

Happy Near Thanksgiving!



Paul said to his friends at Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." As I read this recently, I was thinking of all of you "in the pews" and on staff who share in the work of ministry at GUMC. It is always good to give thanks for the positive things in life, especially those persons in our lives with whom we share the work of Christ... sharing the good news of God's love, forgiveness and renewal. From the first day I came to GUMC as one of your pastors, I have felt your prayers and support, as I have watched many of you work so diligently to make a difference in peoples lives through the ministry of our church.

I, also, thank all of you who participated in our Children/ Youth/College Sunday and Laity Sunday. What a great job David, Christy, Lali, and all our lay participants did. Your presence made for a great day of worship and a powerful statement of our common mission for Christ. I hope you who were not able to be present will make your commitment soon.

I thank all the committee members working hard at this time of year to make plans for our future ministry and for the celebration of Christmas. Your work is appreciated by me and your church family.

Please, keep your eyes on the church calendar for upcoming events, and mission opportunities. Be sure to bookmark our church web site www.graceconway.org, forward the link to friends, and like us on Facebook, Twitter, etc... .

Also, please notice that this will be the last "hard copy" general mailing of the newsletter. You can access it on our web page, ask Lali to email you a copy, or if you still want a hard copy mailed to you, please let Lali know at laura.palmer@graceconway.org.

For the great blessing of sharing the gift of ministry with you, I offer my sincere thanks to God and to you!

Blessings in Christ,
Bro. David

Growing Grace



A Big Thank You to
Bill Buchanan and Scott Markham
for all their effort on laying the brick
in the Prayer garden.

We love you!!

CENTRAL DISTRICT FALL LAY SPEAKING TRAINING EVENT

Friday, November 11th, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. and
Saturday, November 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

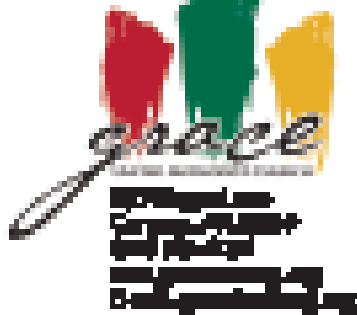
Connection Center

at Jacksonville First United Methodist Church
(308 West Main Street, Jacksonville, AR)

Registration is to be made to: Ms. Karen Branton, Central District Office, 800 West Daisy Bates Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202-3770. Office: 501-324-8022. Fees for the courses include textbooks and refreshments.

*** Lay Speaking Basic Course:** The course is considered to be foundational for all lay leadership work within the church. Prospective participants should discuss their wish for this course with their pastor or Lay Leader. Topics for the course include: Ministry of the Baptized; Leading; Caring; Communicating; and, Into the World. There is no preaching module in this Basic Course. The core focus is to equip laity for skills in leadership and decision making within the local congregation. The course will be coordinated by Ms. Joyce Moore and taught by other Certified Lay Speakers. Cost of the course: \$25.00. Remit application and fee to Ms. Branton and receive your text.

Lay Speaking Advance/Certification Course: This course is designed for individuals who have completed a Basic Course; and, Certified Lay Speakers who need to complete an Advance Course for continued Certification. The focus of this course will be on the role and function of preaching and worship leadership, including a study of the Lectionary, the liturgical year, Bible study and sermon preparation, the practice of preparing a sermon/meditation, and presenting a 5 to 7 minute devotional which will be critiqued. Dr. Jim Robnolt will be the facilitator for this course. Register early. The class size is limited to 20 persons. Cost for the course: \$25.00. Remit application and fee to Ms. Branton and receive your text and course instructions.



November 2011

Like Us On Follow Us On



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 in our community and around the world through you.

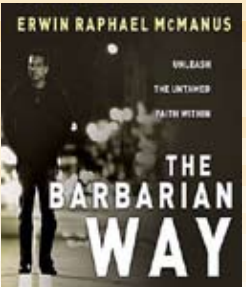
Growing Faith



Reaching People



Changing Lives



The Barbarian Way

by Erwin McManus
FaithWorks Sunday School Class
Starts November 13th
Sundays @ 9:45 am in Room 113

Erwin McManus wasn't raised in a Christian home, so when he came to Christ as a college student, he didn't know the rules of the "religious club." He didn't do well in Shakespeare courses, so he didn't really understand the KJV Bible he was given either. But he did understand that prayer was a conversation, and he learned to talk to God and wait for answers. Erwin's way was passionate and rough around the edges—a sincere, barbaric journey to Christ. Barbaric Christians see Jesus differently than civilized Christians. They see disciples differently, and they see Christ's mission differently. The Barbarian Way is a call to escape "civilized" Christianity and become original, powerful, untamed Christians—just as Christ intended.

