

GRACE



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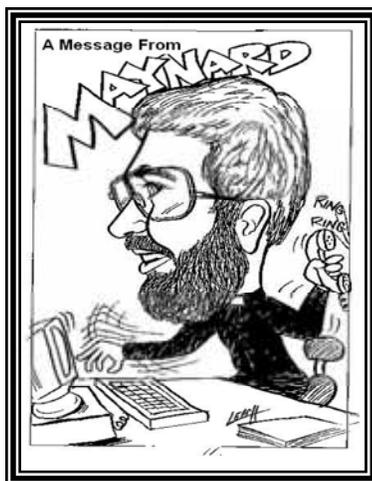
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GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



February 2013

Volume 56, Issue 2



There will be a special worship service at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church on February 10th. At 2pm we will gather for an Installation Service. I'm looking forward to it with great joy and expectation because I am the one to be installed!

While this service is held in our church, the installation is actually a service of the Central Florida Presbytery. Elders and Ministers (or to use the new terms "Ruling Elders" and "Teaching Elders") from congregations within the Presbytery participate in this service as a symbol that all Presbyterian congregations are connected to a larger community of churches beyond our own local church.

I will be asked the Installation Questions that come out of our denomination's rule book, "The Book of Order." **It is my opportunity to reaffirm the same questions I was asked at my ordination.**

It would be difficult for me to point to any single question as a favorite, but one that sticks out in particular is the one that asks, "Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?" I like the fact that I am under oath to use my creativity and imagination. It reminds me that our faith is not stagnant, but is always being challenged to find new ways to reach people for Christ in a culture that is always changing.

I like the fact that I am under oath to use my intelligence. In a culture that sometimes accuses people of faith as being at odds with science or ignorant of truth, I'm happy that I'm under oath to use my mind to the fullest.

I like this vow in that it calls me to use my energy. Faith is not for the lazy. It challenges us day by day to get to work for the Lord.

Most of all; I like that this vow calls me to be a person of prayer. I value that and often spend a long time in prayer daily for my parishioners. As I prepare for this Installation Service as your new pastor, and as I continue to serve you in the years to come, know that I will be praying for you daily, and that I covet your prayers for me and my wife as well.

~Maynard

Dates to put on your calendar:

- Feb 3- Youth Super Bowl/Sub Party
- Feb 10 - Installation Service
- Feb 11 - Ruth Circle
- Feb 13 - Ash Wednesday
- Feb 16-18 - Youth St. George Island Campout



...is February 24th!

Bring your cookies and leave them in the basket on the table in the Narthex on the last Sunday of the month.

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Lenten Dinners



Beginning **Ash Wednesday, February 13**, we will again share in weekly Lenten Dinners and Study. **Dinners will begin at 5:30 in Conway Hall. Dinners are prepared for you and a free-will offering will be collected to cover expenses.**

Classes (you'll have your choice of four topics) will be from 6:30 – 7:15 pm. Classes will be offered for children and a nursery available for infants and toddlers. Topics and reservations for dinner and classes will be in the bulletin. If you would be willing to provide a dessert for one or more of the dinners: 2/13: cookies 2/20: brownies 2/27: pie 3/6: cupcakes 3/13: brownies 3/20: cookies

Note: On February 13, there will be an Ash Wednesday worship service in lieu of classes. This service will be held at 6:30. All are encouraged to attend even if not attending the dinner.



CONFIRMATION:
An Important Step in the Journey of Faith

On January 9, six youth in our church family began Confirmation Classes. This is a very critical step in their Christian journey. The Book of Order describes it as that moment when **“the church nurtures those baptized as children and calls them to make public their personal profession of faith and their acceptance of responsibility in the life of the church.”**

During this series of classes, the students will focus on Who it is they put their faith in and what they believe. Each student will have an adult mentor to guide them and each will do a service project. On Palm Sunday, each will read their personal statement of faith at breakfast with their families, mentor, and the Session. At the Worship service on that day, before their Church family, they will answer 3 questions:

- Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?
- Do you renounce evil and affirm your reliance on God’s grace?
- Do you intend to participate actively and responsibly in the worship and mission of the church?

