

# GRACE NOTES

December 2015/January 2016  
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## A Publication of Grace Presbyterian Church

1811 Fairhill Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
Phone: (260) 426-4712  
Fax: (260) 426-4717  
E-mail: [graceoffice@gpcfw.org](mailto:graceoffice@gpcfw.org)  
Website: [www.gpcfw.org](http://www.gpcfw.org)

### Staff

#### Pastor

(Interim Pastor Search)

#### Choir Director

Debi Thorpe  
[mommyrodada@aol.com](mailto:mommyrodada@aol.com)

#### Pianist/Organist

Sue Creager  
[sacreager2801@comcast.net](mailto:sacreager2801@comcast.net)

#### Treasurer

JoAnn Getts  
[nojogetts@juno.com](mailto:nojogetts@juno.com)

#### Church Secretary

Kelly Bellis  
[graceoffice@gpcfw.org](mailto:graceoffice@gpcfw.org)

#### Childcare Attendant

Karla Silva

#### Custodians

Dennis Allen  
[woodshakers13@gmail.com](mailto:woodshakers13@gmail.com)

Tim Bauman  
[Batb1977@hotmail.com](mailto:Batb1977@hotmail.com)



## JESUS

...THE GIFT OF GOD IS  
ETERNAL LIFE...

ROMANS 6:23

### *For Everything There is a Season ...*

Well, this is it. The time has arrived where I have packed my office (well, mostly) and am preparing to begin the next chapter in our lives. I cannot express how grateful I am for this church, the people, and this time in our lives. My family and I have learned a lot while we have been here and also forged strong and wonderful relationships with many of you. The hope is that God can continue working in all of our lives, both near and far. By the time you read this, God-willing my family and I will have made it safely into the borders of Florida ready to begin our new adventure in life.

My ministry began at this church on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. This is a day that I will never forget, and one that I still remember fondly. This was my first day in a new call, a new town, a new church, and a new office. Since this is a day that I will never forget I will make a promise to God and to each and every one of you. Every March 1<sup>st</sup> from this day forward and for every subsequent year I will continue to lift Grace Presbyterian Church up in my prayers. Of course, I will pray for you all at other times too. But, on that day you can rest-assured that I, the Rev. Christopher Joseph Kirwan will enter into a deep prayer for the past, the life, and the future of Grace Presbyterian Church located in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I would encourage you to join me in that day every year for some time for reflection and prayer. From this day forward, that can be our joint day of prayer in which we reflect back on the positives and look forward to the future with hope and anticipation.

While I understand that some of you may be disappointed, sad, and maybe even frustrated that we are saying goodbye to the Grace family, please know that it was not an easy decision on our end either. We struggled with whether or not this was the right choice for both Grace and our family. In the end, of course, the verdict had been made; more so because we felt this truly was God's calling for us as difficult as it was. In the end though, please know that Grace and Fort Wayne will always hold a special place in our hearts. How could one possibly forget a town where their daughter was born? A place where one truly felt like family? A place where one witnessed the love of God shared on a daily and weekly basis? A place that if Jesus Himself came through the doors would feel welcomed and at home? The truth is, one cannot simply forget Grace Presbyterian Church, or Fort Wayne, Indiana. And, for that my family and I are eternally grateful. God Bless and love to you all.



As the sun sets on the Fall season  
here in Fort Wayne, so does the time  
we spent here with Pastor Chris.

*Thank you Pastor Chris!*  
*—We will miss you.*

(Picture to right—North Highlands neighborhood  
overlooking downtown Ft. Wayne at dusk.)



"Like us on Facebook"  
Look for our logo!

# Prepare the way of the LORD.

ISAIAH 40:3

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome to Pat Morrison, our worship leader in December

Sunday, November 29	1st Sunday of Advent 10:30am Hanging of the Greens during worship Congregational Meeting 11:30 am
Saturday, December 5	PW Christmas Party 12:00noon
Sunday, December 6	2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30am
Saturday, December 12	Pageant Rehearsal 10:00am
Sunday, December 13	3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30am Christmas Pageant during worship Cookie Fellowship 11:30am Caroling to home-centered 1:00pm
Monday, December 14	Chick-fil-A Spirit Night 5:30-7:30pm
Sunday, December 20	4th Sunday of Advent with Christmas Cantata 10:30pm Session Meeting 12:00noon
Thursday, December 24	Christmas Eve Service 7pm
Friday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Sunday, December 27	Service of Lessons & Carols 10:30am No Sunday School or Bible Classes No Fellowship Hour
Friday, January 1, 2016	HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!



## From the Choir Director



Debi Thorpe



...It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

This really is the best time of the year and we have some great ways to celebrate the holidays with your Grace family. On November 29th we began celebrating Advent with a special service for the Hanging of the Greens during our regular worship time on Sunday.

On December 13, the children and youth of Grace will present a Christmas Pageant celebrating the birth of Jesus through their eyes. The festivities of the season will continue on the 13th at 1:00 p.m. as everyone is invited to go caroling and visit with some of our home-centered members.

