

GRACE notes

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NOVEMBER 2010 VOLUME 53, ISSUE 11

Opportunities to give a gift that keeps on giving... NOVEMBER 7TH

The annual Christmas Alternatives Celebration is Sunday, November 7, in Conway Hall from 9:30 – 12:00.

For the month of October, there has been an insert in the bulletin each week highlighting different areas of ministry. If you missed any of these, they are attached together and available on the KIOSK or at the celebration. Please take some time to read through them to learn more about opportunities to celebrate the birthday of our Lord by giving to others in a more meaningful way. **On the 7th, there will be displays to help you learn even more about these ministries and ways your gifts will help in a special way.**



After making your choices, you can fill out the Gift List and return it to the Office or place in a separate envelope in the offering plate. You will be sent gift cards that you can give to those who you honor in this special way. You may continue to select gifts until Christmas.

The highlighted organizations this year are:

Duvall Home,
Good Shepherd
School in Haiti

Habitat

Heifer

Hospice of the Comforter

Missions of Nancy Nordman and the Turks

GCPC's Scholarship Fund

Quilters and Stitch n' Knit

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Russell Home

SPCA

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

- Nov 4– Study and Fun
- Nov 7– Christmas Alternatives
- Nov 8– Dorcas and Ruth Circles
- Nov 9– Family Fun Nite
- Nov 11– Book Club
- Nov 14– Picnic
- Nov 19– Trivia Night
- Nov 25– Thanksgiving Dinner
- Nov 27– Hanging of the Greens

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEWS FROM NANCY NORDMAN	2
CIRCLES	4
LECTIONARY	5
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES	6&7
DEACONS CORNER	8
A RECIPE FROM...	11
CALENDAR	15



**News
from
Nancy Nordman**

Hi,

Things come along in life and sometimes with the rhythm and busyness of life we can miss an opportunity. For instance, a couple of years back I was contemplating running a course for some of the Indonesian staff that I work with, to help equip them to go on with the things that they had in their heart. After much prayer I felt that I was to make it 18 months long course because the impact and change that was needed – needed time to take root. Now, I've been around the block a few times, and I realized that 18 months was a big commitment for me and them. So, I was slow to commit. And honestly I contemplated not doing it, at that time.

I reasoned I could wait a few months and do it later- or even do it next year. I reasoned that I could do it- eventually. As I vacillated on my decision, one day I was watching TV. I came across a TV preacher and it was in English- both of which is a rarity on Indonesian TV. And she said that 'in life we tend to think that we will always get a second chance to do something that God is asking us to do. But that is not always true. Sometimes you have to do what you're being asked to do at that time, because you won't have another opportunity.' That hit home. I knew that if I put off – that I won't have another chance. So, I took a deep breath and started the community development internship.

That was 18 months ago this month. It's been a wild ride. At times I felt like I knew where we were going and how we'd get there. Then at other times, I was flying by the seat of my pants. I started with 6 full time interns – and one person who was just with us for 3 months. We are finishing with 4 interns. One intern who is no longer with us has gotten married and is working on the next island over with his wife doing a children's home. One intern was let go. And our part time intern is leading a children's ministry in East Timor. I had planned for 2 outreaches but, we ended up doing 9 outreaches in that time. We had multiple speakers on subjects ranging from house painting ,to first aid, to building teams and how to lead worship.

The interns were motivated through out the whole time. They rose to the challenge of having a bi-language class. They challenged themselves physically (trust me mixing cement by hand is exhausting), as well as culturally (what to do when your culture says its ok to not like some people because of how they believe- but the bible says to love your enemies?) We had lots of 'firsts' – like the first time doing research on a computer using the web, first plane flight, first time going internationally. We had many laughs and some painful times- but we've now come to the end.

This past week the interns have done debriefing on their time in the internship and here is some of what they said.

One intern said: 'I'm not afraid to lead anymore. I have learned to be focused and disciplined. I know how to hear God. My life and my mind has been changed.'

