

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 TONIGHT at the Edwards' from 6-8pm.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT COMMUNITIES continue each week through the Winter from 6-7:30 pm with activities for: Middle School, Primary Ages, Preschool, and Women's Bible Study; nursery is provided.

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.

MISSIONS SUNDAY: Mark your calendars for February 18-19.

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.

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

REDEEMER SCHOOL PRIORITY ENROLLMENT: January 31st is the deadline for priority applications for enrollment for the 2012-2013 school year. Reduced member tuition rates, scholarships and tuition assistance funds may also be available. If you are interested in your TK-8th grade child enjoying a personal and enriching learning experience, please check out our website (www.redeemerschool.org) or call (724-9460) for more information.

REDEEMER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE TOUR: Redeemer School will be holding an Open House Tour on Wednesday, January 18, from 9:15-10:30 AM. We are excited to share more with you about our new Transitional Kindergarten as well as our existing K-8th grades. Please call 724-9460 to RSVP or for more information.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Jim Dougherty (1/9); Amanda Goode (1/11); Kristi Maier (1/12); Pinkney Greene (1/13).

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	Terri Norman Asher McClain	Chris & Christy Ogburn	Jan 3/4yr Joe DellArena and Debbie Potts K-2 nd Janice Lievens, Carter and Grayson Lievens
Jan 15	Mark Pardue Maddie Pardue	Jim & Claudia Plybon	3 rd -5 th Dave and Danielle Wiebking
Jan 22	Mike & Jen Rhoades	Katie Sanders Jessica Moore	Feb 3/4yr Amelia Trant & Pinkney Greene K-2 nd Clay & Nicole Howard 3 rd -5 th Ted & Amy Mead
Jan 29	Stanley & Kem Schaeffer	Chad & Beth Sapp	

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 15	Jan 22
Joe Dell'Arena	Karl Freeman	Chad Sapp

Worship Team

Wynn Baum, Clay Howard, Lee Adams, Chris Hicks, John Devonmille,
Kim Baum, Carla Collins, RickYoung

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

Weekly Financial Summary	General Fund				
	2011 General Fund Budget \$323,870				
	December 29	Budget	Contributions	Expenses	Needed to meet expenses
	MTD	\$ 26,990	\$ 54,543	\$ 35,944	(\$ 29,553)
	YTD	\$ 323,870	\$ 362,733	\$ 335,229	(\$ 38,863)
	Building		Missions		
	MTD	\$ 3,082		MTD	\$ 616
	YTD	\$ 3,612		YTD	\$ 7,314

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We long to see the grace of God magnified as he transforms us into: a community that worships, a community that witnesses, and a community that walks in love.

January 8, 2012

All of the things which are most important cannot be taken away from you when you are assured of God's forgiveness: communion with God, deep-seated joy, genuine freedom. If you are not forgiven and, therefore, not restored to a relationship with God, which lies at the center of our humanity, then you remain an empty shell no matter how healthy and beautiful looking the shell may be.

We often get our priorities backwards regarding forgiveness and healing. We value healing from pain more than we do pardon of sin. As long as this is the case, we will have a good deal of joylessness in this life. Our circumstances in this life will rarely, if ever, be what we want them to be. Disappointment in this world is inevitable. Something is wrong with everything.

Only when we see forgiveness as our deepest need and know that need met in Jesus Christ will there be joy in our lives which is greater than our circumstances.

—Tim Keller, *Mark's Gospel*

Sin is a perverted energy within people that enslaves them to God-defying, self-gratifying behavior, and by distraction, deceit, and direct opposition weakens and overthrows their purposes of righteousness.

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

Lord Reign in Me

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 2

Q3. How do you come to know your misery?

A. The law of God tells me.

Rom. 3:20; 7:7-25

Q4. What does God's law require of us?

A. Christ teaches us this in summary in Matthew 22: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

Deut. 6:5 Lev. 19:18;

Q5. Can you live up to all this perfectly?

A. No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor.

Rom. 3:9-20, 23; 1 John 1:8, 10; Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph. 2:1-3; Titus 3:3

CALL TO WORSHIP

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG

Mighty to Save

Blessed Be Your Name

The House of God

CONFESSION OF SIN

(by a member of Grace)

Heavenly Father, I find in myself a love for many things, but too often they are not you, nor my neighbor. I love my reputation, my comfort, my self-estimation. Too much of my thought life is spent thinking whether I've done enough in face of my fears of failure, shame, and disappointment. The energy of my strength is exerted in pursuing my own dreams and my own desires. The actions of my will are just as polluted as I do neither what I ought to do nor refrain from doing what I ought not to do. If I look at what I give to you and others in love and time, in comparison to what I spend on myself, it looks as if I hate others and you. Please forgive me. Show me the greatness of your love and mercy and renew in me the joy of your salvation, then I will love selflessly and serve lovingly. Work in me a hatred of my sin and the misery it causes, that I may love and honor you in thought, word, and deed.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

MISSIONS MINUTE

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

All Creatures of Our God and King

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 2:1-17

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.² So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁶ Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves,⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁸ Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?"¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic,¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them.¹⁴ As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

SERMON

Pastor Randy Edwards

The Gospel of Mark: Which is Easier?

RESPONSE

MISSIONS OFFERING

Lord Most High

BENEDICTION