

2017 Theme Verses: "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in all things give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus ." 1 Thess. 5:16-18

Welcome to the Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

April 2, 2017

Services at Grace:

Sunday School: 9:30am

Class: 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.)

Teacher: Caroll Ann Perkins

Class: 4th - 6th grade (5A)

Teacher: Robin Predmore

Class: Adults (6B)

Teacher: Dave Goodwyn

Class: New Members (Pastor's Study)

Teacher: Pastor Jeff

Class: 1st - 3rd grade (KIDMO)

Teacher: Laura Kimsey

Class: DRIVEN (Jr. & Sr. High)

Teacher: Timothy Lansing

Class: Adults (Conf. Rm.)

Teacher: Ron Muir

Class: Young Adults (9:15am)

Teachers: Sebastian B. & Tim R.

Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

Children's Church for 3-5 years old & K-3rd grade meets after the opening and our Nursery is available now for infants through 2 years old.

Please see an usher if you need assistance. Thank you.

Serving Today:

Worship Leader: Joey Ramirez; **Teacher:** Pastor Jeff Patton

Ushers: Tom Bickenbach-Lead, Benny Ramirez, Ron Muir & Matt Hurtado

Nursery: SS: Josie R. & Stephanie ; **Worship:** Sandy & Marie

Children's Church: 3yrs.-5yrs.: Clansy & Andrew , K-3rd: Dennis & Leticia

MISSIONS NEWS:

Please pick up one of Wayne & Ellen Patton's prayer letters located on the missionary table in the foyer or go to their website at: www.pattons.org.

and please remember to keep them in your prayers for their safety, health, and ministry in Brazil.

Events This Week at Grace:

**Good News Club: New River

Tues., 2:30pm

Women of Grace (date change)

Tues., 6:30pm

FAMILY NIGHT: DRIVEN 6:30pm, ABS & ROCK

Wed., 6:45pm

**Good News Club: DDJohnston

Thurs., 2:45pm

Ladies' Psalms Study

Fri., 10:00am

Heights of Grace Ministry

Sat., 10:00am

****Donations: clubs need 65 drinks & snacks each week (2 wks. left); please drop off donations in the church office. Thanks.**

Events This Month:

Palm Sunday Three-fold Communion

Sun., 4/9, 12:15pm

Ladies' Discipleship (Patton home)

Mon., 4/10, 7:00pm

Heights of Grace Ministry (date change)

Sat., 4/15, 10am

EASTER Worship Service (No Sunday School)

Sun., 4/16, 10:45am

Elders' Meeting (Patton home)

Tues., 4/18, 7:00pm

NO FAMILY NIGHT SERVICES ON WEDNESDAY, 4/19

Prayer Table

Sat., 4/22, 8am-noon

Worship Commission Meeting

Sun., 4/23, 8:30am

1st Quarter Business Meeting

Sun., 4/30, 12:15pm

For The Record:

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 75 Worship Service: 105

Church Announcements:

WOMEN OF GRACE MEETING: Ladies, please come this Tuesday evening at 6:30pm in the Conf. Room (6A) for a special time together. See you then!

URGENT NEED FOR GIFT CARDS:

Due to some pressing needs and lack of gift cards, the Care Commission would like to ask if you would please donate a grocery card (\$25 or \$50) or a gasoline card (\$25) to meet the needs of our church family. Please drop off your gift card(s) in the church office or give to Robert Kimsey. Thank you so much.

SAVE THE DATE:

"VACATION BIBLE CLUB" = VBC

OPERATION ARCTIC —

EXPLORING THE COOLEST BOOK

ON THE PLANET

Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

July 24-28, 2017 from 9am-noon

If you are interested in helping in some way, please see or text Laura Kimsey (562-458-3866), VBC & Children's Coordinator.



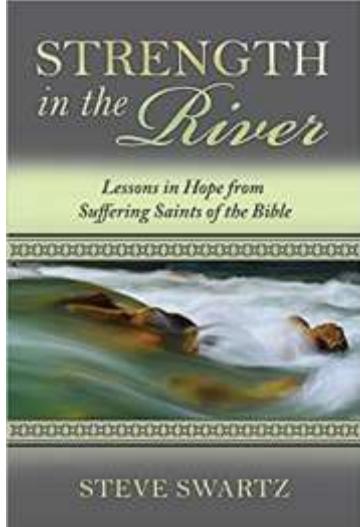
HEIGHTS OF GRACE MINISTRY NEED:

We are in need of additional cans of food to take on Saturdays for the homeless and hungry. If you would be willing to bring 1 or more cans of food (such as beans, fruits, veggies, etc), please bring to Ron Muir's Sunday School room – 6A /Conference room.

Thanks so much for your generosity.

