



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

**January 15, 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.*

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**From the Pastor:** We may wonder what the New Year will bring, but what if we turned this question around: what do we bring to the New Year?

If we just go into 2010 hoping for a great life on the cheap, we will be disappointed. But if we go into the New Year with our sleeves rolled up and ready to stick to our guns, by God's grace we can build and enjoy a good life.

There is an old saying that goes, *Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.* In the New Year our thoughts, habits, and character are important. It's how we build and enjoy the sort of life Jesus calls us to experience.

But such a life is not easy. Ira Dreyfuss says that the shortest sports season of the year is from New Year's Day to the Super Bowl. "People who know they ought to start exercising begin a gym membership on New Year's. But after the Super Bowl, their willpower has waned and they're gone. Outta there." Whereas a thought (resolution) led to an action (beginning a gym membership), going to the gym did not take root and result in a habit.

The difficulty isn't just a lack of willpower. "From TV movies to cars, huge industries don't make money when you exercise. They sell things for which you need to be sedentary." We need to remember that there are forces out there arrayed against our building and enjoying a good life. It profits many companies, including those that advertise during the Super Bowl, that we be couch potatoes. Dreyfuss asks if we realize what the ads are trying to get us to do. "Sit in front of the TV for a minimum of three

hours and up to eight.” And while we do, we eat and drink what we resolved not to eat and drink and give up our resolution to exercise.”

Of course it’s this way with all the Christian values we’d like to see become virtues in our lives; values such as generosity, kindness, thankfulness, frugality, forgiveness, etc.

*Sow a thought, reap an action. Sow an action, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.* It’s hard work, but by god’s grace we can face up to our weaknesses, as well as deal with the opposition from other forces, and build and enjoy a good life in the coming year. Pray for God’s help and guidance. - DJ

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## **DEACONS OF GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

On January 3, 2010 during the church service, the Compassion Team were ordained or installed as Deacons of our church. With this service the team became officers of our church. The Deacons will continue to offer compassion, minister to those who are in need, those who are sick and others in our church and community that are in distress. We as a church should be thankful to those who give of their time and talents to making this a place of love and concern. We have not had Deacons for several years to give your support to these new Deacons:

Shirley Ann Biere

Judy Null

Truman & Betty Askins

Don & Monica Hetherington

Joan Groat

Julie Varady

Bob & Alta Chapman

Dale & Toni Houzenga

## **PER CAPITA**

Presbyterian Church USA has set our per capita apportionment for 2010 at \$26.50 per church member. Our per capita helps support our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Just as we pay for an internet or cable connection to share information and resources, we pay our per capita to share the resources of our connectional Presbyterian system.

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you haven’t picked up your 2010 offering envelopes, please do so. They are located on a table in the Sunday School hall across from the drinking fountain. If you did not have a box assigned and would like one please call the church office, 937-3019..

## **ABITIBI PAPER RECYCLE NEWS**

Please remember to bring your newspapers, junk mail, and magazines to our Abitibi Paper Recycle Bin. Our goal is to double our weight each month to 2 tons! The proceeds we earn from recycling paper are earmarked for the mission trip this March.

**GEM**  
**Aka**  
**GIFTS, ENDOWMENT,**  
**MEMORIALS**

I'm the one you send your contributions to for memorials in honor of or in memory of someone.

If you designate your contributions to any department, say – Vacation Bible School, Friends of the Fountain, Choir Music, Nursery, Sunday School, Quilters, Endowment, Presbyterian Women, General Fund, etc., then that's what it will be spent for. If no designation is made it goes into the Memorial Fund to be spent whenever and however needed. You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift and the family of the one being honored will receive notice of your gift, without the dollar amount.

If you need more information you can call Betty Askins, 636-475-9586.

Thanks for your time.

GEM

**GRACE PRESBYTERIAN**  
**WOMEN**

The Cookie and Candy sale on December 5<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. THANKS to the congregation for buying our homemade treats. The profit, we realized from this sale, was used to purchase Christmas gifts for three families. Fran Cavins and Joan Groat shopped on December 15 and then on Wednesday the women who tie comfort quilts wrapped the gifts. The Elks of Festus/Crystal City provided 2 baskets of food for each family. On December 19<sup>th</sup> the families came to the church to collect their Christmas that was provided by our PW.

