

Dr. Robert L. Eckard, Senior Pastor
Rev. Derek R. Davenport, Associate Pastor

APRIL, 2008

GRACE NOTES

April Happenings at GCPC

APRIL 2-5- SENIOR HIGH MISSION TRIP

APRIL 14- DORCAS CIRCLE MEETING

APRIL 14- RUTH CIRCLE MEETING

APRIL 16, 23, & 30- TABLE TALK STUDY AND DINNER

APRIL 29- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL



- 01 Ruth Nordman
- 02 Marjorie Mathews
Randi Sutphin
- 03 Dan Kimble, Jr.
- 04 Paula Craig
Charles Storey
Keshari Shrestha
- 05 Candace Pandolfo
Phyllis Cornell
- 06 Kaden Schlichenmaier
Joyce Ann McGregor
- 07 Cooper Turner
Riley Kelly
Mary Widick
- 08 William McAlpin, Sr.
Stephen Pesquira
- 09 Wilma Beekman
Helen Greenlaw
Blake Neal
- 10 Mark Durham
Justin Pace
Ian Smith
- 11 Susan Armes
Derek Diel
Jacob Orlando
- 13 Bill Finney
- 14 Betty Mason
Rosemary Van Allen
- 16 George Bahler
Jane Tracy
- 17 Alice Zella
- 19 Curtis Giesecke
Ruth Mackey
Kaylee Sparks
Dody Monk
Hugh Holland III
- 20 Leah Benner
Joyce Lunn
- 21 Steven Seaver
Ralph Staschke
Maggie Connor
- 22 James Harp, Jr.

- 24 Ellen Gronvold
Alex Munson
Barbara Pandolfo
Kurt Petersen
David Alchin
- 25 Barbara Craig
Bailey Talbott
Kasen Schlichenmaier
- 27 Natalie Ramirez
- 28 Robert Taylor
Skylin Whitmer
Dottie Wood
- 29 Chi Nguyen
Heather McGill
- 30 Jack Mathews



April Anniversaries

- 03 Robert & Donna Hedrick
- 06 Richard & Glenda Branham
Chip & Susan Caray
- 07 Jim & Gail Evans
- 09 Harry & Talma Hannan
- 13 Frank & Janie Garrett
- 14 James & Denise Perine
Charles & Cindy Stone
- 18 Al & Mildred Turner
- 19 Scott & Joyce Marhoefer
- 21 Karl & Maria Salisbury
Manuel & Tracy Umpierre
- 26 Chris & Gail Barley
- 29 Lewis & Phyllis Ciavaglia
- 30 Dan, Jr. & Stacie Kimble



A recipe from...

Beth Meadows

Santa Fe Soup

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 pkg. **Ranch** Dressing mix
- 2 pkg. taco seasoning mix
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can pinto beans
- (Do not drain the beans)**
- 1 can diced **Ro-Tel** tomatoes with chilies
- 2 cans white corn
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 2 cups water(I double the water- it makes a lot!!!)

Brown ground beef and onions in large pot. Drain. Add Ranch dressing mix and taco seasoning seasonings. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer 2 hours. Garnish w/ sour cream, shredded cheese and sliced green onions.

YUMMMMMMMMMM!!!!!!



COME ON UP AND CHECK IT OUT!

A copy of *Rescuing Sprite* by Mark Levin has been added to the library by Ruth Shirek. This book is an intimate look at the love between a family and a dog, one that movingly shows, in the author's words, that "in the end, we humans are the lucky ones."



Join the **Bridge Group** on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM in the library at Conway Presbyterian. Call Pat Laughlin for more information.



HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM BUILDING COURSE

Florida Hospital is offering an 8-hour course to help train and enable ministry teams to plan and promote a successful health awareness and lifestyle program within the congregation. We have had a Health Ministry team at GCPC for a few years now, but need to expand and revitalize the effort.

If you would be interested in attending this and learning more, please call Candy (407-898-6571) or e-mail candyv@bellsouth.net . The class will meet on Saturday, April 12 from 2-6 pm and Sunday, April 13 from 2 – 6 pm. It is necessary to attend both days.

