

The Tie That Binds

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



www.gracechurchsh.org

8375 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34608

352-683-2082

PASTOR'S CORNER

by The Rev. Chet Okopski

I'm sharing with all those who read our Grace Church newsletter the wonderful news of our new choir robes. They are quite beautiful and greatly appreciated by the Choir. Plus, the most wonderful news about them is that they were purchased by a person in our Church who remembered Grace Church in her will.

We have had the "Lee Wood Memorial Fund" here at Grace Church since Lee went on to heaven, and remembered her Church in her will. Now, several years later, when the Choir needed new choir robes, we had the money to purchase them!

What special things could you personally do through Grace Church for the Kingdom of God if you too would remember your Church in your will? You could leave a gift for the Worship Committee to beautify the sanctuary, or a gift to the Memorial

Committee to the glory of God, or a gift to the Missions Ministry to be shared with other people in other lands, or a gift to the general endowment to enhance the Church's future ministry... the possibilities are limitless. We also have the Endowed Fund of Edna Watts that contributes to missions and to educational needs for those going into the ministry or missions. Or, you could even



do a Charitable Gift Annuity that pays you extra high interest while you live, and then gives the money to your choice of charity when you go on to heaven (call Mark Shoemaker of the Presbyterian Foundation for Charitable Gift Annuities 941-758-0790) Here are some Biblical prospectives to consider:

Matthew 6.24 You cannot serve God and money

Matthew 6.19 Jesus said to use your money to serve God

1 Timothy 6.10 The love of money is the root of all evil

Psalm 24.1 God owns everything in life

Genesis 4.7 and following: The story of failed stewardship and its consequences

Acts 4.32-37 Acts of care by disciples for one another

Mark 12.41-44 The widow's mite

2 Corinthians 8.1-9;15 Care for unknown brothers and sisters living in distant places

Luke 19.11 & The parables about managing and investing

Matthew 25.14-30 God's resources

Luke 12.48 "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded."

Don't let your opportunity to make the world a better place slip through your fingers.

God Bless!

Rev. Chet

REFLECTIONS

By Rev. Douglas Clark

DO WE STILL NEED

MISSIONARIES?

By Rev. Douglas Clark

Shortly following my conversion at age 17, I heard my first live foreign missionary. He was from Columbia, South America, and my heart was moved by his message. From that day forward, I never lost my interest in and concern for the "regions beyond."

In college we had a special week at the beginning of each semester. The first semester was usually evangelistic in nature, and the second semester presented foreign missions or the deeper life. At the close of the missionary week the students were invited to come forward if they felt God was calling them to foreign missions. It was an unforgettable sight to see scores respond. Many, if not most, carried out their resolve. I was not one of them, for I did not feel certain that God was calling me to that

special service for Him. In seminary there were a large group of volunteers who went on to such places as China, Burma, India, South America, and the Congo. At least five of them died during their first term of service.

As a pastor I always took advantage of the opportunity to have missionaries speak in my church, as well as encourage the youth to consider if the Lord might be calling them to this ministry. He was in a number of instances. In later years as a college professor, I led teams to serve for three weeks in the islands of the Caribbean, as well as Panama and Belize. Although never feeling called as a career missionary, I spent summers and retirement years serving as interim replacement for missionaries on every continent except Antarctica.



The title of this article is "Do We Still Need Missionaries"? My answer is an unequivocal "yes!" The Great Commission has never been rescinded. The

marching orders remain, "go into all the world and preach the Gospel!" I have met hundreds of missionaries and found them to be sincere, dedicated, and worthy of our financial support and prayer.

Do missions always work? No, but it is seldom the fault of the missionary. A tragic example is in the former New Hebrides Islands in the South Pacific. A Presbyterian missionary, John G. Paton, won many of the people to Christ and established numerous churches. When I was on the island of Tanna, I made a tragic discovery: every one of the churches had been taken over by a cargo cult. Natives, seeing ships and planes during World War II unload supplies for troops, felt the cargo belonged to them since it was their land. A local "prophet" led the people away from Biblical truth to unrealistic hopes of a bonanza for them. I witnessed many of the drop off points, painted in red, where they waited for the goods to fall. A bookstore manager in Port Villa informed me the cargo cult had wiped out the mission work.

