

**Grace Mission, Tallahassee, Florida:
Teaching, Preaching, Recovery and Social Ministries**

"Grace Mission helps reach those who are often forgotten in society: the homeless, poor, underemployed, addicted, people with AIDs, ... Whether through our feeding program, worship services, outreaches, afterschool program, Bible Study, and many others, we try to extend "grace upon grace" to all people. We welcome you to become a part of this vital ministry!" ~ Pastor Amanda Nickles

The History of Grace Mission

"In the fall of 1995, Michael and Sterling Henderson, co-founders of Grace Mission, began to develop a vision for an urban worshiping community in Tallahassee. The vision called for a diverse racially mixed group of people which might include those living in poverty, the homeless, ex-offenders, substance abusers, along with the middle class living in the area. The purpose and ministry of Grace Mission was to have a strong emphasis on teaching, preaching, recovery and social ministries.

"In May 1996, under the direction of The Rt. Rev. Stephen Jecko (The Episcopal Diocese of Florida) and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Tallahassee, a resolution was presented calling for the founding of Grace Mission Episcopal Church.

"In January 1997, Grace Mission was formally accepted as a Mission Station of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. Easter Sunday, of the same year, the first Sunday service was held.

"The Episcopal Churches in the Apalachee Region quickly partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Florida to help support the mission and vision of Grace Mission. In the fall of 1999, the status of the congregation was changed to Outreach Mission and an independent Mission Board was formed in January 2000.

"In Dec. 2009, co-founders Michael and Sterling Henderson retired from Grace Mission and a nation-wide search began for the next vicar. The Rev. Amanda L. Nickles accepted the call to be the next vicar of Grace Mission and celebrated her first Sunday on July 4, 2010.

"Grace Mission has not been defined in the past by suffering and tragedy, but by the word of God who raised Jesus from the dead. And this legacy continues today. First and foremost, Grace Mission is a worshiping community celebrating Jesus Christ. Grace Mission has always had the Christian imperative to serve, care for, and love the poorest and most vulnerable among us. In addition, Grace Mission throws open the door to every Christian who longs to follow in the footsteps of Christ and make a lasting difference in the lives of men, women and children in Tallahassee.

"God has the power to transform the world through us because when we committed ourselves to following Christ, we also committed to living our lives in such a way

that a watching world would catch a glimpse of God's character – His love, justice and mercy through our words, actions and behavior. “We are...Christ's ambassadors,” wrote the apostle Paul, “as though God were making his appeal through us” (2 Cor. 5:20). God chose us to be His representatives. He called us to go out, to proclaim the “good news” - to be the “good news” - and to change the world. Living out our faith privately was never meant to be an option. Grace Mission has responded to that call and is that Christian witness in the most poverty stricken area of Tallahassee.”

To see the Grace Mission After School You Tube video, please click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/B6AJJgkAsVs>

SOURCE: <http://www.gracemission.net>