

# The Tie That Binds

## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



[www.gracechurchsh.org](http://www.gracechurchsh.org)

8375 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34608

352-683-2082

### PASTOR'S CORNER

by Rev. Chet Okopski

I hope that you're going to have a GREAT summer. For those of us who are lucky enough to be in Florida for the summer, there are lots of fun things to do, with great warm weather for sitting out in the evening. I especially



enjoy swimming at night just before bed, floating around in the pool while I watch for shooting stars, and having some iced tea or some nice

summer wine. I know that lots of folks believe that Florida is too hot for summer living, but I find it wonderful! I love working in the yard, watering my basil and mint planted on the lanai, and sitting with Ginny while we listen to the evening storms come in.

Now that's a great summer, a summer for which to be thankful.

This summer we have much to be thankful for at Grace Church, and lots going on. A memorial



for Georgia Boewe has kicked off a fund raising effort to put remote cameras in the sanctuary. Several Elders got a new vision of what our DVD ministry could do when at Presbytery at St. Andrews Church in Sun City Center, and seeing their video ministry. The initial contributions to Georgia's memorial fund brought the total to about half of what we need to get started (\$2,000.00). Then, on May 14<sup>th</sup> the Deacons of Grace Church, at their regular meeting, voted to donate \$1,000.00 out of the Deacon's Fund to help secure the new remote cameras. *The Deacons have delivered hundreds of tapes and DVDs*

of our Worship Services to shut-ins over the years. We are estimating the cost of the cameras at approximately \$4,000.00. So any extra gifts from the congregation will be greatly appreciated.

Since our Wednesday evening events stop for the summer, *don't forget* our Prayer Meeting is on Wednesdays at 11:30 AM in the Chapel. These are good midweek get-togethers to share our prayer concerns, our prayers and our fellowship.

We will continue to have both services throughout the summer, even though at times our worshipping

population goes down because of summer vacations, and the migration of our snow birds. For those of you all reading this letter from afar off, we will be here when you come home, waiting with the love of Christ and open arms. As good St. Paul said to the Corinthians: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Peace be with you,

**Rev. Chet**

## REFLECTIONS

*By Rev. Douglas Clark*

### VENEZUELA

"Would you be interested in spending a summer in Caracas, Venezuela, as pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church?" Would I? It was just what I wanted to do most during the three month vacation period from university teaching. Time passed quickly, and one night we stepped out of the plane into the humid atmosphere of La Guaira.

The mission had arranged for us to be met, but as the crowd dispersed we were soon left virtually alone. It would have been no problem ordinarily, but we were strangers in a foreign country with no knowledge of the language nor how to get to our final destination. Fortunately I had brought a letter with me that had the phone number of the mission residence. Although the missionary had left, I hoped and prayed someone would answer my call. Someone did, who just "happened" to drop in for a few minutes to pick up a song book.

After nearly an hour later an Englishman, named Tony, appeared in the terminal, and with apologies explained I was a day earlier than they had expected. We drove up the long mountain road to Caracas, and were soon settling in our home for the summer.

Obtaining drinking water was the first challenge. The tap water was not fit to drink but were told to look for the "agua" truck. When it came down our street it was loaded with 10 gallon jugs of the precious liquid. I waved down the driver who carried the heavy jug into the house, where an empty stand provided a place for it.

A few nights later we attended a missionary meeting that was being held in a coastal village. Mosquitoes swarmed around us and we were glad when the meeting ended and we could return to the cooler climate of Caracas. A day later I found myself a very sick person. A local man told me it was dengue fever, sometimes called "bonebreak fever".

For several days my body fought the raging fever. The illness included, in addition to high fever, both vomiting and diarrhea. It was unpleasant, and one of my new church friends who had experienced it commented at first you feel you are going to die, but then fear you won't die after all. Like all things, both pleasant and unpleasant, it eventually passed away.

Driving was a challenge. It seemed that it was always rush hour, and it lasted seven days a week. Since gas was only .12 a gallon (yes, that's TWELVE CENTS) it seemed that everyone had a car. No left turns were permitted, which meant that to turn left we needed to make three right turns. Most unnerving of all was the custom of never engaging the eyes of the oncoming driver when entering the expressway. I was told they would never let me in line. What I did would have caused many wrecks back home, but I merely extended my left arm to signal and plunged into the fast traffic madness. It worked.