Successes are more numerous. While serving in Darwin, in the Northern Territory of Australia, I was driven south in the desolate Outback region to a small, crudely built church. A congregation of Aborigines was conducting a service in a remote Baptist mission church. The building was overflowing with these native Australians, but we found



chairs just outside the door. The communion was being observed, and when one of the deacons served me I thought of the unbelieving anthropologists who claimed these people would never respond to the gospel. How wrong they were...Today in the Outback there are a dozen churches and missions sponsored by Australian Baptists.

Critics argue that all religions are equally valid, and that Hindu, Buddhist, Moslem all have their own gods and Christian missionaries are unnecessary. It is true that every religion contains some elements of truth. However, only Christianity has a Savior who died for our sins, rose again, and promises believers eternal salvation. "Jesus is the way, truth, and life. No one can come to the Father except by Him." (John 14:6) See also the third chapter of John. The world is lost, but all who trust Jesus will be saved. The road to Heaven leads to the cross, where Jesus died for all.



Yes, we still need missionaries, men and women who are called by God and ready to go wherever He leads. The world population in 2011 will reach 7 billion people. The vast percentage will have no personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. The need for funds, coupled with dedicated volunteers is tremendous. So is the need for prayer and giving. What will be our part in meeting the need?

**JUST WHAT DOES THE
DAWN CENTER
DO ANYWAY?**

Come and find out. Naomi Circle will have an advocate from the Dawn Center at the next meeting, Thursday, October 8, at 9:30 in the library. We would like to invite any who are interested to join us. We ask that you bring an item to donate to Dawn Center. They need gift cards, paper products, personal hygiene items, phone cards, diapers in all sizes, NEW white sheets and towels.

Fall Bazaar

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Fellowship Hall – 9 AM until 1 PM

Once again, the crafters of Grace are preparing for our annual bazaar. This year, as last, we are asking for your help with the following:

Items for our jewelry and attic treasure table are needed. So if you are cleaning out, please remember us. If you are a home crafter and would like to share one or more of your crafts with us, they may be dropped off at the office or during our crafting time any Thursday morning in the "B" building between 9:30 and 11:00 AM. Please remember to price your crafts. If your talent lies in baking and you would like to contribute a homemade specialty, such as a pie, cake, brownies, or if you make wonderful jellies, jams, or delicious breads and would like to share them they will be gratefully accepted. Baked goods can be dropped off at the office or on Friday or Saturday morning at Fellowship Hall on November 6 or 7.

As always, thank you for your help,
Grace Crafters



**Adult Sunday
School**

**Starting on October 4, at 9:30, in
Building B
Rev. Neil Spalding, teacher**

Veteran's Day! Message for The Ladies



It is a woman's prerogative to change her mind, and that is exactly what your P.W. Coordinating Team has done. We are moving the Spud-i-li-cious luncheon from November 9th to May 10th. Now, with that

being said, we want to keep November 9th as the first gathering of the year.

In celebrating Veteran's Day which falls later that week, the program will include worship, prayer, singing patriotic songs and time to share our stories and experiences about war - whether it is WWII, Korea, Viet Nam, Gulf, Afghanistan, or Iraq. We all have a story, and sharing with each other will be a special time.

Again, November 9th, 1 p.m., Fellowship Hall; and as always, wonderful desserts will be served. Let's remember together, God Bless our Veterans.

Your Coordinating Team
of the Presbyterian Women



The Sympathy of the entire congregation is extended to the family and friends of Mrs. Myrtice Waller who went to be with our Lord on September 15, 2009.

