



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

**May 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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### **May Is For Mothers**

One of the great high lights of May is the celebration of Mother's Day May 10<sup>th</sup>. How wonderful it is that our nation has set apart a day to honor our mothers! Let us keep on praising God for our mothers – who are in heaven and others on earth, both biological mothers and adopted mothers, both physical and spiritual mothers. The more we praise God for our mothers, the more we would experience gratitude for our mothers and want to follow their teachings, examples, and inspirations.

The church is called our spiritual mother. It is in the church we experience being born and brought up in faith, in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in the church we are sent out to present the love of Jesus to everyone. It is in the church we are born again into the eternal Kingdom of God – heaven. As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us praise God for our spiritual mother – the church. How great it is to praise God for the 118 years of the ministry of our church!

Our Pastor Nominating Committee has been working hard, meeting every week, praying and working, going through the 125 Pastoral Information Forms they have received so far and the ones that keep on coming to them. Let us keep on praising God for them and ask for His continued guidance, wisdom, and discernment for them that they find the best pastor for our church, the one God has set apart for our church. Let us keep looking forward to all the good and great things God has for our church now and for the future.

Let us praise God for the Men's Ministry that has begun in our church. At the second breakfast the men elected the following officers: Jerry Burhans, President; Bill Sternberg, President Elect; Mark Trautwein, Secretary; and Bob Chapman, Treasurer. Let us praise God for these men and their willingness to work hard to develop an exciting and inspiring Men's Ministry in our church. Let us pray for great and glorious things to come out of our men's ministry for the Kingdom of God.

Let us keep on praying for the growth of our children's ministry: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other activities. How glorious it is to bring the little children to Jesus and see Him blessing them and blessing us to bring them up great. We definitely need a youth ministry and young adult ministry. Let us pray for the grace we need to develop those ministries.

Let this May be filled with God's glorious blessings in abundance for our mother – church. As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us deepen our love for our mothers, including the church.

Pastor Joe

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### News From the Session

In a called meeting of our Session on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., our Elders unanimously approved the construction of a gazebo for our church as recommended by the Gazebo Planning Committee. David Null, the chairman of the committee, made an excellent presentation about the plans and responded to questions. Our Elders also unanimously decided to recommend Vicky Brown to the Presbytery as an “Inquirer” for ordained ministry. This decision does not involve any financial commitment from our church for Vicky's education in the Seminary. Let us praise God for these two decisions and ask for His special blessings upon both of these decisions. Elder Mark Trautwein was elected as our liaison to work with Vicky and the Presbytery Committee.



### Praise For The New Members

At the Session Meeting on April 13, 2009, the following new members were welcomed into our church membership: Don/Karin Hodges, 912 Parc Central Dr., Festus 63028. Telephone 636-933-6039; Charles/Gail Lents, 6771 South Lakeshore Dr., Hillsboro 63050. Telephone 636-274-4245; Katie Perry 916 N. Mill St., Apt. H, Festus 63028. Telephone 1-314-435-3101; Martha Perry 916 N. Mill St., Apt. G, Festus 63028. Telephone 636-937-8005; Chuck (Charles) Walters, 301 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Pevely 63070. Telephone 636-479-7904; Dale/Virginia Wooldridge 30 Adventura Drive, Festus 63028. Telephone 636-933-2671. Let us praise God for those new members and ask for His special blessings that they get deeply involved in the ministry of our church and grow deeper and stronger in Christ. Let us keep on praising God for these who joined our church before: Ed/Marlene Burt, Lillian Manning, Ed/Toni Schweiger.



We need to increase our participation in the paper recycling program. In order to keep our bin, we need to bring in 2 tons of paper each month. We are running about a half ton short. If you are not recycling your paper at home, now is a great time to begin. You'll be surprised how much trash you can reduce at your house if you would recycle your paper.

### Upcoming Guest Ministers

The Music and Worship Committee has been busy securing pulpit supply ministers for Pastor Joe while he will be away in Europe this summer. Our church is honored that our pastor will be attending the meeting of the Ecumenical Relations Committee of the General Assembly in Switzerland. While Pastor Joe is there he will also be participating in the celebration in honor of the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of John Calvin and also visiting with various relatives in several European locations.