Another said: I have learned how to listen, obey and finish the directions. The internship has taught me its about a personal relationship and walk with God – it's not a course.

I've learned the how to prepare and go out on my own and not have to depend on others to do that for me now, said a third.

So all of them have concluded that the internship has changed their lives positively, and on Oct 21 all of them have graduated from the internship. **Continued on page 8...**

JOIN A SPECIAL COMRADERIE

The group for men and women ages 55 and older started the new season with a bang! September and October witnessed two inspirational programs and two exciting outings.

Come join us for our next study session at 11:00 on November 4th.

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.

For further information please contact **Roberta Eckard** at 407 894-8804 or **Margaretta Douglas** at 407 852-1728.



Study and Fun Club



Evangelism
××××× Committee

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU

WILL BE YOUR SERVANT.

MATTHEW 23: 11

There are some who give of themselves and serve God without expectation. People like that are hard to find in this day and age. Our church has been blessed to have a husband and wife team that has served God through service to this Body of Christ for many years. The Evangelism Committee would like to recognize and to thank **Ruth and Glen Nordman** for their years of tireless service. They have taught Sunday School for years, been instrumental in making sure the church was open on Sundays, served as confirmation sponsors, initially organized the recycling bins, spent countless hours helping in the kitchen, and many other activities that are unknown. **Please join with us in thanking Ruth and Glen for the years of service to God and this particular body.**

God bless you Ruth and Glen!

Grace Covenant Annual Picnic

November 14

Following the 10:45 service

The fellowship Committee will again be sponsoring the annual picnic.

Provided for you are hamburgers, hot dogs and pulled pork and drinks. **You are asked to bring baked beans, salads and desserts. Baskets will be on the tables for donations to cover the meats.**

This is a great time for fellowship and fun. Come and enjoy!



The **RUTH CIRCLE** will meet on Monday, November 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room, second floor of John Calvin Memorial Hall, for ninety minutes of study and fellowship.

We are now studying the Book of Revelation, and our lesson is entitled "Worshiping God and the Lamb, the Heavenly Journey Begins". The Scripture reference is *Revelation 4-5*. Our Circle Chairman is Elaine Simpson, and our Study Moderator is Kitty Barbour.

Everyone is welcome to join us. Please call Elaine Simpson if you have any questions.

Are you interested in ministry, sharing and fellowship? If so, come and be part of our **Dorcas Circle**. Dorcas, in the Bible, was a lady who loved to serve. We try to emulate her through our service in the church and the community.

We have recently voted to have our meetings in Smith Hall using the Earl Tyson Sunday School room. Two exceptions will be our September meeting and our December meeting. September is the first meeting after our summer break and the December meeting is our special Christmas lunch and gift exchange. They are held in homes of our members. If you are interested, the next meeting will be held on November 8th at 10:00 am.

For further information, please call Donna Fraser or Kitty Mishler. We would love to see you there!



Come join a team and test
your knowledge!

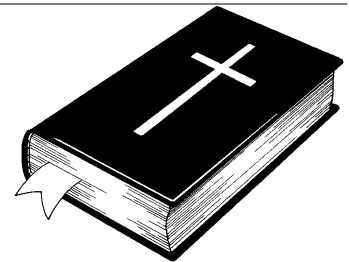
Enjoy the fellowship!

November 19th @ 7pm



Goes Green Please continue to recycle your paper, magazines, junk mail, cereal boxes, small pet food or snack boxes, and any scrape paper. Encourage your neighbors to bring their paper to us as well! Also remember to recycle your aluminum cans as well.

