



Life in Grace

February 2012
Volume 14 Issue 2

A Publication Of
Grace UMC Church
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Sue Witters, At-Large Member
Pete Herold, Finance
Ron Smith, Staff/Parish Relations
Pat Emel, Lay Leader
Steve Lusk, Trustees
Rusty Garner, LC Chair
Christy Slaybaugh, Finance
David Poinsett, Trustees
Michael Metzgar, SPRC

Ministry Team Leaders:

Holly Kurten, Children's Ministries
Tim Kurten, Youth Ministries
Doris Martin, Hospitality
Therese Finney, Christian Education

On Call Person for February:

Deb Heckard 766-1454

The Pastor's Message

February is that month which is wrapped in coldness with wind, snow, and frigid mornings. Yet in the midst of this month we celebrate Valentine's Day. Here is a day we are given to celebrate the warmth of love.

Usually, we associate Valentine's Day with romantic love. It's a day to give candy to your sweetheart and celebrate the romance in your life. For Christians, though, we should be celebrating the gift of love year round and not simply on Valentine's Day. And for those who follow Christ, love is much richer and deeper than candy or stuffed teddy bears.

I invite you this month, especially on Valentine's Day, to consider God's great love for you. Whether or not you have a "sweetheart" in your life, no matter what family or friends you have around you, God's great love is with you as one of God's beloved children. Never forget that. Take time this month to join us in worship to hear more about God's love. Pick up your Bible and read the unfolding story of God's love for God's people. Spend time in prayer and meditation, simply being still in the presence of God.

I came across this poem that reminds us, in the midst of the trappings of Valentine's Day, to remember God's great love for us through Jesus Christ. Remember, God so loved YOU that he sent his only son that you may have LIFE!

Valentine's Day With Jesus

*Jesus does not send perfume
To linger in the air
Instead He sends salvation, sweet
To show how much He cares.*

*He doesn't bring me candy hearts
In boxes of delight
Instead He always lets me know
I'm precious in His sight.*

*He doesn't pass out pretty cards
Trimmed in shades of red
Instead He gave His life for me
His precious blood was shed.*

*He doesn't hand out fancy gifts
Like we would send to mother
Instead He sends a message clear
To always love each other.*

*He doesn't give me teddy bears
That whimper, "Please be mine"
Instead He gave His heart to me
I wear it all the time.*

*He doesn't give me roses, pink
For all the world to see
Instead He gave eternal life
That's good enough for me.*

Author/Written By: Marilyn Ferguson ©2003

*Blessings,
Pastor Mark*

STUDY, OUTREACH & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

The abbreviated version of the traditional Disciple Bible Study has room for more individuals. The class meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 in room #2 on the second floor. If you have any questions, contact Doris Martin at mdoris722@aol.com or 766-6539.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR 2012

Do you have an idea for a bible study for 2012? Would you like to lead a bible study? We are looking for special interest ideas or themes for new bible studies, all ages, for 2012. Email your ideas to Therese Finney at tmecf@comcast.net.

“THE SLEEPING MAT-TERS” MINISTRY PROGRAM - TUESDAYS

Join us **Tuesday evenings from 5:30 till 7pm** as we gather for the Sleeping Mat-ters ministry program. Anyone can volunteer – no special skills or talents needed! From sorting, straightening, cutting, planning, and crochet – there is something for all ages to do! ***If you are unable to come out Tuesday evenings, but would still like to help, we do have “jobs” for you to do at home.***

SHOVELING SNOW IN MECHANICSBURG

The Mechanicsburg Borough Office is looking for anyone available to help shovel snow for Senior Citizens in the Borough. If you are able to help, and would like to be put on their call list, please contact Trish at the Mechanicsburg Borough Office, 691-3310 ext. 107

OUR ADOPTED PLATOON

There are approximately 39 Soldiers, including 11 females, in our United States Army Platoon and they are deployed to Afghanistan until sometime in November 2012. They are out of Ft Richardson, AK This Platoon mans the 725th Aid Station giving medical care to Soldiers, Contractors and eligible Afghan people.. The Soldiers live in B-Huts separated into small rooms; have latrines & showers in separate trailers with non-potable, running water for bathing and 110V generated power. There is a small PX Store with limited items and a Chow Hall is available with designated hours, but unfortunately, it may not be open when they are able to eat.

