

Happy New Year!

I hope this New Year finds you well and filled with joy. Our prayers are with all our church family members and friends who are battling illness. I pray you feel our love reaching out to you and God's Spirit strengthening you.



Beth and I want to thank all of you who said prayers, sent cards and gifts to make our Christmas season a little brighter. I believe I can speak for the staff who also thank you for all your acts of kindness and support.

We are organizing our covenant cards so we can get our ministries rolling in the New Year. If you have not turned in your Covenant Cards... please do so ASAP so you can be included.

We have had a great year of ministry, welcoming new folks and supporting one another in joys and sorrows. You have done well good and faithful servants for the ministry of Christ's church in 2011. I am very excited about the coming year and the ministry we will offer together. I pray you will rededicate yourself to Christ's ministry in 2012 and uphold it faithfully with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

May God richly bless you in every way in 2012!

Bro. David



History of Christianity Study

Have you ever wondered what happened in Christian communities after the Bible? How did the Jesus movement within Judaism become the Catholic church? Were there other Christians outside the Catholic church?

Join Bro. David in an 8-week exploration of these and many other fascinating questions in Christian history beginning January 22nd. We will meet on **Sunday evenings at 5:00 for about an hour and a half in Room 112.**

To Sign up, contact Bro. David at david.hawkins@graceconway.org.



JAMES MERCY TRIUMPHS

BY BETH MOORE

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Bible scholars compare

James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any other New Testament book. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer.

James includes 8 weeks of video sessions with 7 weeks of print study. Member workbook cost \$16. Beth is introducing a 5-tiered study approach that she has never done before.

- Level 1: Watch the video sessions only.
- Level 2: Watch the video sessions and do the homework each week.
- Level 3: Watch the video sessions, do the homework each week, and, as you study, write out the entire Book of James.
- Level 4: Watch the video sessions, do the homework each week, write out the Book of James, and complete the "What could I do to go deeper?" section each week. This section is written in collaboration with Beth's daughter Melissa.
- Level 5: Watch the video sessions, do the homework each week, write out the Book of James, complete the "What could I do to go deeper?" section each week, and memorize the entire Book of James.

This study of James will begin on **Wednesday, January 11th, with childcare provided.**

If you are interested, please contact Cinnamon Wheeler at cwheeler@conwaycorp.net to sign up.

Around the Corner



For the past few months, Grace has been participating in the **Bethlehem House Adopt-A-Meal** program where we provide dinner to the approximately 60 residents and friends of Bethlehem House. We are continuing this mission opportunity with our next meal on **Saturday, January 14th at 5:30 pm.**

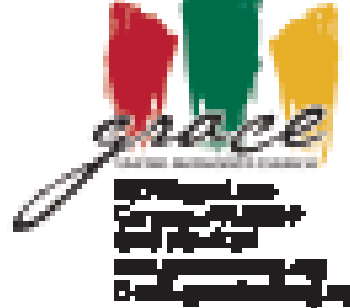
If you would like to volunteer in any way; cook, serve, or organize this meal, please contact Cinnamon Wheeler at cwheeler@conwaycorp.net.

As we the church learn to walk in obedience to the Great Commission, the command by our Lord and Savior to go into all the world and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to a lost world, we pray that this opportunity of serving others in need will be an opening for the Holy Spirit to not only work in our lives to share our faith, but also bring hope to a soul in need of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that confess his name.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Heb 13:15-16



January 2012

Like Us On Follow Us On

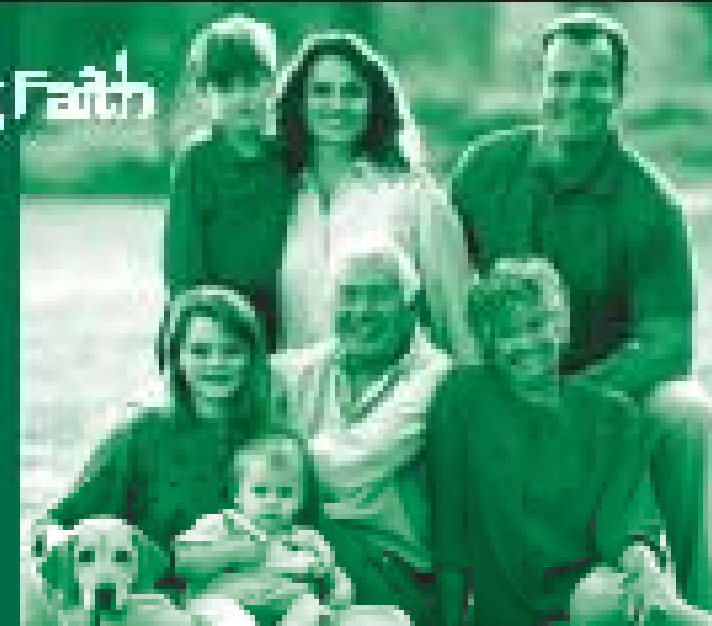


Who is Grace Church?

