

Have you ever watched a child's face when he receives a gift he wasn't expecting?



Have you ever watched a child's face when he received a gift he was expecting? The same look, bright eyes, bubbly smile, oohs and aahs, surprise and amazement. Children teach us mischief and fun. They teach us to appreciate even the smallest miracles around us. They refuse to allow complacency. They approach every part of life with wonder. I don't think Jesus ever wants us to lose that way of engaging the world. Jesus spent a lot of time amazing people. The things he did, the things he said, the way he related to his heavenly Father – they all surprised the people around Jesus.

The good news is that we, as Grace Church, are serving children. Children are the best teachers about wonder and awe in the universe.

They are still discovering how the world works, and that creates in them a great capacity for wonder. Learn from "our" children. Spend time with a child. Really spend time with a child.

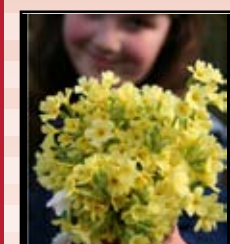
Learn how you can soak up the wonder that a child experiences. Encourage a child – and yourself – to continue appreciating the tiny miracles that occur every day.

**"Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe. And they praised God, saying over and over again, 'We have seen amazing things today!'"**

Thank you for your support in the Children's Ministry!

In His Love,  
*Christy Lemmer*

Growing Grace



*A Big Thank You* to all who helped with Welcome Home Sunday coordinating, cooking, setting up, cleaning and doing all that was needed to make of this a wonderful day. You all are amazing!

CENTRAL DISTRICT FALL LAY SPEAKING TRAINING EVENT

Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.



October 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. As those 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 Christ-followers people in our community and around the world through you.

Reaching People



Growing Faith



Changing Lives



Around the Corner Around the World...

Adopt-a-Meal

For the past few months, Grace has been participating in the Bethlehem House Adopt-A-Meal program where we provide dinner to the approximately 45 residents and friends of Bethlehem House. We will continue with this mission opportunity in the coming months. If you would like to volunteer in any way; cook, serve, or organize a meal, please contact me 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

Cinnamon Wheeler

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



Changing Lives

**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.



**Reformation Sunday is October 30,**

our Guest Preacher will be *Rev. Dr. John Farthing*. Come celebrate our religious heritage!



We will, also, be celebrating *All Saints Day*. If you have a loved one that passed away this year and would like to have him/her mentioned that day, please, email us their name and picture at [laura.palmer@graceconway.org](mailto:laura.palmer@graceconway.org) or bring it by the church office.



**OCTOBER 02<sup>ND</sup>** - "Life Lessons: Abram & Sarai" Genesis 12:10-20

**OCTOBER 09<sup>TH</sup>** - Children & Youth Sabbath

**OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>** - Laity Sunday

**OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>** - "Life Lessons- The Challenge of Blended Families" Genesis 21:1-11

**OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>** - Reformation Sunday. Bro. John Farthing.



**August & September Giving and Attendance**

Date	Attendance	Giving
08/21/11	250	\$9,318.00
08/28/11	247	\$5,769.00
<b>August Avg.</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>\$ 9,010.325</b>
09/04/11	213	\$9,033.00
09/11/11	260	\$8,749.00
09/15/11 ACH Deposit	-	\$3,600.00
09/18/11	205	\$9,072.00
09/25/11	231	\$6,343.00
<b>September Avg.</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>\$9,199.25</b>
<b>YTD Funds Received</b>		<b>\$ 392,438.85</b>
<b>Needed Weekly Giving</b>		<b>\$ 11,065.00</b>
<b>Budget Needs for 2011</b>		<b>\$ 575,357.00</b>

**The Youth Corner!**



**Grace Youth and Families:**

Hope life is finding a sense of normalcy as your family is back in the groove of school life. We have a busy fall ahead of us and we want your family to be a part of it. Please look

at the bulletin board outside of my office and see where you can plug in. There are lot's of Bible studies and youth events. We want to help you connect to God and to share Him with others around you. How can we help?  
- Mr. David

**Upcoming events:**

- \* **Oct. 1 DCYM Fall Rally @ Grace UMC / 9am - 7pm**  
This is a wonderful District event with small groups, games, and worship. We're Hosting it so hope to see everyone there. Sign-up sheet is posted!
- \* **Oct. 9 Youth and Children's Sunday / We're in Charge of all three services.** Please make plans to attend and help lead!
- \* **Oct. 23 Fall BonFire / 4pm - 7pm**

**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..

**'Soul Surfer' Bible Study: Starting Oct. 2**

This is a 4 week study! During both the Senior High and College times we will be diving into this terrific study of faith and perseverance.