On December 20, the adult choir will be sharing a musical offering of "I'll Be Home For Christmas" including many old and new favorites. So mark your calendars to be here as we gather together and enjoy the sounds of the Christmas season.

*In Christ, Debi*

## Presbyterianism 101



**The Book of Order – G -2.09  
Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships**  
– G-2.0901 *Congregational Meeting*  
An installed pastoral relationship may be dissolved only by the presbytery. Whether the teaching elder, the congregation, or the presbytery initiates proceedings for dissolution of the relationship, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation to consider the matter and to consent, or decline to consent, to dissolution.

## **The Book of Confessions –A Brief Statement of Faith – 10.4**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles, rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

# Up To Date with Committees & Groups

From the Treasurer.....



2016 Offering envelopes will be available on

Sunday, December 13 on the table in the Narthex. Please remember to pick up your box of envelopes and take it home.

If you would like your box to be mailed, please call the church office at 426-4712.

Also Per Capita for 2015 is \$36.92 and is due December 31 of this year.



Attention Committee Chairs...

Please submit your Annual Report for 2015 to the church office by January 6th. Thank-you!



## MONTHLY GATHERINGS

**SARAH CIRCLE** - The Presbyterian Women get together for a circle meeting and Bible study at Grace at 1:00 p.m. —Meets 2nd Thursday of each month.

Next date: Dec. 10 & Jan. 14

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Come have lunch at Glenbrook Mall Food Court on the last Thursday of the month at 12 noon - All are welcome! As Christmas Eve is the last Thursday, we will meet on the 3rd Thursday in December.

Next dates: Dec. 17 & Jan. 28

**CANCER PAD SEWING** - Come join the women in putting together cancer pads for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. A simple stitch is all that is needed. Anyone can come help with this great mission. —Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00am.

Next dates: Dec. 16 & Jan. 20

See Evelyn Brunnegraff if you would like to join us or have any questions. (424-2804)



Poinsettia's were ordered for Christmas in honor or memory of a loved one.

They will be listed in the bulletins during December. If you purchased a plant, please feel free to take one home after worship on Christmas Eve to enjoy with your family.



- Vivian Allen and Margaret McBride attended Church Women United's World Community Day Nov. 6 at Friendship Baptist Church. The theme was "Our Journey Together", with Rev. Kate Terlep from North Christian Disciples of Christ, leading the Bible study.

- **The annual Church Women United's Christmas Party is planned for Dec. 11 at St. John Baptist Church at 10 a.m.** The party is an opportunity to share our gifts with the Fort Wayne Community. This year Lois Ehinger, Director of Youth Services at Well-spring Interfaith Social Services will be the guest speaker. Church Women United shares much needed practical gifts requested by selected organizations and also provides funds to more than 30 organizations for operating expenses.



Church member, Pat Morrison, recently attended a Center for Congregations workshop, Legal Basics: Governance, Healthcare, Risk Management and More. This was an update of the same workshop offered last year. The workshop, led by Evansville attorney, Scott Wylie, updated those in attendance on changes in the laws for non-profits which would affect a religious organization and related institutions. Wylie is always very interesting and had good advise for congregations around the state.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Boy Scout Troop 15 meets here at Grace on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. with Scoutmaster, Randy Batchelder. Congratulations to Chris Smith, son of Mike and Michelle Smith, who became an Eagle Scout in November 2015!



- December— 12/20/15 @ 12noon
- January—to be determined



- December—12/6/15
- January—to be determined



## BOOK CLUB

The church book club was a big success! Over the course of seven weeks, almost fifty people read and met to discuss the book, "God Is Just Not Fair." The final meeting was a luncheon and Pastor Chris led a discussion about the book's conclusion. Plans are underway to start another book after the holidays.

Special thanks goes to Pastor Chris, Cindy Bowers, Peggy Mahoney, Tom and Stacey Monnier, and Todd and Cathy German!



## CHRISTMAS SALE

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the sale and to those of you who purchased some of those items. A special thanks to Pat, Evelyn, JoAnn, Judi, Connie, Peggy, and Ginny for helping with the sale. The net proceeds of almost \$200 will go to the van fund.

## TIS' THE SEASON

The Youth Class wrapped gifts for the Christmas families from the Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone for letting us be of service for this worthwhile project.



## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for our two Christmas families through the Salvation Army this season! These gifts will help the struggling families enjoy a Merry Christmas. And a big thank you to Nancy, Peggy, Tammy, Holly, Pat, and John, who delivered these gifts to the Salvation Army distribution center on December 3rd.



*Office help  
or  
office fun?*



*We will  
miss you  
Raelynn  
and  
Skylar!!*



Every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday approximately 3-7 people gather for 3B. We move to improve strength and balance, we laugh a lot, and we take time to reflect spiritually. 3B will take a Christmas break beginning December 11th and will restart January 4th. We always have room for more people.

