

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE COMMUNITY each Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:15. We are continuing our new study: *Resolving Everyday Conflict*.

HIGH SCHOOL D-GROUP is meets tonight at the Edwards' home from 6-8pm.

CHOIR REHEARSAL: Our next rehearsals are Dec 12th and 19th from 8 to 9pm at the building. For more information or to sign up please contact Michael Kuehn (eventhieves@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNITIES have concluded for 2011. See you in 2012.

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING: Mark your calendars; we are hosting the following weeks of the first half of 2012: Feb 5-12, Apr 8-15, and June 10-17.

FAMILY PROMISE ANGEL TREE: On the bulletin board by the children's wing, there are opportunities to further give to the families that have recently been part of the family promise program. Please take the opportunity to select an angel from the tree, purchase the gift that is on the angel, and return the wrapped present (gift receipts are a plus!) with the angel taped to the outside of the present to the church office no later than Friday, December 16. Please make sure that you sign that you took an angel in the corresponding space (each angel has a number on them) so we know who has angels. Questions, see Carla in the church office.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER is needed for the 1st/2nd Sunday school class. If you are interested, please contact Carla.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MCCLAINS! on the birth of Corwin Addison (8lbs 21in) on November 21 at 1:16pm. We can't wait to meet him!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE GPC will host a Candlelight Service from 7-8 pm on a certain Saturday in December. This will be a family friendly service. Join us with your family and friends as we celebrate the birth of the Messiah.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE This year Christmas falls on Sunday. We will be worshipping together from 10:30 to 11:30. There will be no Sunday School and no Children's Church or Nursery for that Sunday morning. In addition, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. See you then!

NEW YEARS SUNDAY their will be no Sunday School. We will gather for 10:30 a.m. worship only.

2011 FINANCIAL NOTES: Tax-deductible contributions to the church for 2011 must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2011. Receipts for any reimbursable expenditures for 2011 should be turned in to the office by Monday, December 20, 2011.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING January 15th following the worship service. Will be reporting on 2011 budget and plans that we have for 2012.

INCLEMENT WEATHER In the event of bad weather, please be sure to check WXII, the church website or any of our social network updates.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Zach DeBoer (12/13).

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

website • gracerkernersville.org **twitter** • @GraceKville **facebook** • Grace Presbyterian Church
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OUR SUNDAY SERVANTS

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Nursery Coordinator: Gail Adams • Nursery Scheduler: Christy Ogburn

Date	Walkers	2-year-olds	Children's Church
TODAY	Tom and Jean Klinkert	Gail Kuehn Hazel Kuehn	Dec 3/4yr Chris DeBoer & Ethan DeBoer K-2 nd Karl and Mary Freeman 3 rd -5 th Larry & Darlene Clagett
Dec 18	Matt Lievens Jillian Moore	Mark & Kristi Maier	
Dec 25	No nursery, family friendly service	No nursery, family friendly service	Jan 3/4yr Joe DellArena and Debbie Potts K-2 nd Janice Lievens, Carter and Grayson Lievens 3 rd -5 th Dave and Danielle Wiebking
Jan 1	Coulson & Mimi Mucher	Matt & Anna Norman	

Ushers	Greeters
Hugh Smith Ben Banks	November: Jewells
Dave Collins Doug Sonnenburg	December: Plybons
Matt Lievens Jim Dougherty	January: Bechtolds

Elder Prayer Rotation	Rapid Visitation
November: Don Bechtold	November: Amy Mead
December: Larry Clagett	December: Kay Glore

Deacon		
Today	Dec 18	Dec 25
Karl Freeman	Chad Sapp	Jim Dougherty

Worship Team
Zachary DeBoer, Taylor Bechtold, Christine Vispoli, Kristin Dougherty, Kim Lis, Tim Irvin

Our Church Officers
Session: Don Bechtold, Randy Edwards, Matt Lievens, Jim Plybon, Wynn Baum, and John DeBoer Diaconate: David Collins, Joe Dell'Arena, Jim Dougherty, Karl Freeman, and Chad Sapp

Church Staff and Extensions
<i>The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9am until noon.</i> Randy Edwards, Pastor/Teacher • ext.11 Carla Collins, Accountant/Children's Ministry Coordinator/Preschool Director • ext.12

General Fund				
2011 General Fund Budget \$323,870				
	budget	contributions	expenses	Needed to meet expenses
MTD Dec 5	\$26,990	\$10,436	\$4658	\$16,554
YTD	\$323,870	\$318,645	\$304,290	\$5225
Buiding				
MTD Dec 5	\$50		MTD Dec 5	0
YTD	\$580		YTD	\$6,698

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For the grace of God which brings salvation has
appeared to all men.

