

September 18, 2018

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

It's been a hard year for lots of folks.

Not just at Grace Church but around the country, as well.

I recently read an article about how the economy is doing better, but people are not feeling it. They're still struggling.

Then, hurricane Florence hit, and it's almost as if life is kicking us while we're down.

Our hearts and prayers go out to those having a difficult time, and in particular, those suffering in the aftermath of Florence – those displaced from their homes, those whose homes were damaged or destroyed, those who lost family or friends.

Many Grace parishioners have connections to the Carolinas, including hard hit places like Wilmington and New Bern, North Carolina. Please keep them in your prayers. And, if you have family and friends affected by the hurricane, please let me know, and we can add them to the church prayer list.

In the midst of life's storms, we also turn toward Jesus, knowing his presence in our life can make a huge difference, giving us strength and support. Jesus can help calm the gusts, and gales, and turmoil of life.

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:35-41)

See you in church,
Andrew