

GRACE notes

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JANUARY 2011

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 1



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR

THE "MUSIC OF GRACE" VALENTINES DAY CONCERT

SUNDAY, FEB. 13, AT 3PM

Featuring: The Chancel Choir, Guys Gospel Group, Grace Singers, Son Shine kids, Bells Ensemble, plus individual and duet performances, presenting your favorite sacred and secular music. **A FREE WILL OFFERING** will be received during the concert to help rebuild the Good Shepherd School and Church in Haiti.



DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

Jan 6– Epiphany/Study & Fun

Jan 10– God's Girls Bible Study/ Dorcas Circle/ Ruth Circle

Jan 11– Family Fun Nite

Jan 13– Book Discussion Group

Jan 14– Scrapbooking Club

Jan 22– Stitch & Knit

Jan 23– Family Communion Class

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KORNER KOMMENTS FROM REV. HARV O

We are in the midst of **Christmas!** How can this be? **Christmas** is over; we have celebrated the **Birth of Jesus.** What is there left to do?

We sing the songs of the season: **The Twelve Days of Christmas** and **We Three Kings.** Yes, we are in the midst of **Christmas** – the twelve days between December 25th and January 6th – that end on **EPIPHANY** ---- the first big celebration in the calendar year that we seem to miss. This is ashamed – for we receive a great **gift** on **Epiphany**; the **gifts** of the **Three Kings** to the **Baby in the Manger, Jesus.**

What happens in the event of **Epiphany?** Merely the recognition that the **Baby in the Manger** is the **Christ, our Lord!** I kinda think that **Epiphany** is an important date to celebrate in our Christian community. And, did you know that the **Season of Epiphany** continues until the day before Ash Wednesday (Tuesday, March 8, 2011)?

The word “**epiphany**” comes from two Greek words – the preposition “**epi**” and the verb “**phainen**” – meaning “to shine upon” – “to reveal” – “to appear, manifest”. Our **epiphany** comes when we recognize the **Christ Child** as **God’s gift** to us.

For most of us, an **epiphany** is an “**a ha**” moment when we finally catch the reason for the season. And that moment, my friends, most often signals some kind of **change** in the course of living. Isn’t this true when we recognize the **baby** as the **Christ?** I think it is!

We read the story of **The Visit of the Wise Men** in [Matthew 2:1-12](#). No wonder King Herod was afraid when he learned the wise men were searching for the **King of the Jews.** He immediately recognized this event as a challenge to his authority. He assembled the chief priests & scribes and asked where this **Messiah** was to be born. The rest is history. **Epiphany** – a shining star was about **to reveal, to manifest** – a small baby to be the **Messiah.** **Change – change** was about to “change” the way we live; the way we purpose our lives. And, King Herod had to face the consequences. He feared! We do not!

For our **epiphany** is our receiving and believing in our hearts, thoughts and actions – the graciousness of **God** in sending us **His Son,** indeed **Himself,** to live in us and we are to share **His message** to the uttermost parts of the earth. This is the message of **epiphany.**



Grace Covenant – **the Beacon on Peel** guiding us in **Jesus Christ** – is a happy family growing our faith community for today and tomorrow.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Study and Fun Club

COME JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP

The final meeting of 2010 – the annual Christmas covered dish luncheon – was a huge success. Reverend Oster presented an inspirational program, carols were sung and delicious food was enjoyed.

The new calendar year will kick off on Thursday, January 6th at 11:00 in the John Calvin Memorial Hall conference room. Bring your lunch and guests and help us start off the New Year with a bang.

Study and Fun, a group for men and women ages 55 and older, is planning many more exciting programs and outings for the rest of its fiscal year. The only requirement for membership is a desire for enjoyable fellowship in the quest for greater knowledge. One does not need to be a church member so friends, relatives and neighbors are invited to participate.

Study and Fun meets twice per month, September through May. On the first Thursday a study program is presented in the John Calvin Memorial Hall conference room. Lunch is brown bag with drinks and dessert provided by the hostesses for the month.