On December 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, the Presbyterian Women hosted a Christmas Buffet and party for all the women of our church. Forty one attended and a good time was had by those who came to share the holiday with others. We hope to have another party next year, so plan to attend.

One of our members, Betty Labrier, left her home in Crystal City last January to live in the Veterans Home in North St.

Louis. On December 18 Vicky Brown, Joan Groat, and Judy Null visited her and found her to be well and happy. She has been a member of our church for many years and she needs to be remembered.

Mark your calendars now to attend our Thursday Presbyterian Women Meeting on January 21, 1:00 p.m. Bob Blanchard from Belleville, Ill, who now serves on the History Team at Presbytery will portray in costume one of the two men responsible for our Giddings Lovejoy beginnings. One of the men named Rev. Salmon Giddings (1782-1827) founded the first Presbyterian Church in our region. The other man Rev. Elijah Parish Lovejoy (1802-1837) was a martyr in the movement to abolish slavery in our nation. Whichever program he chooses to do we will surely learn much history.

The Presbyterian Women will be going to Hillside Presbyterian Church located in House Springs, Mo. on January 30<sup>th</sup> to attend the Winter Gathering of the Presbyterian women of the Giddings/Lovejoy Presbytery. If you would like to go, please pay Joan Groat seven dollars for your lunch by January 21<sup>st</sup>. we will carpool and will plan to leave the church by 8:30 a.m. Registration begins at 9am with the meeting at 10am and after lunch the day will end at about 1:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us.

Mary Orr, Moderator,  
Grace Presbyterian Women

**BOOKS FOR SALE**

Looking for something to read during the cold, dark, winter months? Look no more! The mission trip group is selling autographed copies of 3 books by Rev. Dewey Johnson. His novel, *Summer of Champions*, is \$22; the book of short stories is \$12, and if you purchase both books together, we will give you his third book for free! Contact the church office or Susan DeClue to purchase your books. There is a limited supply available, so don't delay.



## **CLERKS CORNER**

As we begin the new year, I am required to complete statistical information about our church and make a detailed report to the Presbytery. Some of that information will be shared in the Annual Report that we will be handing out soon.

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 31. The annual report and a narrative budget will be distributed to our members. The session of the church actually approves the budget, but the congregation is made aware of the budget. This year, we are working to educate our members so that more people understand what we are doing with our money and the goals we are making.

January has been a busy month already. On January 3, we installed and ordained our new class of deacons and elders. The deacon board replaces our compassion team. The deacons are: Judy Null, Bob and Alta Chapman, Truman and Betty Askins, Shirley Ann Biere, Toni and Dale Houzenga, Joan Groat, Monica and Don Hetherington and Julie Varady. Mary Orr will be the special advisor to the Board of Deacons. The elders for the class of 2012 are: Barb Schmidt, Bill Sternberg, and Sally Borgerson.

On January 10, the Giddings Lovejoy Presbytery installed our new pastor, Rev. Dewey Johnson. Rev. Tom Clifton preached the sermon and Donna Trautwein's brother, Scott Wynn, played the bagpipes. A reception was held afterwards in fellowship Hall.

## **ROTATION MODEL SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Christian Education Ministry will begin a new curriculum for children in grades K-6. Each unit will last approximately 4-6 weeks and will center on a common theme. Each week during the unit, the children will explore the same story, but from a different point of view. One week, for example, may focus on drama, another on science/cooking, another week on arts/crafts. Each lesson is carefully constructed to teach a bible verse, story, and fun activity.

In order for the program to be successful, we need two things: children and YOU!

We are asking for volunteers to help out on a monthly basis. Contact Chris Evens or Rev. Johnson if you are interested. A training workshop will be offered to teach people about the new program. Stay tuned!

## **CHILDREN'S BOOKS AVAILABLE TO READ DURING CHURCH**

Grace Presbyterian Christian Education Team has purchased a series of books for school-aged children to enjoy. We have purchased two copies of a series of books by Mike Thaler who is the popular children's author who penned all of the Black Lagoon books. The books that we purchased all center around God, church, and the Bible. Some of the titles include: *Walking the Plank to the Baptism Tank*, *Mission Trip Impossible*, *Church Summer Cramp*, *Preacher Creature Strikes on Sunday*, and *Easter Egg Haunt*.