Join the FaithWorks Sunday School class as they read and meditate on their new study "The Barbarian Way". For more information, contact Mike and Jennifer Bonds at mikebonds73@gmail.com.

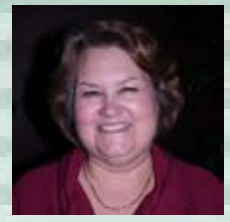
"Our mission is to develop spiritually mature disciples of Jesus Christ (around the corner and around the world)."



Changing Lives

Music Notes

The months before Christmas become very hectic for all of us. I've found that preparing special music for the church has always transformed some of that hectic into a warm feeling of contribution and inclusion. Music is such a fundamental part of the Christmas season. Would the celebration be as complete for us without it? Even better when you're in the midst of it, and here's your opportunity!



It just doesn't seem possible, but Grace Choir is deep into learning the Christmas music! This year, we're going something quite exciting! We're doing a Cantata with multiple instruments! As you can imagine, this takes a great deal of preparation, planning, and rehearsing. I'm urging any who would like to participate and who are not choir members to begin coming to the rehearsals quickly. This way we can keep a steady learning pace without continually backtracking to help "new" folk get up to speed. So, if you'd like to participate, and we'd all love that, please join NOW rather than later.

The Cantata will be performed **Sunday, December 11th at the 11:00 am service.** We will have percussion, flute, violin, cello, and piano accompaniment. Please, put it on your calendars and plan to attend. The choir is really enjoying the music and we believe that you will too! The more, the merrier!

Blessings,
Kim Allison

NOVEMBER 06th - "The Book of Choices and Decisions" *Joshua 24:14-15*
NOVEMBER 13th - "Character and Hope" *Romans 5:1-5*
NOVEMBER 20th - "Who??? Me???" *Jeremiah 1:4-10*
NOVEMBER 27th - "Giving Thanks for Everything." *Psalms 100, Philippians 4:4-9.*

Stewardship our prayers presence gifts witness service		
October Giving and Attendance		
Date	Attendance	Giving
10/02/11	215	\$8,955.00
10/09/11	381	\$10,661.00
10/16/11	272	\$11,780.00
10/23/11	226	\$7,702.00
October Avg.	274	\$9,774.50
YTD Funds Received	\$ 476,092.97	
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: Fall has been busy around the church. I'm sure this is true at home as well. We want to encourage everyone to keep a close look at the calendar and stay connected with all that the Grace Youth are doing over the next month. Sr. High is preparing for a big retreat at Mt. Eagle and then we are moving into the busy seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas! May the holiday seasons approaching remind us of our blessings and responsibilities.

- Mr. David

Upcoming events:

* **Nov. 18 – 20 Re-Con is here!** 7th – 12th grade...Get your bags packed and let's get going to Mount Eagle for a weekend full of Fellowship and Worship. Sign-up sheet is on Mr. David's board. Details are listed. Please make sure you are signed up. You won't want to miss this Retreat! Cost: \$35.00.

* **Dec. 11 Christmas Progressive Dinner for GraceYouth** ... 4 – 7 pm / Club 56 – College.

Special Bible studies offered this Fall!

Lady in Waiting Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30 – 8pm
 Led by Sandra King and Shannon Riedmueller. For all High School and College Girls. This study is a great aid to give God's Perspective on a ladies life and future with Him. Please, make this a priority for the young lady in your life. See Mr. David to get your youth signed up..

What's Right...What's Wrong on Earth! / Ethics Study Every Wednesday night! These are great conversations and a place to be heard. All youth and college invited!

Addicted to God: Sunday Nights for Club 56 starting @ 4:30 pm.
 Practical advice, scriptural guidance, and tons of activities and games for everyday Godly living!