Naomi Circle

The Naomi Circle met on September 10, 2009. There were ten ladies attending. We welcomed Ramona Kuhne and Karen Baublitz as new members. Hostesses for September were Ann Hartung and Nancy Maxwell. Our prayers are with Iris Rodriquez as she is recovering from her recent surgery.

Betty Katke opened the meeting with prayer, followed by Lois Cunningham introducing our Bible study on the book of Joshua. The Lease Coin program was explained by Nancy Maxwell as Ann Gerstner was absent. There were no reports from the Treasurer or the Sunshine Coordinator.

There was a discussion on our projects for the year. Our guest speaker for October will be a representative from the Dawn Center and members were encouraged to show support by donating items needed by the Center. Members were reminded of our October Rummage Sale in October and the Craft Bazaar in November. Volunteers were requested. Our next meeting is October 8, 2009, and hostesses are Maria Hixon and Roberta Jarvinen.

Nancy Maxwell, Circle Leader

Grace Crafter's Fall Bazaar

Saturday, November 7, 2009
Fellowship Hall, 9 AM til 1 PM

This year's bazaar will feature a silent auction. There will be four items, all made or donated by we crafters. These crafts will be on



display on the following Sundays: October 18, October 25, and November 1 – between first and second Worship Services. Donations are \$1 a ticket or 6 for \$5 and can be purchased at those times, as well as at the Bazaar. When you are having that second cup of coffee, stop by and look at our crafts.

Sarah Circle

Our First Meeting this fall was on Wednesday, September 9th. We had eight members present and were glad to welcome back Betty Clark and Dorothy Chaudoin.

Devotions were read by Pat Larson and Libby Henderson. Barbara Kingen read from Joshua, Chapter 1, our Bible study for this year. Betty Clark will be our new treasurer. We also discussed our participation in the fall Rummage Sale on October 17th. Visitors are always welcome. We meet again on October 14th.

Mary Martha Circle

Everyone was glad to be back together again after the summer break. We met on September 15th with 11 members present. Pat Keister's and Gladys Ledford's birthdays were celebrated with candles on a beautiful sheet cake. Our hostesses were Betty Bertschinger, Mary Coombs, and Ruth Freese.

A poem, "Summer's Flight" was read and then the devotion, "Living in His Presence" was given by Betty Bertschinger. The rummage sale and bazaar were discussed. Pat updated us on information concerning the two boys at Thornwell Home that our circle is helping to support. The January 16th retreat at church was then talked about.

Gladys gave an overview of Joshua, the focus of this year's Bible Study. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20th, at 1:00 in the church library.

Betty Schielein, Secretary

Rummage Sale:



The Presbyterian Women are having a Rummage Sale on October 17, 2009. We need your help!

Any and all donations will be appreciated: housewares, tools, linens, clothing (men's, women's, and children), jewelry, this and that, books, CD's, DVD's, games, and toys.

We also need helpers to sort, set up, and price items to be sold. Anyone wanting to help, please call Sue Lightbody at 293-4655 or Barb Kingen at 596-1535.

If you are unable to bring your donations to the church, call the office at 683-2082, and we will get someone to pick them up.

We need men to spend a couple of hours unloading cars on October 15 and 16.

We hope to make this year's Rummage Sale the best one ever.

October Menu for Wednesday Dinners

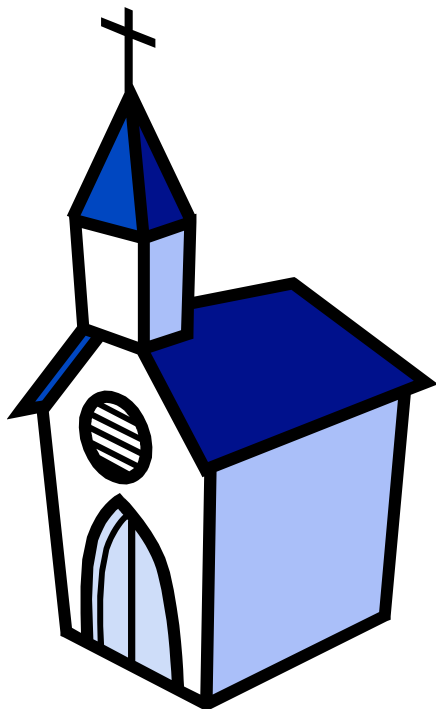
October 7: Swiss steak, noodles or rice, gravy, vegetable, salad, garlic bread, dessert

