



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

February 2017

## *Tough Love*

**D**id Jesus practice “tough love”? Tough love is that kind of love where words are spoken and actions taken that don’t appear to be very loving. Nevertheless, tough love’s words and actions have a person’s best interest in mind.

Perhaps the clearest example of tough love is seen in the discipline of children. When a child is being punished it does not appear to them to be an expression of love. But it is just that. No one should doubt that children need discipline for their own good and their future development.

The Bible tells us that God is love. It is His chief characteristic. He demonstrated this in sending His Son into the world to die. Jesus took the sins of the whole world upon Himself. It is sad so many reject this great mercy.

The word of God also reveals to us that God desires that all come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. God wants the Pharisees, Judas, today’s terrorists, abusers and rapists – all people to repent and receive His forgiveness and love. But so many won’t have Him or receive His gifts.

When Jesus called the Pharisees a brood of vipers, hypocrites and blind guides, He was practicing tough love. Many Pharisees became believers after Jesus’ resurrection. Chief among these Pharisees was the Apostle Paul. Paul too experienced tough love in the form of a “thorn in the flesh.” This illness, whatever it was, served to keep him humble and dependent on Christ.



We believers are also to practice tough love at certain times of our lives. As already mentioned, to withhold discipline from a child would be detrimental to their development. Author James Dobson suggests that women whose husbands cheat on them should practice tough love even to the extent of losing their husbands. Witnessing to family and friends might also include a dose of tough love when you warn them what their rejection of Jesus Christ will mean to their eternity.

In this month when we celebrate Valentine’s Day, I too like sentimental love. But is it not very selfish to withhold tough love when it is clearly called for? To love deeply as the Scriptures exhort us, will mean not shying away from being “tough” when tough is the most loving thing we can offer.

Let’s live for Jesus and love and care the way He did!

~ Pastor Rich

## Join the Challenge

**P**astor Rich has challenged all Grace members and regular attenders to read the New Testament during 2017. Join us in this challenge and be blessed by God's Word this year. You can pick up a booklet with a schedule of readings at the church or read according to your own schedule.



## NEW TESTAMENT

Let's Read It Through in 2017

*“Patience with others is love, patience with self is hope, patience with God is faith.”*

~ Adel Bestavros



**O**n **February 11**, we will be learning how to crochet and knit with the help of Rene Mackley and others from the Prayer Shawl Ministry. They are very low on prayer shawls and need help in creating more. They have enough yarn, so no one has to purchase any supplies.

On **March 11**, Susie and Stephanie Elseroad will be sharing what it like to be the wife and child of a Pastor. Look forward to some wonderful insights into the life of a Pastor's family.

If you have any questions on LWML, please feel free to ask. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### Gabby Quilters

On **April 8**, we will be tying quilts for our Mission Project. If anyone has queen sized sheets in good shape or material they no longer need, we would be happy to take them off of your hands. We use sheets for backings and making squares. We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. If you can tie a knot, we need you!

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by

the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

### **Sunday, February 5 - Voters Meeting**

At the December Voters Meeting we voted to call a Pastoral candidate from the Seminary in St. Louis. Our delegation recently interviewed candidates for this position. On Sunday, February 5, at 12:30 p.m., we will have a Voters Meeting to affirm that call. Please plan to attend.

### **Tuesday, February 7 - Seasoned Adults**

The next Seasoned Adults program features Sam Venable, retired humor columnist for the Knoxville News-Sentinel. Sam's topic will be: Coping with the nutty life in which we live and the perils of growing older!! The meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center with a catered lunch for \$7 per person. Please contact Freia Micha (694-4200), Dot Ryan (560-9687), or Bev Knipp (470-7366) by February 5 if you plan to attend.

### **Saturday, February 11 - LWML Meeting**

The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Prayer Shawl Ministry women will be there to share what this ministry is about and to teach anyone who does not know how to knit or crochet. It will be a great time to learn the craft and meet some women of the congregation you may not know.

### **Sunday, February 12 - Adult Inquiry Class Begins**

A new Adult Inquiry Class will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This class teaches the basics of the Christian faith in a very casual, relaxed atmosphere. You need no knowledge of the Bible nor do you need to bring one. Child care is provided. Enter by the door closest to the church office. For more information, contact the church office.

### **Friday, February 17 - Sunday, February 19 - Youth Group Winter Retreat**

The youth group's winter retreat will be held at the John Knox Center. Money and permission slips (unless already on file) are due by Sunday, February 5. Stephanie Schlak can answer any questions you might have. You may e-mail her at [sschlak@visitgrace.org](mailto:sschlak@visitgrace.org) or contact her by calling the church office.

### **Saturday, February 25 - Couples Dinner and Movie**

This event is schedule from 5:30-8:00 p.m. beginning with a 5-course meal prepared by our own "Chef Byron" in the Family Life Center. Cost is \$15 per couple of \$10 for singles. Childcare will be provided (as well as food for the children). The Youth of Grace will be serving this meal as a fundraiser for their mission trip to Raleigh in June 2017. They will be working for tips and all monies raised will go towards their costs. Sign up at the Information Desk in the Family Life Center--but sign up early--last year the event was sold out!!