We exist to help you develop into a spiritually mature follower of Jesus Christ. As disciples you can grow in your understanding of the Christian faith, experience the presence of God through worship and small groups, and become the hands and feet of Jesus as God-breathed people in our community and around the world through you.

Reaching People

Growing Faith



Changing Lives

"Our mission is to develop spiritually mature disciples of Jesus Christ (around the corner and around the world)."



Music Notes

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the New Year I'd like to take a moment to give thanks for the many blessings I've received here at Grace. For the members of Grace Choir who give so selflessly of their time and talent, to the instrumentalists who enhanced the Christmas Cantata, to the staff who have helped with all our endeavors, and to Brother David and Brother Greg who support us all in so many ways it's impossible to count. And a special thank you to the members of Grace who have been so warm and affirming to me and who have continued to pray for my Mom. We are so blessed here.



I'm looking forward to 2012. We have more exciting things to do! I'd like to invite YOU to join one of our musical groups. We especially need more men in the Men's Ensemble. This is a one hour per month commitment since the men meet every other week for a half an hour. Gentlemen, won't you consider this as a welcome and a personal invitation?

Blessings to all,

Kim Allison

THE WORD
Upcoming Sermons

JANUARY 01ST - "On a Mission from God" John 1:29-42. Greg Comer.

JANUARY 08TH - "They Went for Us" Matthew 2:1-12

RAISING CHILDREN- SERMON SERIES

JANUARY 15TH - "To Know Themselves" Romans 12:1-13

JANUARY 22ND - "To Be Righteous" Micah 6:6-8

JANUARY 29TH - "To Be Christians" Ephesians 6:1-4

Date	Attendance	Giving
12/04/11	274	\$12,678.00
12/11/11	396	\$8,603.00
12/18/11	264	\$18,408.42
12/24/11	345	\$3,141.25
12/25/11	105	\$3,881.00
December Avg.	277	\$9,342.334
YTD Funds Received	\$ 521,584.62	
Needed Weekly Giving	\$ 11,065.00	
Budget Needs for 2011	\$ 575,357.00	

Grace United Methodist Church Service Times

Worship Services Sunday: 8:30 AM (Traditional), 9:45 (Contemporary), & 11:00 AM (Blended)
 Sunday School. 9:45 AM & 11:00 AM

Childcare provided.



The Youth Corner!

Grace Youth and Families:
Happy New Year! It's very hard to believe that another year has passed so quickly but here we are again...2011 behind us and 2012 just beginning. We pray that this year brings adventures and challenges that help us grow closer to God. May you push yourself in new directions and discover untapped resources that you can bring to the Kingdom! The Grace Youth will be offering tons of opportunities for you this year so be looking for what you can be a part of and as always... You have a place here!

Mr. David

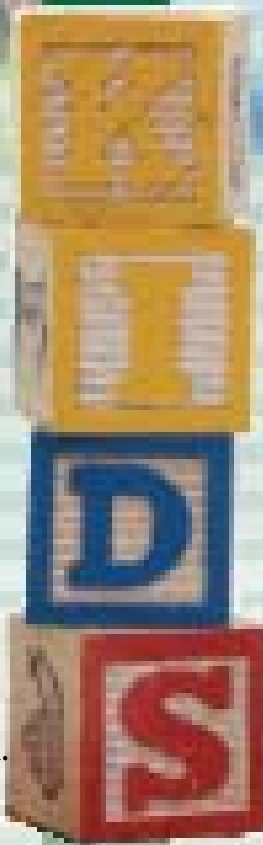
Upcoming events:

- * **Jan. 1 First Grace Youth of the New Year!** Regular schedules for everyone!
- * **Feb. 4 Grace Youth Rummage Sale from 7am - 1 pm.** This is one of our Big Fundraisers so come up and help out!
- * **Feb. 12 Grace Youth Valentines Banquet from 5 - 7:30 pm** Come and enjoy a fantastic night of food, fun, and fellowship.
- * **Feb. 24-26 Veritas in Rogers Arkansas, 7th - 12th Grade.** This is a Conference Worship Weekend! Come and Join us! Cost is \$125.00 for the entire weekend! There will be close to 1300+ youth at this event!

