



Life in Grace

JANUARY 2012 VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

OPENING HEARTS OPENING MINDS OPENING DOORS

A PUBLICATION OF: GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 216 S. MARKET ST, MECHANICSBURG, PA 17055

PHONE: (717) 766-3282 * FAX: (717) 918-4753

EMAIL: graceumc1@comcast.net * WEBSITE: www.gracewelcomesu.org

PASTOR: Rev. Mark F. Reisinger HOME: 697-2043 EMAIL: mreisinger@susumc.org

Lay Leader: Pat Emel

Custodian: Bob Griffiths

Director of Music: Timothy Hess

Secretary: Elena Yarlett

Pianist/Organist: Kim Badman

Children's Choir Director: Holly Kurten

The Pastor's Message

*I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.*

This prayer serves as the centerpiece of John Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. Wesley, the founder of Methodism, wrote this prayer as a way of recommitting himself to Christ at the start of each New Year. Throughout Methodist history, churches have used Wesley's Covenant Prayer, and the Covenant Renewal Service that accompanies it, on or near January 1st to continue that tradition.

During this time of year, when we are making New Year's Resolutions and making lots of promises about things we will or won't do in 2012, I invite you to join me in making this resolution.

Join us at Grace for one combined service at 9:30am on Sunday, January 1, to pray this prayer and share in Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service. Let us make this resolution as a church family, and let us encourage and help one another to truly keep it all the year through.

My friends, we have truly been blessed throughout 2011. And if we are faithful in following where Christ leads us, we will undoubtedly be blessed in even greater ways in 2012. There is no limit to what we can do when we commit ourselves to following Jesus each and every day.

There is no telling what 2012 has in store for us at Grace, but no matter what occurs, we know that God will be with us. Let us never forget that truth.

Truly, there is no one else I would rather begin this new year with than you. Join me on January 1 as we commit to follow Christ this year. Even if you can't be physically with us, pray this prayer, keep it close, and let God be your guide.

Happy New Year, and let us give thanks...**God is with us!**

Pastor Mark

Our Vision is to walk with Christ while making disciples.

STUDY, OUTREACH, AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM, AND BE THANKFUL! – SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Sunday, January 8, at 8:15am & 10:45am we will share together in a service of Baptismal Renewal. On the day when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, we will have the opportunity to remember what it means to be a baptized member of Christ's Church as we come forward to renew our baptisms during worship. This time of worship is an excellent follow-up to Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service and a great way to begin 2012. If you have not yet been baptized, this is also an ideal Sunday to receive this holy sacrament. If you would like to be baptized on this day, please contact Pastor Mark.

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, plarning, 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Grace is blessed to have regular volunteer Sunday School teachers. Throughout the year, there are times when these teachers are away and substitutes are needed to cover the classes. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, please contact Holly Kurten (Preschool Class), Therese Finney (1st through 3rd grades), or Taryn Herold (4th through 6th grades). *Please Note: Sunday School teachers and substitute teachers must be Safe Sanctuary certified. Details are available on our website, or contact Holly Kurten for more information.*

NURSERY HELPERS - 10:45 Worship Service

First Sunday – Tammy Wilder
Second Sunday – Sue Witters
Third Sunday – Katie & Zoe or Daniel Richwine
Fourth Sunday – Linda Minnich
Fifth Sunday- Christi Catalano

On Call Person for January
Pat Emel
766-8766

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHERS NEEDED

An opportunity to serve: Ushers are needed for 10:45 service. Please email graceumc1@comcast.net or call 766-3282 if you are interested in helping.



RECYCLING: MISSION CENTRAL

Our recycle program for Mission Central has changed. We will no longer collect plastic containers for recycling. We would like to have only aluminum cans (soda cans, etc) only.

Thank You!
Rusty Garner



CHRISTMAS STOCKING AUCTION UPDATE

We wish to extend a special thank you to all who created stockings for the auction, and to all who came out to participate in the auction. This year's auction raised \$1080.

CHRISTMAS BIBLE SCHOOL

We held our first Christmas Bible School from December 13 through December 17. Christmas Bible School was a mini-VBS...children ages 4 through 9 attended the week and learned about "The Journey: The Road To Bethlehem". Parents had the opportunity to do their "Christmas chores", while their children learned about the true Reason for the Season. We were blessed to have ten children signed up throughout the week. We were also blessed to have so many volunteers help out. Special thank you's to all our daily characters, teachers, and assistants. We could not have done this without you!

DID YOU KNOW...SUNDAY SERMONS are available online in audio format? To hear recent sermons, visit: www.graceumc-mech.org/Sermon.html

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Search Facebook "Pages" for Grace United Methodist Church and become a fan!

LIBRARY? WHAT LIBRARY?

Yes, Grace Church has a library. Where, you say? The library is located on the second floor in the balcony area outside of rooms #1 and #2. For those of you who have not ventured up those stairs lately, or perhaps never, the area also has a pew, rocking chair and sound available to hear the services, thus providing families with babies or small children a more relaxed area to enjoy the services. It also has been used by individuals that are recovering from colds and coughs, who do not want to miss the services.

But, back to the library. Well, of course there are books, books that have been inspirational to those who have donated them and books used in a variety of bible studies and Sunday School classes. There are books and tapes for children, records of the history of Grace Church and albums of the ministries and activities that helped grow the church. We even have a section with encyclopedias and other reference books left from years ago when we had an after school tutoring program here at Grace. Who knew?

A side bit of information that is worth noting is that the shelves in the library were built, years ago, by one of our former youth as his service project when he earned his Eagle Badge.

We invite you all to venture up the steps and look around... you just might find something that you want to check out.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BLOOD DRIVES FOR 2012

The Central PA Bloodmobile will be onsite the following dates in 2012 from 9am till Noon. No appointments are needed...just stop by, roll up your sleeves, and help save a life!

February 18 April 21 June 23 August 25 October 27 December 29

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

January 2012



Grace United Methodist Church
216 S. Market Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
www.graceumc-mech.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Mechanicsburg, PA
17055
Permit No. 212

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

CREATION NORTHEAST 2012 – REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5!

Join Grace UMC – Mechanicsburg as we travel to Creation Festival 2012. Travelling in our car caravan, we will **depart Grace UMC on Tuesday, June 26 at 11am**, arrive at Mt Union, set up camp, and enjoy campsite fellowship time in the evening.

The Festival runs Wednesday, June 27 through Saturday, June 30. We will depart the Festival grounds Sunday, July 1st in the morning, and **arrive back at Grace UMC around Noon on July 1st.**

This is a great opportunity to enjoy 60 bands, 20 speakers, fellowship time, a camping retreat and more for one low price. A complete listing of bands and speakers will be available in 2012.

Adults (Age 12+) \$140.00: *The price includes admission to the festival, hot shower pass, “quick” continental breakfast (breakfast bars, granola, fruit, etc) and “quick” lunch (hot dog & chips, PBJ, etc) at our campsite. You will be on your own for dinner (and may pack to eat at the campsite or purchase dinner at one of the Festival concession stands). Contact Therese Finney for more information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor’s Message.....	1	Mark Your Calendars.....	5
Study Outreach/Fellowship.....	2	Creation 2012.....	6
Misc. Announcements.....	3		
Calendar.....	4		