



Life in Grace

SEPTEMBER 2011 VOLUME 13 ISSUE 09

OPENING HEARTS OPENING MINDS OPENING DOORS

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

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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

Alicia and I have been overwhelmed the last two months as Grace Church has prayed for us, supported us, and helped us to celebrate our wedding and new life together. From all of the work done at the parsonage to make this house *our* home, to the fabulous "covered dish" lunch that was held for us, to the general outpouring of love and well-wishes we have received, Alicia and I could not have asked for anything more from this amazing church family over the last several weeks. In the spirit of Christian hospitality and following the parable of the Good Samaritan, Grace has gone above and beyond what we would have expected. Thank you! Alicia and I are both so thankful for this community called GRACE United Methodist Church!

With all of the hospitality and blessings we have received, I have found some asking, now that our wedding is over and we're getting settled in, *what can we do for you now?* What a gift it is as a pastor to have church members ask that question! I recently came across an article by another pastor in a similarly gifted congregation. Here is what he listed as the things that are the greatest blessing to any pastor and pastor's family:

- Understand that we're human and will make mistakes.
- Pray for each of us.
- See a need in the church and rise up to meet it, even without being asked to do so.
- Realize that we can't be everywhere and do everything we might like to do.
- Bring someone new with you as often as you can to Grace worship and activities.
- Make worship of God and participation in our GRACE community a priority over other activities that vie for your attention.

This is certainly not an easy list! It will take commitment and a willingness to follow God into a future that is unknown yet filled already with the Holy Spirit, preparing great things for us.

And yet, as I begin a new appointment year as your pastor and as Alicia and I begin our life and ministry together in your midst, if we all commit to do the things listed above, what amazing things God will do with GRACE! I can't wait to see what adventure God will lead us on next. I know, however, that as long as we move forward together and surrounded in prayer, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Thank you again for who you are and all you give.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Our Vision is to walk with Christ while making disciples.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF 216 S. MARKET STREET

OUR NEW CHURCH

“On August 8, 1935, the officers of the Church met with Dr. Henry E. Tralle, a Consultant Architect of national repute. He was later employed to make a comparison of the cost of repairing the old Church and enlarging it, or building a new one. In a duly announced Congregational Meeting held October 4, 1935, it was decided by an almost unanimous vote to erect a Temple to the Glory of God, at our new location on the Corner of Market and Simpson Streets.

God was surely with us in our choice of this day, and He remained with us throughout the building of our new Sanctuary.

Today, September 20th is Dedication. God has certainly blessed us as we endeavored to build Him a more beautiful Temple of Worship. We can well say today, ‘The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.’

The spirit of co-operation has been marvelous. The love of God has been manifest in many ways. Let us move forward with Him to greater spiritual heights than we have ever before attained.”

These paragraphs are taken from the September 20, 1936 dedication of Grace Church. What an amazing thing to read these powerful words from 75 years ago! I wonder if those who wrote these words could have ever imagined all that has transpired in the first 75 years of our church building. Could they have believed that people who have come through the doors they built? Could they have comprehended the ministry that has taken place in this beautiful cathedral...the lives that have been changed, the hearts that have been touched...

I believe the answer to those questions is YES! If they didn't have the faith and hope of great things to be accomplished, they would have never gone to the lengths they did to make sure that Jesus would have a presence on the corner of Market & Simpson.

What about us? Do we believe that in another 75 years that much more ministry will have been accomplished here? Will we continue to take steps to ensure that all people feel welcome at GRACE?

My answer is YES! We CAN say today that *“The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad.”* As our forefathers and mothers prayed, let us also pray that we will *“move forward with Him to greater spiritual heights than we have ever before attained.”* Thanks be to GOD!

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Join us **Tuesday, September 20 at 6pm**, as we commemorate the actual day, 75 years ago, that Grace Church was dedicated to the service and glory of God. We'll gather for a time of "Soup, Sandwich, Fellowship and Celebration" at 6pm at Grace. We'll challenge your knowledge of Grace with special trivia games. Come help us celebrate, and bring a friend!

