

Grace Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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

May, 2011

A two-year old was a big talker. As her mom got her ready for Easter services, she said to the little girl over and over, "You do not talk in church."

When they got to the church and the pastor started the Call to Worship, the little girl stood in the pew and shouted, "Uh, uh! You do not talk in church!"

We're in the Christian season of Eastertide, or the Festival of Christ's Resurrection, a 50-day period of seven Sundays, beginning with Easter. (And the Sunday is simply called Easter, not Easter Sunday.) Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, March 21. The name comes from Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of spring. The mood is joy and triumph. The color is white.

Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter, is celebrated to affirm that Jesus Christ is Lord of all times and places. The 40 days correspond to the number of Jesus' days on earth before he ascended into the sky. The other 10 days correspond to the length of time the disciples waited in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Looking ahead.

May 8, Mother's Day. The youth are in charge of the service!

May 18, Wednesday, Farmers' Market

May 29, Sunday, Scatter Garden Dedication after the worship service.

June 6, Monday, 6:30, Father-Son Banquet, \$8/ticket

July 17, Sun. thru July 21, Thurs. Vacation Bible School

Postings... "Thank you for all your prayers, thoughts, & cards that I received after my surgery."

Gail Reed. Thank you to everyone that helped with the Mother/Daughter Party. A special thanks to all the men that helped serve.

Our delegate this year to the Presbytery's Celebration of Aging is Mary Orr! She was honored along with delegates from other churches in the presbytery on May 5.

May meal-a-month donations to the Rescue Mission include canned meat, rice, pork and beans, toothpaste.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has been working in Missouri assessing Good Friday storm damage, as well as flooding in Southeast Missouri. The good news is that all of our churches escaped major damage. The question is "**What can we do to help?**" Dial 211 or go to the website (www.211missouri.org). In the St. Louis area we can register as individuals or church groups to offer volunteer services through 211, the local and national database for volunteer help and groups wanting to give assistance. In Southeast Missouri there is still a need for Clean Up Kits – call Church World Service at 800-297-1516 or go to www.churchworldservice.org and click on the "KITS" tab to find out how to make a donation for a kit (\$56 plus \$3 for shipping).

Our youth group, and several other volunteers from the church, hosted a "Prom Pictures" reception in our park Saturday, April 30 from 2:15 – 5:00ish. Cookies and punch were served, as well as little bags of mints, etc. to prom goers. It was a great success! Thanks to all who helped. Both Festus High and Crystal City High held proms that evening.

Scatter Garden. At its April meeting, the Session voted to establish a Scatter Garden on the grounds of Grace Presbyterian Church as a designated place to deposit human cremains (cremated remains) of church members, families and friends. This is to be located on the east end of the church, just outside the narthex, where the current flower bed is. There will be a recognition plaque mounted in the narthex with engraved plates containing the name, birth date and death date of each person whose cremains have been scattered in the garden. Additionally, a book will remain in the narthex containing information about each person, as provided by the family. While there is no set fee for using the facility, a donation of \$300.00 is recommended. Part of this donation would go for upkeep and recognition materials. The remainder would be used wherever it is needed, as determined by Session. Dedication of the Scatter Garden will be on Sunday, May 29, at the end of the worship service. All are invited to attend. For further information about the Scatter Garden, contact Rev. Johnson or the chair of the GEM committee, Mark Trautwein.

"Nothing surpasses the holiness of those who have learned perfect acceptance of everything that is. In the game of cards called life, one plays the hand one is dealt to the best of one's ability. Those who insist on playing, not the hand they were given, but the one they insist they should have been dealt - these are life's failures. We are not asked if we will play. That's not an option. Play we must. The option is how. - Anthony de Mello

"We were singing, 'Jesus Loves Me,' when all of a sudden it hit me... Jesus loves me... ME... Completely worthless ol' me."

