

Come, Let Us Adore Him



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Volume 3; Issue #12

Grace Klein Community Newsletter

December 2017

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- January 2018: [Come to the Table](#)
- 01/19/2018: [Help Move Food Boxes](#)
- 01/20/2018: [Monthly Food Delivery](#)
- 02/11/2018: [Mercedes Marathon - Volunteer](#)



OUR PURPOSE

To Demonstrate the Love of Christ

Grace Klein Community exists as an educational and charitable 501(c)3 non-profit providing relief to the poor, the distressed and the underprivileged, lessening community tensions, eliminating prejudice and discrimination and combating community deterioration and juvenile delinquency.

www.gracekleincommunity.com

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Come to the Table – Community Challenge

For the month of January, our community challenge is to invite friends, family and strangers to "come to the table." Come eat, come listen, come share. All we have to do is come.

"Let's get together some time" can be abruptly transformed to right now. We have an opportunity to open our doors and invite the world to come.

Grace Klein Community, Inc. will equip families in Birmingham, AL, with the food needed for the challenge. Our office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30-5pm and we have a variety of food ready to share. The address is 2652 Old Rocky Ridge Rd, Hoover, AL 35216. We will give you the food for the meal you will prepare. Your commitment is to use the food to build community; to invite others to come to the table.

We encourage starting with a simple prayer: "Jesus, please bring people to our table so we can love them so extravagantly, they'll ask why!" *from "Come and Eat" by Bri McKay

Do not worry about your house, whether it is big or small, clean or dirty, fancy or simple. The point is coming to the table.

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." - Isaiah 55:1

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not abandoned





2018 Food Delivery Dates and Volunteer Opportunities

Our monthly food delivery ministry is a great way to get involved in the community of Birmingham, Alabama. Volunteers go out, once a month, all over Birmingham to deliver food boxes to love on families. But, it's about so much more than food... we seek to build relationships with people and walk through hard times with them. We wholeheartedly believe that meaningful, long-term relationships are a key factor in alleviating poverty.

People often ask us when our monthly Food Delivery Date is. See the upcoming food delivery dates for 2018 [HERE](#). We would love to have you and your family serve alongside us to care for these families and share the HOPE of Christ through our simple acts of kindness.

[READ MORE](#) about how God uses Grace Klein Community to impact others through the monthly food delivery ministry.

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His son.” – 1 John 5:11

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Local Efforts

Confessions of a Volunteer

““When I close my eyes I see this dreamscape as a field of marbled color like a burst kaleidoscope with children playing amongst a sea of dandelions and honey suckle, no one is hungry, no one is cold, no one is lonely, no one is sad. Love is a verb and people live in unison like music from a symphony, all in soothing peaceful rhythm and harmony.” This is what I see when I think of the Grace Klein Community, interpretively of course. Perhaps it's a very over the top poetic metaphor, but I have been accused of over-romanticizing life before, so guilty as charged I suppose.

So how I came to find Grace Klein Community (and this is the more vague, less play by play version of the narrative) all began when I was in what I'll call a transitional phase, I was making a lot of personal and habitual changes in my life right before I found this wonderful company of believers, givers, and servants of the community, and I ended up garnering this insatiable appetite to give back and to do something greater than myself. I felt like I'd been very selfish in the last little handful of years that have passed by. God only knows the last time I actually gave my tithe and offerings. It was time for me to be irrefutably selfless.”

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Alabama Justice Ministry Network and Grace Klein Community Join Hands

On Monday, December 11, 2017, Grace Klein Community had the wonderful opportunity to partner with Donna Singleton and the Alabama Justice Ministries Network (AJMN.) Donna is the director of the Jefferson County Jail Ministry (Birmingham and Bessemer,) and she also helps provide services to ex-offenders to gain and retain employment.

We encourage you to visit their website www.AJMN.org and read more about their various ministry efforts and the impact of God's love through our community. AJMN needs more volunteers to visit the jail and minister to the inmates and officers. [Contact](#) Donna to volunteer your time to share the love of Christ with the staff and those they oversee.

I (Rachael Cannon) had the incredible experience of going with Donna into the Jefferson County Jail downtown and setting up tables filled with delicious sweets and snacks, mostly donated by Grace Klein Community, for the officers and administrative staff.

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Beauty for Ashes

“Reflections from a seamstress who needs His daily assurance...”

Recently, as I was working in my sewing room, a vision came to my mind. Not that this is an unusual occurrence, (I think it's the coffee that fuels my efforts there!) but the message of this vision was interesting. I was in the process of taking donated t-shirts apart and preparing them to be made into “new” clothing for children; undies, dresses for little girls, or shorts for little boys. The vision was a view of my life and how much it was like the t-shirts.

