

## THE PURPOSE OF GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*IS TO GLORIFY GOD BY GATHERING AND GROWING HIS  
PEOPLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS WORD*

### Lord's Supper and Fellowship Meal!

This coming Sunday morning we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Examine your heart, confessing your sin and trusting in Christ alone for your salvation, and come to the table with great anticipation for how God will grow you through this covenant meal. Following the morning worship service, we will have a church-wide fellowship meal. Bring your favorite dish!



#### A Graceful Holiday Sale

Fundraiser for the Grace Presbyterian Church Building Program this **Saturday, December 3rd** from 9 AM – 5 PM at the Algod Elementary School cafeteria

#### Lessons and Carols Service

If you are interested in singing in a choir at the Lessons and Carols service on **Sunday evening, December 18th**, at 6:00 p.m., please contact Cathy Wilkins. You can call her at (919) 889-9231 or email her at [cathygreenwilkins@yahoo.com](mailto:cathygreenwilkins@yahoo.com).

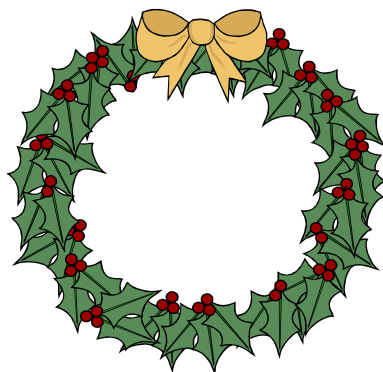
#### Special December Services

On **Sunday, December 18th**, our evening worship service will be a service of Lessons and Carols at 6:00 p.m. We will read through and sing the story of God sending His Son Jesus to be our Savior. On **Sunday, December 25th**, we will not have Sunday School, but we will have normal Sunday morning and evening worship services. Come end this day of celebration with your family in the worship of our incarnate Savior!



### Benevolence Offering This Sunday Will Benefit the PCA's Ministerial Relief Fund

After the first Sunday Lord's Supper each month, we take up an offering for the needy among us. This money goes into the Benevolence Fund and the Deacons administer it as needs arise. This month, the Deacons have decided to send the entire December benevolence offering to the PCA's Ministerial Relief Fund. This fund assists needy, retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, church lay workers, their widows and dependent children. Often our retired pastors, missionaries, and, in some cases, their widows have incomes close to or below the Federal Poverty Level. Many served under a low salary structure and were not able to adequately participate in a retirement plan. Presently, over four hundred potential Relief recipients are being monitored. Applications for assistance from the Ministerial Relief Fund are carefully and confidentially reviewed. Gifts from the Relief Fund are given on the basis of need for a specified time period. Please give generously this Lord's Day!



# WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON?

- ◆ **Saturday, December 3rd**—A Graceful Holiday Sale (see front)
- ◆ **Sunday, December 4th**—Q & A Evening Worship
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 7th**—Church Caroling—5:30 PM
- ◆ **Friday, December 9th**—Youth Progressive Dinner and Gift Exchange
- ◆ **Sunday, December 18th**—Lesson & Carols Evening Worship Service

- ◆ **Monday, December 19th**—Gifts for Kids Putnam deadline
- ◆ **Wednesday, December 28th**—Cookeville Rescue Mission Meal
- ◆ **Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study**—10-11:30 AM at home of Jan Stevens
- ◆ **2nd & 4th Monday Evening Ladies' Bible Study**— 7:00 PM at the Meeting House—see Rachel Parker for details
- ◆ **Every Wednesday @ 6:30 PM**—Youth Group