And then join us again on **Sunday, September 25**, for a time of worship, remembering, and celebration for this milestone. ***We'll be having one combined worship service at 10am*** with a luncheon and activities to follow. We'll begin to look ahead to the next 75 years of GRACE! We will be putting together a time capsule, to be opened in 25 years at the 100th Anniversary Celebration – bring an item that speaks "Grace" to you, or write a letter, poem, or song for future generations to learn about Grace of 2011.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

Sunday School for Preschool through 6th grade will resume September 11th with our annual Sunday School Kick-off Breakfast! Preschool through Youth Group ages are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for our breakfast at 9am – immediately following breakfast we will breakout into our classrooms for Sunday School. We encourage all children to bring a friend to Sunday School!

Miss Holly – Preschool Class; Second Floor Room #4

Miss Therese – 1st Grade through 3rd Grade; Second Floor Room #5

Miss Taryn – 4th Grade through 6th Grade; Second Floor Room #1

Youth Group – 7th Grade & Older; Lower Level Youth Room

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 beginning on Thursday September, 15th and run weekly for ten weeks through November 17th.** A sign up sheet is on a clipboard found at the back of the sanctuary. We ask that you register by August 21st if you intend to participate in the class.

(Doris Martin)

ARE YOU READY TO LIVE IN GRACE?

Is God calling YOU to be a part of GRACE Church through full membership? Join Pastor Mark during the Sunday School hour on **Sunday, September 18** to learn more about becoming a member of GRACE UMC. We'll be meeting in the GRACE Fellowship Hall.

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.

We will be using the “Common English Bible: Holy Bible” for our study. *“Take a fresh look at the Bible while you experience a new translation. The Common English Bible combines a commitment to both accuracy and readability. The result is a new version of the Bible the typical reader or worshipper is able to understand with ease. Written in today's modern English, the Common English Bible was created through the careful work of 118 leading biblical scholars from 22 faith traditions and thorough field tests by 77 reading groups.”*

You can purchase this edition at your local book store, or order online at <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/ProductDetail.aspx?pid=959456>

The bible study will average 3 to 4 chapters per day. The first part of our study will examine Genesis through Deuteronomy (The Law) from September 19 through November 15. We will take a break over the holiday season, and resume January 1 with the book of Joshua (and History). The reading schedule will be posted on our website on the “Blog With Us” page.

September 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.

September 11 – Metzgar Home (Mechanicsburg)

October 2 – Lusk Home (Dillsburg)

October 16 – Baker Home (Mechanicsburg)

BUCKETS FOR BUTERE

The Children’s Mission Project, “Buckets for Butere” will begin Sunday September 4. The children of Grace will be collecting your loose change in their Butere Buckets, the **Sundays of September 4, 11, 18, and 25**. The money goes toward the support of students at the Butere Miracle Academy in western Kenya. The school provides education and dormitories for children of Butere, many of whom are orphaned by AIDS. Please bring your weekly collection of change to church and help the children with their mission project. Thank you.

“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! **Come out Tuesday evening** for just ½ hour or for the full program...whatever time you can give will help! 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. (Therese Finney)

STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION EVENT @ GUMC

Join us on **Wednesday, September 28, 11:30am-2pm** for an event sponsored by the Stewardship Foundation of the Susquehanna Conference. Pastors and lay persons from around our Susquehanna Conference will be gathering in our Fellowship Hall to talk about Capital Campaigns within congregations. Lunch will be provided. *Please RSVP to the Grace office by Monday, September 19.*

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

September 2011

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

MUSIC NOTES

The adult choir will commence its rehearsals for the fall and winter seasons beginning on **Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00 PM**. We 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! (Timothy Hess)

OPEN DOOR TEAM ANNOUNCES

On October 9, we will be initiating the **5th Annual Make Your Dollars Grow Campaign** which is a fund raising campaign to develop a plan for making our building accessible to everyone regardless of physical ability. This campaign gives everyone an opportunity to utilize their talents and skills to make a “seed” of ten dollars grow in value as a fund raising ministry. We encourage everyone to offer services to others or make crafts, goodies or creative items as part of the campaign. The craft segment of the campaign will culminate on **November 19 at the Bazaar and Breakfast**. Service projects, such as painting, repairs, sewing and lawn cleanup etc. may continue until the close of the campaign on December 31. Additional details will be available on Sunday, October 9. *If you are interested in joining the Open Door team, please contact Doris Martin.*

TIME TO MAKE THE SEASONAL TRANSITION AND CLEAN HOUSE

As you go through the transition from one season to another, you might find some items you no longer have a need for. Why not pack them in a box and mark it for the Indoor Yard Sale that will be held on **September 24** along with the first fall Breakfast Buffet. Bring them to the church the week of September 18 and place them in the Youth Room. Remember no large pieces such as furniture. This event offers an opportunity to show our hospitality and caring to our area neighbors.

