

Grace Presbyterian Church Newsletter

105 Bailey Rd., Crystal City, MO, 63019 636-937-3019

www.gracechurch-pcusa.org for calendar info, sermons, and much more

February, 2012

COMING UP!

Sunday, Feb. 12. Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, Feb. 19. Worship at FPC, Festus. No worship at Grace that morning! Let's go meet the people of FPC and see their building! Rev. Johnson will preach. The assimilation is proceeding.

Tuesday, Feb. 21. "*The New Testament World of Jesus: Historical circumstances leading to His Death*" will begin with dinner at 6:15. This is like the Alpha format - DVD and discussion groups - but for only six weeks. Rev. Johnson will help answer questions. This is a great course for increasing one's understanding, not only of the Bible, but of Jesus life, crucifixion, and resurrection. **Call the church office to register.**

From the deacons. Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall, Monday, Feb. 13, 3-7pm. *As we approach Valentine's Day, it is better to give than receive. One of your sweeties might need it.* Call the office for a time to give if you are not contacted by the Red Cross or the Deacons.

From PW: Clothing Drive, Feb. 16, for the Safe House (gently used women/children's items only). Do not drop off items before Feb. 15. Details? Mary Orr...**Feb. 16, 1:00pm program**, Andy Held, "You Gotta Have Heart!" Invite a guest... **Pledge monies** due to circle chairs... **Women's South Cluster meeting** in Cape Girardeau, March 20. Qs? Muriel Stephens

Postings. "Thanks to everyone who sent me get-well wishes and prayers during my convalescence for foot surgery. It was much appreciated." **Helen Vigna**... "Thank you for the gorgeous prayer shawl! I wrapped myself in all your prayers and it made all the difference in the world! Thanks also for your prayers, calls, and cards." **Peggy O'Neill.**

Feb. donations for the Rescue Mission - canned stew, canned vegetables, lotion, & Ziploc bags (all sizes) **Jan. totals** - Bags: 20, Dry/Box: 37, Can/Jar: 40, Home: 7, Personal: 18. Thank you!

From the Pastor. Presbyterians have a well-deserved reputation for being cheap, but not on Valentine's Day! An elder of St. Penurious Presbyterian Church of Parsimonious, Pennsylvania treats his wife to the following ritual every Valentine's Day. After she cooks supper and they eat, he takes her to the local Walmart. They go to the greeting card section, where he chooses the most expensive valentine, let's her read it, and they go home.

For her birthday his wife said she wanted to see the world. The man broke down and bought her a globe. She got mad. He said he'd meet her half way. If she'd furnish the ship, he'd furnish the ocean.

This man wasn't always this way. When he was a boy in elementary school, he brought his teacher an apple every morning. He'd let her keep it on her desk until he ate it for lunch.

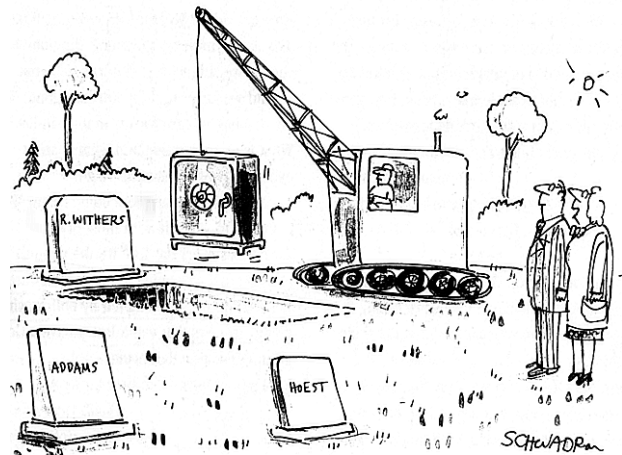
Prior to becoming a Christian he was into the occult. His fascination ended when he went to a fortune-teller who told him, "For twenty dollars I'll read your future and you can ask three questions."... "About what?" he asked... "About anything."... "Isn't twenty dollars a lot of money?"... "Not that much. Now, what's your last question."

As December began, the Shoeman Project was more than 255,000 pairs of shoes short of their one-million pair goal for 2011. Thanks to schools and area churches, including Grace Presbyterian, by year end they had received a total of 1,003,075 for the year! As the Shoeman says, "A heartfelt and sole-ful thank you all!"

Helping Hands, Crystal City is a program started by a mom who worships at Grace, Emily Holdinghausen. (You may have seen the article in the Jan. 26 *Leader*.) She became aware that even though a number of elementary kids could rely on the free and reduced lunch program at school, they had nothing to eat during the weekends. She then founded Helping Hands to send kids home on Friday afternoon with delicious, easy-to-prepare meals and snacks for the weekend. Not only do 26 kids presently receive food for the weekend, but they also do better academically because they're not ill-nourished when they return to their schoolwork on Mondays. Our PW is helping support this ongoing good work. All others can learn how to donate by visiting the website www.helpinghandscrystalcity.blogspot.com or by calling Emily. More information will be posted by Grace as time goes by.

The View From the Loft. The chancel choir is happy to welcome 2 new members, Don and Joy Hetherington!...A big thank you to Sally Borgerson for helping print anthem lyrics in the bulletin!...And Music Director Kirk Jackson will soon be exploding reasons (myths) why people don't sing in the choir, such as "I don't read music," or "I can't be there every Sunday." Join the choir ASAP, lest you be attacked by the mirth of the Music Myth Mayhem-nist, Mithter Kirk Jackson!

How can you know when you have been healed? Seems like an odd question. For many, the answer is obvious: when the pain is gone, the fever has come down, and the disease is no more. But the Gospel of Mark gives a better answer. "The fever left her," we are told of Peter's mother-in-law, "and she began to serve them." As she was healed, she immediately began to serve others. When we are ready to help others in their need and focus once again outside ourselves we will know that we too have been cured. We will no longer be slaves to our hurts and resentments. We will at last be made whole. And we shall live. - Frank Hegedus



"Looks like he decided to take it all with him after all."