



**Grace Presbyterian Church
105 Bailey Road
Crystal City, Missouri 63019
636-937-3019
www.gracechurch-pcusa.org**

November 20, 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.*

Pastor's Column. Do you remember that one Christmas during WWI there was a brief truce between German and British troops facing each other across the trenches? Alfred Anderson, the last surviving soldier who was there, died in 2005 at age 109 in Scotland. The year was 1914, and Anderson recalled to the end of his life the "eerie sound of silence" as the shooting stopped and soldiers clambered from trenches to greet one another.

The enemies swapped cigarettes and tunic buttons, sang carols, and even played soccer amid the mud, barbed wire, and shell-holes of no man's land. The informal truce spread along much of the 500-mile Western Front, in some cases lasting for days. This alarmed army commanders who feared that fraternization would sap the troops' will to fight. The next year, of course, brought the start of long battles that claimed ten million lives, and the Christmas truce of 1914 was never repeated.

Maybe this should serve as a reminder that as we enter this Advent season there is a power attached to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, that is as of yet untapped. We have seen glimpses of His power, but what good things might Jesus work in our lives and world if we would just let Him? If we would accept the gift of His power rather than fight against it? At least our souls would be at peace rather than be battlegrounds for all the conflicts inside us.

Cheri and I are looking forward to our first Advent and Christmas at Grace. Thanks again for a warm welcome. - Dewey

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN **WOMEN**

Since our last visit (via this newsletter), the women have been quite busy. On September 18 and 19 the women along with many men cooked apple butter and canned it for sale. We filled 658 jars and as of this writing there are only 10 jars left to sell. We want to thank all who helped in this tremendous undertaking. We want to thank those who also bought the delicious product.

On October 3rd we hosted the Fall Festival. This is a great day for fun and fellowship plus a lot of work. Many thanks to all who helped and gave support in the many booths. In the gazebo we had a country band playing from 10 am until noon. Dick Fischer and Chris Eldridge brought in a truck load of mums to sell and they sold out. Many homemade goodies were sold in the Country Store. Trash and Treasures was well attended and little by little many hundreds of dollars were realized. Quilts, Afghans, history items of the church and of course apple butter were also sold. This wonderful day was a success except for the cold wind.

All of the Circles are meeting and enjoying the Bible Study on Joshua. Circle #5 has been meeting on the 2nd or 3rd Sunday after church. We are so proud of these young women in our church who are showing their leadership for our church's future.

We would like for our women to collect quarters in their Circles so that we can give them to the Presbytery at the Winter Gathering in House Springs in January. These quarters will be given to the immigrant families in South County so that they can do their laundry.

December 5th is our annual Cookie Sale. This year we will offer homemade candies. So get out your mixers and put on your aprons and bring your goodies to the church on Thursday December 3rd from 6 pm to 8 pm upstairs because there is a meeting downstairs. You also can bring them in Friday morning before 11 am. We will assemble the platters at 11:00 am for sale on Saturday. Come join in the fun.

Mark your calendars. On December 12th at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall, we will have a Christmas Party for all the women of the

church. Watch your mail because an invitation is forthcoming. Please try to come and mingle with the other women of our church. What a wonderful time to get together. The program will be "Angels Among Us". There will be food, games, and gifts. Please do not miss this good time.

On November 18th Joan Groat and myself presented a check in the amount of \$318.00 to the Rescue Mission. This amount is a percentage of the profit from our Fall Festival. The Sardos were most appreciative of this gift.

Mary Orr
Moderator

COMPASSION MINISTRY

Your Compassion Ministry is working in many ways. As you know the twelve persons in this group have been voted on to become Deacons of this church. They are: Dale & Toni Houzenga, Bob & Alta Chapman, Shirley Ann Biere, Joan Groat, Don & Monica Hetherington, Truman and Betty Askins, Judy Null, Julie Varady.

The Deacon Board has been reestablished in our church and under the close guidance of Reverend Johnson, we hope to expand our duties. There are many ways we can help and assist the members of our church and our community such as shopping for shut-ins, transportation, or just someone to talk to. Please do not hesitate to call when you need something. You may call the church office, 937-3019, or Mary Orr at 337-8188. We love you and are here to show you how much.

