



Grace United Methodist Church

January News Magazine

Volume 7, Issue 1
January 18, 2012

Tom's Tidbit

Pastor
Tom Sullenger
Secretary
Theresa West
Director of Music
David Duncan
Organist
TBD
Nursery Coordinator
Angela Dunavan
Program Ministries Facilitator
Julie Walker
Journey Worship Team
Justin Pobst
Youth Director
Merideth Pobst
Older Adult Ministries
Adelaide Parsons*
Karen Hendrickson*
Multimedia
Charlie Herbst*
Justin Hopkins*
Greg Illers*
Van Ministry Coordinator
TBD
Altar Arrangements
Margaret Zieba*
Children's Bells
Misty Rivers*
Bells of Grace
Misty Rivers*
Grace Notes Bell Choir
Misty Rivers*
Communications Coordinator
TBD
Reception Coordinator
Mary Ann Pensele*
Bereavement Dinners
Margaret Dement*
Reader Coordinator
Mary Ann Pensele*
Usher Coordinator
Joe Boguslawski*
Acolyte Coordinator
Tamara Smee*

* Denotes Volunteer Position

Dear Friends:

Robert Schuller relates the story of being out calling on parishioners one day. As he was walking down the sidewalk, he saw a big old bruising bulldog coming toward him. All the little dogs of the neighborhood came rushing from their yards as this interloper invaded their territories. The old bulldog never wavered from his determined path but kept on as if nothing were happening around him. As Schuller drew closer to the old bulldog, he was determined that he wasn't going to yield to that old dog. As the moment of collision came closer, it was Schuller who moved aside. The old bulldog never even paused to look him over but continued on his path as if no one were around. Later that night Schuller tells of praying, asking the Lord to give him whatever that bulldog had. He was asking for something that would enable him to set his mind on what he was doing and never lose sight of his goal.

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians: "This one thing I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." The current catch phrase, which has a lot of merit: *The Main Thing is to keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing.*"

It's easy for us to get pulled in every direction and to become so distracted that we lose focus on what it is we're all about. There's much before each of us as we start this new year. There's much that vies for our attention and energies. I listen to parents trying to figure out who is going to go with which kid to which ballgame. You hear folks trying to juggle their work schedules in order to find just a little bit of time together. Many of us get those #!@&*#@ cards in the mail reminding us of this or that meeting. We feel like there's a pack of bulldogs detouring us off our course.

My encouragement to you (and me) is that I make every effort to remember what the *Main Thing* is in my life. To remember that my first allegiance is to God as my Creator and my Savior, Jesus. Then to my family, being the best husband, father, grandfather I can be. Then to my others, serving them and caring for them as I would for Jesus himself. I figure that if I can keep those things straight, everything else will fall into place. I will know when to say 'Yes' or when to say 'No'. I'll know what I should do, when. Didn't Jesus say something like, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you?"

Let's help each other in remembering to keep *the Main Thing, the Main Thing*. OK?

In Christ's love,

Tom

A Sincere Thanks....

As the retiring Church Council Chair, I would like to thank those who served the Council in 2010-11 for their dedicated service. For any council to function well, it takes commitment and time. The talents and gifts of numerous persons enabled the Council to be successful in many areas. New leadership is in place for 2012 and we offer enthusiastic support for a successful term. Let us be the very church that God would have us to be in His service.—*Mary Ann Pensel*

Christmas Eve Cookie Outreach

Thank you to all who participated in the Cookie Outreach program. Grace UMC baked and packaged 153 dozen cookies. These were delivered to working people following the services on Christmas Eve. We hope to make this an annual event.

Gloria Arnold



Grace Trivia Night

Mark your calendar for Grace Trivia Night on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Cost is \$10 per person entry fee. It begins at 5:00pm with hot dogs and pizza then at 6:00pm the Trivia competition begins. Teams will be 8 per table at \$10 per person. Can't get a team together? Joins us anyway and we will place you on a team. Light snacks will be provided throughout the evening if you get hungry. So form a team and join us for this fun filled evening with all proceeds going toward our Covenant Partnership with Mozambique and the Russia Initiative. Child care will be available. For more information and/or team registration sheets, contact Barb Kinsey at 335-4346 or 576-1663.