Please be in prayer for this group. **Attendance in the class does not automatically mean they will be ready to profess their faith. The decision to be confirmed is between each individual and God. As their Church family, we need to support and celebrate God’s continued support and His will for these awesome youth.** Those in the class this year include: *Catelyn Castagno, Robert Castagno, Riley Kelly, Kaden Schlichenmaier, Kylee Seaver, and Jordyn Whitmer.*



January 6, 2013---Paul and the Youth Group welcomed the New Year by painting Jody’s and Paul’s office. Calvin is now looking quite dapper on the wall. We’ll await Jody’s reaction upon his return from Dubuque!

FEBRUARY 3 - Youth will be in the narthex for the pre-game event collecting soup cans before/after worship services to donate to the Second Harvest Food Bank. February 3 All youth meet at the church 5:30 -8:00 p.m. for the SUPER Bowl and SUPER sub. All youth will bring their favorite sub ingredients to build

the SUPER sub. We’ll need tomatoes, cheeses, meats, lettuce and all other items considered crucial. See the sign up list!

St. George Island State Park Campout--Book now! February 16 -18 (OCPS 3 day weekend).\$55/youth. We have 3 campsites (24 spaces). Tent camping. Leaving Saturday at 9 a.m. and return Monday by 5 p.m. For 6th - 12th. **Payment due by February 10th.**

MONTREAT--A THIN PLACE. “HERE & BE HEARD” This summer we will be taking High School youth up to Montreat, NC at the Montreat Youth Conference. This is a 7 day long conference where +/- 1000 Presbyterian youth from across the US attend each week to explore their faith and worship together. www.montreat.org there are several weeks available at this time, but we will need to book our week soon. Expect a call or email to confirm which weeks work best for the youth.

CEDARKIRK CAMP “ALL THINGS NEW” The Middle School youth to Cedarkirk Camp (near Tampa). These are 5 day camps and offer an outdoor camp experience in a more intimate setting with Central FL youth. These slots fill fast also!!Check out www.cedarkirk.org and expect a call.

If you have the time or ability to prepare a meal for the youth on a Sunday evening, please call Carolyn Castagno . We are looking for mid-February thru May; approx. 20 youth (supper at 5:30 p.m.).

GCPC SCHOLARSHIPS



The holidays are over and we need your help to start building up the balance in our Scholarship Fund. These monies help meet the needs of our college students. The Fund IS NOT part of the GCPC Budget.

The Fund relies solely on contributions from groups within the church and individual members and friends. If you would like to contribute, **please make your check payable to the church and indicate “Scholarship Fund”.** Last year we were able to award \$400.00 each to six applicants.

A donation to the Fund would make a wonderful gift in honor or in memory of a loved one or a friend. **June 1 is the deadline for our undergraduate college students to apply for financial assistance from the Scholarship Fund for next year’s expenses.**

Thank you, **THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**



There will be no Family Fun Nites in February or March due to the Wednesday night dinners. All are encouraged to attend the Lenten Dinners and classes.



Study and Fun Club

JOIN US FOR

A VERY SPECIAL MEETING!

STUDY AND FUN is pleased and privileged that our new pastor, **Dr. Maynard (Manny) Pittendreigh** will be our special guest and presenter of the first program meeting of the new year. **The main focus will be on getting better acquainted with Dr. Manny.** We do hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to be among the first to meet with Dr. Manny in a small group setting. Bring a sandwich and join us on Thursday, February 7th at 11:00 in the John Calvin Memorial Hall conference room.

Meetings are held twice per month, September through May. On the first Thursday a study program is presented in John Calvin Memorial Hall conference room. Lunch is brown bag with drinks and delicious desserts provided by the hostesses for the month.

The second monthly meeting is February 21st. For additional information about either the program or outing, please contact **Shirley Adamission** or **Margaretta Douglas**.