The second monthly meeting is a visit to a fun or cultural destination, usually on the third Thursday. Afterwards lunch and camaraderie is enjoyed at a nearby restaurant.

To learn more please contact **Roberta Eckard** or **Margaretta Douglas**.



**FOR WE ARE GOD'S SERVANTS, WORKING TOGETHER;
YOU ARE GOD'S FIELD, GOD'S BUILDING.
1 CORINTHIANS 3.9**

Evangelism Committee

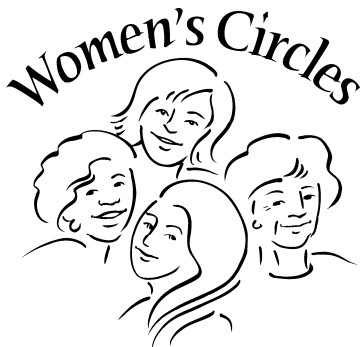
We acknowledge that we are all servants as Christ modeled for us throughout his ministry here on earth. There are many servants here at GCPC and we are so grateful for the work that goes into each of their heartfelt ministries. However, there is one servant that we wish to highlight this month. That servant is **Nick Pazar**. Nick keeps the grounds looking so nice year round. Early each Saturday morning he is here cutting the grass and trimming the shrubs. Then on Sunday he faithfully serves as an usher making sure all is set for the morning's worship service. Thank you Nick for all that you do. You are an asset here at GCPC and are greatly loved and valued for your time and service.



**The Women's Bible Study
January 10 - Breaking Free
JCMH Room 16**

The Women's Bible Study will begin a new study on January 10, 2011. The class meets at 6pm for discussion then a video driven lecture by Beth Moore. This is an 11 week study.

Beth has re-written this powerful teaching and has updating and added new messages. So if you have taken this class before, please know this is a fresh look at the Book of Isaiah.



RUTH CIRCLE will hold the first meeting of 2011 on Monday, January 10th at 10:00 am in the Conference Room, second floor of John Calvin Memorial Hall for ninety minutes of study and fellowship.

Our first lesson of the New Year is entitled: "Singing Hymns of Hope, Interludes of Salvation for God's People". The Scripture reference is *Revelation 7 - 8:5*. Our Circle Chairman is Elaine Simpson, and our Study Moderator is Kitty Barbour.

Please join us for this very interesting study. We'd love to have you, and everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please call **Elaine Simpson**.

DORCAS CIRCLE Our January meeting will be on the 10th in Smith Hall in the Earl Tyson Sunday School class room. Our circle is one of fellowship, prayer, love, learning, and giving. Are you looking for a circle? We would be happy to have you join us. Please call me and I will answer any questions that I can.~ **Kitty Mishler**

**There is a time
for everything,
and a season for every
activity under heaven...**



Ecclesiastes 3:1

Relief for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti



WANTED: Willing and enthusiastic volunteers to assist the Outreach Committee on a short-term basis with the fund-raising efforts for the school in Haiti! Individuals will be asked to help with the planning and running of several upcoming fundraising initiatives. Unless decided otherwise, involvement will be on an as-needed basis,

no long term committee commitment! Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 11, 7pm! For more information contact **Molly Carver**.



Thank you, Merci, Danke, Gracias and Kudos to all of you that took the time from your busy schedules to serve lunch at the Christian Service Center. My apologies to those of you that signed up for Friday and were canceled; apparently, some organizations got together to serve a hot breakfast and lunch in the old Amway Center, so the Christian Service Center decided not to compete.