LECTIONARY FOR THE LORD'S DAY



November 6

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

November 13

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123:1-4

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 20 (Christ the King Sunday)

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100:1-5

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

November 27 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

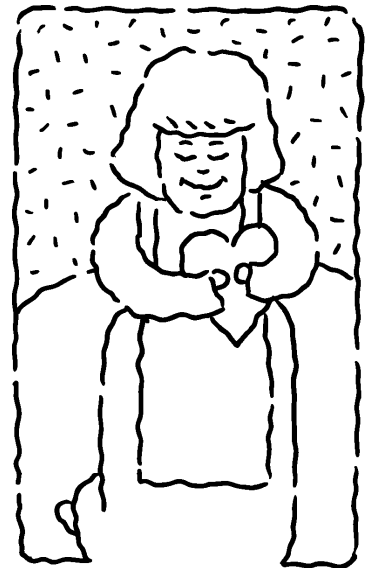
Mark 13:24-37



- 1 Patty Ford
- Andria Shivnarain
- 2 Jeanne Carver
- 3 Diego Salisbury
- Gabe Widick
- Hunter Nimmo
- Pat Laughlin
- 5 Kitty Mishler
- Karen Tompkins
- Richard McCarey
- Wendy Ames
- Alana Castlen
- 6 John W. Craig, Sr.
- Catie Widick
- 7 Ron Peterson
- Randy Burrow
- Alyse Munson
- 8 Steven Schuttler
- Betty Broome
- Christopher Caray
- Stefan Caray
- 9 Jessica Nidhan
- Lynn Ellis
- Dena Long
- 10 Scott Dorough
- Tyler Colson

- 11 Jim Harvey
- Nick Orlando
- Summerlyn Caray
- John Womack
- Harvey Schultz
- Tanner Craig
- 12 Craig Marquis
- 13 Marilyn Wisor
- Byron Thames
- 14 Kristen Stieffel
- 15 Heidi Flinchbaugh
- Jay Blair
- Rob McCormack
- 16 Ed Wilson
- Sara Brown
- 17 Phyllis Ciavaglia
- 18 Emily Baldrige
- Nicholas Pazar
- Ben Pope
- Jana Adams
- Krysta Wiergacz
- 19 Tristan Caray
- Julie Miller
- 20 Reta Peterson
- Ellen Champion
- Tyler Sikes
- 21 Harold Munson
- Camille McDonald
- 22 Jeanne Munson
- Michelle Connors
- Maxine Gokee
- 23 Carl Sutphin
- 24 Skip Hackley

- 25 Carol Manno
- John Tracy
- Linda Spost
- 26 David Crowson
- Merril Lunn
- Rob Folger
- 27 Donna Hedrick
- Dorothy Wilson
- 29 Tim Remley
- 30 Zenta Goss





- 1 Vince & Ruth Combs
- 8 Ben & Patricia Pope
- 11 Dan & Terri Parmele
Robert & Marilyn Wisor
- 13 Jack & Dianne Mathews
- 15 Tony & Claudia Fowler
Tony & Linda Pereira
- 16 Craig & Rachel Kaplan
- 23 Claude & Anne Roberts
- 24 John & Sally Kest
Herbert & Corine Blake
- 25 James & Heather McGill
- 26 David & Danielle Alchin
- 28 Patrick & Joanne Maio
- 29 James & Shannon Woodrow



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD and SENIORS FIRST CHRISTMAS BOXES

These gift boxes may be returned to the church at the Christmas Alternative Celebration or to the Church office by November 15.

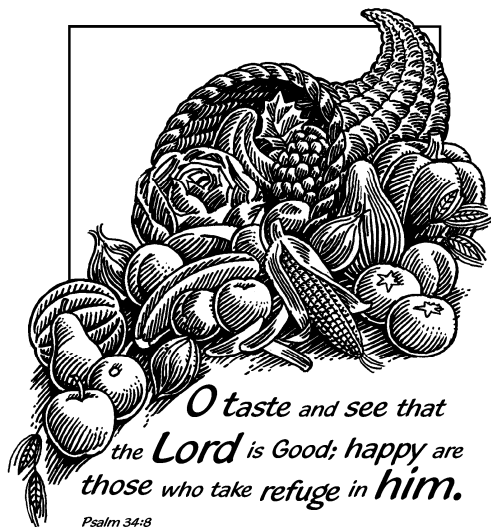


Wanna Play Games with some Great Kids?

