

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HIGH SCHOOL D-GROUP resumes at the Edwards' home on January 8, 2011 from 6-8pm.

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.

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

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.

MISSIONS WEEKEND: Mark your calendars for the weekend of February 17-19.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED: GPC will be hosting a seven week study on the meaning of Christianity beginning in mid-February and continuing through the end of March. This study is an excellent introduction or re-introduction to the basic tenets of Christianity. This is an open study to any who are interested in learning more. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please let Pastor Randy know.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED for New Years on January 2nd.

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! Debbie Potts (1/1); Kristin Dougherty (1/3); Maddie Edwards (1/4); David Crowe (1/4).

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

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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	Coulson & Mimi Mucher	Mark & Kristi Maier	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 8	Terri Norman Asher McClain	Chris & Christy Ogburn	
Jan 15	Mark Pardue Maddie Pardue	Jim & Claudia Plybon	Feb 3/4yr Amelia Trant & Pinkney Greene K-2 nd Clay & Nicole Howard 3 rd -5 th Ted & Amy Mead
Jan 22	Mike & Jen Rhoades	Katie Sanders Jessica Moore	

Ushers

Hugh Smith Ben Banks
Dave Collins Doug Sonnenburg
Matt Lievens Jim Dougherty

Greeters

January: Bechtolds
February: Mainharts
March: Jewells

Elder Prayer Rotation

January: Doug Jewell
February: Matt Lievens

Rapid Visitation

January: Claudia Plybon
February: Mimi Mucher

Deacon

Today	Jan 8	Jan Freeman
David Collins	Joe Dell'Arena	Karl Freeman

Worship Team

Michael Kuehn, Tim Irvin, Zoo, Randy Edwards, Kristin Dougherty, Carla Collins, Jim Dougherty

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

The church office is open Monday through Thursday from 9am until noon.
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

Weekly Financial Summary	December 29	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Needed to meet expenses
	MTD	\$ 26,990	\$ 45,188	\$ 32,637	(\$ 12,551)
YTD	\$ 323,870	\$ 353,378	\$ 331,922	(\$ 29,508)	
	Building		Missions		
MTD	\$ 100		MTD	\$ 416	
YTD	\$ 630		YTD	\$ 7,114	

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

January 1, 2012

Of course there are many of us who look unselfish and dutiful, simply because we can't say no: We say yes to everything, and people are always using us. Everybody says, "Oh, you're so selfless, so giving of yourself; you need to think more about taking care of yourself." But think about those of us who don't have boundaries and who let people walk all over us and use us and can't say no—do you think we're doing that out of love for other people? Of course not, we're doing it out of need—we say yes to everything out of fear and cowardice. That's far from glorifying others. To glorify others means to unconditionally serve them, not because we're getting anything out of it, just because of our love and appreciation for who they truly are.

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are each centering on the others, adoring and serving them. And because the Father, Son, and Spirit are giving glorifying love to one another, God is infinitely, profoundly happy. Think about this: If you find somebody you adore, someone for whom you would do anything, and you discover that this person feels the same way about you, does that feel good? It's sublime! That's what God has been enjoying for all eternity. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are pouring love and joy and adoration into the other, each one serving the other. They are infinitely seeking one another's glory, and so God is infinitely happy. And if it's true that this world has been created by this triune God, then ultimate reality is a dance.

—Tim Keller, *King's Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus*

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

PRELUDE

He is Exalted

WELCOME!

Doug Jewell

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 1

Q1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 14:7-9; 1 Cor. 3:23; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2; John 8:34-36; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:1-11; John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Pet. 1:5; Matt. 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18; Rom. 8:28; Rom. 8:15-16; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14 Rom. 8:1-17

Q2. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance. Rom. 3:9-10; 1 John 1:10; John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43; Matt. 5:16; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 5:8-10; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:9-10

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Be Thou My Vision

Bless the Lord

CONFESSION OF SIN

(by a member of Grace)

Heavenly Father, I come to you because I have no comfort. I have dreams for the New Year, but I am anxious. I have optimism about my circumstances, but I am fearful. I long for newness and for renewal, but I am saddened by the lack of change in my life. Even so, these discomforts show something more sinful than what they produce in me because most of the time I do not believe or trust you. I do not believe that I can trust my future to you, that you care for me and watch over me, that your will to bless can overcome my inconstancy. Rather, I live in the self-deception that I am not a great sinner nor miserable in my sin. I live a lie of managed self-righteousness and self-atonement and so making others

and myself miserable. In living this way, I try to pay for my own sin rather than to trust and rejoice in the payment you made for me through the death of your Son. Father, please forgive me, and cause once again, the light of the knowledge of the Son of God to shine in my heart and to make me wholeheartedly willing and ready to live for him.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Romans 8:28-34

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Jesus With Thy Church Abide

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

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

Mark 1:2-20

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—*

³ *"a voice of one calling in the wilderness,*

*'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"*

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.¹⁷ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

SERMON

Pastor Randy Edwards

The Gospel of Mark: First Things

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

Before the Throne of God Above

We Will Dance

BENEDICTION