

Grace Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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www.gracechurch-pcusa.org for prayer list, sermons, and more

July, 2010

One Sign outside a church: "We're Now Open Between Easter and Christmas!"

A Second Sign: "Why? Some Questions Can't Be Answered By Google."

We had a great VBS! An offering of \$186.61 went to our denomination's effort to help with the Gulf oil spill. Thanks to all who helped!

The Deacons are sponsoring a **Blood Drive on Monday, Aug. 16** from 3:00-7:00p.m. Questions? Call Mary Orr at the church office.

New Pew Bibles have been donated to Grace in memory of Christine Cowan. Thanks to Jan, Pam'la, and Paula!

Postings: Helen Schackman says, "Thank you for all the phone calls, prayers, and cards. I really appreciated them. God bless you."

Children's Sunday school changes on Rally Day, 9/12, to the Workshop Rotational Model. The first series deals with "**The Creation Story!**" Children will meet in Fellowship Hall so as to have access to all the resources needed – water, kitchen, more space.

A New Adult Sunday School Class starts on July 25, "**The Meaning of Revelation For Today**". Rev. Johnson will teach at 9:30 for 6 weeks. This is especially relevant for our circles in that the PW study this year is Revelation.

Terry O'Neill, our new elder, is looking forward to getting all the youth together after Labor Day. If you have any questions, please call him at the church office.

Jefferson County Rescue Mission appreciates our support. They're always in need of tomato sauce and plastic bags in which people carry home food and toiletry items.

The Farmers Market at Grace receives many positive comments from the public! Most every vegetable can be found now. Wednesdays, 4:00-8:00pm.

The Alpha course begins at Grace on Tuesday evenings, September 14, 6:15 for eleven weeks. Dinner is provided, an outstanding DVD presentation is made by Nicky Gumbel on topics of the Christian life, and a great discussion is held around tables having to do with that evening's topic. Childcare is provided for those requesting it. Invite friends and experience it together. Signup sheets at church or call the church office.

Music in the Park. Saturday, August 28, 7:00p.m. – Dennis Stroughmatt's band, "et' L'esprit Creole."

From the Pastor. *Revelation* is a wonderful book. Much of it is straightforward, but some is difficult to understand. Why? Because *Revelation* was written ca. 90-95a.d., when Roman Caesar Domitian was persecuting Christians. This meant that much in *Revelation* is of a symbolic nature, symbols that could be understood by Christians, but not by the Romans should they come across a copy.

John, who wrote *Revelation*, was giving the churches of Asia Minor hope. Caesar Domitian was making Christians state publicly that he was "Lord and God," not Jesus. If a Christian would not say this in public, he/she could be executed or denied a work permit, which eventually would lead to death. Thus, the message of *Revelation* is that Jesus rules the world, not Caesar. "Hang in there; God will get you through this. Help is on the way."

An ex. of the symbolic language is Rev. 13: 1, "And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads; and on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads were blasphemous names." The beast is Rome. The seven heads were the seven hills of Rome. The ten horns and diadems refer to the many caesars, who uttered blasphemy by claiming that they were divine. Associated with this worship of caesars is Rev. 13: 18, which says the number of that beast is the number of a person, 666.

What this most likely refers to is the practice of giving a letter of the Hebrew alphabet a numerical equivalent and then adding up the sum of a name. For example, in English, A=1, B=2, Y=25. So, Abby=1+2+2+25=30. If you do this with Neron Caesar, or Nero, you get 666. Nero, who was known for setting the fire in Rome, blamed it on the Christians. As a result of his lies, Christians suffered horribly. -DJ

Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.
-Philippians 2:2-5

They invented hugs to let people know you love them without saying anything."