The Outreach Committee

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY

JANUARY 2

Jeremiah 31:7-14
 Psalm 147:12-20
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

JANUARY 9

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29:1-11
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

JANUARY 16

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42

JANUARY 23

Isaiah 9:1-4Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23

JANUARY 30

Micah 6:1-8
 Psalm 15:1-5
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
 Matthew 5:1-12





1	Alex Robinson Randy Neal	12	Jamie Lyons John P. Carr	21	Emma Morgan Alyssa Calderon Shimeon Mustapha
2	Robert Burijon	13	George Wightman Jennifer Townes	23	James Higgins
4	Jean Lattner Molly Carver Nancy Venable Briela Salisbury	14	Chad Lampman Christopher Ford Mike Connors, Sr.	24	Linda Harp Lenora Livengood Natalie Staschke "M" Waddell
5	Judy Thames	16	Lynne Knorr Ann Taylor Cole Ellingworth	25	Sofia Harne Karen Straight Thelma Vander Weide
7	Richard Seaver Billie Baker Robert Castagno (son) Kaley Neal	17	Anne Krieger Jay Brumbaugh	26	Jean Polk Corinne Williams Katherine Petersen
8	Kate McKenzie Wendy Malcolm	18	Hannah Hinckley Glenda Branham Gary Munson Bruce Krieger Kristi McCarey Thelma Burnett Erika Remley Todd Rhode Dawn Wells	27	Richard Branham Sean Maio Herbert Blake
9	Tina Ferrell Kelly Hinckley Dottie Asquith Abigail Calderon	19	Marci Long	28	Heidi Diaz Lisa Shrestha
10	Claire Barley	20	Eugene Aubry Paige Talbott Marilyn Schaus	30	Maureen Higgins James Ellis
11	Elizabeth Craft			31	Alma Shewfelt Antonina Kest Camille Kalis



*Anniversary
Celebration*

- 1 Tom & Kathi Wiergacz
- 4 Ernie & Andrea Kelly
- 15 Ben & Alecia Gray
- 19 Syd & Jean Hooks
Bill & Alyse Munson
- 23 Keith & Patricia Vetter
- 31 Dwight & Josephine Blair




12-4-10
**STEVE HEDRICK AND
MONICA PASTRANA**

Baptisms

GRACE ELIZABETH LAROSE
Parents: Marc and Jessica Gokee LaRose

*Our Deepest
Sympathy*



To the Family
and Friends of:
VONDA DOWLING
12-1-10

RON & RETA PETERSON
COLBY & BETH CARSON
CLAUDIA FOWLER



**Welcome
Our New
Members**

JAMES BENSON
LARRY PHELPS IV



COME JOIN US THIS YEAR!

JANUARY 2

BREAKFAST AND OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 9

RUN WITH THE HORSES

BY EUGENE PETERSON

A STUDY ON JEREMIAH

LED BY SUSAN WILLIAMS

COMING THIS SPRING....

ROBERT TAYLOR

LEADING A STUDY ON

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

ROOM 8 CLASS



Building Strong Communities

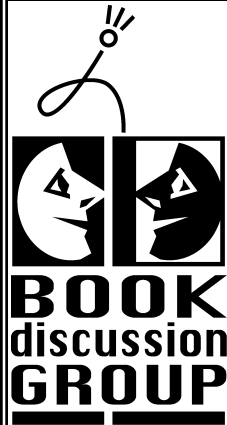
led by Kristen Steiffel

This class is based on Mary Scott Slinger's study "Helping Families Succeed" but will focus on what we can do intergenerationally to build strong community.

Sundays

January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

9:30 – 10:30 am



The next book we will discuss is "God Came Near" by Max Lucado. We are meeting January 13, at 7pm. We also picked the book for February 10th, "Same Kind Of Difference As Me" by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, and Lynn Vincent. See you in January!



Stay Fit with Grace!