A Word from the Choir Director

What is the most important question to ask prospective choir members? Have you sung in a choir before? Do you like singing in a choir? Do you look good in robes? (*thought I would throw that in for a little comic relief.*) Can you read music? What's your favorite type of music? Are you a soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or something in between? Who was the last choir director you tortured? (*you guessed it, more comic relief.*) All of these are valid questions, (*I especially want references on the last question!*) but I believe there is a more important question to be asked. I don't want to keep you waiting, so here it is..... Do you have a song?

So, do you have a song? Right now, your song might be wonderful praise for all God is in your life. Or your song might be, 'Why have you turned your back on me, God?' Perhaps you 'sing' a song of life, or maybe it's the 'dirge' of some looming death. Your song may be brimming with confidence. Or the proverbial "thin ice" might be life's only footing for your song.

A rather short read-through of the Psalms found in our Old Testament reveal to us songs written from all the realities of life: joy, sadness, remorse, faith, doubt, sickness, health, confidence, weakness. You name it and there's a real good chance you'll find it in the Psalms. Here's the point: Grace's Chancel Choir is made up of people who's "songs" are joyful, sad, faithful, doubting, sick, healthy, confident, and weak. And they take their lead from a director who knows – and has experienced – all those "songs." So, if you've ever had one of those "songs" in your life, you are highly qualified to be a part of songs we sing every week.

Do you have a song? We'd love you to join us as we bring our "songs" before the Lord every Wednesday night at 7:30 pm, and every Sunday morning at 9:00 am. Don't have a song? Well, we've got a song for that too! - *David Duncan*

PRAYER CONCERNS...

New Prayer Concerns:

- Jane Groves

Sympathy:

- To the family of Michael & Ivonne Goodin in the death of Ivonne's father, Enzo Solarino on Saturday, January 14, 2012

New Arrival:

Members for Whom We Offer Prayer

Pauline Clendenin	Wilma Copeland	Jewel Goodson
Myrnita Grantham	Frances Hodges	Lloyd & Lois Niswonger
Ray Pensel	Richard Welter	Marge Williams
Jim Zieba		

Military Personnel

Joe Lopez (son-in-law of Rick Hetzel) deployed to Afghanistan, Jeremy Stafford (cousin of Misty Rivers) to Iraq, Lt. Col. Michael Goodin (son of Jim & Carolyn Goodin) home from Iraq—will be going to Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina, Derek & Angela Chenoweth at Travis Air Force Base in California, Todd Nordman, Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, Tom Statler, Virginia Beach, VA

When there are changes, please call the church office.

Members in Residential or Skilled Care

Sikeston:	Gayle Ebaugh
Chateau Girardeau:	JoAnn Wilson, Charline Caldwell, Marge Williams
Residential Care or Saxony:	Edna Hey, Roy Hinkle, Bill Mantooth, Gwen Schild, Lois Wessell
MO Veterans Home:	Leon Palmer, Herb Nance, Stan Shaffar, Charles Werner, Rev. Elbridge Bartley
Monticello:	Virginia Criddle, Evelyn Ritchie
Capetown:	Lois Unfer
Fountainbleau:	Pauline Cross

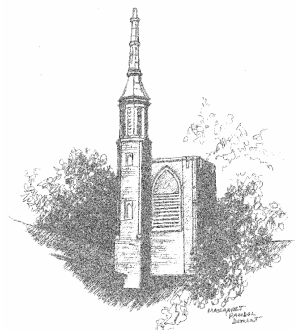
Other

Covenant Church: Jeruzalem UMC, Rev. Nito Armando Joaquim
Covenant Church: Trinity UMC, Cedar Rapids, IA

Prayer Sheets are available in the Prayer Chapel

Grace United Methodist Church

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Special Points of Interest

- Christmas Eve Cookie Outreach
- Trivia Night
- Monday Night Women's Bible Study
- Word from the Choir Director
- Food, Fun, Fellowship
- Lay Speaker Training
- David's Harp
- February Calendar
- February Birthdays and Anniversaries
- United Methodist Women's Reading Program
- United Methodist Women
- United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Deadline for Newsletter articles for February
will be **February 10, 2012**
Email to graceofc@sbcglobal.net



February 6
Monday Night Women's Bible Study

February 11
Trivia Night

February 22
Ash Wednesday

March 3
United Methodist Women's Basement Sale