



**Grace Presbyterian Church
Crystal City, Missouri 63019**

January 23, 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.*

THE NEW YEAR, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The Bible repeatedly teaches us to "Sing to the Lord a New Song" (Psalms 33:3;96:1;98:1;149:1; Isaiah 4:2-10). Because He has done great things and He plans to do greater things in the future. In this New Year, 2009, God has all sorts of great blessings for us individually and collectively. Grace Church will have a new pastor. Our Pastor Search Committee is working hard at finding the best new pastor. Our whole church is praying and preparing for the new pastor.

What a privilege it is for me to be your Interim Pastor to prepare the church for the new pastor! I praise God for it and ask for his guidance and blessings, but I'll do my best as your interim. Let us continue to pray and prepare ourselves and our church for the new pastor and for a new beginning with him or her.

Let us keep on praising God for our past, for the 117 years of the ministry of our church. Let us keep on praising God for all the pastors and elders who worked hard to bring us this far. As we praise God for our past, our minds get opened to all the new opportunities and possibilities. We get the vision God had for our church. Apostle Paul wrote, "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). Desiring, day-dreaming, and envisioning all the new things, let us learn to sing a new song to the Lord. Let us welcome all the changes God has in store for us that we may become stronger, greater and deeper in His ministry in building up His kingdom.

Pastor Joe

Progressive Dinner February 14th



Are you looking for some great food, wonderful fellowship and probably some memorable moments? On Valentine's Day, a Progressive Dinner is planned for everyone to come and enjoy. We will need four homes to come call on for appetizers, salads, dinner and dessert. Everyone else will assist in preparing dishes for the home of their choice. We will travel by caravan to each home to discover the tasty treats that await us. At the end of the evening, we will meet back at church for prayer and thanksgiving. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Educational Building.

Evangelism Committee

News From the PNC

In the effort to keep you informed of our process, we are happy to report that we have, as of our last meeting, received 42 PIF's (Personal Information Forms.) PIF's, as you may recall, are the form that potential candidates fill out to let us know of their interest to be our Pastor. Ten of these forms were self referrals and the rest were computer matches received from Presbytery.

We are in the process of reviewing these forms, which is a rather tedious job. We Like to give each and every one of the forms our full consideration. We cannot give you any of the details of these forms, as they are considered confidential at this time.

We do ask for your continued prayers for our committee as we proceed with our search.

SYMPATHY

.....to the Shideler/Michler Families in the loss of Albert Heinze

....to the Carroll Family in the loss of Blake's father.

....to the Varady family in the loss of Bert's father in Ohio.

Hospitality

Isn't it great to see so many new faces? Make sure you introduce yourself and encourage them to stay for coffee. It's a great way that we can all get to know one another better.

Love each other as I have loved you.
John 15:12

And encourage them to stay for coffee

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Through the regular distribution of funds from our Endowment Fund, the GEM (Gifts, Endowments and Memorials) Committee announces the availability of one \$700 scholarship for members of Grace Presbyterian Church. This scholarship is for any form of higher education and will be applicable for the 2009-10 school year.

Application forms are available in the church office and must be returned to the office by March 30. For further questions, contact Aline Spence or Mark Trautwein.

PAPER RECYCLING

Have you started your 2009 Paper Recycling Program at home yet? If not, this would be a great time. Find a container (plastic bin, laundry basket, cardboard box, etc) and set it up near your trashcan or other recycling bins. Toss in all paper—newspaper, mail, school papers, etc. When your box is full, bring it to church and deposit it in our paper-recycling bin located in the parking lot. It's easy. You are reducing your trash load, improving the environment, and helping the church make a few extra dollars.

Also, please remember to help us keep the sanctuary clean and neat. At the end of the service, please pick up trash and put your bulletins in one of the paper recycling bins. We appreciate your support in our recycling efforts?

Church site is on the Web

The new church website is up and running! We are using our on-line calendar to help people stay connected with upcoming events as well as our Blog, where you can submit a prayer request to Pastor Joe. You can sign up for Calendar reminders as well as Blog notices.

We hope to begin adding our newsletters and audio of worship services. Our website is: www.gracechurch-pcusa.org

We would like to thank Carol Cunningham and her sister, Jane for their memorial gift in memory of their mother. Their gift helped to pay for the construction of the website. A big thank you to Krissandra Venosdale, a Hillsboro teacher, who created the website.

We plan to have a reception after church for Carol and Krissy and be able to show

the website on the wall in Fellowship Hall.

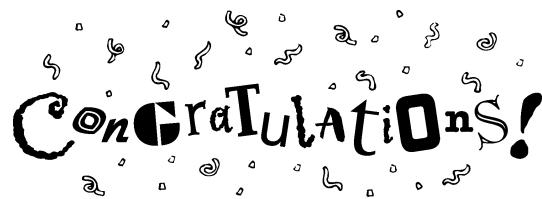
Our website is also a tool to let potential ministers know more about our church and community.

