



Life in Grace

OCTOBER 2011 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 10

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

As I write this, we are preparing to celebrate 75 years of the ministry of Grace Church being headquartered at the corner of Simpson & Market Streets in Mechanicsburg. For nearly a century, our neo-Gothic cathedral has stood as a witness to those passing by of the greatness and majesty of the God we serve. The mere presence of this grand building is indeed a witness.

But now, as we move into October and the anniversary celebrations come to an end, I wonder what will our witness be for the next 75 years? Will it be enough to allow our beautiful sanctuary to speak for itself as it towers over the intersection? What more is God requiring of us on this day?

When Jesus commissioned his disciples on that mountain in Galilee, the scripture tells us that even then, *"some doubted."* Many worshipped the Risen Christ, but we're also told that some doubted.

Yet, in spite of this persistent doubt that had captured some of the disciples, Jesus commissioned them all and sent them out with the words, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."*

As we move forward here at Grace, I'm sure that there is still some doubt present. Perhaps it's relating to the Matthew 28 Initiative we entered into one year ago this month. We wonder if that was the right thing to do and how that will continue to live itself out at Grace. Perhaps we remember loved ones who are no longer with us, and we wonder if we can move forward in ministry without their gifts. Perhaps we see the economy and world around us, and we doubt that ministry can be sustained.

Well, brothers and sisters, GOOD NEWS! Jesus has heard our doubts and concerns. He has received them, and he has still commissioned each of us! He has commanded us to continue going outside of our walls, meeting people where they are, inviting others into our community, and doing all we can to make more disciples in his name. Thankfully, our doubts and worries don't seem to bother Jesus one bit.

And just in case we're still a bit nervous about an unknown future, he tells his disciples (and us) one more thing... **"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

Praise God! What more motivation do we need? Our Savior, our Good Shepherd, our Redeemer, has promised to always be with us as we GO and make disciples!

For 75 years GRACE has stood in ministry on the corner of Simpson & Market Streets. Thanks be to God for such a witness! Let us now give GRACE legs! Let's take GRACE to every street where we live, to each office where we work, to every school we attend. Let's carry God's GRACE with us as we follow our Great Commission. I'm ready to GO...are you?

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

Our Vision is to walk with Christ while making disciples.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

ABOUT “BEGINNINGS THE SPIRITUAL LIFE” BIBLE STUDY

The bible study “beginnings” is open to all, no matter where you are in your faith journey. It provides an opportunity for new inquirers and experienced Christian inquirers to share conversations about the renewal of the heart. Together we will explore fundamental questions about the spiritual life. Our exploration will lead us to ask who we are, who God is, and how our lives intersect with God. The sessions consist of meeting together to share a simple supper fellowship, view a meaningful video and engage in group discussion. The class will be held on **Thursday evenings from 6pm-8pm through November 17th**. For more information, contact Doris Martin.

A YEAR WITH THE WORD – ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

“THE LAW” – SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH NOVEMBER 15

Our online bible study is designed for those with busy schedules that still wish to participate in a group study program. Follow the bible study 24/7 from your home computer and add your comments through our online blog site: <http://www.gracewelcomesu.org/Blog-With-Us.html> Post your thoughts and insights on your readings, and respond to other participants’ postings.

The first part of our study examines Genesis through Deuteronomy (The Law). The reading schedule is posted on our website on the “Blog With Us” page. For more information, contact Therese Finney.

UNITED METHODISTS UNITING: PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-POVERTY SUMMIT II

OCT. 9-10, 2011 CAMP HILL UMC, CAMP HILL, PA

Registration for the summit is \$75 per person.

Featuring: **Shane Claiborne**

Bestselling Author, Prominent Christian Activist, Sought-after Speaker and Recovering Sinner. Founding partner of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia that has helped to create and connect radical faith communities around the world.

Our first Anti-Poverty Summit just skimmed the surface. In Anti-Poverty Summit II we will learn how our churches can become centers of life and hospitality in communities. We will learn how to transform our churches into Saving Stations for persons living in spiritual and physical poverty.

Contact the church office or visit: www.umadvocacypa.org for more information.

COMPUTER 101 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 9AM @ BETHANY TOWERS

At the request of a few of our members, we will be offering a “beginner adult” computer class. This class will teach such things as Facebook, email systems, internet search engines, and basics on Word and Excel. We thank Chuck from Mt. Olivet for arranging for the use of the computer room at Bethany Towers for this computer class. The sign-up sheet is located in the rear of the Sanctuary. For additional information, please contact Therese Finney.