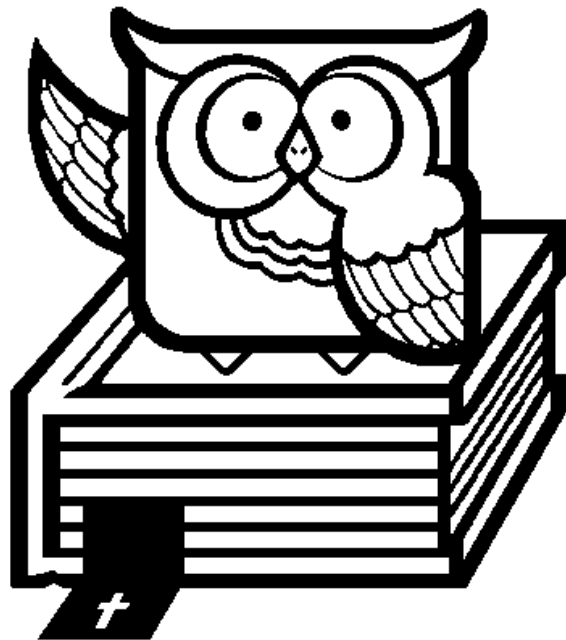
Zumba is back!!

Thursday nights @ 7pm (Gym)

Tai Chi Tuesday and Thursday mornings @ 8:30am (Reception Hall)

Each class is \$7/person.

Get Physical!



Check It Out!

Curl up with a good book this January!

We have fiction, non-fiction, and children's books to choose from.

Come visit the library and see what we have to offer!

John Calvin Memorial Hall 2nd Floor.



PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG

EVERY SUNDAY!

WHEN YOU LEAVE CHURCH, PLEASE RETURN THEM TO THE BOARD OR PLACE THEM IN THE BASKETS NEAR THE DOORS.



CHRISTMAS ALTERNATIVE REPORT

Many blessings have been received by the different ministries highlighted this year as areas to give "gifts that keep on giving". As of this date, December 17, \$4300 in gifts had been received. **Thank you to all who gave these special birthday gifts to Jesus this year.**



TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

6:29 PM

JOHN CALVIN MEMORIAL HALL

If you've never been to a Fun Nite, make a new year's resolution to give us a try.

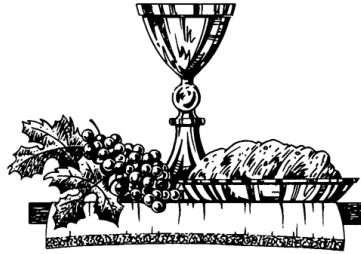
We begin with a covered dish dinner (drinks, dessert and bread are provided) and follow the dinner time with some silly games around the table....with lots of conversing and laughing. Family Fun Nites are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except during Lent).



We are concerned that some of our members are living alone and has no one who checks on them everyday. We would like to start a group that would make contact with such members every day.

Please call the Church Office at 407-898-6571 if you need this service (or if you would be willing to be a contact person). We will get back to you as soon as possible.

We are a family that cares for each other, and as the Bible says, "Whatever we do for one of these we do for the Lord".



FAMILY COMMUNION CLASS

Sunday, January 23

Room 15 Smith Hall

Noon

Families are invited to come together to help their children better understand what our sacrament of Communion is all about.

The Book of Order states: "Baptized children who are being nurtured and instructed in the significance of the invitation to the Table and the meaning of their response are invited to receive the Lord's Supper, recognizing that their understanding of participation will vary according to their maturity." (W-4.2002)

The class is designed so parents can be the on-going source of instruction for their children.

A light lunch will be served.

Please e-mail candy@grace.to or call 407-898-6571 to let us know you are coming so there is enough lunch and supplies for the class. Reply by January 19.



A recipe from...

Dump Chili

One pound of ground chuck (coarse grind) browned with salt, pepper and garlic powder.
Remove from pan with slotted spoon.
Discard the fat that is left over.
After cooling, refrigerate the meat overnight.

The next morning:

Place meat in Crockpot.

For each pound of meat dump:

1 can of Bush's Chili Magic Chili Starter

1 can of Delmonte Diced Tomatoes Zesty Mexican Chili Style

~SUSAN WILLIAMS~

1/2 to 1 can of yellow corn

Cook on low in your Crockpot for the day. It will be nice and hot when supper comes around.

Serve with corn chips or corn muffins.

