

**The Purpose of
Grace Presbyterian
Church**

*is to glorify God by
gathering and grow-
ing His people in ac-
cordance with His
word.*

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**Sunday,
April 3rd**
Lord's Supper at the Morning
Worship Service

**Saturday,
April 9th**
Wedding
Couples Shower

**Sunday,
April 17th**
Lord's Supper at the Evening
Worship Service

**Wednesday,
April 27th**
Cookeville Rescue
Mission Meal—
Darryl Richards'
Shepherding
Group

**Friday,
April 29th—
Sunday, May 1st**
WIC Retreat

Grace Press

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA
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April 1, 2011

Tom Pastor Galeh

It's getting to be that time of year again (though the snow today makes me wonder)...on Saturday, May 21, at our house, we'll be having the 9th Annual Cangelosi Strawberry Festival and Crawfish Boil. This year, we're having them both at the same time, from 2:00-4:00. More details will be coming soon.

Last weekend, your elders took a retreat at the Richards' house to spend time reflecting on both the present state and the direction of our church. I wanted to share with you one of the most significant things we discussed: a reset of our small group ministry.

Recall that the purpose of Grace Presbyterian Church is to glorify God by gathering and growing His people in accordance with His word. We are a church committed to accomplishing this purpose of gathering the lost and growing the found through the ordinary means of grace: the word, prayer, sacraments, and fellowship. Corporate worship is the primary time we make use of these means; as we assemble together each and every Lord's Day morning and evening, God is glorified, the lost are gathered out of darkness into God's kingdom of light, and the saints are grown. There is also a place Biblically for smaller, more informal times of fellowship, encouragement, instruction, and evangelism (consider Jesus' time with the twelve and with Peter, James and John; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 20:20; Hebrews 10:24-25). Organized small groups have always been an important part of the life of our church, but in the past couple of years they have become few in number, content-driven, and too temporary. Fewer and fewer people have been involved. As the church has changed faces and grown, one of the things we have heard from many of you, and noticed ourselves, is that there is a need and desire for stronger relationships among our body, as well as opportunities to drill down deeper the things we are learning from God's word preached and read. God has made us to be involved in one another's lives, encouraging one another, helping one another walk in God's grace and in holiness, praying for one another, confronting one another. We need other people to help us grow in the knowledge of the truth, in godliness, and in good deeds. And so, beginning at some point in mid/late May, we are going to start up several "Grace Groups."

The primary focus of all the Grace Groups (what some churches call "life groups" or "community groups") will be developing strong and ongoing relationships in a community of grace under the word of God. These groups will also be natural ways to introduce unbelievers and unchurched friends to our church, and outposts from which to seek the welfare of our community in service. In short, we hope and pray that Grace Groups will facilitate our glorifying God by gathering and growing His people in accordance with His word. But every group will look different, depending on what the leader and the group desire to do. They won't necessarily be Bible studies. Some will be straight Bible studies, some will be book studies, some will be sermon review and discussion, some will be only fellowship and prayer. Some groups will eat together, others groups won't. Some will sing together, some won't. Some will meet weekly, some will meet every other week. The groups will meet at various times of the week. Some will have families with children, some will be a mixture of young and old, some will be older couples only. When we announce these groups in early May, you'll have an opportunity to choose the group that is the best fit for you.

Starting these Grace Groups will mean that groups such as the Joy Club, YAHOOs, and Young and Happies won't be meeting nearly as frequently as they have been, if at all. We will stop having shepherding group fellowship meals, and will go back to having monthly churchwide fellowship meals. Sunday School and Sunday morning and evening worship will continue as usual. Youth group will begin meeting again after a summer break. We have never had Wednesday night children's programs from May through August, but come September they will probably not resume, just like they didn't during the spring semester of 2010. There are several details that the Session is in the process of thinking through, so we covet your prayers. Pray particularly for the men who will be leading these groups as they go through a time of training in April. If anyone is interested in hosting one of these Grace Groups in their homes, please email or call Linda at the church office. If you have any questions about Grace Groups, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I'm excited about how God might use these groups to strengthen our relationships, to utilize all our gifts unto the growth of the body, and to reach unbelievers with the gospel; in a word, to help us love Him and love others.

