

## *Grace Presbyterian Church Newsletter*

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[www.gracechurch-pcusa.org](http://www.gracechurch-pcusa.org) for calendar info, sermons, and much more

January, 2012

### **COMING UP!**

**Sunday, Jan. 15.** 10:45a.m. Ordination & Installation of officers  
3:00p.m. Assimilation Committee Meeting (Grace, FPC Festus)

**Sunday, Feb. 5.** Annual Congregational Meeting, Souper Bowl Sunday

**Sunday, Feb. 12.** Boy Scout Sunday

**Postings.** "Thanks for all the cards, phone calls, visits, prayers, and the prayer shawl during my illness." **Ginny Wooldridge**... "Thanks to everyone who helped make our cookie sale a success! Profits went to a Merry Christmas for two families as well as to help the Pastor's Discretionary Fund." **PW Council**...

"Thank you for your prayers. After 6 months of radiation and chemo treatments, my last CAT scan came back clean!" **Sherry Stricklen**... A recent graduate of Mizzou with a Bachelor's in Nutrition is **Nicole Marie Harmon**, daughter of Pam and Bill Harmon... Leading the Willard R-2 School District to an honor from the NAMMF as a Best Community for Music Education is **Christopher Church**, Shirley Shideler's son... "Thanks for your donations for our two servicemen in Afghanistan. Two boxes of goodies (90 lbs. total) were shipped for Christmas!" **The Deacons**.

**January donations** for the Rescue Mission include pasta, tomato sauce, paper plates, and toothbrushes. **December's totals** - Bags: 23, Dry/Box: 50, Can/Jar: 43, Home: 7, Personal: 16. Thank you very much!

**"The New Testament World of Jesus:** Historical circumstances leading to his death," will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 21 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. Don't just give up something for Lent. Do something positive! Learn more!

**Thoughts About traveling.** I have been in many places, but I've never been in **Cahoots**. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in **Cognito**. At least I don't think so. I constantly get lost and need people to tell me where I am. But if I was in Cognito, no one would recognize me.

I have, however, been in **Sane**. Since it doesn't have an airport, you have to be driven there. I have made several trips thanks to my friends, family and work. I would like to go to **Conclusions**, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in **Doubt**. I have misgivings about Doubt, so I try not to visit there too often. I've been in **Flexible**, and more often as I get older. Sometimes I'm in **Capable**. Every time I find myself there I long for the good old days when I was in **Dustrious**. One of my favorite places to be is in **Suspense**! I love it because it gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart!

**Toy Drive.** We collected at least 103 toys for the Rescue Mission to give out for Christmas! Thanks to all who helped!

**Local Winter Relief Offering.** Thanks to your generosity we have thus far collected \$1,281 so that we might help out our neighbors as they struggle to pay their heating bills!

**New officers** elected at the congregational meeting, 12/11/11: Elders – Judy Null, Gary Stephens, Patty Vandergriff, and Chris Evens; Deacons – Truman and Betty Askins, Shirley Ann Biere; GEM Committee – Mark Trautwein, Betty Askins, and Steve DeClue; Nominating Committee (from the congregation) – Bill Lucas, Cheri Johnson, Sue Byrd, and Iva West. Congratulations to all of these!

And thanks for their service to elders going off the session: Larry Byrd, Mark Trautwein, and Carolyn Pruneau. Great job!

**Breakfast With Santa** was a great experience for as many as one hundred persons, children and adults! Thanks to the Men of the Church for hosting the breakfast, to Bob Denison for taking pictures, to Chris Evens for playing Mrs. Santa Claus, and to Terry O'Neill for really getting into the role of Santa!

**The Christmas Eve Jazz Service** drew a crowd! So many came that we ran out of communion cups (but all our guests were served). The service was much like usual – sermon, Christmas carols, Chancel Choir anthem, organ music during communion. The difference was the addition that our own Al Sherman made possible, the sound of the Grace Quartet – Al, Dick McCreary, Brad Madson, and Mark Caputa!

*At this time I'd like to welcome all our gold medallion passengers aboard...*