In the last few months, we have given communion to eleven shut-ins in nursing homes or their homes. Many prayer shawls have been given to those in the hospital or sick at home. If you can knit or crochet, the prayer shawl ministry needs you to make these shawls. If you are interested, please call Mary Orr at 337-8188.

PW MISSIONS

The Presbyterian Women supports many ideas that are helping the different needy areas in our community. On Wednesday several get together to finish comfort quilts for the Backpack for Kids in Jefferson County. We have lately donated the last of 500 quilts to this wonderful organization. This is an ongoing project which involves many women constructing the quilts, putting in the yarn for tying, and then tying them. We have also given some larger quilts to the Women's Shelter of Jefferson County and the Hospice of Jefferson Regional Medical Center. These places were so appreciative of our concern for their issues to give these people the best. The Children's Home in Farmington is also one of the places that our help goes out to. In the past we have provided them with 80 twin sized blankets in a year, but this year they only requested 50. We are at this time researching where we can purchase them at a reasonable price. Much love goes into this mission and we feel so blessed to be a part of this.

ALINE'S RETIREMENT PARTY

On October 30, 2009 a retirement party was given for Aline Spence. She has been the church secretary for 25 years.

The Fellowship Hall was decorated in fall colors. Judy's Flower Basket provided the decorations.

Aline spoke on how she became the church secretary and many interesting events that have happened during her 25 years. Her love and dedication to our church will always be remembered.

Mark Trautwein was the MC for the evening and what a terrific job he did.

Rev. Richard Carter gave us some insight into the many happenings during their time together.

Don Davis, Aline's dearest friend, spoke of their relationship and how much he and his family love Aline and have asked her to become a part of their family. He also sang "We're So Glad We Had This Time Together," then everyone in attendance joined him in singing it to her. It was very touching.

Pastor Joe had already left our church, but he wrote a letter that was read by Dave Null. Joe and Aline became very good friends while he was our interim pastor.

A prayer was given and everyone enjoyed the hors d'oeuvre buffet along with punch and coffee. A decorated cake was then cut and served. Aline opened many gifts and cards and received a love offering from members of the church.

Aline is staying on to assist the new church secretary when one has been hired.

Many thanks go out to all who attended her party, sent cards, and wished her well with gifts. She will be missed and our love and prayers go with her when she begins this next chapter of her life.



The following were received into the membership of the church on October 18, 2009: Herb Jackson, Jr. 1310 Hillsboro Road, Festus 63028 by transfer. Telephone 937-5270; Kirk & Candilee Jackson, 1102 Crystal Heights Road, Crystal City by transfer. Telephone 931-5432; Jennifer Krug and sons Justin Womack and Jake LaBrayere, 8214 Alpine Village Drive, Barnhart by Affirmation of Faith and Baptism. Telephone 314-348-4778.

WEDDINGS

George Harry Wilson (non member) and Brenda Stone (member) were married in the gazebo here at Grace on October 25, 2009.

Scott Robert Stephens (member) and Melissa Renee Stroder (non-member) were married at Grace on November 7.

Abitibi Paper Recycling Program

With the holidays fast approaching, your mailbox is probably over-flowing with catalogues and other ads. This would be a great time to begin your paper-recycling program at home. It's easier than you think. Find a basket, set it near your trashcan, and when you throw paper, mail, or newspapers away, simply place it in the recycling basket rather than your trash can. Once a week, stop by church and put your paper in the Abitibi Recycling Bin located in the parking lot.

Last month, Abitibi ran a contest to challenge businesses and churches to collect two tons of paper. We brought in 1.39 tons and made \$6.95. With over 130 members, we should be able to do a lot better than one ton per month.

By recycling your paper, you are reducing the amount of trash going into area landfills and you are promoting "green" jobs for our area. Nearly 30 cubic yards of landfill was saved just by our small participation.

