

Let go...God's got it under control!

It finally arrived. Predicted years ago by a wise bald man in his early 30's, the day came and went, leaving in its wake, crocodile tears and unmatched feats of strength by a dad capable of pulling apart child from mother. The halls of Jim Stone Elementary must still be ringing with the cries of sadness! Somehow, as if channeling the strength of Samson, God gave me the strength to pull my wife from our daughter's little body and drag her from the building.



It's often a difficult thing to let go and trust that all is going to be okay? Truth be told, my wife held up fairly well and was extremely happy that her baby girl was confident that she could and would survive her first day of kindergarten. Bonnie and I had been preparing for this day for years. It wasn't some magical pill that was used to create such a seamless ordeal. It was a mess of love, consistent, repetitious, and intentional teaching, (which takes work), a tad bit of luck, and a ton of prayer that got us to this point. And yet, we know there will still be days where it won't be as easy as today turned out to be for our little girl. The good news is that we trust in the end, it will all be okay.

As tradition holds, we drove away from the school in silence, but with a sense of hope. We then journeyed to our next destination. First days of schools around our house are followed with a "Boo-Hoo" breakfast. Over a shared bagel and cherry tart we reminisced about our son's first day of school which seemed like yesterday, and then daydreamed of the future that is yet to be written for both our children. It was encouraging for us as we laughed and smiled about what new things might be around the corner for all of us.

God promises us in **Jeremiah 29:11** something similar to what we experienced today and we hope that you find comfort in His words no matter what stage of life you are in right now. **"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** God knows us all too well and He truly wants us to succeed and live with a trusting hope in Him. Let me challenge you today. Turn over the things that you need to. Don't put it off...God loves you and is anxiously awaiting time between you and Him. He has been preparing the way for you and although we are not immune to suffering and hardships, we are promised that God is with us and will bring us through whatever lies ahead. Go ahead and let go! I promise...you're in Good Hands!

Peace,
Mr. David

Growing Grace



Welcome Home & Fall Kick-Off
Sunday, September 11th
Sunday School @ 9:45am
Celebration Worship @ 11 am
Lunch @ Noon

After a great Summer break, Welcome Home gives us the chance to start a new year refreshed. All the Grace family will join together in one worship service to celebrate the One who makes all things new! After worship, we will have a time of lunch and fellowship.

If you are planning to attend lunch, please RSVP Glenda Bell at glenda.bell@graceconway.org.

Get the Word Out!

Pick up a **WELCOME HOME** yard sign with a metal stake and place it in your yard.



Available NOW in the Lobby!

If your Blessing of the Backpacks Yard Sign is still in good condition, please, bring it back to the Lobby so we can reuse it next year.



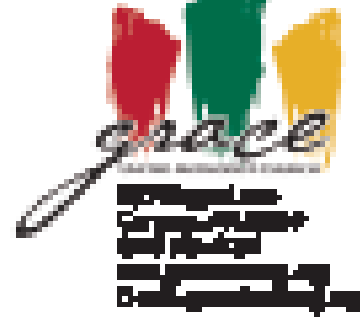
We Need Your Help!!

Volunteers are needed for Welcome Home Sunday Lunch to set-up tables, serve and clean up. Sign up your group or Sunday School Class now in the lobby.

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 25th Anniversary details at: www.ozarkmissionproject.org.



September 2011

Like Us On Follow Us On

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
 L.L. FURMAN
 401-401-1111
 1000 N. W. 10th St.
 Conway, AR 72034

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.

Growing Faith



Reaching People



Changing Lives



*Around the Corner
 Around the World...*

Adopt-a-Meal

During the months of August and September, Grace UMC is participating in the **Adopt-a-Meal** program for Bethlehem House where 35-45 people are provided a meal each evening at the shelter. If you would like to join in on this opportunity to serve others, please contact Cinnamon Wheeler at cwheeler@conwaycorp.net. **We provided a meal on Aug.31 and will be providing another one on Thursday, Sept. 22.**



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



Changing Lives

Get E-mail updates about Grace

Visit the Member section at www.graceconway.org and join our Mailing List if you wish to receive email updates about Grace events or prayer concerns.



AccessACS™ Do you need to update your member information? Log in to your Access account through our website to update it.

Social Media Tools.....Keep up with the latest at Grace!

If you have a Smart Phone with a Data plan, you will be able to receive instant notices about Grace happenings through our Social Media tools. The best part? They are FREE!
 - Do you have a Facebook account? Help us get the word out about Grace by inviting your friends to LIKE us or checking- in when you come to one of our events. Plus, keep up with the latest events at Grace.
 - Don't have a Smart Phone or a Data Plan? Maybe you have Text Messaging... If so, Twitter is for you! Create a Twitter account online and FOLLOW us. You will receive text messages about Grace, instantly, to your phone.

