

Thoughts...

The word "Incarnation" has been on my mind lately. I have been thinking about its meaning and the implications of being incarnational.

Incarnation is defined as the assumption of human form or nature. The nature of the ministry we do as Christians is incarnational because Christ's ministry was and is incarnational, as the letter of Paul to the *Philippians* puts it in *Chapter 2:5-8 (The Message): "Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion."*

Jesus Christ left his place of privilege to become like us, in our emotions, in our sufferings, in our longings. Being God, He became human in every aspect to be able to redeem us. If Christ had chosen to be indifferent to our need for redemption because He was too comfortable we would be completely lost!

There are several perspectives about being incarnational. Here is one of them:

"Incarnational ministry implies the willingness to live in relationship - establishing a physical, emotional and spiritual presence that requires constancy accompanied by predictability. Because incarnation cannot be faked, certain principles always apply.

Principles like: Transparency, vulnerability, embracing the culture without succumbing to it, the willingness to take on the suffering of the oppressed, and avoiding empty deeds...mute word."

Incarnational ministry is not just ministering to the poor or going overseas, it's reaching out to all spheres of society. It is in the big and the small things... Did you realize that you have been embodying the Living Christ while teaching Sunday School to children and listening to their stories, spending time with the youth learning about their lives, sharing a story while folding the newsletters, lifting a concern while answering the phone at the office? Thank you!

There are still so many needs in the world, so many people rich and poor, of all races, suffering, longing, hungering...how can we identify ourselves with them, how can we put on their shoes and help them? How can we incarnate the Living God to them?

In Love,

Lali Palmer



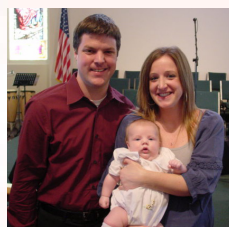
Growing Grace



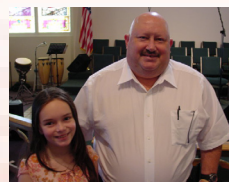
Marty & Monica, Kailey Crocker
Joined by Profession of Faith on Jan.23
PO Box 241
Bigelow, AR 72016
501-499-2628
pbugsnana@hotmail.com



Ryan & Alisa, Karli and Kensley Gay
Joined by Transfer of Memb.on Jan.30
525 Fieldstone Drive
Conway, AR 723034
501-327-2866
ryan.gay@sbcglobal.net



Jacob & Sarah, Emmet Dean Franklin
Joined on Feb13, 2011
2840 Londonberry Ln
Conway, AR 72034
(918) 605-9500
franklinsarah@att.net

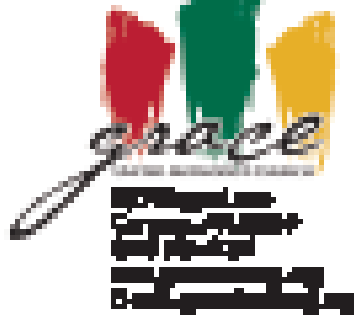


Kenneth Pfeiffer, Samantha
Joined by Transfer of Memb. on Feb13.
PO Box 10942
Conway, AR 723034
501-908-0158
copdad277@gmail.com



Joe & Melanie, Joey Sharp
Joined on Feb13, 2011
625 Bonnie Ln.
Conway, AR 72034
(501) 269-4340
jnmsharp@yahoo.com

Grace Welcomes our New Members!



March 2011

MEMBERSHIP CHURCH, U.S.A. PRESENTING... CONWAY, AR 72034

Who is Grace Church?

We exist to help you develop into a spiritually mature follower of Jesus Christ. At Grace 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's chosen 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)."

Changing Lives

The Body of Christ



You have the opportunity to be the body of Christ every time communion is served at Grace. On the first Sunday of each month bring non-perishable food items and/or a cash donation for Bethlehem House and place them in baskets at the front of the sanctuary as you come forward for communion. As you celebrate that Christ offered his body for us in love, your gift will be used to show Christ's love to the homeless and the needy in our community.



Bethlehem House



Music Notes

Is it Spring yet? As I write this we've just had a big (for me) snow and now the temperature is in the high sixties and low seventies. Feels like Spring. The anticipation is growing even though I know we're not quite there yet.

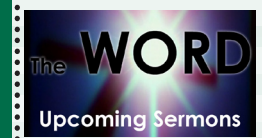


So much of the church year is about anticipation. Advent is a season where we "anticipate" the birth of our Lord. And now, we're moving into Lent, another season of anticipation but with a very different flavor. We "anticipate" the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The music department here at Grace is working on music for both Lent and Holy Week. The music brings us even closer to the events of the season. There is something magical about raising your voice in reflection, sorrow and joy. Won't you consider adding your voice as well?

Grace Choir meets Wednesdays at 6:30. The Women's and Men's ensembles meet alternate Wednesdays at 6:00.

