

Grace Presbyterian Church Newsletter

105 Bailey Rd., Crystal City, MO, 63019 636-937-3019

www.gracechurch-pcusa.org for calendar info, sermons, and much more

December, 2011

COMING UP!

Dec. 3, Saturday, 9-noon. PW Cookie Sale.

Dec. 4, Sunday, 10:45. Hanging of the Greens.

Dec. 9, Friday, 5:30-9:30pm. As part of the Art Walk, we will display our congregation's nativity sets in Fellowship Hall. We need yours! Please bring it for others to enjoy.

Dec. 10, Sat., noon. PW Christmas Luncheon. All women invited, RSVP Pat Sweet by Dec. 5. Bring a \$5 gift for the gift exchange game.

Dec. 11, Sunday. Toy Drive, Rescue Mission. You can also bring your toys the week before.

Dec. 17, Saturday morning, 8:30-10:30. Breakfast with Santa in Fellowship Hall. Bring kids, grandkids, neighborhood kids for a free pastry and picture with Santa.

Dec. 18, Sunday, 10:45. Christmas Cantata and collection of "Local Winter Relief Offering."

Dec. 24, Jazz Christmas Eve Service, 4:00pm. with communion.

Dec. 25, Christmas Service, 10:45.

Dec. 26-30, Mon-Fri. the church office will be closed from Christmas thru New Year's.

The Local Winter Relief Offering will be taken on Sunday, Dec. 18. (See above.) This offering will go to help Grace join with other churches and agencies in addressing a growing local problem – families who cannot pay their utility bills. In the present economy, Grace has been averaging maybe half a dozen calls a day from families who can't pay their electric bills. Now that will change to those who can't pay their gas bills. Presently we can help four-families/mo. with \$30 each. BUT each family we help must raise the rest of the bill balance from other sources – churches, agencies, family, etc. – before we pay our part to the utility. (Think about the effort this takes to get pledges to pay a \$250 delinquent bill.) This is a GROWING PROBLEM.

The Christmas Eve Service is at a new time, 4:00pm. Around the country churches, such as Grace, are confronted with elderly people who can't come out for a midnight service and young families who can't bring their kids out that late at night. An early evening service is one alternative, yet one that may interfere with family Christmas Eve celebrations. Thus, more and more churches are going to a 4:00pm service. This way more of the congregation can participate.

Breakfast with Santa is a new, joint effort of the session and the Men of the Church. (See above.) Please tell your neighbors and relatives. This is a great way to invite others to Grace and for the kids to have a great time. Every child takes away a picture of himself/herself with Santa.

Postings. "Thanks for all the cards, phone calls, and get-well wishes re. my recent surgery. It is a blessing to have such a caring Church family." **Marcia Denison**... "Thanks for the cards, phone calls, prayers, and prayer shawl. Everyone has shown so much concern. With all the support, my recovery is almost complete." **Bill Sternberg.**

Mitten Tree results. On Sun., Nov. 13, Grace collected items to help needy children stay warm now that the weather has changed. We gathered hats, mittens, blankets, headwraps, scarves, socks, underwear, and shirts for a total of 405 items!

From PW. The apple butter sold out! Thanks to the whole church for making it a success... PW Handbooks are finished thanks to Liz McClain, Judy Null, Sue Byrd, Mary Orr, and Betty Askins.

Thanks to Brenda Wilson, Barb Schmidt, and helpers for helping provide us with a pictorial directory! Around 70 pictures were taken. We will let you know when the directories are in.

December donations for the Rescue Mission include: canned meat, hot/cold cereal, shaving cream, & trash bags. To be collected at Grace by Sunday, Dec. 25. (The count for November - Bags: 35, Can/Jar: 100, Box/Dry: 52, Home: 6, Personal: 9, Clothing items: 19. Thanks you!)

Youth Group. Youth have been active recently in a candle-lighting ceremony on All Saints Sunday, Oct. 30. They also will be amongst the Advent readers. For info, call Terry, 314-322-2449.

PASTOR'S COLUMN. What was Christmas like at the homes of some of history's most famous people? Their moms give us a hint.

- **Paul Revere's Mom (11:45, Christmas Eve):** I don't care where you think you have to go, young man, midnight is past your curfew!
- **Michelangelo's Mom (late Christmas afternoon):** Why can't you write on the walls like other children? Believe me, young man, this is the last time you're getting Crayolas for Christmas. Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off the ceiling?
- **Napoleon's Mom:** Stop kidding around. If you aren't hiding my Christmas present inside your jacket, take your hand out of there and show me.
- **George Washington's Mom (Christmas afternoon):** Just see if you get any Christmas money next year! The the idea of throwing perfectly good money across the Potomac!
- **Abraham Lincoln's Mom (late Christmas afternoon):** Abe, are you still wearing that old stovepipe hat? Your dad and I just gave you a perfectly good baseball cap. Try it on? It would look good on you turned backwards.
- **Thomas Edison's Mom (Christmas Eve):** Yes, I'm very proud that you invented the electric light bulb. Now, turn it off and get to bed.