On the morning of **Wednesday, December 15**, there is an opportunity for some members of Grace Covenant to share in some Christmas games and crafts with the children of **Small**

GAME DAY

Blessings Child Care. If you would be willing to help with this, please call the church office or e-mail candy@grace.to.





To the Family and Friends of:

JESSIE COTTRILL
OCT. 7, 2010



BOARD of DEACONS

THANK YOU for the generous outpouring of love to our students and deployed military. Your donations are on their way to each and every person on our list!

Call us if you have a need, we are just a phone call away!

Transportation to Church	Susan Smith Barbara Bell	407.896.2984 407.382.8795
Transportation to Appointments	Susan Smith Barbara Bell	407.896.2984 407.382.8795
Home Meals	Donna Fraser	407.658.0268
Shopping/Errands	Susan Smith	407.896.2984
Handyman Services	Gene Lang	407.896.3526
Visitation	Harlean Finney Barbara Bell Sandi Lee	407.898.2999 407.382.8795 407.895.0340
Grief Support	Herschel Hughes	407.281.8126
New Member & Concern Notes	Judith Roberts	407.859.1497
Care Packages	Susan Williams	407.242.2629

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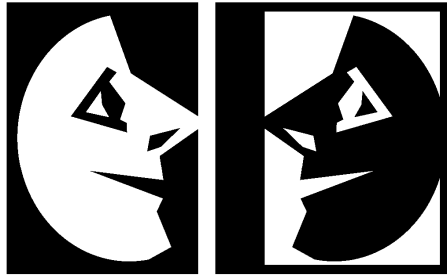
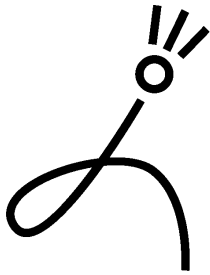
One of the interns will go to Egypt next year and then onto central Asia to work with women and children at risk. Another is going to china next year to go to university then eventually start a business there. The other two want to work in Indonesia. One with children at risk, and the other with those caught in the sex industry.

It's been fun, a challenge and an honor to have walked this journey with the interns over this last year and a half. I'm glad that I didn't put it off.

As most of you know I am presently back in the states with my parents. My dad has been diagnosed with leukemia. The prognosis is not good. The chemo that he is on will not cure him but will allow him to live comfortably for how ever long that he has. So now – my days are filled helping my parents. Dad says he feels fine. So, this week he and I put up a shelf in the kitchen for my mom. Because his immune system is lowered by the chemo, he needs to be careful being around a lot of people. So that means church is not a wise thing for him to do. We are all just enjoying our time together. I am adjusting to being in the states once again – and having rice only weekly instead of daily.

Thank you so much for your love and support over these last few years. I challenge you to not miss any opportunities that maybe before you at this time in your life. Take a deep breath and believe that He'll meet you in your obedience.

Later,
Nancy



**BOOK
discussion
GROUP**

What: GCPC Book Club
When: Thursday, November 11, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.
Where: Rm 4, Smith Hall
Subject: "90 Minutes in Heaven"

This is a true, first-person story of a minister who was in a horrific motor vehicle accident and declared dead by the authorities called to the scene. When they attempted to extricate him from his vehicle 90 minutes after declaring him dead, they determined he was alive.

The author shares his 90 minutes in Heaven, and says this time enriched his faith and helped him deal with the grueling surgeries and recovery that lasted several years after his accident.

This book can raise your spirits, enrich your faith, help you through the painful times in your life, and ground you; it can cause you to question the validity of the author's Heavenly experience—was it merely a dream?

Read the book and judge for yourself. Come to the Book Club meeting and share your thoughts.

Eileen Silvers, Book Club Facilitator



Get Physical!