Peace,
Kim



MARCH 6th - "When God Makes it Clear" Matthew 17:1-9
MARCH 13th - "Shall We Take the Shortcut?" Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Matthew 4:1-11. Bro. Greg Comer

MARCH 20th - "Born Again" John 3:1-17
MARCH 27th - "Living Beyond the Merely Possible" John 6:1-21

Stewardship

our

prayers
presence
gifts
witness
service

February Giving and Attendance

Date	Attendance	Giving
02/06/11	304	\$ 10,779.00
02/13/11	242	\$ 11,663.81
02/20/11	278	\$ 10,209.00
Feb. Avg.	275	\$ 10,883.94
YTD Funds Received		\$ 76,798.31
Budget Needs for 2011		\$ 575,357.00

The Youth Corner!

"Oh Baby!", as Dicky V. will say while announcing a game. March Madness is about to start and 64 teams are gearing up to compete for the title of National Champions in college basketball.

Can you believe it? March is here! Unbelievable! Be encouraged this month to compete for the prize. **1 Corinthians 9:24-26 tells us, "You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. I don't know about you, but I'm running hard for the finish line. I'm giving it everything I've got! No sloppy living for me!"**

Happy competing! God is Good all the time, and all the time, God is Good!
Run Hard!
Mr. David

- Upcoming Events:**
- * March 5: Winter Jam/ Verizon Arena/\$10 @ the door
 - * Ash Wednesday Service / Youth starts at 6pm this night.
 - * March 12: NCD CYM Youth Rally @ Cabot UMC from 9am-7pm
 - * Confirmation lunch @ 12:15pm
 - * Spring Break Week/ No Youth this week/ Will meet back Sunday, March 27

Special Thank You! We want to say "Thanks" for all of you who came out and supported the Youth at the Valentine's Banquet. We had over 30 youth who stepped up and served from the early beginning stages of set-up to the final stacking of chairs. In between we had a ton of fun and made a lot of memories. There were around 130 of you who came out to share a meal, fellowship, and be entertained and we hope you had as good a time as we did. It couldn't have happened without the wonderful volunteers who prepared the meals, donated goods, and laid their reputations on the line in the "Not-so-Newlywed" game. Thanks Glenda for heading up the kitchen and to the rest of the crew that supported her. You are all a blessing! The proceeds of the dinner will go to support the ongoing ministries and missions of the Grace Youth and we will keep you updated on all the great things our youth are doing for God's Kingdom.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT
Friday, March 4
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
 Sign-up in the Children's Wing.

\$15 for one child
 \$25.00 for two children
 \$35.00 for three children
MUST PAY IN ADVANCE so that we are staffed appropriately.

Sunday Night Kingdom Kids will meet on March 6, 13 & 27 at 5:00- 6:00 pm.

Children's Council Meeting
Sunday, March 27 @ 3:30pm.
 We will be making preparations for the Easter celebration and VBS.



SAVE THE DATE!
VBS July 10-14

Easter Celebration
Saturday, April 16 from 2:00-4:00pm
 We need volunteers. Sign up in the children's wing.

Children's Choir
COME JOIN US!
 Sundays at 3:30 - 3:55 p.m. Pre-K/ K
 Sundays at 4:00 - 4:50 p.m. 1st-4th Grade



KIDS with a MISSION
 We are partnering with the youth and taking an offering to purchase an ark for Heifer International. This mission project will continue until we have met our goal of **\$5000**. Currently we have raised **\$1745.24**. Encourage your children to bring an offering each week to Sunday School!!



Baptisms

Marcus Allen Jolley,
 Born on August 10 of 2009, Son of Dennis & Rachel Jolley was baptized on Sunday, Feb.06.

Emmet Dean Franklin,
 Born on December 20 of 2010, Son of Jacob & Sarah Franklin was baptized on Sunday, Feb.13.

Grace rejoices in welcoming Marcus and Emmet into the Body of Christ!

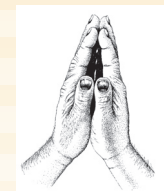
A Big Thank You to the United Methodist Men for a wonderful Valentine's Breakfast! and to Glenda Bell and Susan Hoggard for providing us with amazing entertainment.

Coming Soon! New Giving Opportunity
 We expect to be able to receive contributions in the office by Debit or Credit Card beginning mid March. You can make a one time gift to any budget or mission or set up as a periodic withdraw. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity for supporting the work of Christ at Grace.

Lunch Bunch will meet at **Dixie Cafe on Thursday, March 3rd at 11:30am.** For more info, call Dylis Jenkins at 513-0276. This group is open to anyone who has Thursday's free for lunch and would like to join us for fellowship and breaking bread together. We eat at a different Conway restaurant each month.



World Day of Prayer
Friday, March 4
 Christ Temple Holiness Church (868 Willow Street)
 Co-hosted by Union Baptist Church Fellowship @ 9:30 am
 Program @ 10:00 am



Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm
ASH WEDNESDAY

Lenten Lunch
 Grace church and Four Winds will be co-hosting the First Lenten Lunch for this year on **Thursday, March 10 at 11:30 am at the Fellowship Hall.** Everyone is invited!



GENESIS CIRCLE UMW
 Thursday, March 24 at 9:30 am at Grace.
 All women are welcome!



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 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.