

The Purpose of Grace Presbyterian Church

is to glorify God by equipping individuals and families with the Word of God so that by God's grace they will grow in their service and worship of God, cultivate a genuinely loving fellowship, and influence the world for Jesus Christ.

Sunday Worship Schedule:

9:15 am Sunday School
Church History I

Galatians

God Is At Work:
The Sovereignty of God in
Your Life

10:30 am Morning Worship
Colossians: Our Sufficient,
Glorious Christ

6:00 pm Evening Worship
The Gospel of Mark:
The Suffering King Has
Come to Save

Wednesday Schedule:

6:00 pm
Youth Group
Algood School

The Session

Caleb Cangelosi
(Teaching Elder),
Brad Bleasdale,
Dennis Parker
(Clerk of Session),
Darryl Richards,
Robert Row (Director
of Family Ministries),
Quinton Bain (Elder
Emeritus)

The Diaconate

Todd Burks,
Chuck Craig,
David Cunningham,
Jamey Farris,
Jason Morse (Treasurer),
John Rust (Chairman),
Michael Savage,
*Wes Stevens

*Deacon for February

Grace Press

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA
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February 5, 2010

Missions Committee Update

Andy Berg, Chairman

The Session has asked me to chair the Missions Committee. Since the **Andrew Berg's** are new at **GRACE**, let me introduce myself. I have loved Jesus since I was a young boy in Miami. Over the last many years I have been working in the church in many capacities: youth ministry for 30 years, been to seminary, been an Associate Pastor, a Pastor of a small church (Columbia, MS), a camp/conference director, a Bible teacher in a Christian school and a layperson in the church teaching many different age groups. Along the way I realized I have a passion for seeing people come to Christ and then discovering their gifts and how to start using them. Carol and I have participated in Evangelism Explosion, gone on mission trips, prayed for missionaries and given to Missions (beyond the tithe). I am humbled by the Session request. I hope that by God's help I will be able to make valuable contributions to your church's Missions Committee.

But maybe you haven't thought much about the Missions Committee or even why it is one of the important arms of **GRACE**. Let me help you with that:

I was looking out the window this morning at the white haze that covered the landscape. With all the snow on the ground, the morning sunshine was nearly blinding my eyes as I stared out through the glass. It got me thinking about the Chronicles of Narnia, by C.S. Lewis, and the "winter" in Narnia that was caused by the White Witch. All the creatures of Narnia longed for Aslan the Great Lion to come bringing the end of winter. He does and Narnia is reborn with spring and new life. In many ways our world, the Earth, is in spiritual winter, just like it appears out my window today. But the great news is that Christ has come and the beginning signs of new life are breaking out around us. Your reading this Newsletter is another sign of life- the new life Christ has given you. The exciting part of this truth is that **GOD** wants **YOU** and **ME** to participate in the "spiritual thawing" of the lives of men, women and children.

That's where the Missions Committee of Grace Church comes in: we exist to help **YOU** the members of **GRACE** to be involved in the unfolding spring of God's Kingdom. For each of **US**, our tasks will be different, because **WE** are each gifted differently. But **We** are working for the same **LORD** and the same objectives: **The Kingdom of GOD**. In coming newsletters I will introduce the Missions Committees work and goals. But two things we have need of right now:

I. Committee Members-

Have you ever wanted to help serve on a church committee, but didn't know how to go about it?

Maybe you thought "only important people can be on committees: or "only officers" or "long time members" could serve on church committees. Well here is your chance! The Missions Committee is looking for a few more people to serve on the committee.

What does this involve? 1) a commitment to attending monthly meetings 2) a passion to see people come to Christ, both in America and around the world 3) willingness to pray, give and work for the goals of the Missions Committee and Grace Presbyterian Church.

If this interests you, please contact Andy Berg (931-397-9952 or acberg@ymail.com)
Hurry because our first meeting is Feb.8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Savage's home.

II. Prayer-

One of GRACE's missionaries: **Perry Heusmann** in Italy asks that we pray for **Andrea and Piera**, a couple that just lost their first child. He is an elder in their church and his wife is struggling with post-partum symptoms. Take a moment to pray for this couple and God's peace to flood their souls and minds.

Thanks for reading....In His grace, *Andy Berg*

Remember: Congregational Mtg and Fellowship Meal will be held after Morning Worship this Sunday!