**Jr. High Study: Parents V/S Teens**

Led by Mr. Bert King...Don't worry! This is not an epic battle but a study of what connects each of us. This study will give insight for your teen into how parents think! Wish us luck!

**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*

**Ozark Mission Project turns 25!**

Don't forget to register for OMP's celebration of mission, fellowship and worship on **October 29, 2011!** This day of celebration will be free of charge to all participants. Whether you've been to OMP once or ten times, whether it was 20 years ago or this is your first summer, or whether you, your family or youth group just want to see what OMP is all about, please join us this fall! Save the date and check out 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary details at: [www.ozarkmissionproject.org](http://www.ozarkmissionproject.org).



**PARENTS NIGHT OUT**

**Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
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



**pno** MUST PAY IN ADVANCE so that we are staffed appropriately.

**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 \$4,448.62. Encourage your children to bring an offering each week to Sunday School!! WE ARE SO CLOSE!



**Family Night- Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a movie, Mexican potluck, popcorn and fellowship. Come in your pajamas and ready for some fun. RSVP at 501-329-6056n or Christy. [lemmer@graceconway.org](mailto:lemmer@graceconway.org).

**Children and Youth Sabbath** is on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>!!** Please, make plans to attend. The children and youth will lead all three services. We need your support.

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL!!**  
Please, contact Christy Lemmer.

**Children's Choir** practice is back on!  
COME JOIN US! Sunday's at 3:30 - 3:55 pm Pre-K/K, 4:00 - 4:50 pm for children ages 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Trunk or Treat** is on **Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.** If you would like to participate please notify Christy at [Christy.lemmer@graceconway.org](mailto:Christy.lemmer@graceconway.org) or call 329- 6056. We are also collecting candy donations for the event. Donation Buckets are placed at the front of the church.

**Coupons for Christ**

**Wednesdays @ 5:45 pm in Room 113**  
Join Monica Crocker every Wednesday for fellowship, to collect and share coupons. If you have coupons that won't be used, please, drop them off in the respective box in the lobby. Part of their use will be to shop for groceries for the Bethlehem House. For more info, contact Monica at 501-499-2628.



**Sisters in Christ**



Sisters In Christ meetings have resumed. Our primary ministry is to provide layettes and car seats for babies born at CRMC to families in need. We meet the **3rd Monday of each month, September through June, at 7pm in the Parlor.** All ladies are invited to join us as we begin a new study **A Beautiful Offering: Returning God's Love With Your Life by Angela Thomas.** Books may be ordered from Amazon.com or the Christian Book Outlet. Contact Gail Sharp for more information at 269-1417 or [sharpmail@hotmail.com](mailto:sharpmail@hotmail.com).

For many years Angela Thomas thought of the Beatitudes as a list of "Gotta Be's," as in: Gotta be meek. Gotta be merciful. And when she compared her life to the standard they set, she always felt that she came up short. But through God's great mercy, she has come to see this passage instead as a roster of "When You Are's." When you are meek, there is a spiritual inheritance. When you are merciful, you will be shown mercy.

This shift in thinking has led Thomas to understand that God does not require perfection, but rather our gracious obedience. In His eyes, our lives-complete with mistakes, blemishes, and imperfections-are A Beautiful Offering.

**UNITED METHODIST MEN** Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. A made from scratch hot breakfast will be served for only 4.00 dollars. Our Guest Speaker will be Senator Jason Rapert. Bring your friends!

**Bridal Shower** in honor of **Karen Murray** on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in Room 109.** Everybody is invited! The couple is registered at Walmart and Target.

**United Methodist Women** **GENESIS CIRCLE UMW** Thursday, October 27 at 9:30 am Room 109 All women are welcome!

**Attention Runners!** The Soaring Wings 1/2 Marathon will be held October 29. Registration is online. Grace Missions Team is supporting the Soaring Wings Ranch in any way that they can.

**McGee's Closet coming soon!** A virtual closet where you may check out needed items that will be loaned for use by their owners. If you are interested in being a "loaner" with household items or medical equipment, please watch for more information.

**We are going Green!**

The last printed edition of the Grace Newsletter will come out in November 2011. 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 **November** newsletter no later than **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Submissions should be made by e-mail to Lali Palmer at [laura.palmer@graceconway.org](mailto:laura.palmer@graceconway.org) or brought in writing or in a Word file to the church office.



**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.