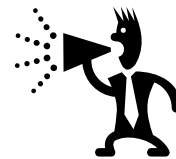


TABLE TALK

April 16, 23, 30 and May 7

What is Table Talk?

For 4 Wednesdays, a group of 8 – 10 people commit to eat together and study together around a single table with an assigned leader. Participants pledge to attend the four weeks. Dinner is provided (baskets will be on the table for donations to cover expenses). If the table you choose is full, you will be requested to make another choice OR if there are enough requests for that choice, we will try to find another leader on the same subject.

Classes for this Table Talk series will be:

- 1. The Book of Order led by Jack Shirek**
- 2. How We Became Presbyterians led by Kermit Gay**
- 3. Who is Gen Y? Led by Rachel Kaplan**

Descriptions of the classes and registration forms will be available in the bulletin and on the Visitor Table in the Narthex.

Registrations must be received by April 12.

(Note: For those enrolled in PATH, Class 1&2 are Core classes for 301, Class 3 is an elective)



VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.grace.to



The April meeting of the **DORCAS CIRCLE** will be held at the home of **Thelma Vander Weide**, Orlando, at **10:00 AM on April 14**. We are studying the *Book of Acts*.

Please bring a sandwich or desired lunch for yourself. A beverage and dessert will be furnished.

For further information please contact our chairman, **Kitty Mishler**.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, April 14 at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room, second floor, Memorial Hall. Our lesson is entitled "In God We Trust?" and the Scripture reference is *Ruth 3*. Our Circle chairman is Elaine Simpson, and Joyce Aubry is our study leader.

As always, we invite everyone to join us for an hour of Bible study and Christian fellowship.

For further information, please call Elaine.



The 6:00 p.m. Monday Women's Bible Study has finished their current study. They will be meeting again on Monday, June 2, for 11 weeks. The next book the group will be studying will be Beth Moore's *A Woman's Heart*.



MOTHER-DAUGHTER GARDEN PARTY

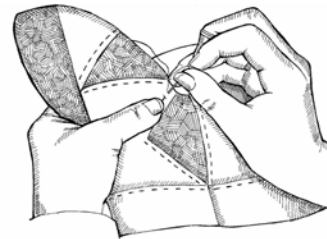
You are invited...

Mother-Daughter Garden Party
Saturday, May 3
Memorial Hall
11:30 am



Bring your mother, your daughter, your granddaughter or someone's mother or daughter or granddaughter you know and love. All are invited.

Please let us know how many to plan for by filling out the form in the bulletin or by calling the church office (407-898-6571) or candyv@bellsouth.net.



Still Stitchin' With Grace

The quilters have been very productive since Christmas. We delivered **41** quilts to Arnold Palmer Hospital for Cancer Kids on February 11. On Thursday, March 20 we delivered **31** quilts to the same hospital. Each quilt is made with love and prayers for the child who will receive it. Also included is a small stuffed toy with each quilt.

We work strictly on donations of cash, thread, fabric and memorial gifts. **We want to thank the Presbyterian Women's Council, Dorcas Circle, and the Study and Fun Club for their continued support.** It is much appreciated.

Our group has grown and due to a generous donation from the Presbyterian Women's Council, we were able to purchase three new Singer Sewing machines. Thus, we are able to produce many more quilts.

We invite anyone interested in joining our quilters to stop in for a visit. We meet the 1st Wednesday of each month and on each Thursday the rest of the month. All meetings are from 10AM-2PM. Bring your lunch.

For more information call Florine Simpson.



TWO HUNDRED WORDS FROM REV. HARV O ---

Did you know that on the average Sunday, we have **325** persons attending our two worship services --- and, that **30** of those persons are visitors? Well it's true! Are you acquainted with the person sitting to your right or left – in front or behind you? If not, they may be a visitor!

Here is a way to greet them: "Hello, my name is John Smith and this is my wife, Mary, I don't believe we have met." (Of course, they may reply that they have been members for 20 years – that's okay, they are new to you. You have new GCPC friends.)

