the Global Methodist Church. A promising church planting work had begun in **Coimbra, Portugal**, under the leadership of Pastor Fábio Arantes. Small groups were already meeting, and regular worship services were starting. The young plant needed one-time startup support from mission-minded churches to help it launch strongly.

Our Missions Team enthusiastically agreed to contribute **\$1,000**. We are thrilled to say: Grace Church has now helped plant its first church—halfway around the world!



Portugal start-up at worship

See the next page for an email received on Tuesday, May 26 from Pastor Arantes.

Closer to home, the Maryland East District of the Global Methodist Church has a vision to see a healthy GMC congregation in every Eastern Shore County. Worcester County currently has none. We are praying for that door to open and stand ready to play a role in that expansion as the Lord leads.

Jesus' final command remains clear: *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* — Matthew 28:19-20

*Pastor Chris*

## *Beloved Pastor Pettit and Grace Methodist Church of Cambridge*

*Grace and peace,*

*We are happy to be part of the project born in the heart of God for salvation in Europe through the Global Methodist Church, planted in Coimbra. Our hearts are filled with joy to serve God here in this city and to have the privilege of being instruments in the Lord's hands so that more lives may know God and His word.*

*We are also immensely grateful to you and your beloved church for agreeing to be a part of this project through your prayers and contributions. We want to express here our sincere and profound thanks to God for your lives and willingness to sow into our ministry as a pastoral family.*

*We pray that the Lord will bless you and supply all your needs in glory, just as He has supplied ours through you. May the Eternal One continue to pour out and manifest His love in you and through you.*

*We ask that you continue to pray for us and for this project, because the challenges are great, but we believe that God's plans will not be thwarted.*

*In Christ,  
Rev. Fabio Arantes  
GMC – Coimbra, Portugal*

## Grace for Alzheimer's

Joanne Rue



More than 7 million people in the U.S. are suffering with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. About 1 in 9 seniors has the disease and approximately 200,000

under the age of 65 have younger onset dementia. We have all been affected by this disease – even in our own congregation.

One of the ways our team is raising money for the Alzheimer's Assoc. is by having a cake sale for Father's Day. Each cake will be \$20. A sign-up sheet will be in the Adult Sunday School and worship services from May 31 to June 14. The money will be due by June 14<sup>th</sup> with checks payable to the **Alzheimer's Association**. Cakes can be picked up on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Choose your favorite cake flavor to enjoy and your donation will help put an end to this horrible disease.

## The Church is Walking

By Butch Hachemeister

Grace is walking through life with the Lord.  
The congregation is walking to see the sun rise early  
in the morning.  
We are walking through life's trials and tribulations.  
We are walking through life's sorrows.  
We are walking through the rain as the water is  
running down our cheeks.  
We are walking a little slower, but we know Jesus is  
supporting us.  
We are walking with the Spirit of the Lord.  
We are walking with our personal Savior, Jesus Christ,  
knowing that the Lord has given us eternal life.

# UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS



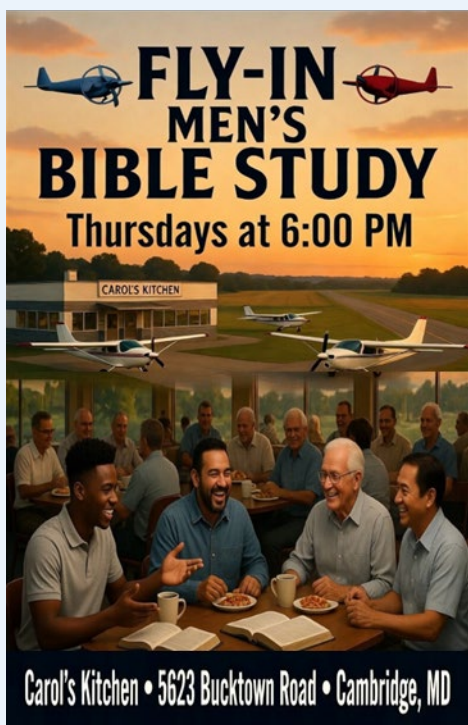
**Grace Summer  
Youth Group**  
**Mondays @ 5:30**  
June 1, 15, 29  
July 13, 27  
August 10, 24



**Church  
Council**

Grace Church Council meets  
**Tuesday, June 23**  
**Dr. Hines Room**

Committees meet at 6:30 p.m. and full  
Council meets at 7:00 p.m.



