



## May Newsletter

### Grace Community Church

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### Paul's Transformation and Our Current Divide - Acts 20:13-38

I love this story of how Paul sent for the elders at the church in Ephesus. He was a prisoner of Rome at the time on his way to a trial before Caesar. He did not have time to go to Ephesus so asked them to come down to the coast and meet him.

He gave them a final charge, they prayed together and then they fell into one another's arms embracing Paul, kissing him and shedding tears.

I create in my mind around this story, the thought of a fisherman observing this event. He is a man who knows about the incredible animosity between liberals and conservatives. Oops! Sorry. I mean between Jews and Gentiles. He is shocked as he watches this Jew allow himself to be embraced and loved by Gentiles. A Jew will have nothing to do with a Gentile. Not even eat with them. What is going on?

And his shock is warranted. In fact, if he had known this man Paul a few years earlier, and had said to him, "in a few years you will be on a beach hugging a bunch of Gentiles and shedding tears because you might never see them again. Clearly, you will care about and love these Gentiles." Paul would have told the fisherman that he was out of his mind and that no such thing would ever, ever happen. Not with that group. Never!

And then I see the fisherman going home and telling his wife about this amazing event. She would also be very perplexed.

Then the fisherman tells her that he finally went up and asked this man, "what happened to you? How can you do this? You used to despise Gentiles?"

"What happened to me? Well, Jesus happened to me!"

Let us pray that "Jesus" will happen to a whole lot more of us!

#### **A Mission Moment - Please remember the Giving partner Challenge**

Visit [givingpartnershipchallenge.org](http://givingpartnershipchallenge.org) from noon May 1 to noon May 2. Child Evangelism Fellowship and Pregnancy Solutions are two of our missions participating. Your donation will be matched \$ for \$ up to \$100.



## SETTING AT THE GATE (THE ELDERS REPORT)

AHHH! MAY! May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day Weekend, the start of the summertime vacation ritual! School will soon be out for the summer vacation break and a few visitors will infiltrate our lives but nothing like the “winter time” guests that explode our area or corner of the world. Time to relax, reflect, enjoy a lazy afternoon in the pool with a big glass of iced tea as one floats along on the air mattress, shades of ole Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer as they drifted down the Mississippi on their raft! Listen closely and one can hear the bees buzzing and the birds sweet melodies as you drift into yesterday’s world of melancholy! Sounds syrupy sweet, does it not?

You are correct, it is not that “laid back” and there is work to be done! We will need food for lunches for the young Missionaries that will be working daily at the five day club, see Nada for Details. Perhaps a volunteer or two for various details of support, craftsman to put the necessary “crafty” things together, helpers of all sizes and ages!

Time to evaluate and look at in depth every program, class, activity and Mission within and without our Church for viability, visibility, change, growth and future potential or need. How will each thing we do, promote or take ownership of to promote GOD’s work in our Church, in our community and beyond? (How about in our Hearts?)

I tell you good people GOD is here, GOD is doing things here, I see it, look at Easter Outreach Service, GOD is preparing this Congregation for something, I think something big, look at the smiles, enthusiasm and happiness on everyone’s face, the excitement is palpable I don’t know what but I know I feel it and we have a choice, mine is to grab ahold and hang on and be a part of it!!

Until next time we will be setting at the gate awaiting HIS return!!



As we look forward to summer and all the activities in the area, keep in mind our 5-Day Club! This year it will be held from **June 25 - 29** with the awards ceremony on Sunday, July 1. We will invite those children entering K - 5th grade. We will need two or three people to handle crafts and two or three people to handle snacks. Lunches for the teachers will be provided by the church family. CEF will be providing curriculum and teachers. If you would like to be a helper to listen to their memory verses, we would welcome that too. Yes, it is a bit early, but please put it on your calendar and pray about how you can help.



May 12th - Solomon’s Castle

May 13th - Communion Sunday

May 20th - Pot Luck

May 26th - A Picnic at the Tuffs

Please see future bulletins for details

Join Us for

John Tuff and Friends

Thursdays May 17th, June 21st and July 19th

Beyond the Sea

The band will be playing from 6-8 pm

*To help people develop a thriving relationship with Jesus Christ by serving God and serving others...This is the Mission of GCC.*