

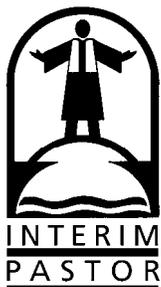
GRACE notes

GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



January 2013

Volume 56, Issue 1



SAYING GOODBYE AND BEING SENT

In his book Temporary Shepherds, Roger Nicholson emphasizes the importance of “closure” when it is time to say goodbye. I get that. I have known from the beginning that my task was one of transition, and Dr. Pittendreigh’s call will be one of transformation, because my calling is temporary, and he will be installed. The problem is that I have experienced much transformation during my time here, and I have witnessed a great deal among the saints of Grace Covenant. **More importantly, my connection with all of you has long-since ceased to feel temporary, and I am sure it will be a part of me for the rest of my life.**

Yet, at the risk of sounding self-justifying, I am not sure I agree that whether to be transitional or transformational is mutually exclusive. As we just experienced in Advent, all of Christian life is transitional, since we exist in the time between Jesus’ ascension and his return, yet we are continually being transformed by the power of the Spirit. I came to Grace Covenant exhausted and discouraged after a difficult last few years in a recession-ravaged church. I leave renewed and re-energized through the love, encouragement, and acceptance I have experienced among all of you.

When I arrived, Grace Covenant was still absorbing life without Dr. Eckard. You will always love him and appreciate all that he did during his long pastorate, but I no longer feel that you are in that same place. You have been reminded that the God who first called you to faith and gathered you as a community is with you still--shaping, challenging, and most importantly, sending.

Because, in the end, that is where I am able to make peace with the sadness I feel in saying goodbye. As faithful people, we understand that the Christian calling is always one of sending. When we are at our best, the church is continually engaged in gathering, nurturing, and sending. If we are not sent, then how can we claim to be responding to Christ’s Great Commission? When we are sent, we do not leave experiences and people behind, but a part of them goes with us as God’s story unfolds. In other words, I am going now because that is what I am called to do, but you will always be with Bette, Jacob, Jessie and me. **Serving among you has been one of the great gifts of my life.** I will pray for you always, and never forget.

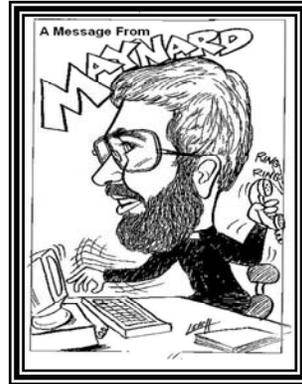
In Christ,

John

Dates to put on your calendar:

- Jan 3 - Study & Fun
- Jan 6 - Youth Painting Party
- Jan 8 - Lifeline Screening
- Jan 13 - Dr. Cole's last Sunday/ Farewell Reception
- Jan 14 - Women's Circles
- Jan 15 - Family Fun Nite
- Jan 17 - Study & Fun
- Jan 20 - Dan Williams, Executive Presbyterian - Guest Preacher
- Jan 21 - Youth to Zoo
- Jan 27 - Dr. Pittendreigh's first Sunday/Annual Meeting with Lunch

Inside this issue:	
Letter from John Cole	1
Letter from Maynard Pittendreigh	2
Youth Activities	3
Study and Fun	4
Small Blessings	5
Calendar	6
Thank You Notes	7



**GREETINGS
IN THE NAME
OF CHRIST!**

I am thrilled that I've been called to serve as your new pastor. **My wife, Ginny, and I are looking forward to being with you on our first Sunday at Grace Covenant on January 27th.**

By now the Pastor Nominating Committee has introduced me and told you a little about who I am and what I am like. Ginny and I are eager to begin to get to know each of you. I hope that you will feel free to introduce yourself before our arrival. **Send me an email at Maynard@Pittendreigh.net and tell me a little about yourself. If you are on Facebook, look me up and send me a "friend request."** Trust me – I'm easy to find since I'm the only Maynard Pittendreigh on Facebook!

I believe in the importance of personal relationship between the pastor and parishioner. Relationships do not happen instantly, but develop over time. They may begin soon with email or postal letters, but real relationships are still nurtured and cultivated the old fashioned way – face to face and in person. I've asked for help in setting up some small group gatherings to help us get to know each other. I hope each of you will join me at one of these small group gatherings.

Finally, let me say that I feel very blessed to be given the opportunity to serve you as your new pastor. I give thanks to God for calling me to minister at Grace Covenant.

~Maynard



Christian Education

APCE VOLUNTEERS

The **Association of Presbyterian Church Educators** national conference will be in Orlando from **February 6 – 9** at the Doubletree at Universal Studios. Volunteers are needed for this event for various tasks. To see when/where/what and to register to help go to :<http://vols.pt/v9ehDq>. Enter your e-mail address but you do NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot). Any questions or to volunteer manually: **Cheryl Carson** at 407-422-7125 x 204.