When we travel, I often buy t-shirts as souvenirs. They generally have beautiful scenes or a fancy logo on them, reminding me of our adventure later when we return to our “normal” lives (... understanding “normal” is a totally different meditation...for another day). How I love wearing my new shirts! Everything is perfect ... no marks ... no scars ... no threads out-of-sorts ... all is as its creator created it.

In my vision I saw me ... back in the beginning ... when I was born. God’s handiwork on display. A baby, untouched by this world, knit together with incredible precision ... exactly as the Creator intended.” [READ MORE](#)



“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.” – Romans 12: 10

„Βε δεσμευεθ το ομω αλληλεθ εν λοβε **BETTER TOGETHER** λοβε λουτρωιλεθ;” – ρωμωυθ 12: 10

“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12: 4-5

Our “better togethers” introduce various members of Grace Klein Community and help us understand how our different giftings work together to form one body. We are better together.



Jack of All Trades

If you are a part of our Trade Market WhatsApp group, then you may have seen a picture or two of Mitchell. He gets involved in the conversation and makes himself a part of the community. Mitchell is a jack of all trades, but not in a maintenance kind of way, more of an academic, and artsy kind of way. He is highly intelligent and incredibly creative. He can take a thought or an idea and make something tangible out of it, that is, at the same time, beautiful.

Mitchell is definitely a dreamer and the kind of man who will relentlessly pursue his dreams and succeed in most. He will learn from his failures, lick his wounds, and move on with renewed strength. He shares his thoughts with us, which challenge us; he shares his humor with us, which keeps us laughing; he shares his struggles with us, which keeps us hopeful about our own struggles. His diligent work ethic sets an example for current and future generations. Mitchell, thank you for your volunteer hours and all the other valuable ways you contribute to our community. [READ MORE](#)

Creative Genius

Karen Eileen showed up one day for a meeting with Scott; she wanted to know more about Grace Klein Community. Karen was nicely dressed in her professional clothes. She showed up the next day in work clothes and went to town.

Karen recently moved here from Virginia and did not waste any time seeking a place to share her God-given gifts. One of those gifts is organization and creating space. We picture her standing in the middle of the room, one hand on her hip and the other holding her magic space creating wand. She studies the space around her for a minute and then with a flick of her wrist, her wand dances and suddenly items are put away and there *somehow* seems to be more space than when she started!

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Word in Worship

On December 2, 2017, Jonathan and Emily Martin, a family duo known as "[The Word in Worship](#)" came all the way from Nashville to lead a night of worship at the [Grace Klein Community House](#).

They were met by friends of all ages and walks of life, all sharing a common desire to connect, to worship Jesus, and celebrate our Lord as we enter the season of celebration of His birth, Christmas.

We are so thankful for how God used Jonathan and Emily to minister to us, and for the time and travel they invested to make this time of worship happen. [READ MORE](#)

"Thanks be to God for His incredible gift!" – 2 Corinthians 9:15

HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED

Christmas at the Swamp Monster's

On December 5, 2017, members from all areas of Grace Klein Construction and Community gathered at [Swamp Monster BBQ](#) for a Christmas party that would bless all who came, and many families in need along with them. Friends arrived sharing from their plenty, bringing toys, warm clothes, and non-perishable food items to bless families who need them through [Gifts for the Forgotten](#).

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Galleria Wood Christmas Wrapping

On December 6th, 2017, we headed over to the Galleria Woods Senior Living Center for our annual gift wrapping "party."

For several years, the residents of the Galleria Woods have helped wrap the gifts. What a blessing they are to all of us. We are thankful for the love they share in wrapping the gifts, their enthusiasm and attention to detail.

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Perfect in All of His Ways

Grace Klein Community was selected as the receiving organization for the remaining supplies after the Church of the Highlands Giving Hope event this year. Together with the box truck size contribution from Church of the Highlands, and donations from various business partners and individuals, 303 children (in addition to our 230 food delivery families) were sponsored through Grace Klein Community this Christmas!

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THANK YOU to the 93 individuals & families who shared in tangible donations this month!



thank you



THANK YOU to the 126 individuals and families as well as the 18 businesses and churches who gave financially this month!

MEET OUR NEWEST BUSINESS PARTNERS

Grace Klein Community would like to express our sincere thanks to our Business Partners for their support. Business Partners help make it possible for Grace Klein Community to provide food, clothing, and essential household items to aid individuals and families in need throughout the Birmingham Metro area and around the world.

"[Green Clean](#) and Grace Klein Community have similar missions. We serve families and help families get their homes in order. Currently, that just looks like we are cleaning houses but we feel that God has placed a deeper calling and responsibility on our hearts and believe that is where Grace Klein Community steps in. Getting your house in order is about so much more than just cleaning houses. It is a matter of the heart. God is a God of order. When our Spiritual House is clean, there is more room for God to dwell in us." – [Green Clean](#)