From Andy's Desk

Does anyone else ever have difficulties with their lawn equipment? I could write a book about tractors and bush hogs. Quinton Bain helped me repair my blades on my finish mower (bush hog) last week. When I got a dry day to cut the grass, everything went well. I stopped for lunch and then Carol offered to finish the backyard. I returned later, from coaching Livingston Academy's tennis team, to find the tractor dead in the backyard. It was two things: a dead battery and a busted belt. I got the battery recharged but the belt I can't figure out how to put it on so it actually cuts. I replaced the belt last summer, but somehow the new belt doesn't fit. Yes it is the same size. I would blame Alzheimer's, but I tried it 4 different ways. I bought this tractor and bush hog because I couldn't afford a new 360 turning mower. Don't come by looking for a perfectly manicured yard because the backyard has a funny box of large green grass taller than the rest of the yard. But at least most of the wild onions have been whacked down....Maybe my push mower works, but with all the rain, it will wait 'til another day

On the serious side...Usually the children's Sunday school teachers ask for vacation time off. Our children need teachers.....So who will step up to help? Please talk to me, if you can teach for a month or two.

Another item: Does anyone have an old pc and monitor that is sitting around that you could donate to the church. It would be a blessing to me to use it...I am not a laptop guy like your other staff guys. It would save me dragging my desktop to work each week. I want to work at the church office and procuring those 2 items would get the transition going.

In God's Grace, thankfully, Andy

Grace Presbyterian Women in the Church Present:

FOREVER STARTS NOW: HOW OUR GIFTS, CALLING, AND RELATIONSHIPS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO GLORIFY GOD AND ENJOY HIM ON THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN

Ladies, come and join us Friday, April 29th through Sunday, May 1st for a retreat filled with learning, fun, and fellowship! Our featured speaker is Julia Quillen, wife of Pastor Michael Quillen of First Presbyterian Church, PCA-Crossville.

Cost is \$40. We have extended the sign-up deadline to April 10th! Also, you may be interested in a "Saturday only" option. For \$20 you can hear all of the speaker's talks, and join us for a catered lunch and dinner.

We hope you can join us for some or all of this fun-filled weekend!

Contact Kelly Farris, Elizabeth Cangelosi, Helen Morse, Cheryl Burks, Jan Stevens, or Jeanne Niemann for more information.

Flyers are on the Greeter Table.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JAPAN

Just as the church took up a collection for those affected by the famine in Acts 11:27ff., so we have an opportunity to assist our brothers and sisters in Japan in the wake of the devastating earthquake and tsunami. This Sunday, when we take up the benevolence offering after the Lord's Supper, all gifts will be going to the Japanese Disaster Response arm of our denominational foreign missions committee (Mission to the World). Please give generously!

What Else Is Going On At Grace?

Spring Quarter Sunday School Classes

1. *The Book of James* – How do we live out our faith in the nitty gritty details of life? What does the Christian life look like? The book of James answers those questions and more, covering topics such as rejoicing in trials, sin and temptation, anger, true religion, discrimination, faith and works, the tongue, wisdom, conflict, wealth and poverty, and prayer. Bob King will teach through this very practical book written by the brother of Jesus.
2. *He is There and He is Not Silent* – God has spoken, in creation and in His Word. Yet there are so many questions surrounding His revelation of Himself in creation and in His Word. This class, taught by the elders and Todd Burks, will think about the Bible and about God's revelation in creation. We'll consider the necessity of the Bible, the inspiration and authority of the Bible, the inerrancy of the Bible, how we know the Bible is God's word, how the canon came to be formed, how the Bible relates to various scientific disciplines such as Astronomy, Physical Science, Chemistry, Biology, Physiology, and Geology, and how the knowledge of God's revelation in creation should change the way we live our lives today.