We are still searching for a Zumba teacher.
Tai Chi meets Thursday morning at 8:30am, there is a \$7.00 fee.



We will not be meeting in November.
Check back next month for future
dates to stitch and knit!



Thanksgiving Dinner

gether for Thanksgiving Dinner.

Let us know you're coming by filling in the form that will be in the bulletin, sign up at the KIOSK, or call the church office.

If you would be willing to bake a turkey, please call the Church office. (407-898-6571)

You're Invited....

We would like you to join us for Thanksgiving Dinner!

Thursday, November 25

Noon

Conway Hall

Turkey, Ham , rolls and drinks are provided. Diners are requested to bring a traditional covered dish (potatoes, salad, vegetable or dessert) along with your healthy appetites.

Bring the family, a friend, or just yourself, but plan to join to-



FAMILY FUN NITE

Tuesday, November 9th

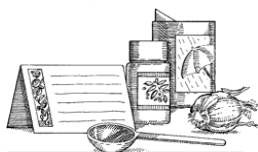
6:29 pm

John Calvin Memorial Hall

This is our **Annual Thankful Soup Dinner**. Each person is asked to bring a vegetable (Fresh, canned or frozen) to be added to the soup stock. (fresh veggies should be cooked some before bringing) Bread, drinks and dessert are provided.

We sit together sharing our soup and giving thanks for what we have...and recognizing that by each one sharing even a small amount, we can share with others in a big way.

All ages are invited to join in this experience. Don't miss out on this casual gathering of friends sharing great food and good times!



A recipe from...

Cheese Grits

6 cups water

1 ½ cups quick grits

1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated

3 tsp. savory salt

3 eggs, well beaten

Tabasco or cayenne pepper (to taste)

~EMILY BALDRIDGE~

Boil water rapidly, and then gradually stir in quick grits. Stir until the water is gone. Add cheese, savory salt, eggs and Tabasco or cayenne pepper (to taste). Put in 9x13 dish and bake in preheated 350° oven for 1 hour. May be made a day ahead of time, refrigerated and cooked the next day.

This is a hearty breakfast item for those busy, crazy holidays....and so easy to make! Thanks Emily!

Thank You, God!



I would like to thank all members who graciously supported my efforts in the AHA walk. Your donations contributed \$255 of the \$650 raised for this worthy cause!!

Maxine Gokee

Dear Church Family,

I have enjoyed chairing the **Bazaar Workshop** and **Holidays with Grace** over the past two years. We have had a wonderful time being creative and fellowshiping each Tuesday. This past weekend we culminated our efforts with the Holidays with Grace Craft and Gift Bazaar. It was very successful and although I don't know the monetary total at this point, I do know that God has richly blessed us through our efforts.

Because of you, we are able to minister to others, since the money raised through this show goes to the many ministries and missions of Grace Covenant.

There are so many I want to thank personally for their time and efforts, but the newsletter just isn't big enough to list each one of you individually. However, I do want to express my heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done to make this bazaar successful. You are a wonderful people, graced in many ways by our awesome God. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Blessings,

Susan Williams

2009-2010 Holidays with Grace/Bazaar Chairperson



YOUTH GROUP


nourishment for 15 to 20 Youth! tracy@suncoastassemblers.com

Any member from our church can participate in the Youth Committee. We typically meet once a month at 7:00pm in the Youth rooms. Our next Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, November 17th. Come help us plan!

On November 6th our Youth will be venturing to Islands of Adventure! Contact Shawn Straight for info and pricing at cooldesigns@cfl.rr.com

The Youth will be selling their famous calendars. \$6.00 per calendar. Look for them in the Narthex AFTER the 8:30am service and BEFORE the 10:45am service on November 14th and 21st.