### **Saturday, March 4 - Parade of Tables**

Ladies--sign up now!! This year's theme is "Fashion by Decades." You don't need a closet full of "old" clothes to participate and host a table. You could do accessories--shoes, hats, jewelry and makeup of a certain decade, hairstyles, or wedding dresses. Do you have some pictures of yourself in a tie-dyed tee shirt and bell-bottom jeans, or dancing in those go-go boots or a poodle skirt? You can decorate your table with pictures--your own or from the internet. Anything goes!

Currently, there are more people who want to attend the luncheon than there are hostess tables available. We would hate to turn anyone away. Tickets are on sale for \$15. This is a charity luncheon withal proceeds going to "A Hand Up for Women." You can sign up to host a table on the bulletin board near the coffee area or by contacting Maria Brelsford or Sheila Wittke.

### **Other Events to Look Forward to:**

**April 9-16 - Holy Week Services**

**April 15 - Easter Festival**

**April 16 - Easter Brunch and Easter Services**

**June 11-15 - Grace Lutheran Sports Camp**

**June 25 - Church-Wide Picnic**





## Births in the Church Family

**Abigail Grace Bush**

and

**Emma Ray Bush**

Born: January 25, 2017

Proud Parents:

**Alan and Jennifer Bush**

## Heroic St. Valentine

**W**e probably think of romance when Valentine's Day comes. That's fine, but there's more to the story than that.

St. Valentine was a Christian priest and martyr who lived about A.D. 270. The Roman emperor at the time was Claudius II. Claudius had been a successful general. He would not allow his soldiers to marry, because he wanted to make sure they could go to battle quickly. He thought family ties would make the men reluctant to leave home. Because Valentine promoted marriage and family life, he was jailed and later convicted of going against the orders of the emperor. He was martyred on February 14, the day we remember him and our loved ones.

While he was in jail, the jailer's daughter befriended him. He wrote her a letter of appreciation and signed it "Your Valentine." The tradition of exchanging valentines grew out of that heartfelt gesture.



## God's Conversation Hearts

**T**hose familiar candy conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you -- or to teach a child -- of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- ♥ **TRUE LOVE:** What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16)
- ♥ **MINE:** Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- ♥ **FOREVER:** God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- ♥ **LOVE ME:** The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27.)
- ♥ **TRUST ME:** "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- ♥ **SWEET TALK:** God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- ♥ **BE GOOD:** We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- ♥ **CALL ME:** God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- ♥ **FRIENDS:** The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) -- precisely what Jesus did.
- ♥ **#1:** "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).



## *Spiritual, But Not Religious*

**A**s many as one in three people say they are spiritual, but not religious, and the trend is growing (Wikipedia: "Spiritual, but Not Religious"). To say one is spiritual, but not religious sounds good to many, but does little more than put off anyone who might have further concerns about that person's relationship with Jesus Christ. There is no end of analysis that can be done as to what being spiritual, but not religious actually means, but the real question is, "What can I as a Christian say in response?"

This paragraph could be part of the conversation. There is bad news for those who want to be spiritual, but not religious. In January 2013 The British Journal of Psychiatry published a study that found being spiritual, but not religious is hazardous to one's health. "Michael King...wrote in conclusion, 'People who have a spiritual understanding of life in the absence of a religious framework are vulnerable to mental disorder ... (spiritual people) are about 77 percent more likely to be dependent on drugs and about 24 percent more likely to have a generalized anxiety disorder. These are quite obvious differences.'" (<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/164841-study-spiritual-but-not-religious-prone-to-mental-health-problems.html>) You can tell the person who says he is spiritual, but not religious that he is not in a healthy place and you are concerned genuinely about him.

During my first weeks in seminary one teacher often spoke about the dangers of "Ich Theologie." That ("I theology") is a set of beliefs that center around myself rather than around Christ and His Word. A friend once gave me this quotation: "God created man in His own image, and man, being a gentleman, returned the favor." To be spiritual, but not religious involves picking and choosing what we want to believe according to our own tastes. Sin will not be part of a system we design for ourselves, except, perhaps, as something others do that irritates us. Nor will the exclusivity of the Bible's insistence that there is only one savior and mediator who covers our sin and makes it possible for us to be free of the condemnation that comes because of our sin, namely, that Jesus Christ is the only one name given under heaven by which we can be saved.