One set of books will be on the piano (in a basket) in the sanctuary. The other set will be in the Kinder Church room. We hope your child will enjoy reading them. Please help us keep the books safely here at church.

## **CHURCH WEBSITE**

The church website ([www.gracechurch-pcusa.org](http://www.gracechurch-pcusa.org)) has a number of pages that you might find useful. The calendar page lists all of the church events. You can set up reminders for yourself via email or text. Never miss a meeting again. The pastor's weekly column, sermons, and prayer updates, are all available as well. Enter your email in the box and his messages will be sent automatically to your email account. It's a great way to stay in contact.

Grace Presbyterian Church also has a Facebook page that Vicky Brown set up. If you use Facebook, join Grace Presbyterian's page.

## **FLOWER CHART**

Honor a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion by signing up on the 2010 Flower Chart located on the wall in the narthex. Call the church office, 937-3019, for more information and the cost.

## **NURSERY NEWS**

The nursery has had several cosmetic improvements over the last month. Larry and Sue Byrd built and painted new storage containers on the north wall in the nursery. Theresa Stockham helped with the design concept and her daughter, Raeann, along with one of her friends, came in over the holiday break and painted the children's chairs in the nursery. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to make the nursery a more inviting place for our children.

## **SYMPATHY**

.....to the Groat Family in the loss of Arlene's mother, Bonnie Ladd  
.....to the Null Family in the loss of Dawn's grandmother, Irmalee Coleman.



Thank you to those who sent cards, called, brought food, and gave me emotional support during the recent loss of my mother, Bonnie Ladd. Thanks also to Circle #3 for their memorial to my mother to be used for choir music.

Arlene Groat

Our heartfelt thanks to all who prayed diligently for healing over the last year for Jennifer Strachan (Joan's daughter). The last report was that Jennifer had no evidence of disease and N.E.D. is now on her medical report.

Ed & Joan Groat

## **100 YEARS**

### **LET'S HELP ANNA MAE BROWNING CELEBRATE**

A Memory Book is being planned. Send a letter and current picture (if available with names on back of photo) by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Include in your note your relationship to Anna Mae (relative, friend). Send to

Wayne & Janet Bischler, 1711 Grand View Drive, Sunrise Beach, Mo. 65079.

## **MEMORIALS/CHOIR MUSIC**

In memory of Bonnie Ladd (Arlene Groat's mother) from Dr. & Mrs. Bob Cayse, Judy Young, Mary Skiadas, Benson & Deeda Burns, Circle #3

## **MEMORIALS**

In memory of Byron & Lealla Munson from Brent & Jane (Sewald) Regan

Memorials for Endowment Fund in memory of Madeline Sheltman from Eva Kirkpatrick

In memory of Joe Hogenmiller from Flora Hogenmiller

Memorials for VBS in memory of Madeline Sheltman from Mary Orr, Mr. & Mrs. Don Cavins

Memorials for Shriners Hospital in memory of Madeline Sheltman from Robert & Dinah Hollmann, Ellis Schmidt

## **MEMORIALS/FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN**

In memory of Madeline Sheltman from Christine & Jan Cowan, Jerry and Pat Burhans, Circle #1, Bob & Pat Sweet, Rick & Kelly Henneman, Shirley Ann Biere, Mark, Laura, Mary, Erin & Amy Schmidt, Ken & Tracy Holdinghausen, Linda Nanney, Pam, Gary & Corey Schmidt, Vicky Brown, Mark & Donna Trautwein, Ray & Mariana Puckett, John & Mary Price, Carl & Valerie Lehman, Jimmy and Nancy Schottel, Mr. & Mrs. Don Cavins, Brenda Stone Wilson, Ellis Schmidt, Frank & Karen Greening, Paul Grobe, Dave & Judy Null, Antoinette Dozier, Nonie & Bob Scotties, Becky Shaw, James & Janice speck, Bob & Alta Chapman.

In memory of Irmalee Coleman from Brenda Stone Wilson.

## **OTHER DONATIONS**

Mr. & Mrs. Truman Askins, Dave Null.  
For Friends of the Fountain

Mr. & Mrs. Truman Askins for Mexico trip.

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
105 BAILEY ROAD  
CRYSTAL CITY, MO. 63019

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