**FLY-IN  
MEN'S  
BIBLE STUDY**  
Thursdays at 6:00 PM

CAROL'S KITCHEN

Carol's Kitchen • 5623 Bucktown Road • Cambridge, MD



**NURSING HOME  
MINISTRY**

**JOIN US**

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**Tuesday, June 16, July 21 & August 18**  
**10:00 am**  
**MALLARD BAY NURSING & REHAB**  
**520 GLENBURN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE**



**Nursing Home  
Bible Study**

Monthly  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday  
2:00 p.m.

Mallard Bay Nursing & Rehab  
520 Glenburn Avenue  
Cambridge



**CAKE SALE  
FUNDRAISER** TO BENEFIT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOC.

CAKE PICK-UP IS SUNDAY, JUNE 21

**\$20 PER CAKE**

CHOOSE THE CAKE YOU  
WANT TO PURCHASE ON THE  
SIGN-UP SHEET AND PAY  
JOANNE RUE OR THE CHURCH  
OFFICE BEFORE SUNDAY, JUNE 14

# Finance Committee

Bob Cowin, Chair

Your Finance Committee extends its blessings to all our Grace Church brothers and sisters in Christ.

The following is a brief update of Grace's operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2026:

**Collections from tithes** for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 were approximately \$78,000, which compares very favorably against collections of \$68,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 (a year-over-year increase of \$10,000 or 15.0%) and favorably against the 2026 budgeted collections of \$71,000 for the same period. Overall collections (i.e., tithes plus donations for Church Sunday School, Missions, WIGGLES (aka WinGS), Memorials, etc.) for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 totaled \$87,000 (a year-over-year increase of \$14,500 or 20.0%), which is a faithful testimony to the incredibly generous and giving nature of the Grace Church congregation.

**Operating expenses** for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 were approximately \$69,000 (excluding Mission grants of \$13,000 and capital improvement projects totaling \$24,000), which compares favorably against expenses of \$77,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. Increased electricity costs and salary raises for Church staff were more than offset by lower administrative expense spending and the absence of Repair & Maintenance expenses for the 503 Race Street property. Importantly, disbursements for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 were also lower (about \$5,000 or about 7.0%) than budgeted operating expenses for the same period.

Once again, we are incredibly thankful and grateful to the Grace Church congregation for your generous support of God's work in the beginning of 2026. We pray that this spirit of giving will continue through the remainder of the year.

# Trustees Committee

Kerry Walters, Chair

By God's grace and the diligent efforts of the Trustee team, several major projects and routine church maintenance items have moved forward this spring.

## Stained Glass Restoration

- Stained glass restoration work by Epiphany Studios is progressing beautifully!
- However, the large round window above the altar is in worse condition than we initially thought
- It must be removed and sent to the Epiphany workshop in Virginia for a full restoration
- We look forward to a celebration and re-dedication of the windows upon completion of the project

## 503 Race Street Renovation

- Demolition, HVAC system checkout, and initial electrical rough-in are complete
- Grinding and removal of the old flooring is underway
- Insulation and drywall will begin soon after that
- Followed by installation of lights and HVAC ducting

## Pending New Projects

- Performed demolition of the loose plaster in the Muir Street vestibule
  - Repair of the plaster is on hold until the roof repairs are completed
- Obtaining bids for replacement of the slate roof on the Sanctuary
- Repair of masonry and windows on the Dr. Hines addition

Lastly, the Church Council is meeting with Trustees to discuss the church-wide spring-cleaning dates. This will be a collective effort to get rid of discarded, abandoned, broken, and unwanted items throughout the church, and to re-organize those items we want to keep, followed by a good cleaning of each space.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” - Colossians 3: 23 - 24*