Participating in our recycling program is one of the best gifts you could give our church. Remember, that God has entrusted us to care for the earth. Can we double our efforts and set a goal of 3 tons each month? Let's all try!

THANK YOU

"Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

(Mark 1:17, NRSV)

We have an idea that God calls just certain kinds of people to the ministry. For instance, people under age 25, men, children of preachers, and people who fish for a living like the apostles. It is hard to understand why a person who already has a career would "decide" to become a minister. My fellow seminarians come from a variety of backgrounds. Oh, there are a few who have completed an undergrad degree and directly entered seminary. However, most of us have left perfectly good careers to study for the ministry, which is kind of like jumping out

of a perfectly good airplane. There are teachers, nurses, a professor, a prison guard, a social worker, computer technology workers, a car salesman, musicians, mothers of newborns, grandparents, and an engineer who helped to build the Metrolink. Of the two attorneys, one left a position that paid a quarter of a million dollars a year. The woman with the most unique pre-seminary career was an elephant trainer. (Pretty wild, huh?) It is fair to say that none of my seminary colleagues "decided" to become ministers. Just as the disciples dropped their nets to follow Jesus, people are still making huge sacrifices to follow the call. We are all leaving the security of our former lives and careers to answer the call.

I thank you for recognizing my call and for your support. Your prayers, hugs, words of encouragement, occasional lunch, proof reading, and monetary support are profoundly appreciated.

Lovingly in Christ,
Vicky Brown

I would like to thank each one for their kind expressions of concern before and after my surgery. Thanks to all for phone calls, cards, and most of all for prayers. Thank you to Pastor Joe for the time spent with me and my family.

Sincerely,
Deeda Burns

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and visits when I couldn't drive. God Bless!

Helen Schackman

Thank you for giving me such a beautiful retirement party. It's sad to be leaving such a good group of people, but I am overjoyed at having had the opportunity to share twenty five years with so many nice people at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Aline Spence

PUENTES de CRISTO MISSION TRIP

Grace Presbyterian Church is sending seven members on our first mission trip in 118 years. Last week we sponsored a Tex-Mex Dinner and raffle to raise funds for the trip. The final numbers are not in, but we made approximately \$300. So far, we have raised nearly \$1000. The trip will cost approximately \$600 per person; therefore, we will need an additional \$2000.

It is appropriate that we plan our first trip to Puentes de Cristo whose symbol is a bridge. Indeed, we are building many bridges on this trip. Some of the bridges include those right here in our church—educating our members about mission trips and building bridges of enthusiasm for the work of Christ as we seek to discover who our neighbor is. We are building bridges of prayer with God as all of us seek to do His will. The participants will build bridges of friendship while at the mission with local Mexicans as well as strengthen the ties to the larger church worldwide. Individually, we will build bridges both internally and externally as we journey through this new experience.

As part of the church, we are called to be missionaries—spreading the Good News of the Gospel. Some are not physically able to make the journey, others cannot go for a variety of other reasons; however, we have a group of committed people who are willing to take a risk and make personal sacrifices. It is our responsibility to support this mission trip spiritually and financially.

PCUSA recently adopted an invitation to expand our partnership in God's Mission. The invitation is copied below. Please read it carefully and continue to ask God for his guidance and blessing as we prepare for this mission trip.

An Invitation to Expanding Partnership in God's Mission

As members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) committed to God's mission, accompanied by global partners, we gathered together January 16-18, 2008 in Dallas, Texas. We acknowledge the rich Presbyterian heritage in world mission and reaffirm the Presbyterian understanding of God's mission as it is expressed in "Gathering for God's Future,"

The Good News of Jesus Christ is to be shared with the whole world. As disciples of Jesus Christ, each of us in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is sent into the world to join God's mission. As individuals and as a church, we are called to be faithful in this discipleship. Our mission is centered in the triune God. Our mission is God-called, Christ-centered and Spirit-led. Our mission is both proclamation and service; it is the reason the church exists...