REQUESTS: Basic care package supplies including non-perishable healthy pocket snacks (nuts, seeds, power/protein/granola bars, dried fruits, jerky, short slim jims, trail mixes), Tea (green, chamomile, mint), Splenda, caffeinated ground coffee, creamer, Crunch N Munch, fruit roll ups, tuna fish, salmon, salami, pepperoni, hot chocolate with marshmallows, sugar free wafer cookies, gold fish, Twinkies, Gummi bears, Twizzlers, stirrers, plastic coffee mugs, lotion for dry skin, liquid soap, loofa, chap stick, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, aftershave, feminine hygiene products, baby/bath wipes, trial size Febreze, little trash bags, room air fresheners, slippers, toasty socks, and anything to help boost Soldier's morale: letters, photos from home, current magazines, books (thrillers or mysteries) phone cards, index cards, blank greeting cards, pens, crayons, coloring books, markers, mechanical pencils, ear phones, glitter, arts/crafts items, crochet hooks & yarn, very inexpensive fabric to hang in the room to cover walls (ladies requesting purple/pink) – any size will do. Cold Weather Needs: Clothing such as undershirts, black, army green or brown winter boot socks, black mittens or gloves, blankets and hand/foot warmers. ***Not Needed: Pop tarts, H2O drink mixes, playing cards, hot chocolate (w/o mm), batteries, toothbrush, or toothpaste.***

SHOW US YOUR GIFTS & TALENTS – WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals will be held on **Wednesday, February 8th and Tuesday, February 21 at 7 PM.** (Feb 22nd is Ash Wednesday so we will rehearse on Tuesday instead, since folks some may wish to attend the Ash Wednesday Service at First UMC during our usual Wednesday rehearsal time.)

CENTRAL PA BLOOD BANK

Grace Church has been a host site for the Central PA Blood Bank for two years. The Blood Bank (normally the Bloodmobile) is onsite 6 times a year. We average 12 to 20 “donations” a visit, most of these are from outside visitors. The dates for this year are: February 18, April 21, June 23, August 25, October 27, and December 29 (times are 9am till Noon). **Volunteers are needed to act as host to our visitors for each of these visits.** The volunteer would be responsible to arrive around 8am to welcome the bloodmobile and set up the registration table and coffee; at Noon, clean up kitchen and turn off lights/lock doors. Please contact Therese Finney if you are able to act as host for Grace during one of our blood drives.

TIME FOR EASTER EGGS!!!!!!

It will soon be time to make Easter Eggs. The ladies of the church make peanut butter, coconut and butter cream Easter eggs to enrich the Trustee Fund which is responsible for the upkeep of the church, parsonage and the Osman Parish House. Last year \$3,413.94 was raised. Now that amount sold a lot of eggs!!

If you would like to donate to help defray the cost of the ingredients 18 oz. Jif Peanut Butter and 7 Oz. Jet Puff are needed. There will be a bin labeled for donations as you go up the steps into the sanctuary where they will be collected. Anyone interested in helping to make the eggs please contact Barb Fry or Donna Graham. Come have a fun time and learn to make the eggs. There is a job for you! One group meets Monday afternoon/evening and another group meets Tuesday mornings. The first week will begin February 20th.

24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD – EASTER BIBLE SCHOOL FOR KIDS

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 5 (SUNDAY AFTERNOON/WEEKDAYS EVENINGS)

Based on Adam Hamilton’s “24 Hours That Changed the World”, **children ages 4 through 9** will explore the story of Jesus’ last week on earth. Children will experience the celebration of Palm Sunday, the sorrow Good Friday, and the joy of the Resurrection. The Easter Bible School will allow children to delve into the events of Holy Week with age-appropriate sensitivity, through activities, crafts, and stories.

Volunteers are needed to assist throughout the week with meals, crafts, and lessons.

Please contact Therese Finney if you are able to assist with this Christian Education Program for kids.

2012 Grace Church Mission Statement:

To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ For The Transformation Of The World

As we begin this New Year, we celebrate and give thanks for those persons who are willing to give of their time and gifts serving in an elected position of leadership at Grace Church. For your reference, here is a list of the current Grace Leadership, as well as areas of ministry. If you've got questions, concerns, or would like to serve in a particular area, please contact the appropriate person as listed below. While these persons serve in a particular area of leadership, we celebrate that ALL of us are called to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Please remember to pray for these persons and for all of Grace Church!

2012 Grace Church Leadership Council

The LC is the primary governing body of Grace Church. It is this Council that has responsibility for visioning, setting goals, developing plans to achieve set goals, staff oversight, as well as general decisions regarding the direction and use of the resources of Grace Church. The LC members are able to surround themselves with other individuals to assist them in their various ministry areas.

Class of 2012

Sue Witters, *At-Large Member*
Pete Herold, *Finance*
Ron Smith, *Staff/Parish Relations*

Class of 2013

Pat Emel, *Lay Leader*
Steve Lusk, *Trustees*
Rusty Garner, *LC Chair*

Class of 2014

Christy Slaybaugh, *Finance*
David Poinsett, *Trustees*
Michael Metzgar, *SPRC*

Grace Church Staff

The paid Grace staff, directed by the LC, fulfills their various positions in leading and guiding Grace Church to more faithfully carry out its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Pastor

Rev. Mark F. Reisinger

Organist

Kim Badman

Choir Director/Organist

Timothy Hess

Secretary

Elena Yarlett

Custodian

Bob Griffiths

2012 Grace Church Ministry Team Leaders

Ministry Team Leaders are responsible for leading and guiding their respective ministry area. They develop ministry ideas and gather others around them to be the hands-on leaders to carry out each ministry.