You can accompany this chili with shredded cheese and/or sour cream to top it off with.

I call it dump chili because all I do is dump cans into the Crockpot!

Thank You, God!



~Special Thank You~

I would like to say a special thank you to all those who helped in presentation of the Programs of the Christian Education Committee this Advent season

I always have a fear of listing names because someone might be omitted and all are important.

So...

Thanks to those who set up and cleaned up and spent time sharing about the ministry areas for the Christmas Alternatives

Thank you to those who provided chili and brownies for the Hanging of the Greens; for those who came early and stayed late to get things ready and then cleaned up. Thanks to Dave Edmiston and Wayne Champion and all those who came to help get the decorations out and “fluffed”; and to Joe and “M” Waddell and others for their sharing of Memories at the service.

Thanks to the presenters at the Advent Breakfasts—Tim and Erika Remley and Sydney and Will, Craig and Rachel Kaplan, Kermit Gay, Eileen Silvers and Sandee Smith; to our pianist Carol Cline, and to those who worked behind the scenes to see that there was food to eat.

Special thanks to Carol Eckard, Kim Seaver, Kristy Schlichenmaier, Karen Straight and families for directing the Christmas Play and to Ann Cumbus who helped in the production and to those who prepared the dinner for the day.

And a big thank you to our Angels in Residence, Roberta Eckard and Dottie Asquith; to our teen angels and to those special angels who prepared and served the breakfast.

~**CANDY VANDER WEIDE**

Dear Friends,

We thank you for your gift today, it could not have come at a better time. We are experiencing the same thing many others are and that is low funds, we are blessed though to have friends like you that keep us going.

The greatest relief a caregiver can have is to know we can continue to provide the quality of care these special people are so deserving of. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Janet Russell Nixon

Director



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Stitch and knit will meet on **January 22nd** at 10:00am. If you want to learn to knit or crochet we can teach you. If you want to rekindle an old hobby we can give you an incentive, newborn babies, babies that go into foster care, babies going for treatments, and many more reasons to stitch up a gift of love. We meet for 2 hours and you can drop in any time. See you on the 22nd!

Donna Fraser
Sandee Smith



Join us for an evening of fellowship, fun and SCRAPBOOKING....

What to Bring: Scissors, Solid holiday colored Cardstock for scrapbook pages (12 X 12 or any other page size that you prefer), adhesive, ruler, pencil, pens, Christmas Cards, holiday photos and a snack to share. (We will have layout ideas to help with your pages)

Scrapbooking with Grace

Date: January 14, 2010

Time: 7 p- 11 p

Place: Memorial Hall



“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

I s a i a h 5 2 : 7



Dear Lord, as this new year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.

Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,

Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,

It matters not—my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

--Martha Snell Nicholson

JANUARY 2011



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1655 Peel Ave.
Orlando, FL 32806

Phone: 407.898.6571

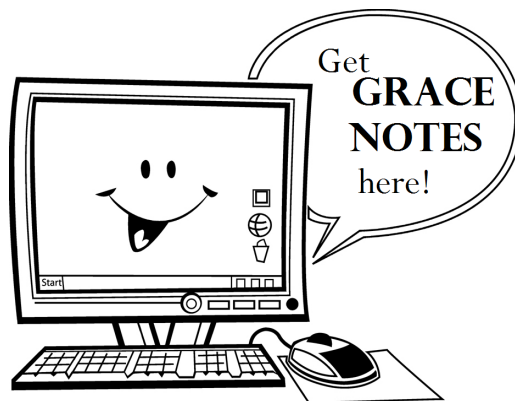
Fax: 407.898.1469

E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.grace.to

DR. ROBERT L. ECKARD, SENIOR PASTOR
REV. HARVEY OSTER, PARISH ASSOCIATE
CANDY VANDER WEIDE,
COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR



If you would like to receive your Grace Notes electronically,

PLEASE call the Church Office or email us at

churchoffice@grace.to