If they are visitors: Welcome them to our Grace Covenant family – how glad we are they are here; invite them to our activities – share with them a program you may participate in – invite them to that one – perhaps plan to meet them and introduce them to others. After the service bring them, to the Visitor Welcome Center in the Narthex (yes, we have one) – as your Parish Associate, I'd love to meet them (so would Bob, Derek & Candy). If it's after the 10:45am worship, guide them to our Hospitality Table for refreshment (yes, visitors like a bite like all faithful Presbyterians).

We are a happy family of faith growing our community for now and the future. More next month....



From: Bali, Indonesia
Date: March 19, 2008

Our first primary health care school is in. We have 8 students. In this class, the students are trained on many topics of primary health care. At the end of their time, they will be able to assist people in the villages with health care needs such as prenatal care, birthing, blood pressures, first aid and the likes. Many villages have no one that knows any of this so people suffer at the hands of witch doctors, or they suffer alone and possible ostracized from the village because of fear. Our gang can go in and offer assistance and training which will alleviate some of the fears and pain when they graduate. Some of the students will go back into villages that they are already working in. However, they have a lot of learning to do before then. Some only have a primary education so the bookwork is tough. If you think of them- offer up a prayer or two.

"What does the Lord require of you? Justice, mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
-Micah 6:8



History of 2¢ Per Meal

"Only 2¢ so everyone can participate regardless of income. Those who have will give more, those who have little to give will have more." These are the words that came to Rosellyn Calvert of Titusville in 1975 while she and her family were praying for direction as they watched the starving people of Bangladesh on the national news. "We were shocked! We were living on \$1.00 a day for food for the three of us after a lay-off. The move and double house payments were absorbing our income. What could we do? The Lord said that 2¢ a day would help."

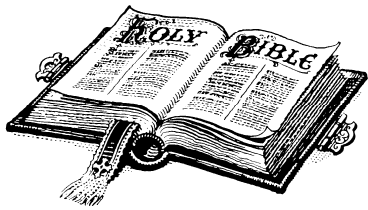
The Calverts sent their small checks, along with an explanation of what it was they were doing in their family, to the Hunger Program office of the Presbyterian Church of the United States (PCUS) in Atlanta. In April of 1976, Mrs. Calvert presented the 2¢ offering plan to the Northeast Florida Spring Presbyterial and the offering was adopted. In July of 1976 it went national at the Presbyterian Women's gathering. From that small beginning the 2¢ Per Meal idea has spread across the nation. At this point some 55 denominations across the US and around the world have adopted the 2¢.

The 2¢ Per Meal program began in Central Florida when the Rev. John Jackson was named Hunger Action Enabler for the former St. Johns Presbytery in 1982. John enlisted Ken Keeler of the Park Lake Church, who was in the advertising business, to help with the promotion of the program. Ken became the first chair of the 2¢ team. In March 1983, the Rev. Tom Biery, then chair of the Social Concerns Committee, took the proposal to the presbytery meeting. It was approved and implemented almost immediately, and the first ingathering was two months later in May 1983.

Our first partner and continuing partner was the Community Food Bank in Orlando, now known as **Second Harvest Food Bank**. We have had several partners through the years locally, nationally and internationally. Through the years partnerships have ended as they became self-sufficient or due to lack of accountability.

The 2¢ Per Meal program is a partnership of prayer, understanding and gifts. We pray for our partners and they pray for us. We increase our understanding by exchanging visits. Our third purpose is gifts. Since we began here in 1983 over \$2 million dollars has been collected and shared with our partners. Isn't it amazing how so little adds up?

We, at GCPC, collect for the 2¢ Per Meal program on **the third Sunday** of each month. You can find the donation container in the Narthex.



**LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY
April 2008**

April 6 (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

April 13 (4th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23:1-6
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

April 20 (5th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

April 27 (6th Sunday of Easter)

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Clerk of the Session
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Orlando, FL
March 10, 2008

Dear Laura,

On behalf of Central Florida Presbytery I would like to thank the session of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church for the exceptional way you hosted the presbytery meeting on March 1, 2008.

