

*Our vision is to be a community of grace, telling the unsaved of salvation by grace, encouraging the saved to live and grow in grace, and extending grace to others.*

## An Instrument of Peace

Last week I was fortunate enough to acquire a new musical instrument. Hands down, it is one of the finest instruments I have ever owned or played. The craftsmanship is superior; the attention to every detail is of the highest level. It is a true joy to play. However, now when I play one of my other instruments, I immediately notice the limitations and shortcomings that accompany them. They are, of course, still usable and can be enjoyed, but the result is much different.

Many of you are familiar with the very well-known Prayer of St. Francis. It begins with the words:

*"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."*

While these words are not scripture, they parallel an exhortation Paul gives believers in Colossians 3:15. We read, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."*

I think we could agree that that is sometimes difficult to do. We often struggle with life trials and sin and we don't always feel like being an instrument of peace. But even in our brokenness, God can use us in the lives of others. While we are not by any means perfect, we are able to carry out His purposes.

Christ is our ultimate example—the perfect instrument of peace that we ought to continually measure ourselves up against. While we know that we will one day be glorified and become like Christ, we are not there yet. That doesn't mean we don't have purpose, we absolutely do. We need to be available to Him to allow His Holy Spirit to work in us, and as we are attentive to His leading, take the courageous steps in takes to be like Christ to others.

All of us could make plenty of excuses why God should use someone else, but God chooses to use us. Are you willing to let Him? Will you submit to His leading and allow Him to use you as the instrument He has designed you to be?

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace today.

Jaris

## The month of April Calendar of Events

Join us for these upcoming events.

- 1 - Evening of Prayer, 7pm
- 20 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30am
- 20 - Ladies' Prayer Breakfast, 7:30am
- 22 - Ladies' Flower Arranging, 6:30pm

- We extend our deepest sympathies to Sandy Arnall and her family in the death of her mother.
- Praise the Lord for a wonderful visit from our missionary, Dick Lynch. Continue to pray for his ministry at Dallas International University.

FAMILY UPDATE



## Adult Bible Fellowship

new series beginning April 7

Join us in this fascinating study to help us better engage in conversations defending our faith

Taught by Wayne Hammond

GREGORY KOUKL  
*Author of Tactics*

## STREET SMARTS

USING QUESTIONS TO ANSWER CHRISTIANITY'S TOUGHEST CHALLENGES



Flower Arranging Event  
Monday, April 22, at 6:30pm  
For more information, please contact Sherry Roth

# APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club</p>	<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>7:00AM Grounds of Grace</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30PM Youth Ministry</p>	<p>4 *Frank June Tom Van Wart</p> <p>9:45AM Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00AM Men's Alliance</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 *Renée June</p> <p>7:00AM Grounds of Grace</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30PM Youth Ministry</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:45AM Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>12 *Steve Beth</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00AM Men's Alliance</p>
<p>14 *Stephanie Phelps</p> <p>9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00AM Grounds of Grace</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30PM Youth Ministry</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:45AM Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>   <p>7:00AM Men's Alliance</p>
<p>21 *Karen Bing</p> <p>9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>7:00AM Grounds of Grace</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30PM Youth Ministry</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:45AM Ladies' Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00AM Men's Alliance</p>
<p>28 *Colleen Ridlen</p>  <p>9:15AM Bible Classes 10:30AM Worship 4:00PM AWANA Club</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00AM Grounds of Grace</p>				<p>*Birthdays</p>