

GRACE NEWS

Feb/March 2017

**A Publication of
Grace Presbyterian
Church**



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Pastor's Ponderings

One of the many blessings of being a pastor has been the opportunity to be with families when a loved one dies. To be present at a death is to be present on Holy Ground. Because our society tends to shy away from talk of death and dying many don't want to even think about death. I think it is far healthier to talk about death when we are healthy and not facing imminent death than it is to wait until it is too late to do so. Knowing a loved one's final wishes can make those decisions so much easier when the time comes to honor them.

The memorial cards from McComb Funeral homes read: "The funeral service is for the living because it enables family and friends to gather to express their feelings. It's a time to pay tribute, reflect on memories, gain strength from others and begin to accept one of life's may changes. A funeral service lets you and those close to you say goodbye and begin the healing process.

Your presence at this funeral is of immeasurable value. You're contributing to a fellowship of support extended to the family and relatives. For them, your attendance is comforting and reassuring. They know that you care and want to acknowledge the life that was lived. By being here, you're helping to make this service a memorable one."

Many times family members, following services for their loved one, tell me that the sound of the congregation surrounding them with song and prayer was more uplifting than they could express. I have often wished churches had a group of members who would commit to attending the visitation and service of church members who die whether you know the deceased or not.

Also important is visiting the member prior to death. While people often don't know what to say in such situations, the following are some brief points to keep in mind:

- *Don't be phony – all cheerful and happy – and trying to get the dying person to cheer up or have a "stiff upper lip." Avoid baby talk, being cutesy and patronizing.*
- *Don't try to have "answers." Don't Preach. Don't say, "Hi, how are you?"*
- *Don't hesitate to talk about death* if the dying person mentions it first.
- *Do be sincere and genuine.*
- *Do let the other person talk* if they are in a talkative mood.

They may not be coherent. They may repeat themselves. It doesn't matter. If you don't know what to say tell them that.
- *Do be present in the situation.* When there are no words, just be there. Listen.
- *Do stay by the person. Let them know you are there. Hold their hand if appropriate.*

Life is full of awesome moments. The moment a baby takes its first breath and "comes to life" is one such moment. The moment one dies is another. Just as no two births are the same, the same may be said of deaths. But each is holy ground.

God Bless you all,
Rev. Ann

January Session Highlights

- The newly elected deacons and elders shared their faith stories with the Session. Their ordination/installation date was then set for January 22
- The 16 item Annual Consent Agenda was passed. These 16 items contain all the details that have to be put in place each year like communion dates, election of treasurer and clerk of session, officers of the corporation, etc.
- Review of the By-laws – session recommends to the congregation a change in the Date of the fall congregational meeting, to allow for more training of officers prior to their ordination/installation, and a change to the required quorum for both session meetings and congregational meetings.
- Approved Rev. Ann's request for Continuing Education from February 27 – March 15 for travel to Israel and Palestine; and vacation from March 29 – April 4, in order to hear her son, Paul, sing with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus in concert at Carnegie Hall.



2017 Newsletters

This is the first newsletter being done electronically. Of course, those who want a paper copy can still receive the newsletter that way. If you have not done so, please let the office know if you would prefer having a printed copy. Printed copies will be available for pick up on the Sunday after the newsletter is completed. Those not picked up will be mailed. We will automatically print and mail to members on our home centered lists.



Souper Bowl Sunday Feb 5

Who will Grace pick to win?

New England Patriots

or

Atlanta Falcons

Cast your vote by bringing in cans of soup. Each can will be equal to one point. All soup will be donated to the Associated Churches Food Bank. The Sunday School Youth Class is coordinating the event.

Thank you to the Deacons for the Christmas cookies. Love and prayers. Barbara Springer

Thank you to everyone who was there for my 60th birthday celebration.
I am so blessed with a church family who cares and makes me smile. Holly Bouthot

Thank you to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as an Elder
these last six years. I truly enjoyed my time. Tammy Menkes

The music during recent church services has been wonderful. Thank you
Choir! Thank you Tim Bauman for Christmas Eve! Thank you Bob Guingrich
and Roberta Geist for the harmonica and violin playing. Grace members

Wellspring served a record number of over 6000 people in 2016. There was
a 60% increase in clothing distribution and a 40% growth in the After School
Program. Thanks for your commitment to Wellspring and those we serve. Wellspring

Mission Committee

The Mission Team is asking all members and friends of Grace to record their volunteer hours for 2017.
A Volunteer Hours List is located in the narthex. We do not need the exact number of minutes but rather
an approximation. Information about what can be included is on the form. Please see Todd German for
more details or if you have any questions.



Please feel free to call the church
office if any pastoral care is needed
from your Shepherds (assigned Elder
and Deacon) or the Pastor. Caring
Circles are currently being updated.
Office phone 426-4712.