All the arrangements were so well planned and all of the volunteers were so friendly and eager to help. The graciousness of your people helped to make the meeting a good experience for everyone.

Please extend the heartfelt thanks of the Presbytery to the session and congregation for what I know was much effort and planning on the part of many of you members.

May God continue to bless the ministry of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Have a very blessed Easter!

Don T. DeBevoise
Stated Clerk
Central Florida Presbytery



Nancy Petersen



Be sure to visit the new information Kiosk that will be in the Courtyard on Sunday mornings. **This will be a place to find more information on activities...to sign up for various things...to drop off any forms or notes for the office.....** Things you might not remember to do on Monday morning. This will make it easier to take care of requests while you are here on Sunday. So, drop by and see what's happening!

I would like to say Thank-you to all those involved in the Presbytery Event. Starting with the two most incredible women on our staff (I think you know who I mean). I am so grateful for the Friday night moving crew, which included seven families and many Dr. Philips students who worked tirelessly to cut pastry and empty Memorial Hall's furniture into the truck. I also want to thank the Parking team, Registration and Office Team, Lunch Ticket Team, Tech Team, the Ushers, Communion Servers, Kitchen Teams, and all who did double duty to greet 308 Presbytery staff, Pastors, Elder commissioners and Visitors. We all had the Grace Covenant Smile and the "Ask Me" attitude that made everyone who arrived feel right at home. Those that did not work that day I want to Thank-you for your prayers and support. Sincerely,
Sandee Smith
P.S. None of this could have happened without the hard work and support of Wayne Champion. Thanks Wayne!



FAMILY FUN NITE

All are invited to come and join in an informal time of good food, good friends and good times.

Tuesday, April 8

6:29 pm

Memorial Hall

We begin with a covered dish dinner (drinks, bread and dessert provided) then share in a collaborative effort of nonsense table games.

Come join the fun!



Sleepover Camps being promoted by the Central Florida Presbytery are **Camp Montgomery, Cedarkirk and Camp Geneva**. They offer many camping opportunities. Information on the camps and scholarship applications are available.

For more information on all the above camps and for registration forms, see the displays in Halleluiah Hallway, the bulletin board in Smith Hall, the Visitor table in the Narthex or the Kiosk in the Courtyard.

I am
the
Future 

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Vacation Bible School

June 16 – 19 9-11:30 am. For ages 3 – completed 5th grade

It's a Beach Party!: Surfin the Scriptures!



D.E.C.K.: Art camp for elementary students

July 14 – 19th 9 am – 2pm

Registrations must be in by June 15.



Music Camp

July 21 – 25 9am – noon

For completed Kindergarten through 7th grade.

Registrations must be in by June 21.



Service Camp

August 11, 12, and 13 9 am – noon. For completed 1st – 5th.





Dear Church Family,

My heartfelt thanks, for all of the cards, calls and delicious food provided following my recent surgery. It was a tremendous help to me not to have to worry about food and to Bill not to have to worry about fixing anything. We really appreciate everything that was done for us. We are proud to be members of the most caring church in the world.

Our love and thanks to you all.
Harlean Finney

Sincere thanks to our church family for the many sympathy cards, food and hugs to comfort our hearts. The generous donations to the building fund in memory of our Cindy will be a living testimony to your generosity.

God bless you,
Ferra Cockrell, Angie Turner, Missy Oliver and Roberta Eckard

February 25, 2008

Dear Friends of Ronald McDonald House,

On behalf of all of us who are part of the Ronald McDonald House program here in Orlando, thank you for your financial support. Since opening our first House in December 1996 we have served more than 10,000 families who have turned to our Ronald McDonald Houses while their children were receiving medical treatment in our community.

The faces of our families tell the story of how grateful they are to have a Ronald McDonald House close by their ill child. As they spend day after day in the hospital, they can then come "home" to our Ronald McDonald House to find a place to rest, take a shower, have a warm meal, and return to focus on the health of their child.