Hospitality/Visitor Connection

Doris Martin

Youth Ministries

Tim Kurten

Children's Ministries

Holly Kurten

Christian Education

Therese Finney

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE G.R.A.C.E. CONNECTION CORNER:

A Refreshing Beginning...

There's a change happening around us. Have you noticed? "Announcements for this morning" have become "Please visit our hospitality table in the back of the Sanctuary". Our Hospitality Table started in December and over the next couple of weeks will be receiving a make-over. This table/corner, or "The G.R.A.C.E. Connection Corner", will be to "go-to" place for:

- Group Activities/Fellowship
- Resources
- Announcements
- Community Services
- Education Opportunities

Our goal is to have one person stationed at the table before and after each service. This person will be available for approximately ten minutes before and after worship to greet and enlighten others on upcoming G.R.A.C.E. happenings. We would like to have at least 4 people per worship (4 for 8:15am and 4 for 10:45am) to rotate the schedule. **Volunteers interested in the rotation schedule should contact Doris Martin or Therese Finney.**

Please Note: For our group leaders, we would ask that you submit your "announcements" in writing at least one week in advance to tmecf@comcast.net. This will assure that our volunteers have the information to promote your event.

NURSERY ROOM ATTENDANT

Grace has been blessed to have volunteers oversee our Nursery Room during the second service. As our attendance increases, and new families arrive, we have found we are now in need of coverage for both services. We are currently seeking a part-time staff position for Nursery Room Attendant. The qualified candidate must be at least 18 years old, and successfully completed Safe Sanctuary training (we will administer training if needed) as well as cleared Criminal Background checks. The Nursery Room Attendant will oversee the Nursery Room from 8am till Noon every Sunday. If you know of a qualified individual, or if you would like additional information, please contact Pastor Mark.

Note: We are actively advertising at local colleges for this position. In the interim, we are in need of an adult to assist with the Nursery on the third Sundays of each month. We currently have two Youth members overseeing the Nursery, and have been rotating an adult with the Youth. If you are able to help out the third Sundays, please contact Sue Witters.

DONATION CENTER

Check out our newly organized "Donation Center" located in the Narthex (outside the Nursery). Bins are available for collections of non-perishable items for New Hope Ministries, items for the Adopted Platoon, recycle of old cell phones, and recycle for aluminum cans (for Mission Central).

SHOP FOR FREE

House Cleaning has started in the Youth Room. There are a number of items left from various events that are not needed. Items located on the counter on the Market St. side of the room will be available through the first two weeks in February. Come down and shop for FREE, any time except during the Youth's class time on Sunday morning.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

A NOTE FROM PETE:

Hi Theresa,

The only news I have is the 8" of snow in Kabul and two CH-47s are due in at 22:15Z. Other than that just another day in Paradise ;-)

Seriously I pray that our church family is doing well Peace, Blessings and Warmest Regards, Pete

Note: Cards and notes may be sent to Pete at the following address:

Charles P. Herold
CFSOCC-A / NKC
APO AE 09356

Note: Please don't send any food over here. Between our chow hall and the goodies that folks send to our troops...we have tons of stuff!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU:

A Special thank you to Pastor Mark, the Church Family, and the Choir for the holiday gifts. I look forward to another year of making beautiful music together! Thanks! Kim

IT'S A BOY

Ben and Cheryl Hicks welcomed the newest addition to their family. Maxwell Loyal Hicks, born Jan. 18 at 10:12pm. He weighs 7lbs 4oz and is 18.5 inches long. And Cheryl says that "he's so cute!!!"

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

Thanks to those who purchased Giant gift cards during 2011. A total of \$23,750.00 was spent on the cards and a profit of \$1,187.50 was earned for Grace United Methodist Church. For every dollar spent a profit of 5% is given back. Please continue to purchase the Giant cards. You can use them for your own groceries, gasoline or a gift while you are helping the general treasury of our church. The gift cards are available in \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00 increments. Susan Hockley sells them during the early church service and Donna Graham sells them during the later church service.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BREAKFAST & INDOOR YARD SALE – Saturday, March 24 from 6:30am to 10am

EASTER BASKET RAFFLE – Sunday, March 25, 2012 @ 4:30pm

CHANGE THE WORLD WEEKEND – Saturday, May 19

JUBILEE DAY in Mechanicsburg – Thursday, June 21

CREATIONFEST 2012 – Tuesday, June 26 through Sunday, July 1

MECHANICSBURG PARADE – Tuesday, October 9



Grace United Methodist Church
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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
www.graceumc-mech.org

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

This Newsletter is sent
With a prayer to.....

Sunday Mornings at Grace:

8:15 am Worship Service * 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship * 9:30 am Sunday School * 10:45 am Worship Service

Lay Speaker Class Registration Available

Interested in becoming a Church Lay Speaker? Would you like to know more about what the ministry of Lay Speaking involves? Grace Church currently has 4 Lay Speakers, Pat Emel, Rusty Garner, Alicia Reisinger and Therese Finney. Please talk to one of these members or contact the church office for more information. Look on the Hospitality Table for information on upcoming Spring Lay Speaking Courses.

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