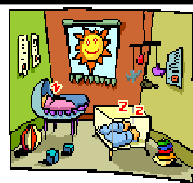
## New Members

The Spickards

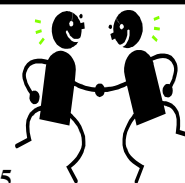
Dan and Tracey

and their children

Bethany and Josiah



## December Nursery/Greeter Volunteers



SS Babies

12/4

Twitty

12/11

Nyhof

12/18

Morse

12/25

Spickard

AM Worship

D. Enochs

Rust

Hoepfner

Hadlock

PM Worship

Cangelosi

Robson

A. Farris

Davis

Greeters

Craig

J/D Enochs

Morse/Williamson

Wilbourn



## December Birthdays



## & Anniversaries

12/4—Alicia Enochs

12/8—Beth Ann Cangelosi, Kelsey Cunningham

12/12—Jonathan Elmore, Laura Medley

12/15—Phil Wilbourn

12/17—Ron Nyhof

12/21—Owen Hadlock

12/26—Megan Kincaid

12/28—Mary Richards

Proverbs 18:2

*"He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord."*

12/12— Craig & Sonya Henderson, Phillip & Karen Kincaid

12/14—Will & Alicia Enochs

12/19—Tony & Vonnie Earnst

12/20—Ron & Deb Nyhof

12/27—Brent & Lori Ann McClearn

## Pastor Caleb's Corner

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I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration last week. It's snowing as I write this article, which reminds me how thankful I am to live here in Cookeville, Tennessee (Baton Rouge got maybe two snows when I was growing up, but my children have seen snow every year we've been here). We had a restful Thanksgiving; Elizabeth's family came up from Jackson, MS, and spent the latter part of the week with us. If you've never played Pictionary with eight children and four adults, you're missing out on one of life's great joys. But probably the highlight of our week was Elizabeth's seafood gumbo, complete with Gulf shrimp and fresh lump crabmeat. It doesn't really get much better than that. I want to thank those of you who prayed for me as I worked on my paper for my ThM class this past week. I was able to get about half the paper written (16/30 pages), and I know what needs to go in the rest of the paper. So Lord willing, I'll be able to finish before Christmas!

Speaking of Christmas, this year the 25<sup>th</sup> of December falls on a Sunday, the Lord's Day, the Sabbath day, the day the Lord Himself has set apart as holy, for us to keep as holy each and every week (Gen. 2:1-3; Exo. 20:8-11; Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:10). The incarnation of our Savior Jesus is the reason we gather each and every Lord's Day, for it is through the Word becoming flesh, dying, and rising again that we have the hope of eternal life, the forgiveness of our sins, and our adoption as sons and daughters of God. The eternal purpose and grace and glory of our God "has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel..." (II Tim. 1:10). It's unfortunate

that many only celebrate the birth of Jesus at this time of year, but it's certainly fitting that they do so with song – because as you read Luke's narrative of the birth of Jesus, there was a whole lot of singing! I look forward to our congregational singing this month, and I pray that your meditations upon the person and work of Jesus will be rich and deep as this year ends and a new year begins.

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2012 is going to be a significant year in the life of our congregation, as we (Lord willing) move into our new building this spring, and celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. As the Session has considered the state of our congregation now and prays for God to continue to grow us in this coming year, we believe that it is once again time for you to nominate and elect additional elders and deacons to serve alongside us. This privilege is given to the people of God throughout the Scriptures, but the process of electing new officers is not a quick one. Nominations will be taken this month and next; training will occur through the month of May; examinations (both written and oral) will happen in June, and then at the end of July the Session will present a slate of men for your consideration. Nomination guides and nomination cards will be available throughout the next two months; you must speak to the person you desire to nominate, and he must be willing to be nominated. This process is always an exciting time for the church; God is at work, so let us be praying that He will raise up more faithful men to shepherd as elders and serve as deacons!

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Talking about faithful service brings me

to this piece of sad news: Linda Barnhart, our church secretary since the summer of 2008, is going to be resigning as of the end of this year. I can't express what a blessing she has been to me and to our whole church over the last three and a half years. Fortunately, she will be continuing on as the financial secretary. But we will need to hire someone to do the other administrative duties: bulletins, newsletters, filing, mailings etc. We need someone to work 10 hours per week, on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you or someone you know might be interested, please email me at [calebcangelosi@gmail.com](mailto:calebcangelosi@gmail.com) and I can give you more details.