*Revitalize your Soul this New Year
 Join one of our Prayer Groups!*

MEN'S PRAYER FELLOWSHIP
 Want to get your week off to a flying start?
 Join the Men's Prayer Fellowship that meets at **6:00 am every Monday morning in the Worship Center here at Grace.** We share a Scripture and short devotional, exchange prayer requests and spend a time before God in prayer. It's the pause before the storm of a busy week that renews and refreshes. Come join us.

GRACE PRAYER GROUP
Do you feel God calling you to serve Him, but do not think you have the ability to speak, sing, or teach?
 Perhaps you should consider joining the Grace Prayer Group. Your presence is all that is required. You may offer a prayer to God, or just be in prayer as others express their needs. We pray for the requests of the congregation as well as our personal requests. It would be our privilege to welcome you to our group. **We meet each Monday morning at 9:00 am in the parlor near the coffee bar.**



Children's Choir and Music Discovery
 will resume on **Sunday, January 8th.**
 3:30-3:55 pm for PreK-K and
 4:00 pm for 1st Grade - 4th Grade



Blessing of the Toys
Sunday, January 1, 2012
 Children should bring a new toy they received as a gift for Christmas to be blessed and children are encouraged to bring a "gently used" toy to be blessed and given away to a child in need.

Friday, February 4th, 2012, we will have a *Rummage Sale*. Please, bring any donations for the sale to the church and place in Room 115. If you would like to volunteer to help, please notify Christy Lemmer or Dave Sutton.



*** We are still in need of donations for 2 baby cribs at \$220 each.**

*** Save the Date!**
VBS is June 24th - 28th

United Methodist Men
Soup/Chili Lunch
Sunday, January 15, 2012
11 am-1 pm
 Fellowship Hall
 Come fellowship with us as we raise funds for High School Senior Scholarships and other missions. Donations are accepted.
 Mark your calendar and eat lunch with us after church. We have a seat reserved for you!



The Grace UMC Office will be closed on **Monday, January 16th**
 In Observance of Martin Luther King's Day.

McGee's Closet
Check it ONLINE at graceconway.org!
 McGee's Closet is a **Medical Closet**; a virtual closet with a listing of the item(s) and the owner of such item(s) and how a person in need could get in touch with the owner. Its items you'd be willing to loan to someone in need for a short period of time. If you are interested, or you have items to add to our Medical Closet, please contact **Chuck Carter at 327-0645 or elaine2chuck@sbglobal.net**, or **Bill Buchanan at 329-1117** and we'll add your name and items to our virtual closet list. If you need one of these items in our virtual Medical Closet, please contact the owner.



Coupons for Christ

The *Coupons for Christ* mission group has just received a grant for \$375 from the North Central District Hunger Ministry. The grant will be used to purchase non-perishable food items for Bethlehem House using coupons. This group was given \$250 from one of the Sunday School Classes at Grace to begin their mission work in the summer of 2011. During those few months, they were able to purchase food items for Bethlehem House at a retail price of \$921.83, which amounted to a significant cost savings of 73% using coupons!

If you have an interest in being a part of this group, please contact Monica Crocker at pbugsnana@hotmail.com.

For those who would like to help with this mission, you can bring your coupons from your Sunday paper to Grace and place in the Coupons for Christ box at the Guest sign-in desk in the Foyer.

- Some information to keep in mind:
- *Please leave the whole insert intact (minus the coupons you have cut for yourself).
 - *Date the front page.
 - *If you have taken a number of coupons out for yourself and the insert is messy, please place the coupons in a large envelope and date the envelope.
 - *Please do not cut coupons for them, as they have a super time-saving system in place.
 - *Please do not bring expired coupons.

- Volunteers are also needed for the following tasks:
- * Sort and staple coupons (approx. 30 minutes on Sunday once a month).
 - * Shop grocery items (sign up for a 1 month rotation; it may consume 1-2 hours/week or 5 minutes a week).
 - * Pull expired coupons (approx. 15-30 minutes on Sunday every other week).

The group will only clip food item coupons. If you coupon yourself, there will be a box set up in the conference room which will have coupons for

- 1) baby and children
- 2) medications and medical supplies and
- 3) household miscellaneous.

Please, help yourself to any you need. We will not be pulling expired coupons from this box, so please keep in mind the date as you search.

Family Christmas Decoration Take-Down
Sunday, Jan.8 immediately after the 11 am Service. Led by FaithWorks Sunday School Class.