On May 24, we will welcome longtime Grace friend, Rev. Dennis Heck, chaplain at Jefferson Regional Medical Center, to give our message.

On May 31, Rev. Bruce J. Melton will be preaching. Rev. Melton has been here before and was very well received with his mixture of ministry and humor. He has requested that, if possible, the congregation wear red on that particular day. He will explain why in his sermon.

On June 7, the Associate Executive of our Presbytery, Rev. Susan H. Niesen will be bringing the word. Rev. Niesen is no stranger to Grace, as she has been very helpful over the past several months in our transition between permanent pastors and has been here on a number of occasions.

Finally, on June 14, Rev. Dr. Paul T. Reiter, the Executive of our Presbytery, will be ministering to us. Again, many of our members are familiar with Dr. Reiter, having seen him most recently at the PW's Winter Gathering here at GPC.

We are very blessed that such esteemed ministers are available to assist us in our worship services and anxiously await their messages for us.

We will welcome back Pastor Joe on Father's Day, June 21 with his sermon, "A Godly Father."

One  
great hour  
of sharing

The \$825.72 collected at Easter will help the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance and will help many marginalized communities learn urban gardening techniques or start community gardens.

### A Special Prayer Request

I thank the Session for giving me the permission to participate in the meeting of the General Assembly committee on Ecumenical Relations which is meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, May 24 to May 29 and to participate in the 500<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations for John Calvin, from May 29 to June 3. Since I am going that far, I requested vacation time till June 20<sup>th</sup>. I will be gone for four Sundays in a row: May 24 and 31, June 7 and 14.

May I request your special prayers for me to be safe and have a great experience, participating in the meetings on behalf of the church and visiting some of my relatives in Italy, Germany and England. I praise God for the privilege of all your love, care and prayers. I will continue to pray for God's abundance upon all of you. Grace is a great church.

Love,  
Pastor Joe

## Thank You

Joan and Ed Groat would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards for Joan's daughter, Jennifer Strachan, who has cancer. Jennifer has been blessed by all the support and love sent to hear from Grace Presbyterian Church. God bless you all.

I thank you for your prayers for Lamont as he goes through chemotherapy, but I want to think all of you too for remembering me and my daughter as well. Your prayers have helped us carry our burden.

Blessings  
Lillian Manning



Ryan Joseph Harmon, child of Mark and Sarah Harmon, was born March 12, 2009 at St. John's Hospital in St. Louis. Ryan weighed 7 lbs. 7 ozs. Grandparents are William and Sue Harmon, Pamela Harmon. Great grandmother is the late Virginia Partney.

Ryan Eric Patterson, child of Wesley and Alison Haverstick Patterson, was born March 31, 2009 at Missouri Baptist Hospital in St. Louis. Ryan weighed 5 lbs. 6 ozs. Grandparents are James and Danice Haverstick. Great grandmother is the late Virginia Partney.

## EKWENDENI COLLEGE of NURSING

Due to the world economic situation, nursing students in Malawi, Africa are in need of funds in order to complete their studies. The shortfall is about \$7000 and any contribution is welcome. If you wish to assist, make your check out to

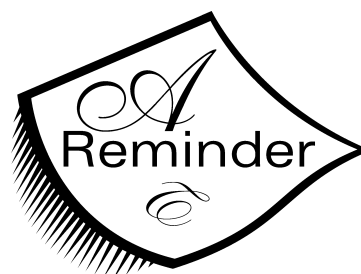
Grace Presbyterian Church and write "Africa" on the memo line.

## What is a Memorial Garden?

Webster Groves and Faith Des Peres Presbyterian churches have recently established memorial gardens. The PCUSA is fully supportive of cremation and finds that it is theologically and ecologically sound, as well as good stewardship. Because the ashes have no biological activity, there are no laws regarding the sprinkling or burial of ashes on church property.

A memorial garden provides a place on church property for the cremated remains of loved ones to become a permanent part of the church grounds. It would become a dignified place of rest, meditation, reflection, and prayer. Locating the memorial garden on church property would allow for frequent visitation. It would provide a natural outdoor extension of our sanctuary where we could honor those who went before us.