The Youth of Grace are gearing up for a busy new year! But first, we must plan fundraising and logistics for summer camps. With that in mind, the **Youth Committee invites all parents to our meeting on Wednesday, January 2nd at 7:00pm in the Youth Rooms of Conway Hall.**

Jody is going away to his seminary for a 2-week intensive in January, so he will regrettably miss the first Youth Group meeting of the year. But he's looking forward to the fruits of that meeting, since it will feature a **Youth Office "Painting" Party on Sunday, January 6th.** The youth

will help prep and paint Jody and Paul's Youth Office and discuss possible ways to spruce up our Youth Rooms. Please bring ideas and pictures!

Next, we're going to the zoo! On Monday, January 21, we will check out the wildlife at the Brevard Zoo, and we will navigate one of their ropes and zipline courses. The cost is \$40.00 per Youth for the **zoo and ropes course**, or or \$17.50 per youth for zoo admission with a train ride. Either way, bring lunch money too! We will meet at GCPC Monday at 9:00 am and return at 5:00 pm. All 6th – 12th grade are welcome. You must RSVP to paul@grace.to and submit payment NO LATER than Sunday, January 13th to Paul Hambidge. All those planning to do the ropes course must also submit the signed waiver and be at least 54" to participate. You can find a waiver at this web address:

<http://www.treetoptrek.com/PDF/minorwaiver.pdf>

You call it Super Bowl Sunday, but the Middle School Youth call it **Super Bowl Sunday!** That day after worship, middle school youth will collect cans of soup and/or donations for Second Harvest Food Bank. **That evening (Feb. 3) the Youth will have a Super Sub party and watch the big game in the youth room.**

On Sunday morning, February 10th, 9:00 to 10:30 am in Conway Hall, we will host a pancake breakfast as a summer camp fundraiser. Bring your appetites and your donations!

Our Florida State Park Camp-out will be Saturday, February 16th – Monday, the 18th (\$55.00 per Youth) Come with us as we enjoy God's creation! Meet at GCPC Saturday at 10:00 am and return Monday at 1:00 pm. All 6th – 12th grade are welcome. More info to follow!



Study and Fun Club

COME VISIT OUR GROUP IN THE NEW YEAR

The first program meeting of 2013 will be held on **Thursday, January 3rd at 11:00 in the John Calvin Memorial Hall conference room.** Bring a sandwich and partake of delectable desserts and wonderful camaraderie.

The first field trip of the new year will depart the church at 10:30 on **Thursday, January 17th. Our destination will be Leu Gardens when the camellias will be in bloom.** Afterwards lunch will be enjoyed at The Olive Garden.

If you have never attended a program or field trip, the January dates afford a perfect time to check out the club. Programs and excursions so far in the 2012/13 fiscal year have been truly spectacular, and more of the same is planned through May.

Study and Fun is a group for men and women ages 55 and older. Church members, friends, relatives and neighbors are invited to join or participate as a guest. **ALL ARE WELCOMED!**

Meetings are held 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 fellowship are enjoyed at a nearby restaurant. For additional information about either the program or outing, please contact Shirley Adamission, or Margareta Douglas.



Room 8 Class

January Room 8 Class

"Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith"

This study by Bill Hybels helps you to discover how to follow the Holy Spirit's promptings to "just walk across the room"...and into the lives of people living far from God.

The class will be led by Kristen Steiffel, 9:30 - 10:30 am, Room 8, upstairs, Smith Hall.



LIFELINE SCREENING

Conway Hall

Tuesday, January 8

You are offered the opportunity to have as many as 5 vascular screenings at a reasonable cost in a non-invasive way. Results are sent to you so you may take them to your doctor. Registration must be made through the organization. Information on the tests and the number to call is available on the KIOSK.



Thank You to Jack Shirek, Chairman, and all the members of the pastoral nominating committee for a job well done!



RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Monday, January 14, 2013 at 10:00 am and continue our study of the General Epistles. This lesson is entitled "The Help", and the key idea is that in God's household, those of low status by earthly standards are held in high regard as God's righteous exemplars of faithfulness and perseverance.

Everyone is invited to join us for this most interesting study.

DORCAS CIRCLE will meet at the Ventura Clubhouse for lunch and fellowship on Jan 14th at 11:30. For more information please call Kitty Mishler.



Children at Small Blessings have celebrated the holidays with joy and reflection. **The VPK Christmas program was excellent.** Even when technical difficulties threatened to take away the music, the brave teachers improvised. The "show must go on." It did with musical participation from students and audience. It was reported to be one of the best shows in Small Blessings history!