One day we learned the Concorde, famous supersonic plane, was flying into La Guaira. The following Saturday we decided to go over and watch it take off. As we approached the airport we missed the correct lane turn, and came around. The same thing happened twice more. In desperation I decided to make a forbidden right turn, and of course was caught by the police. They knew no English and I recalled little of my first year Spanish taken in high school, under Mrs. Green, 25 years earlier.

The standoff continued until another patrol car appeared. At this point one of the men pulled out a thick pad and I knew that meant a ticket. But it also meant we would have to return to La Guaira, locate the city hall, and find out where and how to pay. We drove home, and I called the head of the mission. He laughed. It had excited my wife who was almost in panic. We were assured the office was in such chaos that they might never find the ticket in the next five years.

The church was a mix of Americans, Dutch, English, Venezuelans, and others. My service was entirely in English, while the earlier was in Spanish. The summer passed, and we said goodbye to the many friends we had made. We also determined it would not be our last such ministry. A few years later we were invited to return for a full year, but the memory of the nightmares of driving caused me instead to head to North Africa and Morocco.



## The Ohlin Update

[www.ohlinupdate.org](http://www.ohlinupdate.org)

FROM PAUL AND DIANE OHLIN

May 9, 2009:

**Paul and wife Diane are Missionaries in Africa.**

churches throughout the Congo. I have launched the Impfondo blacksmith workshop and dispersed funds for the scholarships for the seven Bayaka couples in the Congo Bible School. I have made a 200 km bike trip with Pastor Botengue and Pastor Bokodi to encourage the believers in the Bayaka churches along the Ibenga. On this trip we were able to plan where we would send the seven Bayaka pastors that will graduate from the Congo Bible School in 2010.

In the next three weeks, I plan to launch the Dongou Training Center blacksmith shop and teach at the Congo Bible School May 14-20. Then I will meet with Pastor Nsana in Brazzaville and discuss collaboration between United World Mission and the Evangelical Baptist Church. He is finishing two semesters of mission training at the Overseas Ministries Study Center at New Haven, CT.

Diane is in Yaounde with our son Hap. She volunteers at the Rain Forest International School. Any email contact over the next three weeks should go to Diane.

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*The sympathy of the entire congregation is extended to the family and friends of the following who went home to be with our Lord:*



*Adeline Lawton – 04/30/09*

*Bernard Gustafson – 05/12/09*

Our prayers and love are with you all.

## MARY MARTHA CIRCLE

Mary Martha Circle's end of the year luncheon was held at My Favorite Café on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Pat passed out pictures of two boys at Thornwell that we are going to sponsor. One, we were told, is a natural athlete and is outgoing. The other is having difficulty adjusting to living at Thornwell. It was decided to contribute to a self developmental program which will allow these boys to be able to take part in a program to help in their physical and mental growth and to attend a summer camp program. We are eager to help these children and look forward to learning more about them.

Our first meeting after the summer break will be on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the church library.

Betty Schielein, Secretary

## NAOMI CIRCLE

Fifteen circle members were in attendance for lesson #9, presented by Dia Stoner from our Jubilee PW study guide. Roberta Jarvinen, Ann Gerstner, and Iris Rodriguez prepared and presented a fabulously delicious breakfast including punch, an egg dish, fruit and dessert for our end of the year breakfast in the fellowship hall. Rev. Chet and our newest visitor, Karen Baublitz, joined us. Rev. Chet opened in prayer as we held hands.

Nancy Maxwell discussed the events of the May 4<sup>th</sup> CT meeting and the PW Birthday Gathering held on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

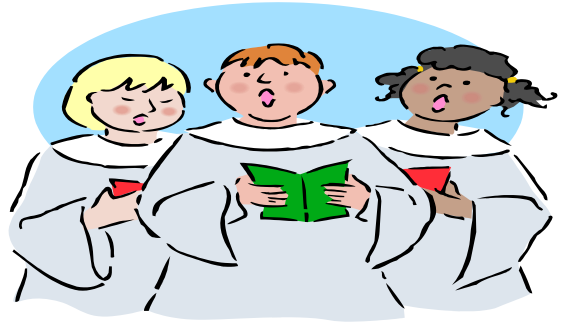
Nancy announced the installation of Cheryl Kopia as PW Moderator and Nancy herself, as the Vice Moderator. Nancy gave members our hostess duties, circle assignments, and coffee hour assignments. She discussed her pleasure with the next year's Joshua Bible Study we will begin in September. Nancy appointed a committee of three members to prepare a presentation for the PW Coordinating Team about community needs and the involvement of the women of Grace church.

