

Family Ministry Newsletter

Spring 2017



"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Col 3:12)



There is an African proverb that says, "Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you." Meaning? Working together provides protection from the enemy.

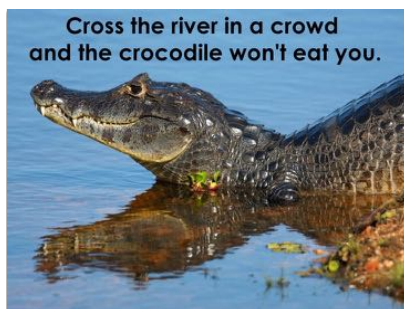
Our Grace PC family is in the midst of major transition and change. Your youth ministry feels it. Your adults feel it. Your staff feels it. And sometimes even your children feel it. No matter what the issue of the moment is, be it agreeing on members of the PNC, choosing a new Youth Director, or being displaced by the organ installation,

one thing is certain – we are all in this transition together.

I pray we all heed the proverb's advice to stick together. Don't let the enemy divide us. Resist the temptation to criticize and complain. Our strength and safety is in numbers. Lean on each other and lean into God moving forward. Please remember, **WE ARE ON THE SAME TEAM.** As our high school students are studying, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Col 3:12) Let's cross the river of transition together. God has wonderful plans on the other side!

If you or your child needs to talk, your Family Ministries Team is here to listen and help.

Kelly Raaum
Dir of Family Ministries



Upcoming Events

March 19
Youth Dinner - Turner's

March 26
High School Summit

April 7
First Friday Friends

April 9
Return OGHS banks

April 15
Easter Egg Hunt

April 23
HS Senior SS Begins

April 23
NUMANA Mission Event

April 30
Youth Dinner - Alves'

May 5
First Friday Friends

May 7
Coffee & Cupcakes with Mom



A Note from Pastor Cara:

Life is full of change and transitions. While it is difficult for adults, sometimes it can be paralyzing for children. I would encourage parents to lean into Grace PC to help your child with any challenges that they are facing.

Every children's Sunday School class has dedicated Small Group Leaders to walk with your child, in whatever they face. They are committed to making an investment in your child's life and what's really cool is that it is happening! On Sunday mornings I am privileged to see the relationships growing between children and Small Group Leaders because they are given freedom to share. I love seeing children who are excited each week to see their Small Group Leaders and share what has been going on in their lives that week.

As Grace PC transitions into new phases of leadership, please know that there are people every Sunday who are invested in caring for your child and who are safe for your child to talk to. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or to share what your child is going through, please feel free to contact myself by e-mail at cara@gracepc.org or my office number is 469-429-6800.

Peace,
Pastor Cara
Children's Pastor

Easter Sunday – April 5th

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR WORSHIP NOW! Godly Play will still meet as usual. There will be a special children's lesson during the 11:00 worship service.

Children's Spring Mission Project - One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks March 5th – April 9th

During the month of March children can pick up their fish banks, fill them, to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Your family will receive a resource that will help you focus on mission during the season of Lent. Bring back your fish bank to worship on Palm Sunday, April 9th!



Easter Egg Hunt



Get your baskets ready!!! On Saturday, April 15th from 10:00am-11:00am is the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Petting zoo and special Easter activity stations will begin at 10:00am with the hunt starting at 10:45am. Be sure to invite your friends!



Palm Sunday – Family Worship Sunday – April 9th

Family Worship Sunday on April 9th! Children will be processing into worship with palm branches and children's choirs will be singing and ringing. **DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FISH BANK TO WORSHIP!** If you have any questions please contact Pastor Cara at cara@gracepc.org.



VBS REGISTRATION OPENS ONLINE MAY 1st!!!

Sign up at gracepc.org! Dates are July 10th – 14th!

2nd Graders invited to FFF – Friday, May 5th!

All 2nd graders are invited to join First Friday Friends at CareFree Colors at 1301 W. Parker Road #110 in Plano from 7:00-9:00pm. Each child will make a painting with the picture of their choosing. Cost is \$10 per child and there will have fun snacks to celebrate the last First Friday Friends of the school year!

Save the Date:

Church and Day School Picnic – Friday, May 19th

VBS – July 10th-14th

Volunteer Spotlight



Kerry Stamper – You know Kerry as Pastor Bryan’s wife, but she is also a dedicated Family Ministries Volunteer. Kerry is a Small Group Leader for the 1st & 2nd graders on Sunday mornings. She faithfully welcomes children with her infectious smile and open arms attitude. Our families are blessed by her service on our team! Thank you, Kerry!