People who say they are spiritual, but not religious think to be a moral person is the heart of a personal faith system, and that is all that matters. As a Christian you can ask their permission to explain that you know you will never be as moral as you would want because you are a sinner and stand under God's judgment. You would be lost and without hope. But, Jesus is God made man Who took our sins upon Himself to pay the penalty of them and destroy their power. By trusting what God promises, the benefit of those promises becomes yours. Christ lives in you, and you live for Him daily. Further, you will have eternal life with God. That gives you a sense of purpose and of peace in your life even now.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

**HealthLine** is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace member Sheila Wittke.

**NEW AIR TIME: Wednesday Evenings - 10:00 p.m.**

**STATIONS:**

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)

CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)

AT&T U-Verse Channel 99

Stream for DISH or Direct: Go to [CTVKNX.org](http://CTVKNX.org). Click on Icon and watch



**FEBRUARY 2017 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS**

- 01 - Treatment of Shoulder Problems including Dog Bone Implant - Dr. Paul C. Brady
- 08 - Saving Lives with Heart Bypass Graft Surgery - Dr. Thomas Pollard
- 15 - Trigeminal Neuralgia and Facial Pain - Dr. Michael T. Walsh
- 22 - Advanced Stage Prostate Cancer Treatment - Dr. R. Wayne Hatfield

## Fiction Reads for February

Several new fiction titles have been added to the library from popular Christian authors

### New Fiction

**Waves of Mercy** by **Lynn Austin** (Fic Aus): Two women whose lives are different in every possible way cannot foresee the surprises that await them as their paths cross on the shores of Lake Michigan. Geesje is the 67-year old who migrated from the Netherlands 50 years earlier who is writing a memoir of her early experiences for the town's anniversary celebration. Anna has come to the area to escape the pain of a broken engagement to a wealthy Chicago banker. The story is set in the late 1890's.

**Tangled Webs** by **Irene Hannon** (Fic Han): Book 3 in her **Men of Valor** series. As Finn McGregor retreats to the woods to heal mentally and physically from his disastrous final mission in the Middle East, he instinctively comes to the rescue of Dana who is also retreating to the area seeking solace from her PTSD. As they are drawn together, they become caught in a web of deception surrounding Dana's property.

**Conspiracy of Silence** by **Ronie Kendig** (Fic Ken): Book 1 in the **Tox Files** series. Cole "Tox" Russell regroups his former Special Forces Team when a centuries-old, dormant disease is unleashed. Tox and his team search the globe for answers which leads them to an ancient secret society and centuries of silence as the threat of a global pandemic rises.

**The Innkeeper of Ivy Hill** by **Julie Klassen** (Fix Kla): Book 1 in **Tales From Ivy Hill**. 1820 England provides the setting for this series. The Bell Inn is integral to the charming village of Ivy Hill. When its innkeeper dies mysteriously, his wife Jane reluctantly assumes the landlady position. With no management skills, a large loan payment looming, and the town's livelihood at stake, she must decide whom she can trust for help. As she strives to restore the inn, she may just restore her empty heart too.

**Another Day Another Dali** by **Sandra Orchard** (Fix Orc): Serena Jones is an FBI agent specializing in the world of art theft. In book 2 of this series, she investigates a case of a forged Dali painting as a favor to her grandmother. As she follows the clues, she may have uncovered a sophisticated forgery-theft ring that could also lead to the unsolved murder of her grandfather.

**Song of Silence** by **Cynthia Ruchti** (Fic Ruc): Lucy Tuttle's life takes an unexpected turn as she is forced to retire from her position as music educator, a program that her father

instituted. But a young boy and his "soundless" mother change the way Lucy sees and hears everything.

**Wild Montana Skies** by **Susan May Warren** (Fic War): Book 1 in the **Montana**

**Rescue** series, structured around PEAK Rescue in Glacier National Park. Kacey returns to PEAK as a search and rescue pilot while Ben King is also called home to PEAK to manage operations while his father recuperates from an injury. Unaware that the other is back at PEAK, the "old flames" must learn to work together to save lives during a flash flood.

**Rescue Me** by **Susan May Warren** (Fic War): Book 2 in the **Montana Rescue** series, Sam Brooks, PEAK Rescue police liaison, struggles alongside Willow Rose to rescue stranded teenagers in Glacier National Park. Willow has loved Sam for what seems like forever, unbeknownst to Sam. He believes Willow's sister is the perfect girl for him. As he and Willow work together, situations could change.

### New Non-Fiction

**Creed, What Christians Believe and Why: Exploring the Apostles' Creed** by **Adam Hamilton** (238.1 Ham): Regularly, Christians state what they believe as they confess the Apostles' Creed. The beliefs in the creed are foundational. Hamilton explains with simplicity and clarity what we confess, why we believe it, and why it matters.

**The Oxford Handbook of Martin Luther's Theology** by **Robert Kolb** (284.1 Kol): Another title to study for those interested in Luther and his theology (study of God) is this expansive title that traces Luther from his childhood to his days as a professor. Kolb explores the influence of the medieval times on Luther's thought and the impact Luther's thought has had on history and 21st century thought.

Find these and other titles new to the library on display throughout the month.

This month's quote from Luther: Luther on the need for love: "Just as there is no fire without heat and smoke, so there is no faith without love." (Taken from 2004 Thrivent Financial Calendar)

~ Mary Schultz



LOVE

Love is *patient,*  
love is *kind.*  
It does not *envy,*  
it does not *boast,*  
it is not *proud.*

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)  
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)  
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

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TO:

