

## Centenary Cares - and So Does Grace!



The feeding ministry that is sponsored by Centenary UMC in St. Louis would not be as successful as it is without the help of the many volunteers who come from churches, United Methodist and other, from all over the St. Louis area - and even as far away

as Sullivan! The churches that are closer to St. Louis have all adopted a day, or days, during each month that they will come and serve those in need.

Grace UMC, of course, is further away, and so to go every week would be a huge commitment. But what if there were days that didn't happen but once every three months or so - like 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays? That might be a possibility! So, Grace has made the commitment to staff the evening meal at Centenary every time a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday rolls around. If you have a calendar

handy, you can see that, for the rest of this year, 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays come in April (29), July (29), September (30), and December (30). If you are looking for a way to respond to God's call to do hand-on mission work that takes you just far enough, then this ministry is for you! Mark your calendars now, and plan to be a part of this out-reach to our brothers and sisters in need in St. Louis. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve!

## “Blocks for Juarez” a Success!

A big *Gracias!* goes out to all who bought Blocks for Juarez. Because of your generosity, we raised \$725.00, which will go a long way toward expenses for the building materials. Your names will be put into the foundations of the house that we build. Your participation makes the house that will be built not just the team's house, but one that belongs to all of Grace! Thank you for your generosity and giving spirit!



## Annual Cell Phone Drive

The annual cell phone drive will start on March 1 and run through April 15. There will be a box in the Narthex. Please look through your closets and dig out your old cell phones that you don't use anymore.

## Our Website is Growing

To get all the latest information about our church, its activities and other valuable information log on to our website at [gumchurch.org](http://gumchurch.org).

We now have our Pastor's picture and bio. Newsletter, Calendar, UMW, Prayer Chain, Brochure, Pictures of the Chocolate Festival and a site map with links to District and Conference websites. We continue to grow and improve.

Thanks to Sam Scott, Robin Holmes and Myrna Johnson for the latest additions.

## Thank You

Jerry has settled nicely at the Veteran's Home in St. James. I am sure he feels your comforting prayers. Thanks so much for the gas and coffee cards that you all gave to me. They will certainly be put to good use as I make that road hot between Sullivan and St. James. You are a great church who cares about its people and I am privileged to be part of Grace Church. Thanks again.

Myrna Johnson



# Safe Sanctuaries



Grace UMC is always working to make sure that the church is a welcoming, safe place for children. As a part of this process, there will be a Safe Sanctuaries Training on Sunday, March 2, immediately after the 10:45 worship service. During our time together, we will talk about practices and procedures that will help to make Grace UMC a safe place for children. If you work with children in any capacity - whether it be Sunday School teacher, nursery worker, children's church, etc. - we need you to join us for this important time. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Steve.

## Greeters and Ushers: March, 2008

The following schedule is coordinated with liturgists, electronic media and nursery workers. Also choir members are not scheduled on communion Sundays or on Holy Thursday. There are several changes from the original schedule in your folders. If you have questions about your responsibilities, please review the sheet of guidelines in your folder! Remember to let me know if you can't serve on a designated Sunday (or Holy Thursday). If you make that decision on Sunday, let Don Rodgers (head Usher) know at GUMC - 468-6010. You are an important part of our worship experiences at Grace! The Holy Thursday service is an important part of the Lenten/Easter worship experiences at Grace. The Narthex and Sanctuary experiences are enhanced by your presence and service. Thank you for serving!

Marje Bandy, Coordinator

### 8:15 Service

#### March 2

Helen Neeley  
Keith Oberbeck

#### March 23 - Easter Sunday

Helen Neeley  
Keith Oberbeck

#### March 9 - DST Begins

Keith Oberbeck

#### March 30 - Fifth Sunday

Helen Neeley  
Keith Oberbeck

#### March 16 - Palm Sunday

Keith Oberbeck

### 10:45 Service

#### March 2

Chris Beckett - Greeter and Usher  
Jo Palmateer - Greeter and Usher  
Jeff Counts - Usher  
Stacy Counts - Usher

#### March 20 - Holy Thursday

Keith Oberbeck - Greeter and Usher  
Barb Sullivan - Greeter and Usher  
Chris Beckett - Usher  
Judy Benage - Usher

#### March 9 - DST Begins

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

#### March 23 - Easter Sunday

Bennie Wilsey - Greeter  
Ida Mae Wilsey - Greeter  
Elizabeth Hall - Usher  
Donna McKellips - Usher  
Don Rodgers - Usher  
Joanne Rodgers - Usher

#### March 16 - Palm Sunday

Ginny Gilhaus - Greeter  
Becky Woodcock - Greeter  
Joyce Adams - Usher  
Don Montee - Usher  
Peggy Montee - Usher  
Beth Neff - Usher

#### March 30 - Fifth Sunday

Don Rodgers - Greeter and Usher  
Joanne Rodgers - Greeter and Usher  
Becky Woodcock - Usher  
Judy Benage - Usher

## Boy Scout Project for Grace

My name is Mathew Kramm and I am a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 444 in Sullivan. As part of my requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, I must develop and carry out a project for a church, mission, or other organization. I would like to do a project to give back to the church community that I am a part of.

I would like to build a path, prayer garden and recreational area in the wooded area at the back of the church lot. The church will have input on the design, layout and materials to be used. I will have volunteers from my Boy Scout Troop and from one of the Girl Scout Troops that meet at the church. I would love to have people from the church help as well.

I would like to see natural materials and native plants used in the design. I would like to re-establish a typical Missouri woodland glade feeling to the area that would stand up to Missouri weather extremes but still be a beautiful, usable space for all of the church and community to enjoy. I feel that having a peaceful space to walk, pray or enjoy one another's company would be an asset to the church and something that we can invite the community to enjoy as well. It would also provide a place for exploration by children during VBS or other community outreach activities and the Golden Rule kids.



Dates will be announced shortly for meetings regarding the design planning phase. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meetings.

## Retirement Celebration for Nancye Dunlap



Rev. Nancye Dunlap, District Superintendent of the Gateway Central District (and former pastor of Grace United Methodist Church!) will be retiring this year. In celebration of Nancye's faithful service to the United Methodist Church, there will be a dinner party in her honor on Friday, March 28, at the Manchester United Methodist Church. The cost of the dinner is \$18.00 per person, and reservations for the dinner must be turned in by March 21. Dinners will not be available at the door. Child care will be available by reservation. The dinner begins at 6:15 PM, with a program to follow.

The Gateway Central District is soliciting donations for Nancye's gift, which will be a Heifer Project Ark, which will contain two of the following animals: Cow, water buffalo, camel, llama, mule, donkey, dairy goat, sheep, and pig; plus, two trios of rabbits, 2 hives of honeybees, 2 flocks of chicks, 2 flocks of ducks, 2 flocks of geese, and 2 trios of guinea pigs. The total cost for an Ark is \$5,000.

If you are interested in attending the dinner, and/or donating to "Nancye's Ark", please talk to Pastor Steve.

## What's Near To You?

Author Robert Louis Stevenson said, "The best things in life are nearest." He referred to air in our nostrils, light for our eyes, flowers at our feet and work before us. Stevenson might also have mentioned friends who truly care, family members who love us unconditionally, the church that provides spiritual nourishment and daily opportunities to aid others.

For example, as a retired couple left a store, they heard a man say he'd forgotten his wallet. The cashier had already rung up the customer's few items. The embarrassed man was about to walk away empty-handed. Quickly, the exiting couple told the cashier they'd pay the bill. The man, totally surprised, asked the couple who they were why they were helping him. They offered their names and said they only did what he might have done if the situation were reversed. A chance to help another person was near, and that couple was blessed for helping. Stevenson was right. The best things are near to us. We only need to look for them - and find the blessings in them. *Newsletternewsletter*