October 14: Dinner cancelled because of Rummage Sale set-up

October 21: Barbecue chicken, potato salad, pasta salad, beans, salad, French bread, dessert

October 28: Beef Stroganoff over noodles or rice, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert

Children's Church Highlites



The children will learn more about Moses and the Israelites in the next few weeks: They have seen and heard the word of God and how loyal and strong Moses, Aaron and Joshua have been. They have seen and heard how the Israelites went against Moses

and God. The plagues were sent to the Egyptians and the Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go free. The Pharaoh then changed his mind and went after them. God divided the Red Sea to let the Israelites go across. When the Egyptians followed, the sea devoured them. The Israelites were free to go on their way, but they lost their faith. God again protected them and sent them food and water. Moses went up on Mt. Sinai and stayed for forty days. The Israelites thought he was dead. They built a golden calf, dance and drink, and worship the calf. When Moses came down from the mountain carrying the two tablets of the Ten Commandments, **(WOW)** what do you think happened then? Well you better not miss the next few weeks, because much is going to happen.

God gives Moses the Commandments again. (Exodus 19:16-20:21).

The Israelites again worship the golden calf.

Exodus 32:1-25

The Israelites build a tabernacle.

Exodus 35:4-36:38

Moses sends spies into the Promised Land.

Numbers 13:1-14:23

This is just the beginning of the long journey for the Israelites. Next month, it gets more exciting. Come join us in Bible study, games, songs, crafts, and a sweet snack. Every Sunday at 11:00, we go from the Sanctuary to the Chapel where we enjoy the word of God and have fellowship with each other. SEE YOU SUNDAY. GOD BLESS.

Ms. Pat, Ms. Michelle, Ms. Iris

Choir News

The Chancel Choir has begun a new season and has a new look with beautiful new choir robes. This is a great time to join the choir.

Regular rehearsals are held at 7:00 P.M. every Wednesday evening.

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.



BIRTHDAYS

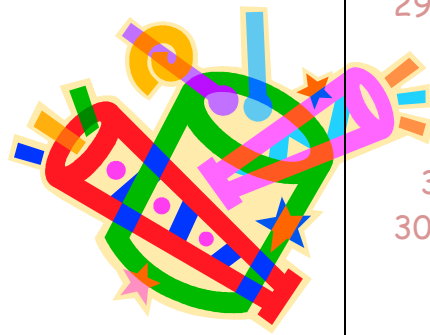
October



1 - Rose Lang
1 - Paige Mello
1 - Mary Young
2 - Jean Lightbody
5 - Florence Harper
5 - Linda Roper
5 - Jessica Yanson
7 - Marie Baldassare
7 - Leonard Newkirk
8 - Sara Davis
9 - Walter Stauffer
10 - Fred Herbst
11 - Valerie Albrecht
11 - Betty Moore
12 - Mary Krol
12 - Paul Kuhne
12 - Kathleen Loy
13 - Philip Santel
14 - John Benyon
14 - Jennifer Bryant
14 - Donald Doughty
14 - Nicholas Mocas
15 - William Kelley
16 - Ruby Belle
17 - Martin Mahoney
17 - Matthew Moore
18 - Pat Schick
19 - Josh Magrini
20 - Adeline Biggs
20 - Sue Lightbody

21 - Kay Iles
21 - Arlene Penning
22 - Maureen Johnston
22 - Ruby Jones
22 - Douglas Macdaid
22 - Marie Smith
23 - Monzelle Muehlbauer
24 - Larry Courter