Pastor's Corner

Caleb Cangelosi, Pastor

I must admit, it was strange cancelling church Sunday. We never got snow and ice like this in Baton Rouge, and I don't ever recall weather forcing the cancellation of worship (though you folks from farther north are probably laughing, "We went to church in much worse conditions!"). I have loved being surrounded by snow and icicles, hearing the crunch of the icy layer above and under the snow, seeing the animal tracks in the snow, sliding around in my Subaru Outback, sledding down hills with my children, listening to the water drip as the ice melts, tasting the cold of fresh snow, making snowballs and snowmen and ice forts. I also see how snow could become old, especially as it turns brown and gray and black with time. Through it all Isaiah 1:18 and Psalm 51:7 have been going through my head: "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD. Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they will be like wool...Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." The whiteness of the forgiveness of sins will never, ever turn black, no matter how much sin we commit after our justification and forgiveness. Christ's righteousness covers us forever and completely. God sees you always as in Christ, white and pure, shining as the snow glistens in the sunlight. His grace is our hope!

One of the most helpful books I've read on grace is entitled *Putting Amazing Back into Grace*, by Michael Horton. If you haven't read it I commend it to you. From the title alone you can tell that Horton worries Christians are prone to forget how amazing the grace of God is. It's so easy to sing John Newton's great hymn, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me..." But do we really believe that God's grace is amazing? Is our understanding of grace something that would amaze others? Even in (or perhaps especially in) a church named "Grace Presbyterian" we need to ask this question continually.

The Bible's teaching is clear: "...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:23-24); "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9); "In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the

basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace" (Rom. 11:5-6); our salvation is "to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved" (Eph. 1:6). When you see a turtle on a fencepost, you ask how it got there. When you see a Christian, you must ask how it happened. And the answer is "All of grace." Unfortunately, all too often we take God's grace for granted. It doesn't surprise us or astound us anymore, if it ever did. Because our view of grace is so small, we think God is lucky to have us on His team. We are at heart Pharisees who trust in ourselves that we are righteous and view others with contempt (Luke 18:9). We are constantly tempted to think we are better than people around us, and we live our lives in shallow pride, selfishness, and fear.

Why do so many Christians have such a small view of grace? J. I. Packer, in his classic book *Knowing God* (another one you must read if you haven't done so heretofore), explains, "The root of the trouble seems to be misbelief about the basic relationship between a person and God – misbelief rooted not just in the mind but in the heart." He writes that there are four truths the Biblical doctrine of grace presupposes, four truths we have a hard time believing: 1) all men are sinners, guilty and unclean in God's sight; 2) because of our sin, we deserve nothing but God's just wrath; 3) we are unable to repair our broken relationship with God in our own strength; and 4) God does not owe grace to anyone. To profess belief in "grace" is to agree with Newton that we are spiritual and moral wretches who are in desperate need of God to do something to save us. Once we have a right view of our sinfulness and inability, then we are ready to hear about the grace of God, His "love freely shown toward guilty sinners, contrary to their merit..." (Packer's definition).

In His grace, God has sent His Son into the world to save a countless number of sinners. Because of His perfect life and undeserved death, Jesus Christ is able "to save completely those who draw near to God through Him" (Heb. 7:25). Grace really is "God's Riches At Christ's Expense." It is getting what we do not deserve. We do not merit His grace; we do not earn His grace. His grace is free and sovereign. He has mercy upon whom He has mercy; it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy (Rom. 9:15-16). May the Lord surprise us daily with His grace.

Your Pastor, Caleb

It isn't too late to join a Community Group!

Community Group #1:

Title: "WHEN I DON'T DESIRE GOD" —

A study on D.V.D. by John Piper

Time: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Darryl and Mary Richards' Home

Leader: Steve Sperry stevels2@twlakes.net

Community Group #2:

Title: "THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT"

Time: Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Andy and Carol Berg's Home (location will vary in different homes)

Leader: Andy Berg acberg@gmail.com

Community Group #3:

Title: "TRANSFORMING GRACE"

Time: Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Meeting House (formerly "The Cooper House")

Leader: Dennis Parker parkit@blomand.net

Community Group #4:

Title: "BACK TO BASICS – Rediscovering the Richness of the Reformed Faith"

Time: Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.

