

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church Sullivan, Missouri

February 2008

Steve's Scribbles

Although this section of the newsletter is usually intended for the pastor's writing about things going on in the church, or calling attention to an issue that needs to be addressed, this month I'm going to, as they say at Annual Conference, take a "moment of personal privilege" to express my thanks to, and for, this congregation.

First, my family and I want to say thanks for the overwhelmingly generous Christmas gift that we received from you. We continue to be humbled and honored by the way this congregation gifts us - not only at Christmas, but all year round!

Secondly, we say thank you for all the support that we have received while my mom was in the hospital, and in the days following her death. The Hospital Waiting Room Care Packages, complete with snacks and gas cards and books; the meals of delicious comfort food, the phone calls, the avalanche of cards - all of these have been a blanket of caring that has surrounded our family in a warm, graceful embrace. It is sometimes easy to forget the power of community until that community is there to walk with you through a difficult time.

Thirdly, I want to thank you for the way that you support the various projects and special events that go on around here. The Christmas Fairs, the Cookie Baking, the VIM Trivia Night, our participation in the Centenary CARES program, partnering with the people of Nova Mambone UMC in Mozambique - everything we do at and through Grace UMC happens because caring and committed people give - give of their time, give of their energy, and give of their resources.

The above is by no means an exhaustive list - just a few of the recent activities and things that are on my mind right now. I continued to be surprised and blessed by all the ways this congregation responds to God's grace with its own style of caring and service. And I am looking forward to seeing how that response will grow even deeper and wider as we continue in ministry and service together, and how many people might catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven through our response to God's grace.

Thank you.

Shalom,
Pastor Steve

Worship in February

The words "From dust you were created and to dust you shall return" and the mark of ashes on our foreheads starts us on a journey of self-discovery and growth into deeper discipleship. The journey begins on February 6, and ends at an empty tomb. Be a part of the journey the following paths are explored!

Wednesday, February 6
Ash Wednesday Worship - 6:30 PM
"Getting Ready for the Trip"

Sunday, February 10
The Path of Identity: Who Will You Choose to Be?

Sunday, February 17
The Path of Repentance: Roadblocks Along the Way

Sunday, February 24
The Path of Forgiveness: Unexpected Detours

New Web Page Under Construction

We are overhauling our web page. It has been inoperable for some time and Sam Scott is guiding us in producing one with more meaningful information to tell the world about who we are at Grace. Take a look at what we've done so far at:

<http://www.gumchurch.org>

Remember it's a work in progress so don't expect to see the final edition for a while. We will keep it updated so that you may get current information.

Military Prayer Requests

Doug Archambo, Texas
Nathan Shelton, Iraq
Shawn Stumpe, Iraq
Jake Rice, Afghanistan
Michael Richards, Iraq



TRUSTEES CORNER

2007 was a busy year for those of us charged with taking care of the physical church and grounds. All the old windows were replaced, phase one of the kitchen renovation was done, much-needed electrical and plumbing work was done, the bell tower was repainted, one of the A/C units that cools the Sanctuary had to be replaced, termite elimination work was done, and four of the 37 year-old curtain dividers in the old fellowship hall were replaced with permanent walls.

This makes a total expenditure by your trustees of over \$35000 to repair, renovate, and update Grace's building and grounds. Of this amount, approximately \$2500 was borne by the Church, an Endowment Fund grant provided \$2900, and members of Grace United Methodist Church donated the rest, almost \$30,000.

It's this kind of commitment that has enabled us to keep a place for Grace's members to do God's work. Almost 40 years doesn't seem that old to those of us who are well past that age, but for our building, which was built in 1969/1970, this means some substantial work needed to be done, and much more is left to do.

We need to maintain our existing heating and air-conditioning systems. Grace has 7 furnaces, and six heat pumps for heating, and an additional five a/c units to keep the Church cool in the summer. These need periodic maintenance at a substantial cost. Something we can't afford to do if we only have our Sunday offerings to use.

Our roof still leaks, the parking lot is aging and probably needs to be treated, repaired, and re-stripped in the next year, and a large part of the building needs to be repainted to keep Mother Nature outside where she belongs.

The \$150 for 150 years program was moderately successful. We gained much-needed funds for doing minor maintenance work, such as painting, and changing out light bulbs to the much more efficient fluorescent fixtures as the old incandescent bulbs burned out, and replacing filters in our furnaces on a periodic basis. The little church in the Narthex is still there, and still accepting offerings for this purpose.

Hopefully, we've made the point that commitment, and involvement by the members of Grace is very important in the survival of the Church. All of us need to do whatever we can to keep Grace great. For God and Grace, we thank you for anything you've done, and will do in the years ahead.

Leonard Butts, Trustee Chair

Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry Team is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 12, at 6:30pm. Items to be discussed include Children's Church, Kid's Choir, Children's Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. We'd love to hear your ideas on any or all of these issues.

Greeters and Ushers: February, 2008

The following schedule is coordinated with liturgists, electronic media and nursery workers. Also choir members are not scheduled on communion Sundays. You have this schedule in your folders. Remember to let me know if you can't serve on the designated Sunday. If you make that decision on Sunday, let Don Rodgers (head usher) know at GUMC - 468-6010. Note also that Ash Wednesday is February 6.

10:45 Service

February 3

Chris Beckett - Greeter and Usher
Jo Palmateer - Greeter and Usher
Beth Neff - Usher
Judy Benage - Usher

February 6 - Ash Wednesday

Don Rodgers - Greeter and Usher
Joanne Rodgers - Greeter and Usher
Becky Woodcock - Usher
Chris Beckett - Usher

February 10

Barb Sullivan - Greeter and Usher
Ron Sullivan - Greeter and Usher
Brenda Dace - Usher
Judy Studdard - Usher

February 17

Ginny Gilhaus - Greeter
Karen Largent - Greeter
Joyce Adams - Usher
Stacy Counts - Usher
Don Rodgers - Usher
Joanne Rodgers - Usher

February 24

Bennie Wilsey - Greeter
Ida Mae Wilsey - Greeter
Elizabeth Hall - Usher
Donna McKellips - Usher
Don Montee - Usher
Peggy Montee - Usher

Helen Neeley and Keith Oberbeck will serve and share this responsibility at the 8:15 service.

You are appreciated!

Marje Bandy, Coordinator

Congratulations!



Judy Benage not only became a grandma again but she became a grandma twice within two weeks. She has a new grandson and a new granddaughter. January 3rd at 2pm Caedmon John Benage was born. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz and he was 20 ½ inches long. The parents are Kim and Michael Benage. As of January 18th at 2:30pm Alexis Renee Schatzl was born. She weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. The parents are Heather and Chris Schatzl.

Moms and babies are doing well.

Library Notes

There are many inspirational and informational books in our church library. Listed below are some selections especially suited for your Lenten reading.

“The Day Christ Died” by Jim Bishop
“The First Easter” by Peter Marshall
“Kneeling in Jerusalem” by Ann Weems
“Too Busy Not to Pray” by Jo Carr & Imogene Sorley
“Sunday Dinner” by William Willimon

These books can be found on the Featured Book shelf.