A group of people is exploring the possibility of developing a memorial garden at GPC. If you would be interested in making your final resting place at Grace please talk to Vicky Brown, Bob or Marcia Denison.



Per Capita for 2009 is \$22.96 per church member. Have you paid yours?



### College:

Keith Brown from Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly UMR) at Rolla with a Bachelor of Science in Technical Communications. Keith will continue on to get his Masters and will be a teaching assistant at the university in the fall

Richie Carter from the Policy Academy at Mineral Area College. Richie will be graduating with honors.

Andrew (Andy) Nickless from Washington University with a Bachelor of Science in Education. Andy will work at the University in Lab Research for Cancer

Brent Portell from Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly UMR) at Rolla with a degree in Architectural Engineering with emphasis on structures

### Crystal City High School

Tegan Bouchard. Tegan will be attending Webster University in St. Louis

Kyle Chaney. Kyle plans to work for awhile before going to college

### Festus High School

Raeann Stockham. Raeann will be attending Missouri University in Columbia, Mo.

Ashley Balfanz graduated from Festus High School in December 2008

### Presbyterian Women

Gayle Quinton once again presented our March "Birthday Objective" program. She did a great job as usual. Thank you Gayle.

In April we enjoyed a delicious and beautiful lunch with our men and guest speaker, our own Deane Cramer. Following the scrumptious meal we traveled via video to China with Deane. He shared with us many of the highlights of his stay in China. One of which was meeting a man who told of remembering an Air Stream caravan in his country who traveled around the world. It just so happened Deane's parents were part of that caravan. Thank you Deane for a wonderful program!



Ola ola ola ola

Bright, bountiful and a blast somewhat describes the Mother/Daughter Banquet. It was a full house with over 120 attending. Fellowship Hall was transformed into a Mexican Village under the direction of Mary Orr and her granddaughter Amy Smith. Those assisting with the decorating were Pat and Jim Sweet, Fran and Don Cavins, Dave and Judy Null and Bob Chapman.

The meal was both attractive and delicious. Preparers were Clarice Stinnett, Shirley Biere, Fran Cavins, Pat Sweet, Mary Orr and Judy Null.

Eleven gallant conquistadors served. They were Pastor Joe, Jim Sweet, Bob Chapman, Larry Byrd, Dave Null, Don

Cavins, Mark Trautwein, Ed Groat, Drew Null, Larry Byrd, Easton Null and Bob Aucutt. Assisting the men in the kitchen were Clarice Stinnett and Shirley Biere.

Fun and merriment followed. Winning the Mexican Hat Dance was senora Donna Trautwein, Macarema senorita, Jan Cowan and the Limbo senora, Rene Perry. Selling the most tickets (over 50) was Alta Chapman.

Gracias to all!!! And especially Mary and Amy.

Check out the bulletin board for pictures.

Over 30 ladies made a trip to St. Charles for a delightful lunch, shopping and exploring Miss Aimee Be's. Our thanks to Brenda Stone who organized the event. It was fun!

My reign is about over. Expanding my footsteps will be Mary Orr. As most of you know she is an energetic, caring, and bright people person. Through her leadership the year will be outstanding.

I thank all of you for your assistance, support, encouragement and kindness throughout the years and remember:

*"Grow where God has planted you"*

Judy Null

### **Sympathy**

.....is extended to the McGaughey Family in the loss of Bruce's mother  
.....to the Partney Family in the loss of Virginia Partney  
.....to the Porchey family in the loss of Baby Cunningham

### **New Hymnals given in Memory of or in Honor of From**

Debbie Higginbotham

### **Memorials**

In memory of Virginia Partney from Steven and Susan DeClue to be used for choir music

### **Donations for Friends of the Fountain That Were Not Memorials**

Mr. and Mrs. Truman Askins, Donnie Vogt.

To all who have made contributions and may not have received an acknowledgement (excluding donations for hymnals) these were acknowledged in the newsletters, please let me know. With the holiday and not feeling at the "top of my game" I ran a little slow. I'm VERY sorry but be assured that all gifts received went to the proper designated fund.

The church is most appreciative of all your loving support and thoughtfulness. Again let me know. God bless.

Betty Askins