Every Sunday night volunteers from our church feed our Youth Group. Please contact Tracy Umpierre if you are interested in providing



Hanging of the Greens

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, November 27

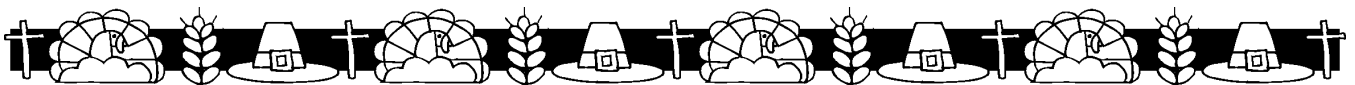
- Crafts at 5 pm
- Dinner at 6 pm
- Service at 7 pm

Decorating our homes and the church for Christmas season holds special meaning. You are invited to join with members of the church as we create and explore the significance of the decorations used in our celebration of the season. You are welcome to come for all or part of the activities.

Each family is requested to bring socks as a gift to be given to someone who needs them.



Guitar lessons will start in January!





Let's scrapbook with GRACE!
Make some memories and scrap them
here....

November 12th

from 7:00 to 11:00 pm.

John Calvin Memorial Hall

Scrapbooking with Grace

Everyone is welcome to bring munchies!

For more information call Roxana Thalasinis.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE....

11/27 Hanging of the Greens

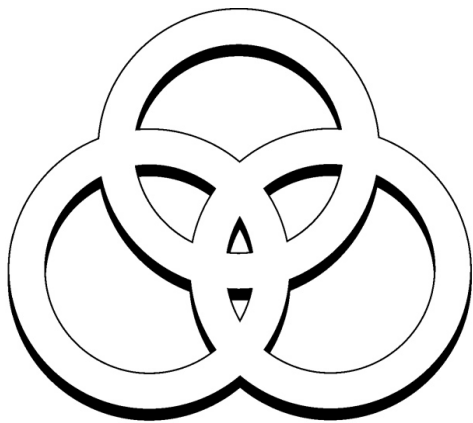
12/5, 12, & 19 Advent Breakfast (Sunday school hour)

12/12 Annual Christmas Pageant

12/14 Fun Nite

12/15 Fun and Games with Small Blessings

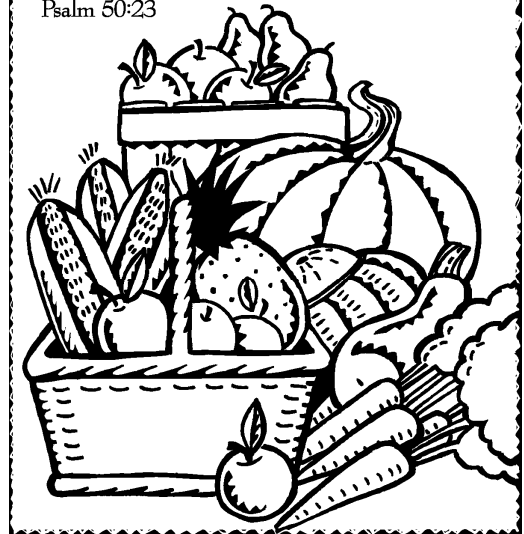
12/18 Breakfast with the Angels



Christian
Education

Those who bring
thanksgiving as their
sacrifice honor me.

Psalm 50:23



NOVEMBER 2010



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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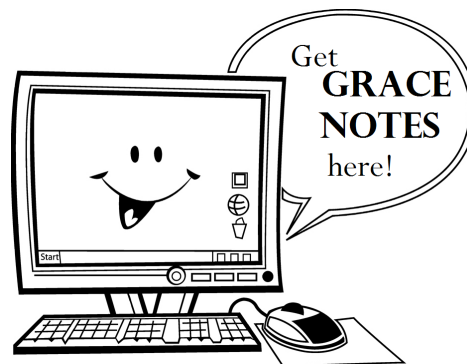
Fax: 407.898.1469

E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.grace.to

DR. ROBERT L. ECKARD, SENIOR PASTOR
REV. DEREK R. DAVENPORT,
ASSOCIATE 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