All students celebrated with a **birthday party for Jesus**, as they reflected on the gift that God gave in Jesus Christ. **Grace Covenant members sponsored a Christmas Activities at Small Blessings Childcare Celebration**, where fun was had by all. Students shared in the spirit of giving as they gathered items for **Present Packs for Haiti**. They collected enough for **53 bags**, surpassing their original goal!

With all these celebrations, the school will return to a little slower pace in January as everyone enjoys the many blessings that God has given to us.

Karen Straight



Check It Out!

A new book has been added to the library by **Daryll and Susan Williams**. It is entitled: *"Selavi: a Haitian Story of Hope"* by *Youme*. The Library is now located in Room 4, Smith Hall....come on in and check it out!



**Tuesday
January 15
6:29 pm
Conway Hall**

Join us for a covered dish dinner (drinks, bread and dessert provided) and some fun and fellowship with friends.

January – November Financial Summary

Receipts	\$669,803
Disbursements	\$671,292
Budget	\$680,121



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

14	Christopher Ford	23	James Higgins
	Chad Lampman	24	Linda Harp
15	Mary Morgan		Lenora Livengood
16	Lynne Knorr		Natalie Staschke
	Ann Taylor		"M" Waddell
	Cole Ellingworth	25	Jared Pohlar
17	Anne Krieger		Karen Straight
	Jay Brumbaugh		Thelma Vander Weide
18	Glenda Branham	26	Jean Polk
	Hannah Hinckley		Corinne Williams
	Bruce Krieger	27	Herbert Blake
	Gary Munson		Sean Maio
	Kristi McCarey	28	Heidi Diaz
	Erika Remley	30	James Ellis
	Todd Rhode		Maureen Higgins
	Dawn Wells		Leslie Roberts
19	Marci Long	31	Camille Kalis
	Bill Richards		Antonina Kest
20	Marilyn Schaus		Scott Palmer
	Paige Talbott		Alma Shewfelt
21	Alyssa Calderon		
	Shimeon Mustapha		
	Jessica Stone		
1	Randall Neal		
2	Bob Burijon, Jr.		
4	Molly Carver		
	Nancy Venable		
5	Judy Thames		
7	Billie Baker		
	Robert Castagno		
	Kaley Neal		
8	Wendy Malcolm		
	Kate McKenzie		
9	Abigail Calderon		
	Tina Ferrell		
	Kelly Hinckley		
10	Claire Barley		
11	Liz Craft		
12	John Carr		
	Jamie Lyons		
13	Jennifer Townes		

Happy Anniversary



4	Ernie & Andrea Kelly
15	Ben & Alicia Gray
19	Syd & Jean Hooks Bill & Alyse Munson
23	Keith & Patricia Vetter
31	Dwight & Jo Blair



Heartfelt thanks for all the birthday cards and get well cards. Thank you so very much,
Doti Elliott

Thank you to all who worked so diligently behind the scenes to made the Olde English Feaste such a success. It took many hands and many hours to bring this special "kick-off" to Advent to the Church family. Many thanks! **Candy**

Thank you so much for your beautiful expressions of sympathy in memory of Pepe! Your numerous cards, telephone calls and outpouring of offers of help are greatly appreciated. We joined Grace Covenant because we felt that it was a loving and caring church family. Little did I know until now to what extent this is the case. Love and Blessings to all of you. **Margaretta Douglas**

I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the many cards and visits while in the hospital. Your prayers and good food have been so helpful. I am much better. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Love and blessings, **Roberta Eckard**

The **Worship Committee** would like to thank the choir for the beautiful music during worship and other events this Advent Season. We have such talented members and you are greatly appreciated! Thank you also to the many members who brought such nice refreshments for the choir between the two services on December 16. **Carol Manno, Chair**

A big thank you to Rob Cumbus and Manuel Umpierre for straightening, securing, and cleaning our east church steeple. The seem to work very well at those lofty heights. Our resident eagle has given his screech of approval.

JANUARY 2013



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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E-mail: churchoffice@grace.to

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.GRACE.TO**

**Dr. John Cole,
Interim Pastor
Rev. Harvey Oster,
Interim Associate Pastor
Candy Vander Weide,
Commissioned Lay Pastor**

Non-Profit Organization

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To:



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

SUNDAY ~ JANUARY 27TH

NOON ~ CONWAY HALL

Join us for our annual meeting
as we enjoy fellowship and lunch together.

Come hear what God has accomplished
and what opportunities we have waiting for us
as we journey together in 2013.

Annual reports will be available to review
during lunch prior to the meeting.