Location: Robert and Rebecca Row's Home (location will vary in different homes)

Leader: Robert Row robert.row.grace@gmail.com

Notes Regarding the Upcoming Events

- Sunday, February 7, after Morning Worship Congregational Meeting and Lunch**
 Our Finance Committee will report on the 2009 finances and the 2010 budget. A church-wide fellowship lunch will follow...please stay and join us. The Richards Shepherding group will not meet for a meal this month.
- Sunday, February 14, Morning Worship Lord's Supper**
 The Lord's Supper has been moved to the second Sunday of February.
- Friday March 5—Saturday March 6 Women in the Church Retreat**
 Mark your calendars, ladies...it's time for a retreat! Details are on Page 4.



Welcome, Jack!

Jackson Lawrence Walker made an early arrival at 12:52 am on January 25th. He was 7 pounds; 6 ounces and 18-1/2" long. We celebrate with parents Larry and Mandy and big brother Jonathan!

Church Directory Update

Our church directory is currently being updated. If you would like to be included in the directory, please contact Helen Morse at newsletter@jmorse.com.

2010 Financial Summary

- The "Cooper House" has a new name! That's right...the house next to the Church Office has a new identity now: The Meeting House.
- Ladies: It's not too late to join the Tuesday Morning Bible Study: A Walk With God Through the Psalms. Childcare is provided.

As of January 31, 2010	January 1—January 31, 2010		
General Fund Balance	34,621.13	Average Monthly Expenses	22,233.33
Emergency Fund	22,212.00	Tithes + Rollover from 2009	18,561.02
Building Fund Balance	78,988.77	Actual Expenses	20,416.29
Benevolence Fund	4,314.89	Cash Flow	-1,855.27

Shepherding Meal Schedule

Date	Elder
2/7	Church-wide Fellowship
2/14	Parker
2/21	Row
2/28	Bleasdale

Nursery Volunteers and Greeters

	2/7	2/14
SS Babies	K. Mitchell	J. Welch
AM Worship Babies and Toddlers	J/A Farris Family	Gleason Family
PM Worship Babies	R/K Farris	Row
Greeters	B/A Seitzinger	A/C Berg

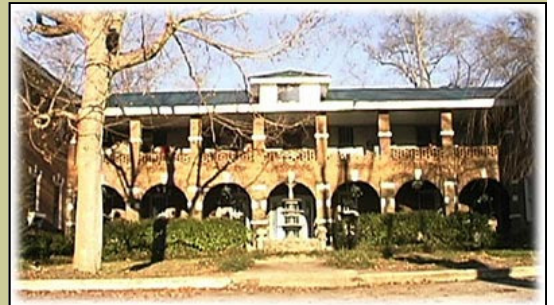
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2/7 Congregational Meeting - Church wide Fellowship Meal to follow Joint Evening Worship Service in Crossville	2/8 12 Noon Calvin's Institutes Church Office 6:00 PM Session Meeting Birthday! Bunny Williamson JoAnn Wilbourn	2/9 10-11:30 am Women's Bible Study at The Meeting House Birthday! Elizabeth Cangelosi	2/10 Birthday! Rachel Parker	2/11 6:00 pm Young & Happy El Tapatio Birthday! Adele Seitzinger David Seitzinger Richard Wienke	2/12	2/13
2/14 Lord's Supper	2/15 12 Noon Calvin's Institutes Church Office Birthday! Wayne Bunting	2/16 10-11:30 am Women's Bible Study at The Meeting House	2/17 Anniversary! Winston	2/18 Young & Happy Women's Fellowship Dolce Cafe	2/19	2/20

THE GRACE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE CHURCH PRESENT

The Beauty of Brokenness

A RETREAT OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Ladies, come and join us **Friday, March 5-Saturday March 6** for a retreat filled with learning, fun, and fellowship! Our very own Connie Stewart will lead us through II Corinthians 4:7, encouraging us that God uses our brokenness for His glory.



Enjoy dinner Friday night (starting at 7:00 pm), breakfast, and lunch on Saturday. Cost is \$30 and must be paid by Sunday, February 21st to reserve your spot. Please make checks payable to "WIC". Financial assistance is available. See Rachel Parker, Cheryl Burks, Rebecca Row, Vonnie Earnst, or Helen Morse for more details.

Held at the beautifully restored
Thomas House Bed & Breakfast
in Red Boiling Springs

www.thomashousehotel.com

We hope to see you there!

GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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