25 - John Hornor
25 - William Jones
26 - Jessie McClay
26 - Virginia Ritzenthaler
26 - Margaret Tolmie
27 - Paul Jordan
27 - Samantha Worman
27 - Wanda Kinckman
29 - Ruth Fennelly
29 - Nina Morales
30 - Linda Bush
30 - Eric McAdams
30 - Valerie Moore
30 - Robert Rose



November

2 - Mary Csete
2 - Carol Podstawski
3 - Tracey Basinger
3 - Donna Kelly
3 - Debbie Trezise
4 - Michelle Tennie
5 - Joan Witsil
6 - Marisa Duval
6 - Dan Kohler

2009

October

2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 8 Yard Work 9:30 Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers	2 10 AM Bells	3
4 Communion 8:30 Casual Service 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Adult S.S. Bldg B 10:45 Traditional 11 Children's Church	5 1 PM P/W Co-Team	6 8 AM Yard Work No Flexercise 7 PM Christian Ed	7 10 Bible Links 5:15-6:15 Dinner 6:20 PM Prayer Mtg. 7 PM Bible Study 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Puppets	8 8 Yard Work 9:30 Crafters 9:30 Naomi Circle 12:30 Holy Rollers 7 PM Deacons	9 10 AM Bells	10
11 5 Cents A Meal 8:30 Casual Service 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Adult S.S. Bldg B 10:45 Traditional 11 Children's Church	12 10:30 Finance Committee Mtg. 5-8 Computer Expo!	13 8 Yard Work 8:30 Church Nom. Conference Room 9 AM Quilters No Flexercise 10 AM E & O	14 1 PM Sarah Circle <i>Wednesday Night Activities cancelled</i> 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Puppets	15 8 Yard Work 9:30 Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers 7 PM Session in Conference Room	16 Set Up For Rummage Sale	17 RUMMAGE SALE
18 8:30 Casual Serv 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Adult S.S. Bldg B 10:45 Traditional 11 Children's Church 3 Evergreen Woods	19 4 PM Worship Committee Mtg.	20 8 AM Yard Work 10 AM Flexercise 1 PM Dorcas Circle 1 PM Mary Martha	21 10 Bible Links 5:15-6:15 Dinner 6:20 PM Prayer Mtg. 7 PM Bible Study 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Puppets	22 8 Yard Work 9:30 Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers	23 10 AM Bells	24
25 8:30 Casual Serv 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Adult S.S. Bldg B 10:45 Traditional 11 Children's Church	26	27 8 AM Yard Work 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Flexercise	28 5:15-6:15 Dinner 6:20 PM Prayer Mtg. 7 PM Bible Study 7 Choir Rehearsal 7 Puppets	29 8 Yard Work 9:30 Crafters 12:30 Holy Rollers	30 10 AM Bells	31

This Month's Volunteers

GREETERS

4

1st Nancy Hammel & Brenda Swierenga

2nd Dia & Ray Stoner

11

1st Art & Deborah Trezise

2nd Marie & Don Hixon

18

1st Bill & Donna Larkin

2nd John Benyon & June Chiovitti

25

1st Penny & Ralph Ambrose

2nd Sue & Al Swahn

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

Ken Gerstner Wayne Keister

Art Waldbusser Jack Hawken

Gloria Madden Pat Hawken

CHURCH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Harrower Ginny Okopski

Hazel Sandhoff Charline Lanman

Marjorie Halloran Kay Jensen

Betty Bertschinger

FOLDING THE NEWSLETTER

Hazel Sandhoff Don Sandhoff
Lynne Crawford Roberta Jarvinen
Margaret Cody Barb Harrower

FINANCIAL AIDES

Barbara Harrower Helen Dakers
Marjorie Halloran Roberta Jarvinen
Lois Cunningham
Ione Plis, Honorary Aide

CARING FOR OUR SANCTUARY

Lois Cunningham

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
Len Newkirk

The Tie That Binds
October 2009 Issue 5, Vol 9
Published 11 Times a Year
Grace Presbyterian Church
8375 Spring Hill Drive Spring Hill, FL 34608