Those in attendance shared a wonderful goodbye for the summer event. Contact Nancy Maxwell at 352-584-2636 during the summer months if needed. Dia closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Dia Stoner

Interim Secretary

# Choir News



The Chancel Choir will be on break for the summer. The Grace Singers will sing occasionally through the summer and special music will be scheduled for each Sunday. Regular rehearsals will begin again on the last Wednesday evening in August. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Choir President, Joyce Flint, who can be reached in the evening at 727-869-1152.

## Announcements:

1. All Vacation Bible School workers  
Please come to a meeting June 6<sup>th</sup>  
At 10:00 am in Fellowship hall.
2. Bell Ringer Wannabes are invited  
to come and try your hand at Bell  
Ringing June 5, June 12, June 19, at  
10:00 am.
3. The office will be closed each  
Wednesday, June – August  
at 12 noon.
4. The next meeting of the Board of  
Deacons will be held Thursday,  
September 10 in Fellowship Hall.

## ***MESSAGE TO THE LADIES***

Summer will fly by and before you know it we will be back together, sisters in Christ's service. Your coordinating team has decided on four gatherings in the Fellowship Hall. Please note your calendars for these important dates:

<b>DAY</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PROGRAM</b>
Mon.	11/09/09	12:30	Spud-a-li-cious Baked potato luncheon and we are hopeful the Gentlemen will join us.
Mon.	01/11/10	9 – 4	Women's Day Retreat "Renewing our Spirit"
Mon.	03/08/10	12:30	Soup & Sandwich lunch Fun and Games "Joy in Faith"
Mon.	05/10/10	1:30	Installation of Officers Birthday Offering "More Joy"

Your circle leaders, Pat Keister, Nancy Maxwell, Pat Larson, and Lois Hagedorn look forward to seeing you in September. Those of you who are not yet in a circle, we hope you will come and join us. Our circles meet each month except June, July, and August as follows:

Dorcas	1:00 PM, Third Tuesday of each month
Mary Martha	1:00 PM, Third Tuesday of each month
Naomi	9:30 AM, Second Thursday of each month
Sarah	1:00 PM, Second Wednesday of each month

In the meantime, should you have any questions regarding a Circle or any of the exciting programs, please call me. As your women's moderator, I wish you a fun, relaxing and blessed summer.

*Cheryl Kopia*  
727-857-4951

# Join us in Rome!

*Ready to travel back in time?*

*Vacation Bible School is  
growing near.*

**WOW!**

You'll explore the caves of the Underground Church, meet the Apostle Paul, create cool bible-time projects, experience thrilling real-life dramas, play high-energy games, sample tasty Middle East snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus you will meet new friends and meet some old friends.



**LOCATION:** Grace Presbyterian Church

8375 Spring Hill Drive

Spring Hill, FL 34608

**THE ADVENTURE WILL LAST:** June 22 – June 26

**THE GATES OPEN** at 9:00am and **CLOSE** at 12:30pm

Each child should bring a white or light colored t-shirt for motif printing of the "VBS Logo".

*For more information call 352-683-2082 or  
352-686-5087.*

# Children's Church Highlites

**JUNE & JULY**

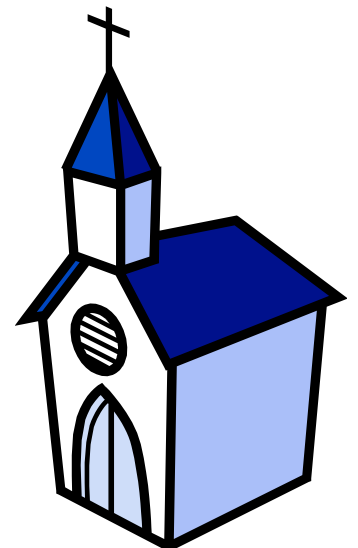
Welcome everyone. We will continue children's church all summer long. Wow! What great fun we will have with the jabber mat and our Bible question ball. Yes, the ball is coming back. What fun we will have. VBS will be from June 22 – June 26.

Our program for the summer will be from Genesis. What is Genesis? That is the first book in our Bible. It tells about Abraham, Rebekah, and how Jacob deceives Esau and Isaac. In July we will learn about Leah and Rachel. It's about Joseph and his brothers selling him into slavery.

