

Grace & Truth Bible Church

Virginia, Minnesota

September 2019

Why no one wants to hug a turtle . . .

Let your speech always be with grace... Colossians 4:6

Turtles are commonly purchased as gifts, but sometimes they give people more trouble than they bargained for. They may even kill their owners. That is because the gentle, cute, and seemingly harmless turtles carry *Salmonella*, a very deadly kind of bacteria. For this reason, it is now illegal to sell small turtles in the United States.

There are other reasons why turtles would not make good pets. For one, they can bite when you get too close to them. Second, their shells are hard and rigid unlike the soft, warm fur of a cat or dog. These characteristics explain why very few people would want to hug a turtle.

Some people are like turtles. You can't get too close to them, or they will hurt you. They are stiff and rigid like the turtle's shell. They never bend and are inflexible to the slightest changes. Bitter, angry, and harsh words flow from their mouths and infect others. Even when they try to do good, they often do it in the wrong way. Their lack of grace keeps others at arm's length.

Others have a kind, gracious spirit. People are drawn to them like magnets. Do you know why? It's because we would rather embrace something that is warm and soft than something which is cold and rigid. Which kind of person do you want to be?

Turtles may be cute, but you wouldn't want to hug them. Are you the kind of person who sends people running in the opposite direction because of your personality or temper? Pray about your shortcomings, and God will help you practice speaking with grace and showing patience toward others. Before long, others will be drawn to the warmth of your character.

- Dr. James A. Scudder

A man who has friends must himself be friendly. Proverbs 18:24

September Evening Services

September 1	Communion – Lyn Nelson
September 8	Pastor DeMarte
September 15	Pastor DeMarte
September 18	Concert – Washington Manor
September 22	Pastor DeMarte
September 27-29	Mission Conference

Choir & special music practice every Sunday at 5 PM

September has arrived, and as we adieu to summer, we pray for a fruitful fall season of ministry. A year ago we were praying about the purchase of this property, and now, here we are! This move has proved to be a great blessing, and we praise God for His guidance.

A Ladies' Fellowship with soup & sandwiches is planned for September 9th at 5:30 PM at the church.

A Men's Bible Study will be held each Friday at 7 AM at Kunnari's Coffee House beginning September 6th.

The Choir will be performing a concert at Washington Manor at 6 PM, on the 18th of September. Everyone is welcome to attend and to invite others as well. There will be no Wednesday service at the church that evening.

GTBC will be hosting a mission conference on September 27-29. The theme is "People Need the Lord". See the enclosed flier for details. There will be special music and snacks each night, a men's breakfast & ladies' luncheon . The choir will again perform their concert on Saturday evening. Plan on attending and bring a friend!

It is Promotion Sunday for our Sunday School. Be sure to thank all those who taught this past year. Our Sunday School is growing,

and we are adding another class for the coming year. Here is a list of new teachers. Please pray for them!

Nursery Class – Kelly Hester, Stephanie Paine

Beginner Class – Marilyn Kunnari, Kathy Ortler

Primary Class – Diane DeMarte, Rachel Paine

Junior Class – Jack Kunnari, Chan Paine

Parents: You can assist these teachers in their efforts by reviewing your children's Sunday School take home papers & helping them learn their memory verses.

August Offerings

- General - \$6909.74
- Missionary - \$2530.00
- 2B Free - \$200.00
- Building - \$500.00
- Camp total income - \$16,323.00

Memory Verses for September from Romans 14

Vs. 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;

Vs. 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Vs. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.

Vs. 19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.