Wednesday Evening Programs

- *6:00-6:30 PM—Snack Supper (\$1). If you would like to help set up the supper, please contact Andy Berg at 931.397.9952.
- *6:15-7:30 PM—Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. We are studying Isaiah 1-12.
- *6:30-7:30 PM—Kid's Skill & Drills is for preschool through sixth graders. We have a nursery for babies/toddlers
- *6:00 PM—Youth Group
- **Saturday, April 9th**—11AM-1PM-Wedding Couples Shower honoring Karelyn Pruitt & Matt McClearen and Stephanie Parker & Philip Gilman. Place: TBA. If you would like to contribute to a gift certificate, contact Apryl Farris at 260-6598.
- **Sunday Evening Worship Service, April 17th**—Lord's Supper
- **Sunday, April 24th** - Easter Sunrise Service
- **Wednesday, April 27th**—Cookeville Rescue Mission Meal—Darryl Richards' Shepherding Group
- **April 29th-May 1st** - WIC retreat

WIC Ladies Bible Study—new study in Philippians starting the first Wednesday morning in April (4/6) at the Meeting House at 10:00-11:30 AM. Childcare provided. Study questions will be emailed a week in advance. See Jan Stevens for additional info.

Mission Minute:

Praise God, Pete Mitchell reports they have found a French pastor for their church. Pray for the young man and his wife as they move this summer. Pete asks for prayer for wisdom to know what schooling would be best for their second son who has dyslexia.

Pray for Jeff Wilkins with potential surgery coming up and a busy schedule at TTU this spring.

Thanks for all who helped from Dennis Parker's Shepherding group who brought food for the Cookeville Rescue Mission meal last Wednesday.

Pray for Daniel Iverson and the MTW workers in Japan as they see much to do after the earthquake earlier this month.

~April Nursery/Greeter Volunteers~

	4/3	4/10	4/17	4/24
SS Babies	E. Nyhof	Morse	McCall	Seitzinger
AM Worship	Rust	Hoepfner	Cunningham	Richards
PM Worship	Twitty	A. Farris	K. Farris	Hadlock
Greeters	J/D Enochs	Cunningham	McCall/Neimann	Stevens

BUILDING UPDATE

The building committee met with our architect, Dan Sherfy, this Tuesday evening. He has readied our building plans for the bid process, so over the next three weeks W & O Construction will be gathering bids from subcontractors. When they have them all, we will know what our building will cost. Pray that even with the increase in the price of steel over the last few months, the bids will come back at a price we will be able to afford. Assuming everything goes smoothly, we could see ground broken by June! Please continue to give generously to the building fund, that we might reach our goal of \$60,000, and then our second goal of an additional \$100,000.

Youth Group News From Larry

Hello Church Family! Well, we are winding down the school year finally! Just a reminder that our last Wednesday night Youth Group will be on May 4. We will be planning events in the summer, but they are yet to be announced. Also, we still have a girl's study lead by Mandy Walker and Alicia Enochs. If you are interested please ask me or one of the ladies. This summer I am also planning on starting a guy's study that will be announced so look at your schedules and see when you think you might be available. I have now had this job for over five months and I have really considered it a privilege to get to know the families and youth of our church. I am teaching currently through the five points of Calvinism, looking forward to teaching on the Christian life after summer. This is a difficult culture to live in and connect the gospel to reality. Please be in prayer for our teens as they grapple with the ramifications of believing in Christ in this world and how it changes all of our decisions. Pray for them to filter everything they think and do through the lens of the Cross of Christ. Also, please be in prayer for me as I attempt to lead them in this.

~April Birthdays/Anniversaries~



4/1-Ashtyn Farris
4/4-Daniel Richards
4/5-Hannah Twitty
4/8-Judy Hadlock

4/28-Karen Kincaid
4/29-Corey Kincaid
4/30-Stephanie Hoepfner



4/23-Hicks

4/16-Mitch Nyhof
4/18-Julie Burks
4/20-Dylan Nyhof
4/21-Connie Stewart
4/23-Joshua Kincaid
4/26-Marilyn Majewski, Wes Christian
4/27-Lori Ann McClearen

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN BUILDING FUND

Our goal is \$60,000 for the basic building and approximately \$160,000 for the building with extras. As of today, we have received \$35,800.