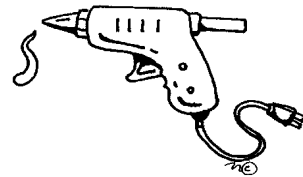
The families, board of directors, staff and volunteers appreciate your donation and request your continued support as together we provide a "home-away-from-home" for families facing the toughest of times.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Lou Ann DeVoogd
Executive Director



We are pleased to announce that the total gifts and pledges to our building fund totals **\$876,000** towards our goal of \$1,000,000. If you have not yet participated, there is still time to help us reach the goal so that together we can better serve our community. Pledge cards are still available in the pews or at the church office.



Bazaar Workshop
Tuesdays at 10 AM

Come and join the crafters and support our annual bazaar. The participation is fun and rewarding. New people and new ideas are always welcome! Come spend a couple of hours crafting with us or just drop by to see if you might be interested. Bring a sandwich – we provide coffee and dessert. (You might be interested in crafting at home for the bazaar! That is also appreciated!)



Blood Drive

The **Central Florida Bloodmobile** will be at Grace Covenant on Sunday, April 6.
Stop by and *Give the Gift of Life.*



The **Grace Covenant Scholarship Committee** is accepting applications for the school year 2008-2009. Applicants must be students who are GCPC members or students who are actively involved in the church and whose parent(s) is a member of GCPC. Students must be attending undergraduate school or seminary. Application forms are available in the church office and must be submitted by June 1st.

Cherishing God's Creation

We are called to a lifestyle based on stewardship and compassion of the earth. Here are a few tips to help to remind us that there are ways everyday that we can make a difference and become good stewards of our wonderful planet.

- **Light Up Your Life** - Replacing your five most frequently used light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) can save more than \$65 a year in energy costs. They provide high-quality light output, use less energy and last up to 10 times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs, saving money on energy bills and replacement costs. Remember always to turn off your lights when leaving a room.
- **Illumination** - Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents. You will recoup their higher cost—they last ten times longer and save up to \$30 a year in electricity. **Do your part:** *Fluorescents use much less energy than traditional light bulbs. And the less energy we burn away, the less CO₂ we produce. Just one compact fluorescent keeps half a ton of carbon dioxide out of the air over the course of its lifetime.*
- **Light from the sun** - replace all your outdoor lights with self-charging solar lights- they are ideal for garden path luminaries, security floodlights, and patio lighting.
- **Your biggest fan** - Ceiling fans make a big difference in air circulation- and the cost of heating and cooling. Install one and save up to 40% on the cost of air conditioning the room in summer. In winter, the fan can reduce heating costs by 10% , moving heated air from the ceiling, where it's wasted, to the floor.
- When buying nearly any appliance, electronic device, home heating or cooling equipment, or insulation, look for the **Energy Star** rating from the federal EPA and Department of Energy. To earn the rating, products must meet strict energy efficiency guidelines; choosing rated products is one way to make energy-wise choices. **Do your part:** *The Energy Star program helped Americans save enough energy in 2005 to avoid greenhouse gases equivalent to those emitted by 23 million cars.*

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"What good is a house, if you haven't got a decent planet to put it on?"

Henry David Thoreau



April 22



Hosanna Industries, Inc., has provided construction services as a means to alleviating poverty since its inception in April 1990 by way of new construction and rehabilitation. Due to an ever-increasing population of poverty-level households, Hosanna Industries' services are needed now more than ever.

Our **Senior High Youth** along with Rev. Davenport will be leaving April 2nd to work with this important ministry. Hosanna Industries' daily work involves **rehabilitating existing homes**, through the help of donations, volunteers and a capable staff of mission workers.

Please keep our youth and Hosanna Industries in your daily prayers. This is a great way to help further our attempts to help others and follow God's will.

Let your
Light So Shine
before men, that
they may see your **GOOD WORKS,**
AND *glorify* your **FATHER**
which is in Heaven.

Thank You!

Mikel Ibarra

For

Giving us two additional
Handicap parking spaces
on the East side of the church parking area
as part of your Eagle Scout Project!



THANKS
FOR YOUR HELP!