

Second Chances

mercy and grace



Detail from Rembrandt's Prodigal Son

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mercy and grace
(January through Easter 2014)

Save the date, invite your friends!

Everyone is invited to this exhibit's OPENING RECEPTION on January 26, directly after the last morning service. Enjoy refreshments and live music, and meet the artists!

Everyone is welcome to submit artworks for this exhibit, regardless of age, artistic experience, or church membership.

Limit for this exhibit: 3 art entries per person

Media: 2-D and 3-D including photography, sculpture, mosaics, drawing, writing, poetry, metalworks, painting, DVD/video, fabric art, graphic design, collage, stained glass, creative writing, and poetry.

January 19, 21, 22 Submit artwork.

Exact drop-off times and locations:

Sunday, January 19 • 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Vineyard Boise **Info Counter** in Heritage Hall

Tuesday, January 21 • 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Vineyard Boise **Office Receptionist Desk**

Wednesday, January 22 • 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Vineyard Boise **Office Receptionist Desk**

Friday, January 24 : Notifications of Acceptance via e-mail

Saturday, January 25 : Installation (gallery grunt team)

Sunday, January 26: Reception after 2nd church service.

This exhibit is scheduled to last through April 20 (Easter Sunday)

To ensure a cohesive gallery experience, your art and artist statements should relate to **kindness to those in need, punishment withheld, unexpected gifts, or forgiveness.**

What if my artwork doesn't fit this theme? . . . Don't force a meaning on your art. If it doesn't fit, just wait for a different VineArts exhibit (see back page).

Note: If you've decided not to submit art for "Second Chances," please return this entire packet to church so that someone else can use it.

"People need loving the most when they deserve it the least." —Jim Elliot (*a missionary killed in Ecuador while ministering to native warriors; later those warriors came to Christ*)

MERCY: The withholding of punishment shown to an offender; abstaining from the degree of strictness or severity deserved; relieving another's distress or misfortune.

GRACE: The sovereign gift of totally undeserved kindness, shown by God to man; an unexpected act of kindness or compassion; undeserved or ill-deserved favor/gifts.

Perhaps you've thought: "I've really blown it this time." We may face natural consequences for actions, but nothing can separate you from the love of God if you've become His child (John 1:12). It's never too late for a do-over. Don't hang around people who try to shame you for what God has proclaimed forgiven! My life verse is, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12) That's farther than we can imagine, and God is closer than we can imagine. We're never out of chances. "She who has been forgiven much, loves much." (Luke 7:47). That's me. —Jessie Nilo

Every time we turn our face away from God to pursue our own ways, He doesn't turn His back on us. He pursues us, waiting for us to turn to Jesus and ask for forgiveness. It's always offered. With open arms, we are welcomed back. Freedom is found in surrender. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9) And as God gives us innumerable chances, so does he expect that we will do the same with others. —Kathy Nelson

Rom 6:1-8 Is it fine for believers to keep sinning since we're saved? How to live in grace • Micah 6:8 Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly • Ephesians 2:1-10 We were dead in sin and hated God, but in His mercy God saved us by grace alone, not by our good works • Lamentations 3:23 God's mercies are new every morning • Mark 12:31 Love others as much as you love yourself • Micah 7:18 God delights in mercy • Luke 6:31 Treat others how you want to be treated • Matt 5:45 God makes the sun and rain fall on the just and unjust • Matt 18:22 Peter asks Jesus how many times we should forgive; is 7 times enough? • Romans 2:4 Do you realize how patient God is with you, and the reason for His kindness? • 1 Tim 1:15 I was a blasphemer, but God showed me mercy • Heb 4:16 Let's approach God's throne with confidence! • Psalm 103:8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate • Romans 12:1 Think of God's mercy and worship Him with your whole life • Matt 18:23-27 The parable of the unmerciful servant where a man forgiven of all debts refused to cancel the debt of another • Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan • Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal Son

Who adopts someone they don't love and want? When God adopted me as His child, I was given a new family: "God was kind and adopted us with undeserved grace" (Ephesians 1: 5-8). Not only has God adopted me, He's set me free from all forms of bondage I was living in. A while after divorcing my abusive husband of 22 years, I developed a friendship with a man who was kind and loving and made me laugh. In prayer I asked the Lord: Should I cut off this friendship before it gets serious? But the Lord said, "Pick the loafers." I replied, "But Lord, men who wear loafers are not my kind of man and I'm afraid to get married again!" Then the Lord said "Ahhh, you see, your picker is broken, you must trust me". So I decided to trust God. We have been lovingly married for 11 years now, he is my best friend and a wonderful father and grandfather to our now 13 grandchildren. This after living in fear and bondage for most of my life. There are many scriptures that refer to God talking to us and we choose to not listen. But God continues to speak to us anyway. May we desire His voice, so we can recognize Him and learn to trust Him. —Sherri Coffield

What we may limit to just a 'second' chance is actually a daily chance. Every day we breathe is another chance. We are not taking a gamble. We are receiving undeserved favor and scandalous pardon every day. Surely mercy and grace follow us every day of our life. —Gina Deeming

God is limitless. He is continually creative when we make choices that get us off track. He is able to lead us to a new path. When my ex made non-family choices, God provided a new choice for me: RAY! The path of each person is not set in stone; when crisis occurs, God provides a way reflective of His Love. A song comes to mind: "God will make a way where there seems to be no way." —Ruth Hamilton

The time I tried to end my life is my greatest story of God's mercy. Doctors couldn't understand how I survived. Even though I got a second chance, I lived a long time not understanding why God saved me. But now I'm starting to see the whole beautiful story: how God uses everything for His glory to show me how He loves me. When I finally do pass away, it will be a love story so deep it cannot be fully grasped by anyone but myself and the Lord. I feel it already. It is profound. —Anonymous

God is a God of second chances. I think of stories in the Bible like Abraham (remember when he told the lie that Sarah was his sister), Moses (he killed a guy), David (well there was that fling with Bathsheba)countless stories throughout the Bible of people's lives ordained, despite their mistakes. Then Jesus brings it full circle. I mean... God sending his Son to die for us (that's the biggest second chance I can think of!) God is FOR us. Makes me extremely grateful. My life is an encyclopedia set of second chances! —Lisa Marten

Mercy and Grace have come together in my life more times than I know. Getting older hasn't lessened my need of second chances, instead the graph seems to have ramped up. God has been merciful to me, but it wasn't because of my stellar handling of opportunities. It was always mercy and grace. The real second chance for me has been believing what God accomplished through Christ so that I might have what God intended for me: To experience Holy Spirit communion. It an eternal perspective... He's available to us both now and in the age to come. —Dean Estes