

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

FEBRUARY, 2008

GRACE NOTES

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

FEB. 03.....PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION

FEB. 06, 13, 20, 27 – LENTEN FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION

FEB. 09.....LEADERSHIP LOLLAPLOOZA

FEB. 11.....DORCAS CIRCLE MEETING

FEB. 11.....RUTH CIRCLE MEETING

FEB. 17, 24.....JEWISH BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

MAR. 01.....PRESBYTERY MEETING AT GRACE COVENANT



To my Church Family,

Please accept my thanks for your prayers, cards and concerns following Bill's last few weeks. It was a comfort to be part of Grace Covenant's family of God.

Sincerely,
Emily Jamieson

A very special thank you to Harlean Finney and Eileen Silvers for taking over the Visitor Center while I undergo my treatments.

Since these treatments compromise my immune system, you will have to forgive my no hugs and handshakes during this time. Believe me, the first Sunday I'm given the all clear, I'll be back!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you for your continued prayers.

God Bless,
Ann Stegman

Dear GCPC,

Thank you so much for the wonderful care package. After a long hard day of preparing for finals, it was such a pleasant surprise to come back to my apartment and to see something from home.

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks.

Love,
Molly Hedrick

Dear GCPC,

Thank you for thinking of me with the care package last month. It came during finals week and was enjoyed by my roommates and me!

Scott Manno

Thank you so much for all your support and kindness in dressing bears and filling stockings for the Salvation Army. There are so many children whose Christmas became a delight due to your efforts. Our church's contribution of 75 bears and 75 stockings helped the Salvation Army make a difference for the Christmas of hundreds of Central Florida children.

Your gift of love has brought joy, hope and peace, which are the gifts that God gives to all of us during Christmas

With Deep Appreciation,
The Presbyterian Women's Council

Carol and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the congregation for your kind gift at Christmas. It is a joy to serve and to be a part of this church family. We pray God's blessing on all of you.

Gratefully,
Bob

Thank you for all the cards and gifts we received this year! Erin and I are grateful for your thoughts, prayers, and gifts. We feel so blessed to be a part of this church family. It means a lot to be included in your thoughts this holiday season.

Thank you!
Derek R. Davenport

KUDOS----THANKS----KUDOS----THANKS

Thank you Congregational Fellowship Committee members for all your hard work throughout the year—the Congregational Meeting, all the Lenten Dinners and the Annual Picnic.

Thank you also to my Outreach Members, who worked tirelessly throughout the year.

Thank you for all your cards, offers to help and your prayers. I'm so blessed to be a part of GCPC.

GOD BLESS
Ann Stegman

Dear Friends,

The residents of The Duvall Presbyterian Home share common desires with the rest of us. They enjoy good food, a comfortable bed, a lot of love and a good reason to get up in the morning. This is what gives life meaning and joy. All of these ordinary, taken-for-granted, human desires in our "special family" don't just happen. They are the result of careful planning and hard work.

The generous gift of \$375 donated for the General Operating Fund is the absolutely vital resource that make this planning and hard work effective. With your help, we concentrate on residents' needs, the only thing that is really important here. On behalf of those who rely on us to make life normal and cheerful we say a very deep "Thank You" for making it possible.

Respectfully,
Christopher S. Hill, MBA
Administrator

LENTEN FELLOWSHIP AND REFLECTION

Beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 6**, we will once again share in weekly Lenten dinners and study. Each Wednesday in Lent, a dinner will be served in Memorial Hall at **6:00 p.m.** These dinners are prepared for you and a free-will offering will be received to cover expenses.

Members are requested to provide desserts.

2/6: Cookies
2/13 Brownies
2/20 Cupcakes
2/27 Pie
3/5 Cookies
3/12 Anything

On Ash Wednesday there will be a special Worship Service led by Dr. Eckard and Rev. Davenport.

For the next five weeks, classes begin at 6:30 and will conclude at 7:15.