Bethany Towers is located on Wesley Drive in Mechanicsburg. ***The training will be held at the TOWERS.*** *Directions: Bethany TOWERS, on the East Campus with a separate entrance after the main one (going south). Either entrance will work but look for the 6 story building on the right. It is on the sunporch of the 2nd Floor and parking is at the bottom of the hill where the building is located. Most parking slots have numbers on them, next to the building, and those are 'no-no's'!*

October 2011

OUTREACH AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MEET AND GREET – ALICIA REISINGER

We will be welcoming Alicia to our Grace Family with three opportunities for “Meet and Greet”. The sign up sheet is located in the rear of the Sanctuary. We thank the Metzgar, Lusk, and Baker Families for opening their homes and hosting these events.

October 2 – Lusk Home (Dillsburg)

October 16 – Baker Home (Mechanicsburg)

“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.***

BLOOD DRIVE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 – 9AM TILL NOON

The Central PA Bloodmobile will be onsite on October 15th. We want your blood! So far this year, our location has been credited for 51 pints of blood! Roll up your sleeves for this great need in our community!

LUNCH BUNCH – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT NOON

Lunch Bunch will be going out to lunch to Snapper’s in Mechanicsburg, to celebrate October Birthdays, Wednesday, October 26, at noon. Come out and celebrate with us.

HAYRIDE – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Our annual "Hay Ride", is scheduled for Saturday October 29th at 7pm (till 9ish). This is always a fun time of gathering and enjoying the great outdoors. It is an awesome opportunity to invite someone to come and meet the Grace Family in a social setting. For those who would like to car pool out to the farm, we will gather in the church parking lot at 6:30pm and we will get organized and have a prayer. Then we will head out to the farm which is just off of South York Road, on 21 Big Oak Rd, Dillsburg. There will be a camp fire, food and fellowship.

The fun and fellowship is free. If you go on the hay ride (wagon pulled) there is a cost of \$7 per rider. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the church so we can get a feel for how many will be attending and how much food to bring. Contact Pete Herold for more information.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES – FALL FOOD DRIVE

“For 28 years, New Hope Ministries has answered the call of helping people in times of need and supporting their efforts toward stability. And the need is clear: We’re serving 40% more people than we were two years ago.”

In response to New Hope’s recent release, Grace UMC has agreed to be a Community Collection Site for New Hope’s Fall Food Drive. Collection bins will be placed at each entrance through November. When shopping, please remember your neighbors in need and purchase one additional can or package. Every item helps!

Items needed: Juice and juice boxes, dry milk, boxed meal mixes, canned pasta, raisins, condiments, powdered drink mixes, pudding/jello mix, canned chicken, tuna or beef stew, instant potatoes, canned fruit, breakfast cereals, pancake mix and syrup, applesauce, flour, sugar, coffee, tea, pasta, crackers, personal hygiene items for male and female, diapers, wipes, laundry supplies

October 2011

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

APPLE DUMPLING TIME IS HERE...

October is here, and that means it's time for apple dumplings! The ladies will be meeting Mondays in October to prepare this delicious treat! If you are interested in helping out, please see Joan Staub or Debbie Heckard. Order forms will be available in upcoming weekly church bulletins.

MUSIC NOTES

The adult choir will rehearse on alternate Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. ***New members are always welcome!*** Please contact Timothy Hess (979-7584) or Kim Badman for more information.

Also, anyone interested in providing special music in worship, please contact Timothy or Kim. We look forward to making a joyful noise at Grace!

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.*

MECHANICSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Grace UMC will be participating in this year's Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade. We would like to get as many of our Children, Youth, and Adults (costumes are optional) to walk the route with us. The parade is Tuesday, October 11 - formation begins at 6pm and the parade begins at 7pm. The route is a two-mile parade: Broad & Keller Streets, proceed East on Keller, North on Arch, West on Simpson and South on George. The parade disbands at the rear of the High School.

We will be handing out candy bags throughout the parade route and are accepting wrapped candy donations for this project.

Sign up sheet is located in the Sanctuary, or call Therese Finney by Monday, October 3.

CHILDREN'S SABBATH – OCTOBER 16

The Children and Youth of Grace will lead us in worship on Sunday, October 16 at the second service at 10:45am. (Note: The 1st worship service will still be held at 8:15am)

DOUBLE EVENT PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 19

The last Breakfast Buffet of the fall will be held on the morning of November 19 from 6:30am to 10:30am. The cost will be \$7.00 for adults and \$3.50 for children 4 to 11, with children 3 and under eating free. As usual we will need volunteers for the cooking and serving of the Breakfast. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary. Proceeds from the Breakfast will go toward the Current Fund.