Submitted by Susan DeClue

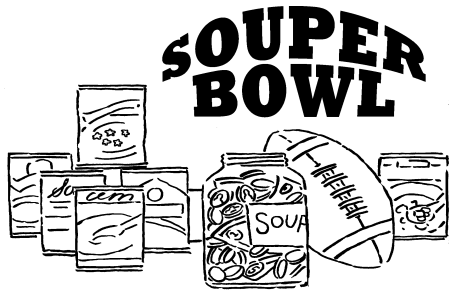


Thank you for the many cards and thoughtfulness, Pastor Joe's hospital visit, and kindnesses shown to our family on the recent passing of our father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Albert A. Heinze.

Shirley Heinze Shideler
Noelle Church Michler



Long time member, Anna Mae Browning, will celebrate her birthday on February 20. Let's all (especially those ladies in her circle) send her a card. Mail it to: Anna Mae Browning %Paul Bischeler, 43 Lost spike Tri., Camdenton, Mo. 65020



Sunday, February 1. Bring cans of soup and boxes of crackers. Goal is 1000. All will be given to the Jefferson County Rescue Mission.

PER CAPITA

“The Particular churches of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. wherever they are, taken collectively, constitute one church.” Presbyterian Churches are not simply connected to one another; it is the combination of all the churches that define the PCUSA. Since the Protestant Reformation, Presbyterians have chosen to govern themselves as a church in certain ways, which help to define what it means to be Presbyterian. One of the distinctive characteristics is our system of gradually more inclusive governing bodies; local churches form a Presbytery, Presbyteries form a Synod, and Synods form the General Assembly. Each of these governing bodies has responsibilities for managing our church as a whole.

Per Capita Apportionment is the system by which each Presbyterian’s fair share of the cost of maintaining our church government. For 2009, the General Assembly needs \$6.15 from every Presbyterian to carry out BEING the national expression of our church. This money goes to pay for the meetings of the General Assembly, for the ecumenical relationship of which we as Presbyterians are a part, for the staff that facilitate the operations of the Stated Clerk and Moderator, and for many other functions considered necessary to be the General Assembly of the PCUSA. In a similar fashion, the Synod of Mid America needs \$3.34 from every Presbyterian within the bounds of the Synod to carry out BEING the regional expression of our church. This money

goes to pay for the meetings of the Synod, for the maintenance of the office facilities, for the staff that facilitates the office of the Stated Clerk, for assisting with travel for Missouri and Illinois participation, the Presbyterian Manors and for many other functions and missions considered necessary to be PCUSA within the Synod’s boundaries and area.

The Presbytery of Giddings/Lovejoy (located in St. Louis, Mo.) needs \$13.47 from every Presbyterian within the churches of the presbytery to carry out BEING the area expression of our church. This money goes to pay for meetings of the presbytery, payments for office space, travel support for Presbytery participation, for staff that supports the office of the Stated Clerk, the Executive Presbyter, and other staff, for computers and telephones to enable communication, support for Camp Mound Ridge, and many missions within the bounds of Presbytery and around the world.

That means that for 2009 each church of the Presbytery of Giddings/Lovejoy is asked to contribute per church member: \$22.96. Per Capita is the opportunity for all church members to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of providing the structures and systems that enable us to engage in missions and to perform the ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify us as Presbyterian. Even when individual churches withhold a portion of the Per Capita the Presbytery is mandated to pay the full per capita, according to their membership. Therefore not paying per capital diminishes the mission work within our Presbytery and our national and global missions.

MISSION is what the Presbyterians in a particular place choose to do to be faithful to God’s call for action through the body of Christ. Mission is what the faithful do in response to God’s gift in Jesus Christ. Just how that response is shared is determined by the particular needs felt and the resources available. PER CAPITA is the individual’s share of Presbyterians being ready and organized to respond to the mission needs they perceive as a community of faith.

Per Capita is not a tax. It is not a fund raising plot to finance wild eyed schemes, or to provide a disincentive for a behavior the church wishes to extinguish. *Per Capita is the cost of being a national church, governed as a representative democracy, brought down to the individual level.* Because our polity (how we are governed) places the responsibility for individual church members with the local Session, it is the Session that is asked to vote to contribute the Per Capita Apportionment when they approve the budget. In early 2009, local churches will be asked to contribute \$22.95 for each church member on their rolls as of December 31, 2008.

ALL OF US derive benefit from being members of the Presbyterian Church. Per Capita asks that we ALL share in what it costs to be the Presbyterian Church. Some Sessions choose to include per capita in their budget and simply pay it from the contributions of their members. Some ask members to contribute the per capita amount on top of their support for the ministry and operation of the church. Some even have specific per capita fund raisers to deal with per capita. Our church has decided to give the opportunity for our members to give per capita as a special contribution besides what is given for the church.