# Missions Committee

Vicki Hayden

*“When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.”*

Romans 12:13

## Nursing Home Ministry:

- We continue to go to Mallard Bay on the third Tuesday of the month at 10AM to sing hymns, share a devotion, have Holy Communion, and pray with the residents. All are welcome to join in this ministry.
  - We have started a bible study at Mallard Bay. We are going 2 Tuesdays a month at 2 PM. We would love to have some more volunteers. The lessons are very easy to conduct using a pre-printed hand-out. We go in pairs and you do not need any special training to participate. Please see Kerry or Vicki if you are interested or would like more info.
  - We have an “Adopt a Patient” component to our Nursing Home Ministry. If you choose to “adopt” a patient, you will send them a Birthday and Christmas card. In addition, if you felt so led, you could call or visit them or even send a little gift on their birthday or Christmas. We currently have a female patient that would love to be adopted. Let Vicki know if you are interested. All are welcome to join in any part of this ministry.
- ❖ The Salvation Army took over shelter oversight for the Dorchester Temporary Shelter on April 1st. Missions will continue to provide dinner and breakfast food for next day on the first Sunday of the month.
- ❖ Pastor Chris and Kerry Walters continue to participate in Prayer and Share at ECI in Princess Anne.
- ❖ Two new ministries are being launched soon that will need guidance/resources for ways to serve in missions: Youth Group and Young Adults Bible Study. The Youth Group held a Cookout at the Pastor’s House on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Starting in June, there will be regular youth group meetings throughout the summer from 7-9:30 p.m.. A young adults Bible Study is in the making. More details will be forthcoming.

## Mission Moments:

- Following the April Missions Moment talk about The Campaign got Grade Level Reading (TCFGLR), two people volunteered to be readers in the schools.
- Lynette Burns spoke to us on Missions Sunday in May about being a C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer. C.A.S.A. volunteers advocate for abused or neglected children in court.

Thank you for your generous donations each month on Missions Sunday. As you can see, they help fund a large variety of worthy causes. We couldn’t serve God’s people without your help.

# Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Vicki Hayden

*“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands”.* Psalms 90:17

An ad has been placed on INDEED the beginning of April for a part-time Director of Music Ministry. Please continue to pray for Grace and the SPRC as we seek the perfect individual to serve Grace in this capacity.

If you have any concerns relating to Graces’ staff, the congregation, or housekeeping, please share them with me or another member of the SPRC. We are here to work for you and Grace to make this the best church family we can, in honor the Lord.

Members: Allen Nelson, Charlene Stagg, Carol Coulbourn, Celeste Bennett, Penny Wheatley, Gene Skinner, Cindy Love, and Susan Walters.



# International Partnership Team

Pastor Chris

Pastor Chris and Krista will be part of the International Partnership team from the Northeast Conference travelling to Malawi, Africa, July 1-10, along with Reverends Stephen Taylor, Leo Park, Emily Sydor and Tim Beardsley. During this trip, the team will be providing training to local clergy, participate in their Annual Conference, visit a few local churches and the Abundant Life Center - a vibrant ministry in Malawi that serves primarily widows and children. You can learn more about what they do at [abundantlifecentermalawi.org](http://abundantlifecentermalawi.org). Please pray for this team - that they will be vessels of God's grace, that relationships are strengthened, the gospel is shared and that they walk in the Holy Spirit's power.



**ONE MISSION**  
C A M B R I D G E  
FOOD, RESOURCES, COUNSELING

# RUMMAGE SALE

*to benefit*  
**ONE MISSION CAMBRIDGE**



**SATURDAY, JULY 18**  
**8AM - 1PM**



**ELKS CLUB**  
5464 Elks Lodge Road  
Cambridge, MD



### WE ARE COLLECTING:



CLOTHING,  
SHOES &  
PURSES



JEWELRY &  
COLLECTIBLES



HOUSEHOLD  
ITEMS



ITEMS THAT  
ONE PERSON CAN  
CARRY BY  
THEMSELVES



**NO LARGE ITEMS**  
No mattresses,  
couches,  
upholstered items,  
dressers



Items will be sorted for a Rummage Sale and  
also for One Mission Cambridge's new online store.  
*All proceeds to benefit One Mission Cambridge*

### COLLECTION DAYS & TIMES:



**MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY**  
**(JULY 13-15): 8AM - 11AM**

One Mission Cambridge  
Mission Center  
614 Race Street, Cambridge



**THURSDAY & FRIDAY**  
**(JULY 16-17): 4PM - 7PM**

Elks Club  
5464 Elks Lodge Road, Cambridge



*Questions?*  
CONTACT:  
**443-521-6825**



**TOGETHER,**  
*we serve our*  
**COMMUNITY.**