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will also be held that morning during the same hours. There is still space for those wishing to have a "Make Your Dollars Grow" table to display your crafts, decorations, gift item or goodies. Please indicate the amount of space you will need on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary. One table will be reserved for Recycled Christmas Decorations. If you have items you would like to donate call Pat Emel. Proceeds from sale of Bazaar items will benefit the Open Door Project.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grace Family,

I'm looking for a Bible....preferably one with footnotes (a study Bible). My neighbor, Susan, has recently started going back to church. She found out last week she will be losing her job the end of this month. She lives alone and over the past year since I've known her, we've become good friends. I've been feeling God needs me to help her get back to Him. Long story short ... I'd like to give her a Bible with footnotes because it helps in understanding the text.

If anyone has a study Bible that you're not using—maybe you have an old one that's not being used because you've replaced it with another one, please let me know. And, please keep Susan in your prayers. I know firsthand what it's like to lose a job. And, I believe she and I can help each other in finding the ones God has for us.

Thank you so much!
Blessings to all,
Linda Slaseman

UMCOR CLEANING BUCKETS

Due to the recent floodings in the area, Mission Central is in need of cleaning buckets. Visit the link below for a complete list of items needed for each bucket. Buckets may be dropped off at Grace UMC, or you take them directly to Mission Central.

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/getconnected/supplies/flood-bucket/>

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
October:
Holly Metzgar 697-4808**

NEWSLETTER SURVEY: PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO THERESE FINNEY

Go green! I would like to receive my newsletter via email or I can access it on the website.

I do not have access to a computer. I will pick up my copy of the newsletter on Sunday.

I do not have access to a computer. I am unable to attend regular service, and would welcome a visitor who could drop off a copy of the newsletter.

Name _____ Phone _____

October 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARKETPLACE AND MINISTRIES FAIR – MISSION CENTRAL

On Saturday, October 8th, from 8am to 1pm, the 4th Annual Marketplace and Ministries Fair will be held at Mission Central, located at 5 Pleasant View Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA. It will be a unique combination of an indoor yard sale and a mission and ministries fair, with live entertainment, activities for kids, delicious food, and more!

If you would like to rent a space for \$10 to sell food, yard sale or craft items, etc., contact Wanda Jacobs at 717-645-7424 or buddy.beetle@verizon.net for more info or to reserve a space! No Fee will be charged to mission organizations or ministries who reserve a space to promote their work. The deadline for reservations is October 1st.

MECHANICSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 @ 7PM

Grace UMC will be included in this year's parade! The Grace children (young and young at heart) are welcome to join in the fun and walk with our group! Contact Therese Finney for more information.

CHURCH CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 30

Our annual **Church Conference** will be held this year on **October 30**. We will be meeting at Hope UMC (6260 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg) as we join with Hope for a night of worship and holy conferencing, presided over by our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Dennis Keller. ***We will gather at Hope UMC for a time of worship at 7:15pm with our Church Conference meeting beginning at 7:45pm.*** All members of Grace Church are invited to come participate in this important time.

For those of you who may not know, Church Conference is an annual meeting where we celebrate the ministries of the last year at Grace and set goals for 2012. We also take care of business items such as electing leadership, setting staff salaries, reviewing the annual parsonage inspection, affirming our Lay Speakers, etc. It's a great time to learn more about what is happening at Grace and celebrate the ministry that is taking place. Again, please join us if you are able. If you would like to share in this meeting and need a ride, please contact the church office.

GRACE CHURCH...FISHING FOR...FISH!

We're looking to set up a GRACE Church fishing trip to the Chesapeake Bay on **Saturday, November 5**. We would meet at the GRACE Church parking lot early in the morning for a full day on the water. The approximate cost would be around \$100./person, which includes boat rental, rods, bait, the fish we catch, etc. If you might be interested in joining in, please contact the church office for more information. If this day doesn't work for you, but you might be interested in a future trip, also let us know.

MORE DATES...

- Mechanicsburg Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 23 at 7pm at the Church of God Community Center in Mechanicsburg.
- The Grace Choir will perform at Bethany Village on December 7th at 7pm.
- Children's Play – Sunday, December 11
- Stocking Auction – Sunday, December 11 at 4:30pm
- Blood Drive – Saturday, December 17 9am till Noon
- Choir Cantata – Sunday, December 18
- Christmas Eve Services – 7pm Candlelight Service; 11pm Communion Service
- Christmas Day Service – One combined service at 9:30 (no Sunday School)
- Creation 2012 – June 26th through July 1, 2012 (contact Therese Finney for more information)



Grace United Methodist Church
216 S. Market Street
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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Message.....	1	Gifts & Talents.....	5
Study Opportunities.....	2	Misc Announcements.....	6
Outreach/Fellowship.....	3	Mark Your Calendars.....	7
Calendar.....	4	Church Conference.....	8