



*Grace Presbyterian Church  
105 Bailey Road  
Crystal City, Missouri 63019  
636-937-3019  
[www.gracechurch-pcusa.org](http://www.gracechurch-pcusa.org)*

March 13, 2009

**Mission Statement:** *Grace Presbyterian Church of Crystal City, Missouri, while grounded in its rich past, lives in the present and looks to the future, as it seeks to empower its members so that they realize their spiritual gifts and witness to God's love and grace. This witness will extend throughout the community and beyond to all of our neighbors in order to build bridges, to reach out with compassion, and to connect people with God.*

---

### **LENT AND EASTER**

Lent is the time to prepare for Easter. During the 40 days of Lent we meditate on the sufferings and the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. He did it to pay the ultimate penalty for the sins of the world. He did it to demonstrate how much God loves us in spite of all our sins. He did it as a prelude to the Resurrection. Yes, on the third day He rose from the dead and appeared to the disciples for forty days. Then He ascended into heaven to be seated at the Right Hand of God the Father. He now prays for us constantly at the Throne of Grace. He has chosen to come and live within any one of us who opens up her/his heart to Him.

In order to observe the rest of Lent and celebrate Easter, let us open up our hearts to the Lord. Let us learn to speak with Him and listen to Him right within our own hearts as guided by the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

I praise God for the great Ash Wednesday Service we had. Over 100 people participated. As we placed ashes on our foreheads, we praised the Lord for transforming the "ashes" of our lives with His Blood. Let us confess our sins daily, asking Him to give us His transforming forgiveness and the power to grow in all His goodness and greatness.

What a privilege it was for many of us to come to our church for the 24 hour prayer vigil for our Pastor Nominating Committee! Many prayed at their own homes. As a whole congregation we presented our prayers of praise and petitions on behalf of the Committee. I am positive that the Committee will have the wisdom and joy to find the best pastor for our church. Let us continue to pray for their work.

Some of us are following the "Lenten Living" as a devotional guide. Others are using other materials. Let us keep on encouraging one another to grow deeper in our spiritual life as we enjoy living in Christ and let Him live in us. Growing in our personal relationship with Jesus is the best way to prepare ourselves for Easter. I am positive that we will have a great Easter celebration, bursting forth in exuberance for the resurrection guaranteed for each and every one of us.

Pastor Joe



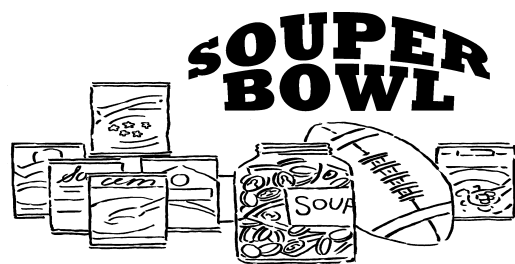
### MISSION COMMITTEE

Thank you for your generous donation of gloves, socks, caps, scarfs, etc for the Mitten Tree on January 19.

Souper Bowl Sunday donations on February 1 were: 596 cans of soup and 75 boxes/bags of crackers.

The Jefferson County Rescue Mission was very thankful for all of the above donations and for our continued support.

Amy Petschonek, Chairperson



## **PAPER RECYCLING**

**Reminder!** Save your newspapers, mail, school papers, etc and bring to the church and deposit it in our paper recycling bin located in the parking lot. You are reducing your trash load, improving the environment and helping the church make a few extra dollars.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Members of the Church you did it again!!!

The Winter Gathering held at Grace was so much fun. Our men directed traffic, assisted ladies entering, opened doors and operated the elevator.

We had vivacious lady greeters, delightful and competent registrants, unique and attractive name tags, gracious cloakroom attendants, beautifully decorated tables for breakfast and lunch, delicious food, gracious and accommodating hostess, efficient ushers and a dedicated money counter.

David Crump gave an informative and enthusiastic presentation regarding Habitat for Humanity for which \$561 was collected and donated to that organization.

Over 100 women attended and we had 47 workers.

Those attending were greeted with smiles and gracious kindness. They left with smiles on their faces and words of praise. Thanks be to God and those involved!

At our January meeting Susan DeClue gave us a follow up on the Backpack for Kids Project that the Hillsboro gifted students participated in. Their efforts earned them a trip to Michigan State in Lansing at which they won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in International Competition. Our own Charm Hopfer was their teacher.

Valentine's Day was celebrated at the February Meeting with a party complete with games. Mary Orr and Sue Byrd led the way.

Barbara Schmidt selected, wrapped and sent care Valentine Packages to our college students. We have received thank you notes and it makes us feel so good! Thank you Barb and all.

The program in March will be the "Birthday Objective" presented by Gayle Quinton.