FEBRUARY ROOM 8 CLASS

“Upside Living in a Downside Economy”

based on a book by Mike Slaughter

How should we respond as Christians to what’s happening on Wall Street? During difficult economic times, should we simply focus on getting by with less, while waiting for the next bad news? Topics to be discussed include: **Financial and spiritual investments, Personal motivation and God’s will, Money and marriage and Determining priorities.** This class meets upstairs, Smith Hall, in Room 8, from 9:30 – 10:30 am. Class will be led by **Kristen Steiffel**.



CHECK IT OUT!

New in the library are two books written by our new pastor, **Maynard Pittendreigh**.

The first is **“The Presbyterian Church Welcomes You: A Handbook for Church Members and Inquirers”**. The second is entitled **“The Case of the Murdered Fig Tree”**.

Also added is a book by Grace Covenant member **Dave Foster** entitled **“Life in the Orphanage.”**

And, finally, **“Getting to Heaven”** by **Don Piper** is new to the library. His other book, **“90 Minutes in Heaven”** has been read by many in the Church family.

“The Portrait of Mary”

Maryoleta Diel will begin a book discussion group which will meet in the Library (Room 4, downstairs, Smith Hall) on the second Tuesday of the month from 10:00 – 11:00 am.



The first book chosen for discussion is “The Portrait of Mary” by Nikki Grimes. This book may be checked out from our Library. The first discussion group will meet on Tuesday, February 12. All are invited.



RUTH CIRCLE will meet again at 10:00 AM on Monday, February 11, 2013 in the Conference Room, second floor of John Calvin Memorial Hall. This year we are studying the Gospel of John. Elaine Simpson is our Circle Leader, and Kitty Barbour is our Study Moderator. Come visit us!



Still Stitchin' With Grace

We dedicate all of our years past, present, and future to **Florine Simpson**, our leader, 2004-2012. She passed away in December. With her help and guidance, we completed another **250** quilts in 2012. The total of 240 quilts went to Arnold Palmer and Florida Hospital. **The first priority was to the children battling cancer, then to children who were ill in the hospital, and then to the neo-natal unit.**

But our #1 delivery was to the cancer centers. **Ten other quilts were delivered to people in need and of concern within the church family and those in need among our groups, friends, and families, all battling cancer or an illness. This brings our grand total of quilts delivered to 1,445 over the years.**

We can't thank GCPC and the unknown gift givers enough for your great support of our mission. **For those wishing to join us, we meet from 10:00 am to 2:00pm on Thursdays. Bring a lunch, as we break at noon.** ~Melodee Hoeltke



Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 17. The preview kit is in. Anyone interested in being a part of the leadership/planning team is invited to call Candy at 407.898.6571 or email her at candy@grace.to. A meeting will be planned to begin preparation for this exciting program.



All the holiday celebrations and activities are over and the staff and children are ready to take on all the excitement, surprise and blessings of the new year. **Sports and computer classes for those interested will resume and candid black and white photos will be taken Jan. 29.** Our youngest children will be enjoying all the new classroom toys received as donations and will continue to learn new social and developmental skills. Other classes will be expanding their knowledge of the world by talking about countries like **Mexico, Africa, and Australia** and learning about animals from the **North and South Poles.** We wish them happy traveling!

Ann Taylor

COLE

CHURCH OFFICER and LEADER EDUCATION

For: **Pastors, Elders,
Deacons, Clerks of
Session and Committee
Members**

When: **Saturday,
February 16, 2013**

Where: **Winter Park
Presbyterian Church**

What **A chance to gather with fellow Presbyterians for education and information to better serve in your position within the Church.**

How: **Registration and information is available in the church office or online:**

<http://cfpresbytery.org/leadershipdevelopment.html>



Campbell
"These are vegetables, mother. You wouldn't want me to eat something I've given up for Lent, would you?"

GIVING AND RECEIVING

There are many ways to make both lifetime and bequest charitable donations. A vehicle that has become increasingly popular is the charitable gift annuity.

WHAT IS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY? Simply put, it is an irrevocable donation of cash or marketable securities to a charitable organization that pays you an income for life. Specifically, such a gift may be made to the Presbyterian Foundation.