Call Tammy Menkes for more details, 483-4856.

## **Halloween WITH GRACE**

"Hollywood Halloween" was our theme this year for the annual Halloween with Grace that was held on October 31, 2015 from 6-8:00 PM. We provided candy, activities, water, and warm beverages (cider and coffee) to somewhere around 500 children and their parents/grandparents/guardians. Many thanks to our congregation for their generous donations of candy and Halloween decorations, and to the 30 plus volunteers, both youth and adults who helped to make this another successful event for Grace!

Pictured right is Laurie Howard's daughter, Renee Lyons, and Laurie's grandson, Avery Marshall.



***Congratulations to the newlyweds!***

***Mr. & Mrs. Allen***

Member, Brittney Bellis, and Wes Allen were married on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at Zyntango Farm in Whitestown Indiana.



# MEMBER UPDATES



## New Addresses:

◆ Pastor Chris & Alyssa Kirwan  
1007 Forest Circle  
Winter Springs, FL, 32708

## New Phone:

◆ Pat Morrison 812-486-8543  
(home number is no longer in use)

## In Memory:

◆ Margaret McBride—died 11/15/15

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



Oct. 4	72	Nov. 1	92
Oct. 11	57	Nov. 8	97
Oct. 18	no count	Nov. 15	no count
Oct. 25	64	Nov. 22	100
		Nov. 29	77



December 27, 2014 Steve & Allison Schneider

January 17, 1959 Don & Dee Stoiche

January 21, 1949 Gene & Vivian Allen



## In Touch with Our Home-Centered Members

Mildred Anderson #424-2457  
2010 Emerson Ave.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Judy Bellis #387-9192  
2405 Wells Street  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Janet Campbell #483-5045  
2425 Beineke Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Don Clark #483-8631  
3323 Chancellor Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Glen Clifton #432-6692  
4305 Aboite Lake Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Don Foland #493-9128  
Georgetown Place  
1717 Maplecrest Rd., Apt. 338  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Maxine Ford #747-1663  
Kingston Residence  
7515 Winchester Road, Apt. 116  
Fort Wayne, IN 46819

Bob Guingrich #483-6929  
818 Lincoln Court  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Frank Dee Lehman #483-9281  
6318 Bittersweet Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Rev. Loran Lewis #447-7230  
Lutheran Life Villages  
6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E131  
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Carol Macy  
Golden Years Homestead  
8300 Maysville Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Robert Morell #489-2599  
1701 Wayside Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Arnie & Mary Patten  
1655 Hinton Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Evelyn Pelz #627-6817  
The Cedars  
14409 Sunrise Ct., Rm. 221  
Leo, IN 46765

Helen Ricker  
Harbour Assisted Living  
Send mail to:  
c/o Janice Weber  
612 Marston Ct.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

George Ripple  
101 Surrey Lane  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Mary Scribner #484-3120  
Woodview Health Care  
3420 East State Blvd., Rm. 204  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

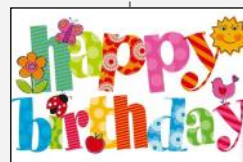
Barbara Springer  
1936 Senior Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Jean Swigart #483-0491  
2213 N. Anthony Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Lois Walsh #496-1421  
3110 E. Coliseum Blvd., Rm. 201  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

James Witzigreuter, Sr.  
3705 Summit View Place  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808  
#432-3500

Bill & Madge Zion #485-5353  
8426 Tewksbury Ct.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46835



Dec. 01	Pat Morrison	Jan. 2	Al Creager
Dec. 01	Evelyn Pelz	Jan. 5	Ken Rogers
Dec. 01	Misty Tsamwa	Jan. 7	Linda Knepple
Dec. 03	Katie German	Jan. 10	Dorman Keller
Dec. 11	Madge Zion	Jan. 13	Carol Courtney
Dec. 12	Rev. Bob Leas	Jan. 14	Skylar Kirwan
Dec. 17	Jean Swigart	Jan. 16	Alice Bauman
Dec. 17	Ezekiel Tsamwa	Jan. 17	Cathy German
Dec. 18	Sharon Allen	Jan. 22	Dick Young
Dec. 19	Holly Bouthot	Jan. 23	Vivian Allen
Dec. 20	Jeff Kachmar	Jan. 23	Tim Bauman
Dec. 20	Adriannah Tsamwa	Jan. 23	Bill Zion
Dec. 21	Jeff Widmann	Jan. 26	Carrie Geist
Dec. 23	Don Clark		
Dec. 27	Betsy Kachmar		
Dec. 28	Rick Werling		
Dec. 29	Jill Werling		





Grace Presbyterian Church  
1811 Fairhill Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

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**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2015**  
**5:30-7:30 PM**

Gather your family & friends for Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A at Jefferson Pointe. Come enjoy dinner and fellowship with friends!

Chick-Fil-A will donate 15% of all dine-in and carry-out sales (drive-thru not included) to Grace Presbyterian Church.

**See you there!**