Class choices:

Focus on the Book of Samuel

Led by Carl Sutphin

Focus on a New Testament Book

Led by Rev. Harvey Oster

Cherishing our Creation

Coordinated by Diana Ibarra

Derek will lead a **Confirmation Class** for interested **Youth**

The **children will explore the season of Lent** through stories, games and crafts.

Childcare will be available for the youngest.

Please make your reservation by filling out the form in the bulletin or by calling the church office.

PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION

**Led by Dr. Paige McRight, Executive
Presbyter of Central Florida Presbytery**

February 3

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Hall

Dr. McRight will be speaking about the benefits of being connected as Presbyterians. Our local congregations do not exist in isolation, but have support in times of need and knowledge and support to share with others because we are in service together carrying out God's mission in our corner of the world.

JOURNEY OF FAITH Pathways to Learning

For those involved in this certification program, there is a checklist of the classes you have attended in the Narthex and on the bulletin board in Smith Hall. Please check to see if we have all your classes accounted for.

Some have already completed 101 and 201. Some are just missing one or two classes. We are providing some home study courses to help you get the CORE classes that you might need.

For those who still need Book of Confessions (a CORE class for 201), it will be offered on Sunday mornings in March.

BOOK OF CONFESSIONS

led by Robert Taylor

Sundays, March 2, 9, 16 and 23

9:30 – 10:30 Room 10

All classes are open to anyone who is interested in attending.

LOLLAPALOOZA

Saturday, February 9

Winter Park Presbyterian Church

This is a leadership development event to equip, strengthen and support the ministries of the Church.

The event is sponsored by the Leadership Development team of the Central Florida Presbytery. It offers classes in many different areas of interest including Christian Education, Evangelism and Church Growth, Mission and Ministry, Officer Training, Stewardship, Spirituality, Music and Worship, and Congregational Care. (Derek and Erin Davenport, Jack Shirek and Kermit Gay are all leading classes.)

Flyers and registration forms may be found on the Visitor Table in the Narthex and on the shelf by the Bulletin Board in Smith Hall and in the office.

JEWISH BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Rabbi Aaron Rubinger,

**Congregation Ohev Shalom-Conservative
Sundays, February 17 and 24**

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Hall

Rabbi Rubinger has shared with us before. He is an engaging speaker. We are fortunate to have him come and help us learn more about our Jewish neighbors.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This column will appear in each newsletter to make you aware of ways **you** can help in the Ministry of Grace Covenant.

PRESBYTERY MEETING AT GRACE COVENANT SATURDAY, MARCH 1

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN IN A WARM AND WELCOMING WAY!

Please find a way that you can help and let us know as soon as possible.

- ◆ Person to stay in office to answer phones and make copies if necessary
- ◆ 3 people to direct parking
- ◆ people to set up tables on Friday evening
- ◆ people to take down tables on Saturday afternoon
- ◆ servers for refreshments (a.m.)
- ◆ servers and clean up for lunch
- ◆ 3 to assist with registration
- ◆ 2 to sell and collect lunch tickets
- ◆ ushers to distribute worship bulletins and collect offering
- ◆ elders to serve communion (a.m. service)

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

There is a need for one additional person for this committee. Responsibilities of the committee are to publicize, review applications and award scholarships.

BUS COORDINATOR

Duties include coordinating and assigning drivers for regular Sunday pick up/ scheduling bus maintenance.

If you are willing and able to help with one of the opportunities listed above, please call the church office or email candyv@bellsouth.net and leave your name and number. You will be contacted with more information.



When a new family moves into your neighborhood, visit them and welcome them as new neighbors.

After your visit, call the church office at 407-898-6571, giving them the family's name and address. A packet from the church will be sent to them

Thank you,
The Evangelism Committee



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of HELEN JANOCKO, who passed away on December 22, 2007;

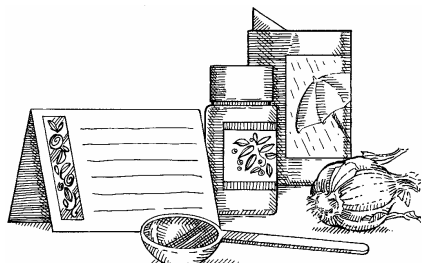
to the family and friends of BILL JAMIESON, who passed away on January 3, 2008; and

to PAM HILL, whose mother, ANN TRIMNAL, passed away on January 5, 2008.



LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY FEBRUARY, 2008

- 03** **Transfiguration of the Lord**
Exod. 24:12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matt. 17:1-9
- 10** **1st Sunday in Lent**
Gen. 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Ps. 32
Rom. 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11
- 17** **2nd Sunday in Lent**
Gen. 12:1-4a; Ps. 121
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17
- 24** **3rd Sunday in Lent**
Exod. 17:1-7; Ps. 95
Rom. 5:1-11; John 4:5-42



A recipe from...
Sandee Smith

White Christmas Bars

- ½ cup white chocolate or milk chocolate
- ½ cup sliced almonds, toasted and cooled or chopped walnuts can be substituted
- ½ cup packed light brown sugar
- 2 cups Bisquick

In medium bowl, combine all of the above ingredients. Stir in 1/2 cup melted butter, 1 large egg & 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Prepare 8x8 inch pan with Pam
Press dough into pan
Bake at 350° for 18-22 minutes and test center with tester for doneness.

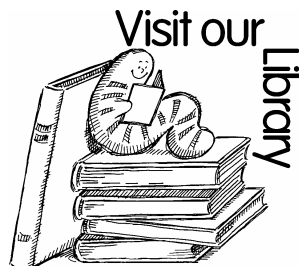
Thank you Sandee Smith for sending this in. We are trying to extend Christmas for as long as we are allowed, and umm boy does that sound delicious. Thanks again.



**VISITING
CHOIR
CONCERT**

The Grove City College Choir from Pennsylvania (Derek and Erin's alma mater!) will be at Grace Covenant for a concert on **March 18 at 7:00 p.m.** Be sure to put this date on your calendar and come for an evening of great music!

Also, if you would be interested in hosting some of the choir members for one night please call the church office and give us your name and the number of young people you would like to host.



From the cubby hole of the "Bookworm"

Thanks to Lynne Knorr, we have a suggestion as to why we should read **"A Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas"** edited by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen.

With seven categories for the individual contributions to this book, the real meaning of Christmas shines forth. Included are such themes as, "The Meaning of Christmas". Each of the topics takes on a special meaning as the individual contributors give the stories their own interpretations and emphasis.

Small gestures of kindness can bring unexpected happiness to some who are not joyful, and the joy of giving becomes a gift to the giver. Hope, kindness and love define the real spirit of the season, and are brought forth in each story, leaving the reader with a warm feeling that can't be matched.

Don't miss this one. It's in our church library.

Why on earth should we read a Christmas book after Christmas? Well maybe to remind us to keep the feeling and love of Christmas all through the coming year. Happy New Year for February and God bless.

The Bookworm



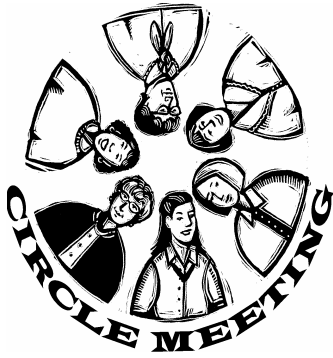
CHECK IT OUT!

Added to our library collection this month are:

"This Babe So Small" by Jann W. Martin. This book was given by Bill and Donna Fraser in honor of Seth, Trent, Jack and Rhys, their Great-Grandchildren.

Dick Beekman donated a copy of *"Brave Men"* by American Journalist, Ernie Pyle.

NEWS OF NANCY NORDMAN



We welcome any ladies of the church to attend **DORCAS CIRCLE** meetings, the second Tuesday each month, except June, July and August. We meet at the homes of the members or occasionally in the church parlor. We pursue studies of many subjects pertaining to our religious interests. We are at present doing a study of Acts. We then enjoy more fellowship with lunch. Please join us and bring a sandwich or small lunch....a beverage and dessert will be furnished.