December 11, 2011

"Comedy ... is not only possible within a Christian society, but capable of a much greater breadth and depth than classical comedy. Greater in breadth because classical comedy is based upon a division of mankind into two classes, those who have *arete* and those who do not, and only the second class, fools, shameless rascals, slaves, are fit subjects for comedy. But Christian comedy is based upon the belief that all men are sinners; no one, therefore, whatever his rank or talents, can claim immunity from the comic exposure and, indeed, the more virtuous, in the Greek sense, a man is, the more he realizes that he deserves to be exposed. Greater in depth because, while classical comedy believes that rascals should get the drubbing they deserve, Christian comedy believes that we are forbidden to judge others and that it is our duty to forgive each other. In classical comedy the characters are exposed and punished: when the curtain falls, the audience is laughing and those on stage are in tears. In Christian comedy the characters are exposed and forgiven: when the curtain falls, the audience and the characters are laughing together."

W. H. Auden

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

If you have a prayer request which you would like to have offered during the Pastoral Prayer, please speak with the pastor during the break.

Elder Prayer: If you would like prayer, Elders are available after the service to pray with you

Men's Prayer each Friday Morning in the Fellowship Hall from 6-7:15 am.

PREPARATION AND PRAISE

APPROACHING THE THRONE

I Will Enter

Open the Eyes of My Heart

WELCOME!

Larry Clagett

Pew pads are located along the inside aisle. Please take a moment to let us know that you were with us this morning and to tell us how we can help you today.

OUR HISTORIC FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 50

Q125. What does the fourth request mean?

A. "Give us today our daily bread" means: Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and to put trust in you alone. Ps. 104:27-30; 145:15-16; Matt. 6:25-34; Acts 14:17; 17:25; James 1:17; Deut. 8:3; Ps. 37:16; 127:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58; Ps. 55:22; 62; 146; Jer. 17:5-8; Heb. 13:5-6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.

For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.

Today, if only you would hear his voice,
“Do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah,
as you did that day at Massah in the wilderness,
where your ancestors tested me;
they tried me, though they had seen what I did.
For forty years I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they have not known my ways.’
So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

Once in Royal David’s City

In Christ Alone

PREPARATION AND PRAISE, CONTINUED

CONFESSION OF SIN (by a member of Grace)

Gracious Lord, we bring to you our anxiety, busy-ness, and fear. Our bodies grow weary and our hearts heavy. Help us to stop worrying about what will happen the next day and the next, and prevent us from fretting over how things will turn out. We need no other provision than the Provider, we need no other guidance than the Wonderful Counselor, we need no other security than the Prince of Peace. Forgive us for when we think otherwise. Move us from trusting in creatures to creatures reminding us to trust in You.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT Jeremiah 17:7-8, Psalm 145:15-16

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

CELEBRATION OF ADVENT

Michael and Amelia Trant

Lighting of the Angel Candle

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MISSIONS MINUTE

Matt Lievens, South Sudan

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Larry Clagett

’Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus

Following the offering, children will be dismissed. Nursery is available for children two years and under. Children three years of age through fifth grade may go to Children’s Church.

RENEWAL

GREETING ONE ANOTHER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Clagett

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory.
Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 48:8-20

When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, “Who are these?”
⁹ “They are the sons God has given me here,” Joseph said to his father.
Then Israel said, “Bring them to me so I may bless them.”

¹⁰ Now Israel’s eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them.

¹¹ Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.”

¹² Then Joseph removed them from Israel’s knees and bowed down with his face to the ground. ¹³ And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel’s left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them close to him. ¹⁴ But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim’s head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh’s head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

¹⁵ Then he blessed Joseph and said,

“May the God before whom my fathers
Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully,
the God who has been my shepherd
all my life to this day,
¹⁶ the Angel who has delivered me from all harm
—may he bless these boys.
May they be called by my name
and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac,
and may they increase greatly
on the earth.”

¹⁷ When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim’s head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. ¹⁸ Joseph said to him, “No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.”

¹⁹ But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He too will become a people, and he too will become great. Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a group of nations.” ²⁰ He blessed them that day and said,

“In your name will Israel pronounce this blessing:
‘May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.’”

So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

SERMON

Pastor Randy Edwards

The Gospel According to Jacob: I Never Expected to See Your Face

RESPONSE

MISSIONS OFFERING AND RESPONSE

Shout to the North

BENEDICTION