- SEPTEMBER 04TH** - "Who Hurt You?" *Matthew 18:15-20. Bro. Greg Comer.*
SEPTEMBER 11TH - *Welcome Home Sunday. Rev. Bob Crossman.*
SEPTEMBER 18TH - "Life Lessons- Adam & Eve" *Genesis 3*
SEPTEMBER 25TH - "Life Lessons- Cain & Abel" *Genesis 4:1-17*

Stewardship		
Date	Attendance	Giving
08/07/11	220	\$ \$8,886.30
07/14/11	291	\$12,068.00
August Avg.	256	\$ 10,477.15
YTD Funds Received	\$ 337,174.00	
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: The youth have had one of those busy summers that seem to go by all too quickly. For me, I'm excited to be getting back to the routine of the school year and the Grace Youth Ministry. Please be looking for places to get involved this fall. We have a lot to join in on and hope that you find a place to serve and grow. Sunday and Wednesday nights will be full of Bible Studies and great activities to challenge growth and spiritual maturity. Please prayerfully consider how your family will grow together!

Special Bible studies offered this Fall!
Lady in Waiting Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30 – 8pm Starts September 14. 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 Sept. 11 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

UNITED METHODIST MEN Saturday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m. A made from scratch hot breakfast will be served for only 4.00 dollars. Our guest speaker will be *Mr. Vitaliy Dymna* of New Life Church, speaking on his recent mission trip to Haiti. Mr. Dymna works at Acxiom and should be very interesting.

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.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT Friday, September 2nd 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.

*** ALL CHILDREN will sing on Sunday, September 11th at the Welcome Home Service 11 am.**

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 \$4,400.57. Encourage your children to bring an offering each week to Sunday School!! WE ARE SO CLOSE!



Family Night- Saturday, October 8th 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.

Children and Youth Sabbath is on **Sunday, October 9th!!** 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 will resume on **Sunday, September 25th!** COME JOIN US! Sunday's at 3:30 – 3:55 pm Pre-K/ Kindergarten and 4:00 – 4:50 pm for children ages 1st Grade – 4th Grade.

Disaster Response Training Interested in serving on the North Central Disaster Response Team? **Saturday, September 10, 2011 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** at Wesley UMC in Conway Lunch and snacks will be provided. The cost is "FREE" if you are related to a church in the North Central District. Please, contact Fonda Kirkman by email at northcentrals@conwaycorp.net or by calling 501.329.5141 to reserve a spot! Space is limited to 24 people so call today!

Your Christian Education Opportunities
Coming in the Fall.....

Invitation to John 1 1-week Bible Study Starts Sept. 11 at 5:00 pm in Room 112
 The invitation from Christ is: "Come and see, Follow me". Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I am statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus. Join and discover the life altering stories that will invite you to follow Christ as true disciple. Led by Bro. David. Sign up now in the lobby.

The Workbook of Living Prayer 7-week Study Starts Wednesday, Sept. 14th at 6:30 pm in Room 112

Twenty years ago Dr. Maxie Dunnam wrote a thought-provoking and dynamic book that has enriched the prayer life of many readers. This best-selling resource, *The Workbook of Living Prayer*, has been used by almost half a million individuals in small groups. Although there have been many dramatic changes in the world this past decades, the need to pray has remained constant. Wherever you are in your prayer life, this study will take you in a refreshing adventure to explore what it means to *Pray without Ceasing* and resources for praying. This study will be led by Lali Palmer. The cost of the book is \$13.00. Interested? Please, sign up at the church lobby or contact Lali at laura.palmer@graceconway.org. Childcare will be provided.

Breaking Free: The Journey, The Stories Shoulder to Shoulder Women's Bible Study Led by Cinnamon Wheeler Starts Wednesday, Sept. 14th at 6:30 pm in Room 206

Breaking Free: The Journey, The Stories leads you through a study of the Scriptures to discover the transforming power of Christian freedom. Based on Isaiah 61:1-4, this in-depth Bible study draws parallels between the captive Israelites. Teacher **Beth Moore** uses Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in your life, no matter how big or small. She explains that anything that hinders us from the benefits of knowing God is bondage. For more information and to sign up, please, contact Cinnamon Wheeler at cwheeler@conwaycorp.net.

Financial Peace University Starts Thursday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 pm, Room 206 Led by Scott and Cinnamon Wheeler

This life-changing program teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever. Financial Peace University (FPU) consists of a 13-week video curriculum—taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey—that incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship. Financial Peace University is highly entertaining for everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages. More than one million families have already had their lives changed by attending FPU. For more info, contact Scott Wheeler at Scott.Wheeler@perfect-10.tv.