February's meeting will be at the home of Kitty Mishler, 3001 Cottage Grove Ct. at 10:00 AM **Tuesday, February 11, 2008.** For further information please call Kitty.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m.** in the Conference Room, second floor, Memorial Hall. Our lesson is entitled "Love That Goes Above and Beyond the Call of Duty", and the Scripture reference is *Ruth 1*. 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. Why not visit one time and see if you might enjoy becoming a member of our Circle.

For more information, please call Elaine.



The Family Fun Nights for February and March have been cancelled.

The Lenten dinners will be held on Wednesdays during those months and all are encouraged to attend.

Family Fun Nights will resume on the second Tuesday of April.

Nancy returned to the States this period to visit family and attend a three-day planning meeting in Orlando for a new evangelistic effort called "call2all". Call2all is a worldwide movement calling the church to a renewed, focused collaborative effort to complete the Great Commission.

The partners in this task are 13 evangelistic organizations, such as YWAM and Campus Crusade, etc. who emphasize evangelism. It is planned that over the next three years 38 similar meetings will be held all over the world, drawing about 100,000 Christian leaders to plan together how to complete the Great Commission.

She will return to Indonesia in early February to continue her regular duties as a missionary.



Special thanks to all those who visited the Bloodmobile to donate on January 6. Each donation can help up to 5 people.

The Bloodmobile will return on **Sunday, April 6.**

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the donation of \$375 to our home. I want you to know that every gift we receive goes to enhance the lives of our special children and adults.

It is so nice to know that our community is loving and kind and is helping my grandmother's mission to live on. I hope that you know that you are always welcome to come by any time and see our special children and adults.

Thank you again for your love and kindness and for helping to make our special children's Christmas so very special. We hope that you and your family have a wonderful Holiday Season. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Betty Turner
Proud Granddaughter of
Mrs. Vantrease Russell
The Russell Home



February Birthdays

- 01 Shirley Bruce
Claude Roberts
Eileen Silvers
- 02 Owen Townes
- 05 Jack Shirek
- 06 Scott Lampman
Robert Whitten
- 07 Lacey Bordenkircher
Kathie Wiergacz
- 08 Ann Francis
- 09 Jane Hoover
Kristy Schlichenmaier
Shawn Straight
- 10 Deborah Pace
Emily Smith
- 11 Kay Wilson
C. J. Calderon
- 12 Michael Munson
Mary Shriver
- 14 Timmie Lyons
Dena Neal
- 15 Michelle Ford
Ed Lane
Phil Pesquira
- 17 Joe Dinkel
Pam Johnson
- 18 Barbara Bell
Heath Blair
Florine Simpson
Will Remley
- 19 Syd Hooks
- 20 Hal Litchford
Diane Nguyen
Barbara Baker
- 21 Douglas Frazier
Matt Frazier
James Perine
- 22 Gary Carver
Nolan Kelly

- 23 Vantrease Blair
Bill Fraser
Buddy Hedrick
Cheryl Pope
Suzanne Davis
Sydney Remley

- 25 Norman Polk
Roberta Eckard

- 26 Jonathan Taylor

- 27 Matthew Craft
Jade Staschke

- 28 Calum Schlichenmaier



February Anniversaries

- 02 Jack & Ann Nangle
- 04 Morris & Betty Broome
- 05 Glenn & Ruth Nordman
George & Peggy Wightman
- 12 Chi & Diane Nguyen
- 13 Joe & Heidi Diaz
Cortland & Susan Smith
Harry & Jenny Whitmer
- 14 Bruce & Anne Krieger
Terry & Karen Roberts
- 17 Gary & Jeanne Carver
- 18 Doug & Suzanne Colson
Chad & Paige Talbott
- 24 Hal & Jonni Carlson
- 25 Gary & Debbie Munson
- 26 John & Jennifer Craig