

The beauty of a diamond comes from its facets, the flat surfaces that reflect a color of the light that strikes it. White light hits the diamond and is refracted into all the colors of the spectrum. This ever-changing dazzle makes the diamond the most highly sought gem stone.

The Bible serves as a kind of diamond for us when it comes to the word grace. Grace is God's unconditional love for us, His free offer of salvation to us through the death of Jesus. I have also noted for you that grace and joy come from the same root word in Greek. We experience joy only through grace, not through a vain effort at endless performance and comparisons.

Grace has another facet every Christian should know and understand. It means kindness, or even charm (in the best sense of the word). The Christian should have a winsome quality of gentle kindness that effects people and points them to God.

I believe Paul had this facet of grace in mind when he wrote in Ephesians 4:7 "Grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." What does grace mean here? In the previous few verses Paul wrote of "leading a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called" (4:1), and noted some of the specific expressions of this calling

(humility, gentleness, patience and understanding). These qualities lead to one of the great New Testament passages about unity in the church, for we use all of these qualities to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (4:3).

So what does this all have to do with grace? I am quite sure when Paul wrote "grace was given to each of us" he meant that as we have received grace from God, we are to share our gift of grace in the specific ways he just outlined. You have a measure of grace, of kindness and gentleness, to share. This facet of grace leads to unity and peace.

So, how are you showing kindness and gentleness to-day in your family? At work? In your church? On Airline Highway? Our increasingly harsh world deeply needs the practical facets of grace. Find ways to reflect this charming facet of grace to bring unity and peace.

Grace, **7erry Ellis** 

#### **ADULTS**

#### **Lenten Calendars**

2015 Lenten calendars will be available at the Greeters desk on Sunday. The calendar provides you with daily opportunities to reflect during this Lenten season.

**Trustee's Meeting**Monday, March 9
6:00 p.m.

# Preschool Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 11 5:00 p.m.

## **LLL** Thursday, March 12

We will tour San Francisco House Plantation and eat lunch at the Grapevine Cafe in Donaldsonville. Call the church office to

## Fashion Me A People Wednesdays, 6:20 p.m.

We continue with our five month church-wide study entitled *Fashion Me A People* in place of our regular Wednesday night bible study. Five courses focus on the five purposes of the church: worship, service, fellowship, discipleship, and sharing. It's not too late, join us this Wednesday!

## Women's Book Study

Monday, February 23 6:30 p.m.

#### **New Directory**

Printed copies of the directory are now available. If you would prefer a hard copy, please contact the church office and we will print one for you. The online directory is available through www.instantchurchdirectory.com. Click on "church member signin", then create a login through "first time sign-in." From there follow website instructions. For a phone app version, visit the Apple App Store, Google Play, or Amazon Appstore and search "instant church directory" for download. The directory will also be available through our website.

Dr. Ellis' Sermon Series continues

The Difference Between

Good & Bad

Religion

Sunday, February 22 10:30 a.m.

Focus on God,
Or You Focus on Nothing
Matthew 6:19-24

#### **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

Sage Rehab Ruth Phelps

Home from the Hospital
Faith Pfrimmer

**Thank You** 

Words of sincere appreciation have been received from:

Charles and Alice Steele
The family of Lanell
Helouin

**New Members** 

Gay and Larry Jordan 1861 Old Plantation Lane Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Gay and Larry come on statement of faith. Larry is a selfemployed home builder, and they are the parents of church members Cindy Lee and Alan Jordan.

**In Loving Memory** 

Mrs. Gladys Mays united with this church on August 9, 1964 and departed this life on February 13, 2015.

## **NEW DAY2DAY BIBLE STUDY**

Looking for a group of folks who ask and discuss what the Christian life looks like Day2Day? If you enjoy discussion of worthy, contemporary questions in relation to our Judeo-Christian tradition, then the Day2Day class may be just for you! Come join this group Sunday mornings at 9:15 in Room 218 for a discussion on the challenges and triumphs of Christian living Day2Day.

Starting February 22, we will begin a 6 week series on Forgiveness as a Lenten study. We will use the book by Marjorie Thompson titled *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*. The book is not necessary for participation and each Sunday's class will stand alone.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER February 25

Chicken Pot Pie, Asian Slaw, Rolls, Impossible Coconut Pie

## **CALENDAR**

Thursday, February 19 10:00 A BBQ

Sunday, February 22

9:00 A Library Opens 9:15 A Bible Study 10:30 A Worship

Extended Teaching Care Sam Oakley, Baileigh Futch, Anne Brown, Nicole Patton, Ainsley and Jack Nunneley

5:00 P Youth Choir

Forum with Dr. Ellis, SDR

5:45 P Belles & Beaux 6:00 P Youth Bible Study

**Monday, February 23** 

6:30 P Women's Book Study

Tuesday, February 24

9:30 A Yoga

5:30 P First Place for Health

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 A Men's Prayer Breakfast

Library Opens 5:15 P Dinner

6:00 P Children's Choirs

Youth Bible Study **Adult Prayer Time** 

6:20 P Fashion Me A People **Group Discussions** 

6:40 P Children's Mission Group

7:00 P Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 26 10:00 A BBQ

To Reach an On Call Minister call 328-3474

**CHILDREN'S UPCOMING EVENTS** 

> April 4 **Spring Picnic**

**May 29** Day with Dr. T

June 1-July 24

**Summer Kid's Camp** PreK4-5th Grade Register in the Church Office

**June 15-19** 

**Music Camp** "Are We There Yet?"

> July 10-II **VBS Weekend**

YOUTH UPCOMING **EVENTS** 

March 21 **Youth Service Project** 

> **April 4 Spring Picnic**

> > **May 17**

**Youth Olympics** "Paint Edition"

**June 21-26** 

**Youth Cue Choir Trip** Washington, DC

**July 19-25** 

**Passport Camp** Danville, VA

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Forum

a discipleship group

resumes

Sunday, February 22 5:00 p.m.

Topic of Discussion: Thinking About God

Forum is a time for discussion, discipleship, and deeper relationships.

SDR, child care will be provided.