Our renewed call from God is to face the challenges of witnessing and evangelizing worldwide, equipping the church for transforming mission, engaging in ministries of reconciliation, justice, healing and grace, and living the Good News of Jesus Christ in community with people who are poor, [persecuted, and living in the midst of violence]...

The church is part of God's plan. We are called into the community of the church, and we call new disciples into that community. With Christ as our head, the church community exists for the sake of God's mission. We learn to serve in missions in a way that is faithful to the triune God. We are to model the kind of community God intends for all humanity. To be the church is to be one large mission society.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Toddlers to high school students are invited to participate in the program. The first practice will be Sunday, November 29th during Sunday School and again on December 6th during Sunday School and the program will be during worship service on December 6.

We will collect new and gently used toys for needy children on December 13th.

We will also be having a Birthday Party for Baby Jesus on December 20th.

Let's help our children to remember...

**JESUS IS THE REASON
FOR THE SEASON!**

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

- Dec. 2 – PW Council, 12:30 p.m.
3 – Lunch/Josephine's
4 – PW Prepare Cookies to sell
5 – PW Cookie Sale
6 – Hanging of the Greens
8 – Circle #3, 9:30 a.m.
8 – Circle #1, 1:00 p.m.
10 – Circle #4, 9:30 a.m.
10 – Circle #2, 7:00 p.m.
12 – PW Christmas Party
1:00 p.m.
12 – Scrapbooking 3:30 p.m.
13 - Communion
13 - Toys for Rescue Mission
14 - Session 7:00 p.m.
18 - Fun & Fellowship 6:00 p.m.
19 - Men's Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
19 - Evangelism, Christmas
Carols, 2:00 p.m.
20 - Birthday Party/Baby Jesus
24 - Christmas Eve Serv.
11:00 p.m.

SYMPATHY

.....to the Burt Family in the loss of Ed's mother

.....to the Becker Family in the loss of Donald

.....to the Schweiger Family in the loss of Toni's grandmother.

MEMORIALS

In the last newsletter it was shown a memorial was given for Clarice Stinnett from Tom & Shirley Lucas but should have said the memorial was for Bernice Bryant for Friends of the Fountain

Also it was shown a memorial was given for Clarice Stinnett from Steve & Susan DeClue but should have said the memorial was for Helen Johnson for Presbyterian Women

Sorry for this error and inconvenience it might have caused.

In memory of Norville Becker from Gloria Dietrich

In memory of Clarice Stinnett from Lillian Bale

MEMORIALS

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN

In memory of Norville Becker from Brenda Stone

In memory of Cecelia Cohoon from Brenda Stone, Betty Mangos, Dr. John & Michele Schwent, Ann Mahan & Jamie Methven, Walter Griffin, Mary Skiadas

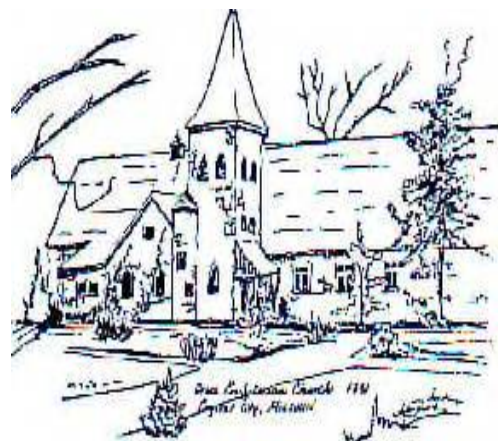
In memory of Frances & Jesse Antley from Truman & Betty Askins for a rose bed

In memory of Clarice Stinnett from Truman & Betty Askins

In memory of Helen Johnson from Truman & Betty Askins

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FRIENDS OF THE FOUNTAIN THAT WERE NOT MEMORIALS:

Donation in honor of Aline Spence from Truman & Betty Askins for a rose bed, David Null.