Wow! It tells that the pharaoh puts Joseph in charge and Joseph forgives his brothers.

If you open your Bible to Genesis 22: 1 – 18, Genesis 24: 1 – 67, 25: 27 – 34, 27: 1 – 40, Genesis 29: 15 – 30, Genesis 37: 1 – 11, Genesis 37: 12 – 36, Genesis 39: 20 – 41:49, Genesis 42: 1 – 45:28.

Boy that seems like a lot of reading, but at night with you mom or dad or the whole family, the Bible readings are encouraging help to our faith. The Bible is God's word to us. Have a good and safe summer.



God Bless!

Ms. Pat, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Iris

# BIRTHDAYS

## June

1 - Carly Churpita  
1 - Don Watson  
2 - Margaret Lockwood  
2 - Barbara Petrizzi  
2 - Alexandria Wood  
3 - Ruth Cressman  
4 - Dorothy Dietz  
4 - Ken Vogel  
5 - Kelly Atkinson  
5 - Carol Ross  
5 - Jeremy Stewart  
6 - Elizabeth Dickerson  
6 - Gloria Hugg  
6 - Catherine Mazowski  
6 - Jack Toney  
7 - Arlene Osmun  
7 - Christine Rizzuto  
8 - Judy Downing  
9 - Rufus Hunter  
9 - William Kuhns  
10 - Penny Ambrose  
10 - Dorothy Mack  
10 - Alice Mattson  
12 - Linda Ausenbaugh  
13 - Albert Emery  
15 - Joanne Schmieding  
16 - Debra Ely  
16 - Dora Livingston  
17 - Winifred Losee  
17 - Millie Mergler  
18 - June Chiovitti  
18 - Alice Custer  
18 - Stanley Mattson  
18 - John Rizzuto  
18 - Joe Roper  
19 - Geoffrey Bishop  
20 - Vivian Diehl  
20 - Kimberly Guarino  
20 - Margaret Morris  
20 - Adam Watson  
22 - Joan Aufiero  
22 - Judy Doyle  
22 - Sandra Taylor  
22 - Dean Walker  
23 - Rose Cook  
23 - Jeanne Lang  
23 - Mike Swierenga  
23 - Debi Trezise  
24 - Norman Davis

24 - Frank Rizzuto  
24 - Gina Stifanic  
25 - Margot Calvert  
26 - Anna Ambrose  
26 - Paul Augustine  
26 - John Kinckman  
26 - Eileen Whiting  
27 - Margaret Arnold  
27 - Donald Hixon  
27 - Bradman Hood  
27 - Janette Piper  
27 - June Pocock  
28 - William Maxwell  
28 - Christine McClean  
29 - Darin Alvarez  
29 - Maria Hixon  
29 - Susan Scharber

## JULY

1 - Helen Weaver  
2 - Donna Gosnell  
2 - Walter Krol  
2 - Susan Loy  
3 - James Furr  
3 - Hilde Kraut  
3 - Priscilla Lacy  
3 - Robert Pease  
4 - Elaine Phillips  
5 - Rudolph Albrecht  
5 - Brandi Andersen  
5 - Margaret Cody  
6 - Brett Bielan  
6 - Michael Wilson  
7 - Harold Crawford  
7 - Lois Cunningham  
7 - Nancy Hammel  
7 - Dennis Kopec  
7 - Paula Morton  
7 - Marian Palamaro  
8 - Margaret Caldwell  
8 - Inty Davis  
8 - Ivy Matheny  
9 - Michelle Hogan  
10 - Doris Hart  
10 - Charlie Stewart  
10 - Joan Unger  
11 - Barry Carter  
11 - Lynn Guzman  
11 - Richard Meale  
13 - Marla Gardner  
14 - Ann Gerstner  
14 - Brandi Mallek  
15 - Jerry Larson