The second Breakfast Buffet will be held on **November 19** at which time we will also hold our traditional Christmas Bazaar. You have plenty of time to put your creative imaginations to work to make, crafts, decorations and gifts ready for that time of welcoming the community into the house of Grace.

Watch for sign up sheets in the back of the sanctuary so that you can become a part of these events. We remain a church with Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors. (Doris Martin)

A BIG EVENTS MESSAGE

As the Big Events Team Leader, I am reaching out to you! Are you interested in organizing a special outreach event? Maybe you are interested in helping with events, or you have a great idea for an event but you are not sure how to get the ball rolling. Your skills and input are needed!

Whether you are able to join the Big Events Team or not, it is important to remember **YOU** are still needed. Each of these events is geared towards reaching out to our community, but the events are also for our members! You are unique, and your presence will help community members understand the magnitude of being a Grace member and a disciple of Jesus Christ.

God Bless!

Therese Finney
Big Events Team Leader

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bette and Jerry Singiser will be celebrating their 72nd wedding anniversary on September 23, 2011. They were married in Hagerstown, MD in 1939 and have resided in Mechanicsburg all of their married lives. Jerry is presently in Thornwald Home (A-8 442 Walnut Bottom Rd. Carlisle, PA 17013) and Bette still is in the home on 107 George Street. They have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 2 & 3/4 great great grandchildren. Congratulations and best wishes for future anniversaries.

The Greening of Grace

This month's suggestion comes from a recommendation approved at Annual Conference to limit the use of Styrofoam products and instead use washable or biodegradable serving products. Please keep the suggestion in mind when purchasing products for our use here at Grace.

Thank You.

Hello Grace Family,

I'm sending my revised resume, as promised. Please keep me in mind if you know of any employment opportunities and feel free to call me at home (796.0871) or email me anytime. I'm really excited to be starting a new chapter in my working career and I know God has a wonderful job out there for me. I thank you all for your continued prayers and please know how blessed I feel to be a part of our Grace family. I could not ask for more faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings to you all,
Linda Slaseman

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
September:
Pat Emel 766-8766**

Dear Grace UMC,

Thank you so much for the generous gift of a bible from your church. It was very kind and thoughtful of you to think of and include me among the graduates of the church. Once again, thanks, and I greatly appreciate it!

Sincerely

Richie Deen

GOING GREEN – EMAILS

Sign up to receive announcements, newsletters, etc via the email system. We've upgraded our general announcement email system and website! If you are not currently receiving emails, or if your email address has changed, contact Therese Finney at tmecf@comcast.net. (Therese Finney)

September 2011

CREATION NORTHEAST 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 - SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2012

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).

Here are a few items you may want to bring: pen and notebook, sleeping bag, tent or camper, flashlight, cooking supplies, bible, wash basin, umbrella, toothpaste, soap, towels, insect repellent, money, sunglasses, hat, sweater, and blanket.

For more information, contact Therese Finney at events@gracewelcomesu.org or 805-5492.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

___ I will be able to drive my vehicle and ___ others to the Festival.

___ I have a tent with sleeping capacity of ____.

___ I will drive my camper to the event. My camper sleeps ____.

I am purchasing the following tickets: # of tickets _____ @ \$140 = \$ _____

Cash or checks (made payable to Grace UMC, with “CREATIONFEST” in the memo) and this form should be mailed to: Grace UMC ATTN: Therese Finney, 216 S. Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

PAYMENT PLAN OPTION:

We will be accepting payments over the next 6 months.

Payments of \$28 (per person/ticket) are due September through January by the 5th of each month.

Tickets/payments are non-refundable.

08/28/11
(Therese Finney)

September 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.

MORE DATES...

Blood Drive – Saturday, October 15 9am till Noon

Children's Sabbath – Sunday, October 16

Church Conference – Sunday, October 30

This year's conference will be held at Hope UMC on the Carlisle Pike. Worship service will be held at 7:15pm, followed by our conference at 7:45pm.

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)



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

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!

"BLOG WITH US"

Join our **NEW BLOG** site! Blogging allows you the opportunity to participate in open discussions to increase your spiritual needs. <http://www.gracewelcomesu.org/Blog-With-Us.html> and become part of our online discussion (blog). No registration needed – blog directly on our website!

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