

August 11, 2015

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

It is hard to believe it's mid-August. Where is the summer going? In just four short weeks, Labor Day will have come and gone. Kids will be back at school. And, at Grace, we will embark on another exciting program year.

In the church office, we are busy preparing for the start of that new program year. The church calendar is pretty much set, and we have published some important fall dates in the Sunday bulletin and on the church website. Mr. C. is in the church building almost every day, working with the organ company to voice the newly refurbished organ, and he is thrilled by the organ's sound, which we will debut on Ministry Sunday, September 13. I hope you will all join us that day.

We are calling this new program year the Year of the Bible because our hope, and our goal, is to get everyone in the parish engaged with Bible. Studies show that nothing promotes spiritual growth and a deeper connection with God than reading the Bible.

The plan is to provide a weekly reading schedule that will allow us, with just a little time each week, to read most of the Bible by the middle of May. Every Sunday, we will offer opportunities for adults to come together to learn about the context of the readings, to ask questions and share personal reflections. Children and youth will also be participating, learning the stories at the same time as adults, so families can discuss the Bible together. And, we hope to have a few intergenerational events during the year, as well.

We invite you to join us for the whole year, but the program will also be set-up so you can participate for just part of the year. In September and October, for example, we will be reading foundational stories of Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, as well as the story of Moses and Exodus. During the season of Lent, we will be reading the Gospels, exploring the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in greater depth.

If you do not have a Bible at home, you can order one on Amazon. There are also Bible apps which you can download onto your phone or tablet to read electronically, and there are audio Bibles as well. Specific recommendations will be available soon.

It is going to be a great year at Grace Church and I hope you will join us as we explore the Bible together and live into our Vision for the Future by deepening our relationships with God and each other.

See you in Church,
Andrew