15 - Jaime Longo  
15 - Esther Millham  
15 - Fe Morales  
16 - Bertha Bartek  
16 - Thomas Donaghue  
16 - Roberta Jarvinen  
17 - Jason Mallek  
18 - Heather Wilson  
19 - Sally Doughty  
19 - Bonnita Kauffman  
20 - Kitty Bazlamit  
20 - Dorothy Kuhns  
21 - Mike Euston  
21 - Patricia Larson  
22 - Kathryn Warner  
24 - Donna Maille  
24 - Marisa Meale  
25 - Miriam Lane  
25 - Herlina Southern  
26 - Candiss Carter  
26 - Susan Landry  
26 - Emma Welsh  
27 - Shirley Kohler  
28 - Barbara Bielan  
29 - Emerson Sterner  
31 - Daniel Coursey  
31 - Miriam Pacheco  
31 - Hilma Pepin

## AUGUST

1 - Christine Doyle  
1 - Suzanne Jaeger  
2 - George Dennis  
2 - Thelma Geloneck  
3 - Kevin Stewart  
3 - Barbara Vogel  
4 - John Pitt  
4 - Adeline Schultz  
5 - Suzanne Forman  
5 - Bert Gordon  
6 - Peg Prior  
7 - Gloria Madden  
7 - Bette Reeves



# June 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 7 PM Christian Ed Building "A"	<b>2</b> 8 AM Yard Work 10 AM Flexercise	<b>3</b> 11:30 Prayer Meeting 7 PM Puppets Office Closed Noon	<b>4</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9:30 Grace Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers	<b>5</b> 10 AM Bells Open Invitation	<b>6</b> 10 AM VBS Meeting Fellowship Hall
<b>7</b> Communion 8:30 Casual Service 10:45 Traditional Ser 11 Children's Church	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Flexercise	<b>10</b> 11:30 Prayer Meeting 7 PM Puppets Office Closed Noon	<b>11</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9:30 Grace Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers	<b>12</b> 10 AM Bells Open Invitation	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 5 Cents A Meal 8:30 Casual Service 10:45 Traditional Ser 11 Children's Church	<b>15</b> 10:30 Finance Com.	<b>16</b> 8 AM Yard Work 10 AM Flexercise	<b>17</b> 11:30 Prayer Meeting 7 PM Puppets Office Closed Noon	<b>18</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9:30 Grace Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers 7 PM Session	<b>19</b> 10 AM Bells Open Invitation	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Father's Day 8:30 Casual Service 10:45 Traditional Ser 11 Children's Church 2 Evergreen Woods	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Flexercise	<b>24</b> 11:30 Prayer Meeting 7 PM Puppets Office Closed Noon	<b>25</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9:30 Grace Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 Casual Service 10:45 Traditional Ser 11 Children's Church	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8 AM Yard Work 10 AM Flexercise				

# July 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 11:30 AM Prayer Mtg 7 PM Puppets Office Closed Noon	<b>2</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9:30 Grace Crafters 12:30 Open Bowling	<b>3</b> Office Closed for July 4th	<b>4</b> Independence Day
<b>5</b> Communion 8:30 Casual Service 10:45 Traditional Ser 11 Children's Church	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8 AM Yard Work 10 AM Flexercise	<b>8</b> 11:30 AM Prayer Mtg 7 PM Puppets Office Closed Noon	<b>9</b> 8 AM Yard Work 9:30 Grace Crafters 12:30 Open Bowling .	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
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# CHURCH OFFICERS 2009

## SESSION

Moderator: The Reverend Chet Okopski

Clerk of Session: Dee Bodel

### 2009

Bill Ambrose  
Dee Bodel  
Betty Katke  
Wayne Keister  
Dean Moore  
Russell Schick

Helen Dakers  
Rufus Hunter  
Nola Kay Knox  
Cheryl Kopia  
Bill Larkin  
John Romaine

### 2010

Jack Bartell  
Cheryl Carter  
Lois Cunningham  
Len Davis  
Ken Gerstner  
Paula Morton  
Barbara Vogel

### **DEACONS**

Moderator: Joyce Flint

Ralph Ambrose  
Mildred Bartell  
Sharon Courter  
Pat Hawken  
Sue Lightbody  
Pat Schick  
Thelma Volzer

### 2011

Don Halloran  
Janice Johnson  
Bonnie Kauffman  
Ray Lanzilotta  
Jerry Larson  
Larry Ottos  
Virginia Ritzenthaler

Linda Ausenbaugh  
Jackie Boewe  
Joyce Flint  
Nancy Hammel  
Roberta Jarvinen  
Nancy Maxwell  
Len Newkirk

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June-July 2009 Issue 5, Vol. 6  
Published 11 Times a Year  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
8375 Spring Hill Drive Spring Hill, FL 34608