HOW DOES A GIFT TO THE FOUNDATION WORK? Gift minimum is \$10,000 at a minimum payment age of 65. An immediate tax deduction may be realized, and the capital gains tax may be avoided if appreciated stock is donated. In return income is paid for life with the balance remaining upon death going to the ministry or mission selected by the donor. For example, you could select the GCPC Foundation, Grace Covenant or a specific mission of the church.

WHAT ARE THE INTEREST RATES? As with most charities offering gift annuities, the Presbyterian Foundation has adopted the rates suggested by the American Council on Gift Annuities, Today's rates on single life annuities vary from **4.7%** at age 65 on the day the gift is made to **9.0%** at ages 90 and older. The annuity can be paid annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly.

Annuity payments can be made to one person for life then to a survivor for life. Or they may be made jointly and then to the survivor for life. The rates for a two-life annuity are lower than for one life. For complete rate information for one and two-life annuities look on the presbyterianfoundation.org web site and download the RATE TABLE.

Another option is a deferred gift annuity, which allows payments at a later date when the income need may be greater. Rates are higher on deferred annuities.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS? First and foremost is the personal satisfaction that comes with good stewardship and supporting your church or mission choice for future generations. Potential tax savings are certainly another very real benefit.

The future annuity income stream is guaranteed and NEVER changes. In addition to the possible charitable deduction for the original gift, a portion of each annuity payment is tax deductible in most cases.

The foregoing information is not intended to be all-inclusive. For more details or to obtain an illustration of a gift annuity based on your age and the amount of your potential gift, please contact the Presbyterian Foundation.

Gift annuities may not be suitable if there is a present or perceived future need for the funds. Always consult your attorney and/or tax advisor to make sure that a major charitable contribution is appropriate for your financial situation.

Any of the following trustees may be contacted with GCPC Foundation questions: Michael Hester; Clark Pearson; Matt Schlichenmaer; John Tracy or Margaretta Douglas.



Thank You Notes

To my Grace Covenant family: Thanks for your many marvelous remembrances at Christmas – cards, notes, calls, personal greetings – and the very thoughtful cash gift on Christmas Eve. **You have been a special blessing to me during my time with you in retirement and serving as a part-time member of your staff. GOD BLESS....Rev. Harv O**

Dear Tom,

What a generous surprise! On behalf of the **Eccleston community**, I thank you and the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church for the generous gift of \$3,000 you provided for our **“Blessings in a Backpack”** program.

The money will be used to purchase food to go into the students backpacks for weekend meals. We are so fortunate to have people like you and the church care about our students. **Because of your assistance Eccleston Elementary School is able to accomplish far more than it other wise could have.**

On behalf of the teachers, staff and students of Eccleston Elementary, thank you for your gift.

Sincerely, **Tracy Webley, Principal, Eccleston Elementary School**

I would like to thank all of the church family who came to Merrill's Memorial Service and all who helped in any way. Also the members who bought food, visits, phone calls and many sympathy cards! A very special thanks to Dr. John Cole and Rev. Harvey Oster. May you all be blessed in many ways. **~Joyce Lunn and family**

January – December Financial Summary

Receipts	\$743,094
Disbursements	\$749,845
Budget	\$741,950

Attention: A necklace was lost on Christmas Eve at the 7:30 PM service. If you found a necklace, please call the church office. It has great sentimental value to the owner and they are offering a reward for its recovery.

MARIE LOEFFLER



Tom & Joan Rainey



Volunteer Needed

GCPC is in need of a volunteer **one day each month to**

deliver canned goods from the church to the Christian Service Center. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

Many, many thanks to Judy Thames for all her years of dutiful service.

FEBRUARY 2013



**GRACE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**Dr. Maynard Pittendreigh,
Senior Pastor
Rev. Harvey Oster,
Interim Associate Pastor
Candy Vander Weide,
Commissioned Lay Pastor**

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 3597

Return Service Requested

To:



February 13th

Dinner in Conway Hall

5:30 pm

Service in Sanctuary

6:30 pm