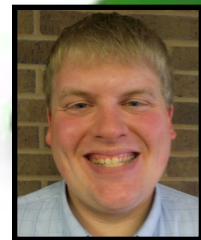
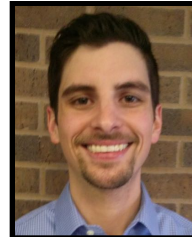
The X-Plan

No, not the X-Men, but the X-Plan. As our children grow (and spend more time away from us), so does our anxiety about their choices. We teach them and encourage them and remind them, but ultimately it’s up to them. We can then only pray they make good decisions.

When our children find themselves in situations that they need to escape, here is a powerful lifeline that can be used in any family and any situation. Read here! <https://bertfulks.com/2017/02/23/x-plan-giving-your-kids-a-way-out-xplan/>

Our IT group

We know many companies have IT teams – Information Technology. Family Ministries now has an IT Group – our Interim Team of Young Adults who have stepped up to help lead our Youth Ministry in this season of transition! We are so thrilled that they have volunteered to keep our Youth Min programs up and running while we seek just the right person to permanently fill the role. Please welcome and say thank you to John Swindle, Kemberly & Stephen Peyton, Meghan Hardison and Steve Helfin. Our students will see them on Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and at events in between. **WELCOME!**



Back in January, Frisco ISD hosted best-selling author and psychologist Dr. Madeline Levine during a free parenting seminar. Dr. Levine highlighted a trend she has observed in teenagers who seem to have everything going for them. Materialism, pressure to achieve, perfectionism and disconnection can impact students and their development. She also offered advice on how to raise children with a healthy sense of self. Her seminar was titled, “The Price of Privilege”. It was both eye-opening and informative.

You can watch the broadcast using the link below. I encourage all parents to view it!

<http://www.friscoisd.org/news/district-headlines/2017/02/02/price-of-privilege>

High School Senior Sunday School

All 12th graders are invited to a special 6-week series of Sunday School classes to help prepare you for faith after high school. Come spend an hour each Sunday, April 23-May 28, with Graham Bower, our Director of College and Young Adult Ministries. You'll spend time talking about faith, doubts, and sensitive topics you always wanted to address before you leave home. This is a safe place. Want to join us? Let Graham or Kelly know.

Coffee & Cupcakes Mother's Special

All girls (MS and HS) and their mothers are invited to our next get together on Sunday, May 7 from 12:15-1:30. Kelly Raam and Kemberly Peyton will lead this time together after a light lunch and yummy cupcakes!



Youth Dinners

**Youth Dinner –from 6-8PM, right after choir rehearsal.
See everyone there!**

**March 19 - Melvyn & Kris Turner's home,
4520 Reunion Drive, Plano, TX 75024.**

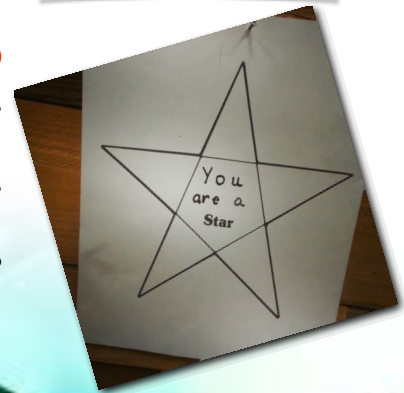
**April 3 - Fred & Marelly Alves' home, (Bruno & Julia),
2413 Deer Horn Dr, Plano, TX 75025.**

FREE FOOD

High School Summit

FREE FOOD

We want to know what YOU want from your Youth Ministry. We invite all high schoolers to join our IT group and Kelly Raam on Sunday, March 26, from 6-7:30P, at CiCi's at Park and Coit. This time is for you to share your thoughts and needs with your ministry team. From this meeting, we'll be planning a program just for YOU! RSVP online at gracepc.org/signups/



Sunday Morning Lesson Overview:

We all have a favorite distraction—something we get lost in. And while there's nothing wrong with taking a break, you've probably also discovered that it's more tempting to reach for something fun when you're facing something that isn't. We all have a tendency to avoid something difficult by doing something easy. Or we escape something painful by running toward something that feels good. Or we hide something that hurts by pretending it isn't there. But maybe you've also noticed that none of these strategies really work. In fact, sometimes our favorite escapes can leave us feeling more stuck than before. In this series we'll look at three ways we're all tempted to skip out on the real life that God has for us. As we do, you may just find God's inviting you to stop avoiding it, escaping it, or hiding it and just . . . deal with it.