Mission Committee

Give –A-Meal A Month

Food Items:

PB&J
Hot/cold cereal
Macaroni and Cheese
Tomato Sauce
Pasta (all kinds)
Pork N Beans
Soup
Canned Vegetables
Canned Meats
Canned Stew
Chicken and Dumplings
Hamburger Helper
Tuna Helper
Cans of Spaghetti
Ravioli
Rice
Instant Potatoes
Coffee
Sweetener
Powder Creamer

Personal Items:

Bar/Liquid Soap
Shampoo
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Disposable Razors
Baby Powder
Lotion

House Hold Items:

Paper plates
Paper cups
Paper towels
Paper napkins
Utensils
Coffee filters
Trash bags
Cleaning supplies
Zip lock bags, all sizes

Prayerfully consider these items as you shop for your Give-A-Meal A Month donation.

The last Sunday of each month will be Give-A-Meal A Month Sunday. Our monthly goal will be 20 bags! The children will collect the bags during Jr. Sermon. Mark your calendars!

Please check the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall to see monthly menu ideas. You may also access all Rescue Mission items on the church website.

Can't make it to the store? Consider making a donation to the Rescue Mission.

Jefferson County Rescue Mission
P.O. Box 211
Pevely, MO 63070

Any questions? Please see Laura DeClue

Donated items for August:

Can/jar goods: 72 items
Boxed/dry goods: 46 items
Household: 2 items
School: 34 items
Personal: 11 items
Baby: 2 items

Donated items for September:

Can/Boxed goods: 129 items
Dry goods: 9 items
Household: 7 items
Personal: 4 items

Donated items for October:

Can/jar goods: 138 items
Boxed/dry goods: 42 items
Household: 26 items
Personal: 27 items

School Items:

Two pocket folders
Wide ruled loose-leaf paper
3-ring binders

Clothes:

Seasonal items only
Children's clothing

Clerk's Corner

by Susan DeClue

As Clerk of the Session at Grace Presbyterian Church, I plan to write a monthly column sharing information from the session. I encourage all members to join one of our ministry teams and become more involved with the work of our church. Our All-Team ministries meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM. The ministries of the church include: Christian Education, Evangelism, Missions, Music and Worship, Administration (Stewardship/Budget, Building and Grounds, Personnel) and our board of Deacons (formerly the Compassion Team).

Rev. Dewey Johnson began his ministry at Grace Presbyterian on November 1. He and his wife, Cheri, were welcomed on November 8 with a key to the church and a "Pounding." They will work together to lead a new Inquiry class beginning November 22 in the library. The Johnsons have purchased a home in Bailey Station in Festus and their home phone number is: 933-1750. In order to facilitate their move to our church, the session voted to extend a short-term, interest-free loan of \$80,000 to Dewey and Cheri. The money will be repaid when their home in New Mexico is sold.

During worship service, we will continue our ritual of extending greetings to one another; however, mindful of H1N1 and other flu viruses, some members may prefer not to shake hands. Other alternatives include a "fist bump", "elbow bump" or a Namaste greeting (hands in prayer with a quick bow). If you or anyone else is unable to worship in large crowds, we do have speakers in the choir room, kinderchurch room, and Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to worship in any of those areas without being exposed to large groups of people. We also have the text and audio of Rev. Dewey's sermons available on our website: www.grachchurch-pcusa.org. Click on **BLOGS** and choose text or audio. You can also subscribe in i-Tunes. In fact, Rev. Johnson is writing a number of weekly BLOGS for our readers and updates the Prayer List each Monday morning.

Our church will have an entry in the **Twin City Christmas parade** this year. Watch for our float featuring Dewey's First Christmas at Grace.

In December, we will Install and Ordain a new class of Elders and Deacons. Deacons will also assume the additional responsibility of ushering.

Linda Stephens was recommended by Music and Worship Team to be the new wedding coordinator.

We will hold a Congregation Meeting in January to present our 2010 budget. The Session will vote to approve the budget in December and then present it for information to the congregation. This year's narrative budget will provide a detailed explanation of each ministry and what expenses are incurred in that area.

PCUSA has set our per capita apportionment for 2010 at \$26.50 per church member. Our per capita helps support our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Just as we pay for an Internet or cable connection to share information and resources, we pay our per capita to share the resources of our connectional Presbyterian system.



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