Mark your calendar:

May 4 Mother/Daughter Banquet, 6:30  
June 1 Father/Son Banquet, 6:30

**We Have Royalty Among Us!**

Sierra Brown was chosen Dutchess and Haley Null, Queen of the Jefferson School Valentine Extravaganza. Both are honor students and in the gifted program. Haley is President of her 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

Haley and Sierra were vital members of the R-7 basketball team that took 1<sup>st</sup> place in Conference play and completed the season undefeated.

Recently they played a saxophone duet at the regional Music contest and received a I, the highest rating. Their band also received a I. they are especially proud of their school that entered 18 music events and received 13 I's.

**We are Proud of You!**

Judy Null,  
PW Moderator



[www.gracechurch-pcusa.org](http://www.gracechurch-pcusa.org)

# Looking Ahead

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| April | 5  | Palm Sunday<br>Symbols of Easter  |
|       | 6  | PNC Meeting 7:00 pm   |
|       | 9  | Maundy Thurs. Serv.   |
|       | 11 | Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm   |
|       | 12 | Easter Early Serv. 8:00 am<br>Regular Service 10:45 am<br>1 Great Hour Offering |
| ^^    | 13 | Gem Committee 6:00 pm<br>Session 7:00 pm  |
|       | 16 | PW Salad Lunch., Noon   |
|       | 17 | Fun/Fellowship 6:00 pm  |
|       | 20 | PNC 7:00 pm   |
|       | 24 | Scrapbooking 5:30 pm  |
|       | 25 | Scrapbooking 8:30 am  |
|       | 27 | PNC 7:00 pm   |
| May   | 4  | Mother/Daughter Banq.<br>6:30 pm  |



The following were received into the membership of Grace Presbyterian Church on Sunday, January 25: Lillian Manning, 119 Lincoln Ave., Crystal City, Mo. 63019. Telephone 931-3625, Reaffirmation of Faith, Ed Schweiger, Reaffirmation of Faith, Toni Schweiger (Mrs. Ed), Affirmation of Faith and Adult Baptism. The Schweiger's address is 819 Ann St., Festus, Mo. 63028. Telephone 933-1776.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 21

**7:00 A.M.**

All men are invited. Please men, invite your sons, grandsons and friends to come. Let us have a great new beginning for our Men's Ministry. The Lord has great blessings for us and through us. Call Bob Chapman (636-937-6665) for reservations. We need to know the number to prepare enough food.

**MR. DALE VANDIVER**, the Past President of the Presbyterian Men of our General Assembly, agreed to be our speaker. He was brought up and married in this church. He has a lot of good memories.

## 2009 JOINT COMMUNITY SERVICES

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday<br>March 15<br>5:00 PM       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Christian Ch., Festus<br>Rev. Gene Hinrichsen                  |
| Sunday<br>March 22<br>5:00 P.M.     | Festus Church of the<br>Nazarene<br>Rev. Jack King                             |
| Sunday<br>March 29<br>5:00 P.M.     | Twin City Christian Ch.<br>Rev. Chris Mangus                                   |
| Palm Sunday<br>April 5<br>5:00 P.M. | Festus United<br>Pentecostal Church<br>Rev. Randy Starkey                      |
| Good Friday<br>April 10<br>NOON     | Main St. Processional<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist to United<br>Methodist Church |

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

There will be special envelopes in the pew racks for your contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be collected on Easter Sunday. You will be hearing more about this during the upcoming worship services.

## MEMORIALS

In memory of Alfred E. Tucker, Kenneth D. Tucker, and Alfred D. Tucker from Hilda Tucker

## MEMORIALS FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN

In memory of Loretta Bova from Eva Kirkpatrick

In memory of Berenice and Henry (Red) Bryant from Eva Kirkpatrick

In memory of Albert Heinze from Eva Kirkpatrick

## NEW HYMNALS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF FROM

Nancy Mills, George Wilson, Kelley, Robin, Craig and Families, Pat Fabick Haynish and Doug.

## DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN THAT WERE NOT MEMORIALS

Mr. & Mrs. Truman Askins



**My mother taught me RELIGION**  
“You better pray that will come out of the carpet”

**My mother taught me LOGIC**  
“Because I said so that’s why”

**My mother taught me IRONY**  
“Keep crying, and I’ll give you something to cry about”

**My mother taught me WISDOM**  
“When you get to be my age you’ll understand”

**My mother taught me STAMINA**  
“You’ll sit there until all that spinach is gone”

**My mother taught me about RECEIVING**  
“You are going to get it when we get home”

**My mother taught me about WEATHER**  
“This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it”

## SUNDAY SCHOOL STORY

After church one Sunday, a young boy suddenly announced that he wanted to be a minister when he grew up. His mother asked him why he had decided that. “Well” the boy replied, “I have to go to church anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell than to sit still and listen.”

## BRAIN TEASER

I go to many places,  
I am hard and used in races,  
I am striped on some occasions,  
I’ll take you on vacation,  
“What am I?”

Answer: A Road