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As we near the end 2011, we're running approximately \$9,000 behind in our congregational giving to the church's general budget. Fortunately, our spending has been modest, and we have enough cash on hand so that there isn't a problem in terms of cash flow. But we will set our 2012 budget based on 2011 offerings, and so if we remain behind at the end of the year, then tough decisions will likely face the Session when we approve the 2012 budget. We'd much rather debate where to add more to our budget than where to cut from the budget, so please give generously as this year comes to a close. To be counted toward the 2011 budget year, your gifts must be received at the church office by (or your check dated on) Saturday, December 31, 2011. May the Lord pour out a sacrificial spirit of commitment upon us all as we unite to glorify Him, gather the lost, and grow together in knowledge, godliness, and a zeal for good deeds!

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### **A New Sunday School Quarter Begins This Sunday**

**This Sunday, we begin the winter quarter of our Sunday School classes. Two classes will be offered for adults:**

- 1. The *Westminster Confession of Faith* – Pastor Caleb will continue to teach through this foundational document of Presbyterian theology. We are only on chapter 7 (out of 33!), so feel free to join this class even if you weren't in it last quarter.**
- 2. A Godly Family – All of us have been in, are in, or will be in a family. The family is the basic, fundamental building block of society and of the church. But because of sin, living as a husband or wife, father or mother, parent or child, brother or sister, isn't easy. What does God have to say about how to live in our families? After considering the biblical foundations of a godly family, we will discuss communication in the family, marriage, raising children, sibling relationships, and more. The elders will teach this class.**



## Merry Christmas Everyone!

I love this holiday!. I love the Christmas hymns, the decorations, many of the traditions (though not all), and of course, **THE STORY!** Over the years I have been able to preach about **THE STORY** of **Jesus' advent** in many different ways. This past Sunday night I presented from Matthew 1:1 two lessons: **1) the genealogy of Jesus and 2) the genesis of Jesus' reign.** I believe Matthew, under inspiration from the Holy Spirit wanted us to know both aspects about Jesus Christ: 1) that He has the pedigree or was born in the right family to be the **KING** of the Kingdom of God and 2) that He at his first advent- Jesus began His reign as **KING**. "Genesis" means beginnings and that is the actual Greek word Matthew used in 1:1.

By the way, did you know that our word, **Bible**, comes from the very first word in Matthew's Gospel? The Greek word is "biblion" and we just sound out the letters, basically.

This Christmas, I hope you delight in the King-Jesus!! Find ways to tell the story with your children, or grandchildren, with neighbors, friends and even strangers, as God brings them across your path.

Consider, too, how will you "bless the Lord" by giving to others, besides just family. Think about those less fortunate...give coins in the red Salvation Army kettles, or give to the Christmas Offering on Sunday at Church (it helps retired PCA ministers or their widows who are suffering), or give to other Christian charities here in the Upper Cumberland, or even beyond. One tradition at the Berg house was that each of the children got to pick a Christian ministry that would receive a gift from the family at Christmas. Obviously you have to have been saving for these extra giving gifts. How much better to be givers, than to be receivers...since we have been given the greatest gift-**a Savior who is Christ the LORD!**

God bless you, *Andy*



### Christmas Caroling

Children, Youth & Adults meet at the Elementary School on **Wednesday, December 7th** at 5:30 PM. We will finish at the school for pizza and drinks. Dress appropriately.

### Adopt a Child from Kids Putnam This Christmas

Kids Putnam is an organization (associated with Pacesetters) that serves developmentally disabled children. This year there are six children for whom we have the privilege of buying Christmas presents (toys, clothes, shoes, etc.). *All* presents must be brought to church or the church office by **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. They do not need to be wrapped, but they do need to be identified by the name of the child. Look for the signup sheets on the Greeter's Table the next few weeks.