SACRAMENTS: THE FIVE **Ws (and One H)**

The following article was condensed from www.pcusa.org/sacraments by David Gambrell)

What do Presbyterians believe about the sacraments? Here is a brief introduction to what our Directory for Worship (*from the Book of Order*) says, guided by the six basic questions: what, who, when, where, why and how.

What are the sacraments? We recognize two Sacraments – Baptism and the Lord’s Supper – as having been “instituted by God and commended by Christ.” (W-1.3033). This affirmation is founded on Scripture – foremost in the gospels’ accounts of Christ’s baptism by John, the Great Commission (W-

2.3001), and his meals with the disciples (W-2.4001).

Who celebrates the sacraments? The sacraments are the work of the whole people of God in worship, through the leadership of the minister of the Word and Sacrament together with elders and deacons. We believe that Christ acts in the sacraments – inviting us to share in his death and resurrection through baptism (W-2.3002). and to feast with him at the table he prepares (W-2.4004).

Who receives the sacraments?

In our tradition, baptism is offered to the children of believers and to those who enter the church by their own profession of faith. The Lord’s Supper is open to all the baptized faithful (W-2.4006) who come to the table “in faith, repentance, and love” (W-2.4011a).

When do we celebrate the sacraments? The most appropriate time is Sunday worship. Although “Baptism is received only once,” (W-2.3007) we reaffirm the baptismal covenant each time we welcome a new member to the body of Christ or participate in the Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper may be celebrated as often as every Sunday and should be celebrated “regularly and frequently enough to be recognized as integral to the Service for the Lord’s Day” (W-2.4009).

Where do we celebrate the sacraments? Baptism and the Lord’s Supper normally take place in the worship of a particular congregation, under the governance of the session (W-1.4004, W-2.3012, W-2.4012). Occasionally sacraments are celebrated in places beyond the local church. However, such celebrations are exceptions to the rule, are still understood to be acts of the whole church, and require the oversight of an appropriate governing body (W-2.3011, W-2.4010).

Why do we celebrate the sacraments?

The Book of Order provides at least eight scriptural references to this question. Basically, we celebrate the sacraments because they are signs and seals of new and abundant life in Christ.

How do we celebrate the sacraments?

A sacrament always involves special words, symbolic actions, and material

elements. Both sacraments require the administration of one who is ordained and authorized to perform them, ordinarily a minister of the Word and Sacrament (W-2.3011, W-2.4012), who leads the people in a prayer of thanksgiving to God (W-3.3604, W-3.3613).

Further information can be obtained by visiting the aforementioned website.

Mark Trautwein,
Music & Worship



MEMORIALS

In memory of Lea and Byron Munson from Brent & Jane Regan

In memory of Mamie Tidd from Wade & Joan Williams, Nellie Althausen

In memory of Berenice Bryant from Nellie Althausen

In memory of Charlotte McCreary from Nellie Althausen

In memory of Albert Heinze, father of Shirley Shideler from Madeline Sheltman

In memory of Loretta Bova from Anna & Allen Boyer, Paul Bova, Brenda Stone, Mike & Gail Reed.

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN

In memory of Berenice Bryant from Bill & Pat Bryant, Dr. & Mrs. Bob Cayse, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Schmidt, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Reed, John & Ann Van Dewiel, Gary & Sharon Best, Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Thurman, Charles & Jean Frank, Virgil & Wanda Coburn, Brenda Stone, Sally Schwab, Truman & Betty Askins, Beulah Grass, John & Linda Stephens, Jim & Kathy Ellis

In memory of Mamie Tidd from Mr. & Mrs. Truman Askins, Mr. & Mrs. John Stephens

In memory of Charlotte McCreary from Nancy Mills.

MEMORIAL FOR CHOIR MUSIC

In memory of Monica Wescott from her sister, Helen Egmond.

NEW HYMNALS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF FROM

Mary Skiadas, Truman & Betty Askins, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hulme, Helen Vigna, Vicky Brown, Glenda Letterman, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bell, Pirtle Insurance Agency, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Denison, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dreyer, Mark & Donna Trautwein, Terry & Dianne Nixon, Catherine Sinnott, Jennifer Leamey, Betty Mangos, Nancy Mills, Kathleen O'Brien, Dale & Virginia Wooldridge, The Bryant Family, Julie Reed Hancock, Chris Evens, Dawn Bautista, Jim & Lisa Meng, Betty LaBrier, Pat Crain, George Wilson, Kelley, Robin, Craig & Families.

MEMORIAL FOR ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Joe Hogenmiller from his wife, Flora.

DONATIONS FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN THAT WERE NOT MEMORIALS

Mr. & Mrs. Truman Askins.