Mr. David

Based on the highly anticipated movie, the **COURAGEOUS LIVING BIBLE STUDY** is 4-week study for men-primarily for fathers- that will guide them toward living more courageously in four key areas: *Responsibility, Priorities, Legacy and Faith.* Starting on **Monday, November 7th at 7 pm in the Worship Center.** The Study will be led by Glen Cooper, Todd Outlaw, David Sutton and Greg Comer. The movie will not be shown during the Bible Study therefore it's very important to watch it before the Study starts. Sign up NOW! For more info and to register, please, contact Bro. Greg Comer at greg.comer@graceconway.org

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 13 @ 3 pm

Charge Conference

Sunday, Nov. 13 @ 5 pm



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Friday, November 4th 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



pho MUST PAY IN ADVANCE so that we are staffed appropriately.

KIDS with a MISSION ALMOST THERE!!

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 \$4,600. Encourage your children to bring an offering each week to Sunday School!! WE ARE SO CLOSE!



Children's Council Meeting
 Coming up! **Sunday, November 20th at 3pm.**
 Childcare will be provided.
 Everyone is welcome to attend.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, February 4th, 2012, we will have a *Rummage Sale*. Please, bring any donations for the sale to the church and place in the last classroom in the children's wing, Room 208. If you would like to volunteer to help, please notify Christy Lemmer or Dave Sutton.



NOW ENROLLING Grace Kids' Day Out
 Monday and Wednesday from 9 am till 2 pm
 Call for more information.

Music Discovery and Children's Choir

Music Discovery will be starting a new curriculum called "Music for Little Mozarts" on **November 6th from 3:30-3:55 pm for PreK-K.** This curriculum has a comprehensive approach to musical learning that develops singing, movement, and listening skills simultaneously with an introduction to musical styles and concepts. Fun, creative lessons to bring out the music in every child!



Children's Choir has started rehearsing for Christmas. COME JOIN US! Sunday's at 4:00 pm. For children ages 1st Grade – 4th Grade.

UNITED METHODIST MEN Saturday, November 12th at 8:00 a.m.

A made from scratch hot breakfast will be served for only 4.00 dollars. Our guest speaker will be Curtis Coleman, President of Coleman Global. Mr. Coleman is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southen Arkansas University and Central Baptist College. Invite a friend!



Inmate Outreach and Congo Wells

The Mission Team has recently been in contact with the Faulkner County Jail and Detention Center in efforts to find out more information about their need for bibles. There are two facilities in Conway, housing anywhere from 300 to 400 men and women. Inmates housed in this facility who have a desire for their own bible to be taken with them when they leave, don't often have this chance because of the limited number of bibles at the facility. After talking with the Chaplin at the detention center, some of their needs include:

- 100 bibles per year
- 100 reading glasses per year
- Ingredients for a special meal at Thanksgiving & Christmas
- 2 Christmas Cards for each inmate to send to their friends and family
- Men to teach a weekly bible study

The Mission Team will continue to explore opportunities to serve in one or more of the areas listed above, however we do have an immediate interest in providing Christmas Cards.

During the month of November, the Grace Mission Team will again be selling Bill Patterson's beautiful cards and bookmarks to raise money for our Congo Wells mission.

In addition to raising money to provide clean water in the Congo, we are asking everyone to consider donating the purchased cards and bookmarks back to the church so that they can be donated to the inmates currently being housed at the Faulkner County Jail and Detention Center. The inmates are permitted to send out two Christmas cards each year, and the Mission Team believes that the message contained in the bible verses printed on the cards and in the image of the stained glass scenes on the face of the cards is a perfect opportunity to minister to both the inmates and the people they reach out to during the holidays. The bookmarks also contain the message of Christ's love that we want to share with these inmates.

As has been the case in the past, you are more than welcome to purchase the cards and bookmarks for yourself as well.

A table will be set up in the lobby beginning on Sunday, November 6, 2011. The bookmarks and cards are being sold for \$1.00 each. Thank you for your support to those in need!

"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners." Is. 61:1

We are going Green!

This is the last printed edition of the Grace Newsletter. Starting in December you will receive a link to view it online. We will have only a few printed and available at the church Lobby. Please, submit items for the **December** newsletter no later than **November 15th**. Submissions should be made by e-mail to Lali Palmer at laura.palmer@graceconway.org or brought in writing or in a Word file to the church office.