"Wind & Waves" (page 2)

Swartz has written 16 very brief chapters in a devotional format that teaches Truth and comforts the soul. He uses 14 people from Scripture, encouraging the reader by their response to hurt, pain, and suffering: Jeremiah, James, Jesus, Abraham, Ruth, Paul, David, Peter, Elijah, Job, Eve, Hemen, Joseph, and Hannah. Each illustration offers the hope of Christ as the remedy for suffering. Even if you are not suffering, this is a great resource for learning how to truly, biblically, comfort the hurting and suffering in a way that is the most effective and helpful. If you would like to contribute a copy of this book to the church library that is being assembled, please notify Pastor Jeff.



(If you have missed any of Pastor's notes, please see the Pastor's Blog on our church website: www.GraceLive.com.)

NOTE FROM PASTOR



"Wind & Waves"

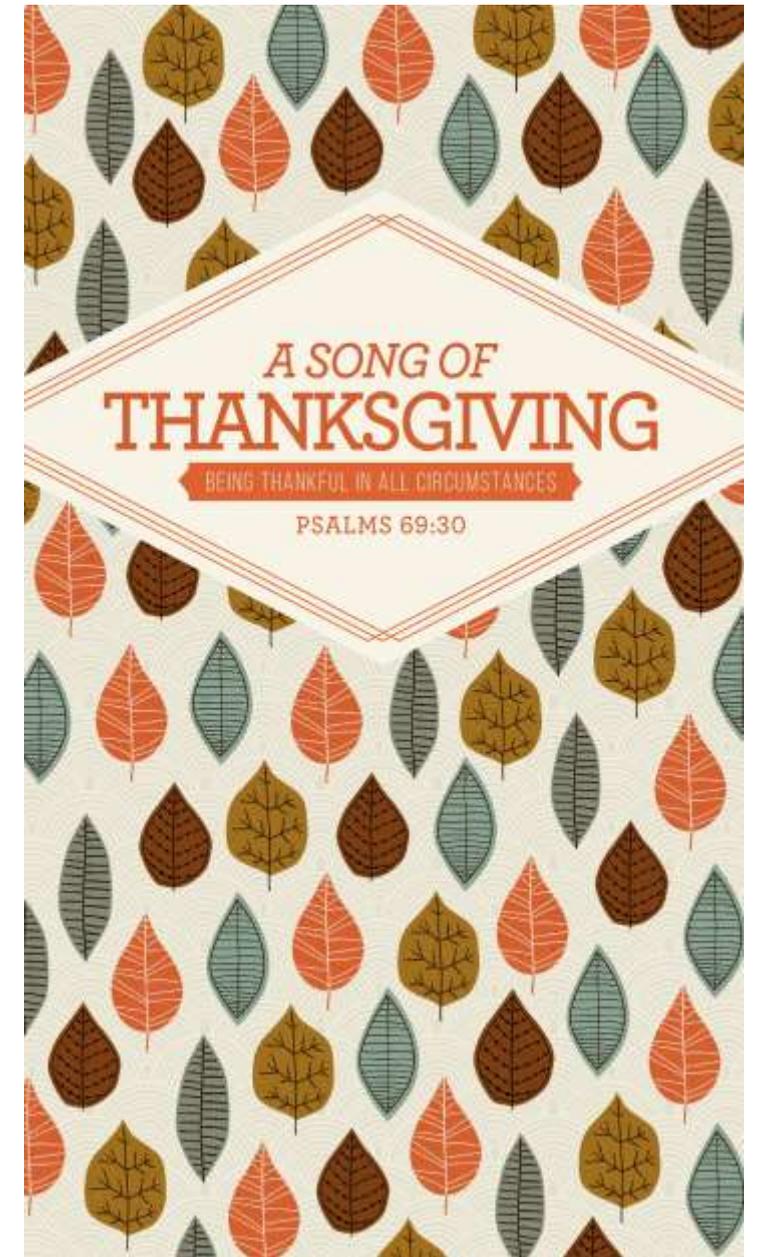
You Gotta Read This! (YGRT!)

"My eyes flow with rivers of tears." Lamentations 3:48

"Strength in the River: Lessons in Hope from Suffering Saints of the Bible"

by Steve Swartz, Kress Biblical Resources, 2016, 207 pp., \$14.99.

The great 19th century English preacher Charles Spurgeon said, "I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages." When the pain of a life-altering event first arrives, the theological truths we know about God and suffering carry us, but in the actual moment of the suffering, we do not need advice, but comfort. Suffering in this life comes in many forms: death of loved ones, debilitating diseases, mysterious depressions, or wayward children. Often we can reach a point when we think the hurt should be decreasing, but we realize this so-called short-term crises is actually a marathon, or a swollen river of grief. Steve Swartz is Pastor of Grace Bible Church in Bakersfield, CA, and a seminary professor, and he knows firsthand what it means to hurt and suffer. *Strength in the River* offers not just help, but hope and comfort for those with deep, overwhelming hurts (continued on page 2).



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