Elders

Class of 2017

Laurie Howard
Stacey Monnier
Bill Werling

Class of 2018

Todd German
Pat Morrison
Jim Wolfe

Class of 2019

Dennis Allen
Sue Creager
Jon Wolf

Deacons

Class of 2017

Al Creager
John Current
Nancy Current

Class of 2018

Sharon Allen
Cindy Bowers
Karen Doehrman

Class of 2019

Nick Barchak
Cathy German
Katie Lochry



Committee Chairs at Grace

Christian Education.....
Church Staff Relations.....Pat Morrison
Property Committee.....Aaron Bowers
 ...and Jon Wolf
Congregational Life.....
Finance Committee.....Stacey Monnier
Mission Committee.....Todd German
Worship Committee.....Jill Werling
Evangelism Committee...Cathy German

Meets first Thursday at 5:30 – Feb 2 and March 2
Souper Bowl of Caring – Feb. 5
Scout Sunday – Feb. 12
Commissioning Harley Allen to El Salvador – Feb. 12
 Harley leaves Feb. 17
Celebrate the Gifts of Women – March 12

Communion – Feb. 5 and March 5



Presbyterian Women have decided not to have a Christmas sale next November. **But** we will still take in Christmas and seasonal items for a sale in 2018. So please keep giving us those Christmas things you no longer want or need. We hope to have many things for the 2018 sale.

SARAH CIRCLE

12:00pm Arby's West State for lunch
1:00pm Circle Meeting at Grace

Next dates: Feb. 9 and March 9 (2nd Thursday)

LUNCH BUNCH

Come have lunch at 12 noon with friends at Glenbrook Mall Food Court near J.C. Penneys! All women are invited.

Next dates: Feb. 23 and March 30 (last Thursday)

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.

Next dates: Feb. 15 and March 15 (3rd Wednesday)



There will be no 3B classes February 6-24 and March 13-24. Please mark your calendar with these changes.

The new after hours **emergency** telephone number is **260-341-3851**. Someone will always be available to take calls at this number.

Birthdays

Feb. 01	Amanda Neumann
Feb. 02	John Current
Feb. 03	Sage Evans
Feb. 05	Gabe Evans
Feb. 05	Marjory Leas
Feb. 07	Bryan Boggess
Feb. 07	JoAnn Getts
Feb. 07	Bob Morell
Feb. 10	Lois Walsh
Feb. 10	Karen Doehrman
Feb. 13	Jennifer Evans
Feb. 14	Barbara Springer
Feb. 15	Kelli Neumann
Feb. 19	Wes Allen
Feb. 19	Kyle Howard
Feb. 21,	Harley Allen
Feb. 23	Aaron Bowers
Feb. 25,	Damian Polk
Feb. 27	Tom Monnier
Feb. 28	Nathan Bausser
March 03	Ezrah Tsamwa
March 05	Peggy Mahoney
March 08	Judy Bellis
March 09	Becky Barnett
March 15	Ann Bausser
March 16	Norman Getts
March 20	Mary Neumann
March 22	Diana Eller
March 22	Ashton Lyons
March 23	Max Achleman
March 25	Hanna Barchak
March 29	Karla Polk

Anniversaries

Feb. 16	Aaron and Cindy Bowers
March 12	Bob & Carol Fahrenbach
March 17	Jon and Mila Wolf
March 21	Jeff & Lauren Widmann

2017 Directory – currently being updated. Available soon.



DECEMBER/JANUARY ATTENDANCE

December 4	66
December 11	35
December 18	55
December 24	66
December 25	35
January 1	41
January 8	65
January 15	65
January 22	78
January 29	79



Grace

March 1 at 7:00 PM
Led by Pat Morrison

United Faith

March 1 at 12 noon

Christmas Family



Youth Sunday School wrapping gifts for Christmas family.



Nancy, John, Holly, Tammy, and Pastor Ann delivering the gifts.

The Christmas Pageant on Dec. 18 went very well even with limited rehearsals due to the weather. Thank you to the children, youth, choir, and members of the congregation who participated in the pageant. Also, thank you to the members who provided cookies and helped with Fellowship that day.

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Because we are called to be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and are aware of the increasing cost of paper and postage, we are seeking alternative ways of providing news to our members and friends. We will now be providing the newsletter electronically. If you have email, we will be glad to send the newsletter that way. If you have not yet given the church office your current email, please call 426-4712 or email graceoffice@gpcfww.org with the information.

Paper copies will be available for pickup in the narthex, once the newsletter is completed. Those not picked up will be mailed. Home Centered members will continue to have the newsletter mailed to them.

For those who want to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter by mail, please notify the church office at 426-4712.

Thank You