

# Grace Presbyterian Church

## July 2007

From the Editor

It's back! We're back on line with the newsletter. This month's issue may be somewhat abbreviated, as I'm not sure we managed to get the word out in time for all the various contributors to react, but we had several things that needed to be announced. More on that later.

Grace Presbyterian, as most of you are painfully aware, has been going through a process of evolution, but I think we are making wonderful progress and several things have come together recently to prove that we are on the road to good growth. Major events (in no particular order):

- Approval of plan and groundbreaking for the new building
- Appointment of a new interim pastor
- Election of the Pastor Nominating Committee
- Removal of the first temporary building

Along with these events, GPC has continued to provide abundant missions and ministries. These will be highlighted in our upcoming Ministry Fair. Plus, our recent Family Retreat at Pinecrest taught us how we do and can shine the light of Christian ministry in our church, in our community, and in the world.

These are exciting times for Grace. It's good to be a part of it, and I hope that everyone will join in the excitement and lead others to share it with us.



**Building Committee**

Hopefully by the time that you read this, construction work will have started.

Progress has been held up by the City of Bartlett's decision to treat the project as a Subdivision with the Church as the developer. This decision was based on the size of our property and the extensive utility services that we are having to upgrade or add to support the new addition. This resulted in us having to execute a new contract with the city, paying a developer's fee and providing a Surety Bond to guarantee completion of the work. All of this added a total charge of approximately \$13,000.00 to our costs and is putting the budget in a bit of a strain, but we believe that we can cover it. All of the paperwork was delivered to the City on June 5 and the contractor was able to pick up the permits and approved drawings several days later.

The construction loan with Financial Federal Savings Bank has been approved but has not yet been closed. We have the required property survey ready but have not yet completed the necessary property appraisal. We have been assured that we will get Presbytery approval for the loan on June 7, and if this is the case, we hope to close the loan sometime after the middle of June.

Since we are behind schedule and may be pressed to complete the work by the City deadline, we are proceeding with the site work using money directly from the Building fund. Hopefully we will not need to draw any money from the loan before the beginning of August.

If any of you have any questions or comments, talk to the Committee Chair or any of the members. We will continue to update you in future Church Newsletters.

**----- The Building Committee -----**

|                         |              |             |
|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Bill Carroll (Chair)    | Paula Bishop | John Dotson |
| John Evans (Vice Chair) | Lee Guenther | Jere Lawson |



**SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2007**

## **ANNUAL MINISTRY FAIR / JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE / POTLUCK LUNCH**

### **Ministry Fair**

Sunday, June 24, prior to and following the joint worship service you will have an opportunity to observe the various displays in our walk-through Ministry Fair. Ministries, organizations and committees within the church will display their work and activities to give you a chance to become familiar with the workings of the various ministries and organizations of our congregation.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the various functions within the church and find out just what they do. It not only gives the members an opportunity to understand the workings of the organizations and committees, but presents an opportunity for you to become actively involved. There will be sign-up sheets at each display to allow you to obtain additional information regarding a particular ministry or to volunteer to serve on a committee, participate in a ministry or become a member of a particular organization. Your time and talents are needed to be able to minister to all the needs of the church and congregation.

### **Extended Ministry Fair**

The Ministry Fair displays will remain on display for an additional week after June 24 to give everyone an opportunity to become familiar with ministries of the church.

### **Joint Worship Service and Potluck Lunch**

There will be a joint worship service at 10:30 am followed by a potluck lunch. This will be a ***cold*** potluck lunch as there will not be time to heat dishes following the joint worship service. Suggested dishes are green salads, congealed salads, fruit salads, sliced turkey or ham, sandwiches, vegetables, fried chicken, etc. And of course, cakes, pies and cookies for dessert.



### **Game Night**

(sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee)

Mark your calendars for game night to be held **Friday, June 29**. We will begin at 7:30 pm

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and will be playing games until approximately 9:30 pm. Bring your favorite games, drinks, chips or other snacks.

Our committee is scheduling game night for **every 5<sup>th</sup> Friday**, so mark your calendars for August 31 and November 30.



### **ELECTION RESULTS**

The following persons were elected at the Congregational Meeting on June 3, 2007.

**PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (7 MEMBERS): John Dotson, Jan Evans, Mark Gray, Dana Jackson, Debbie Metoyer, Walt Schrimper and Larry Toussaint.

#### **ELDERS:**

- **Class of 2008** (filling an unexpired term): Sarah Pfaffenroth.
- **Class of 2009** (filling unexpired terms): Sandy Kehrli, Miree Pomeroy and Cathy Harris.
- **Class of 2010** (six members): Bill Carroll, John Evans, Mark Gray, Jean Markham, Walt Schrimper and Jean Starnes.

The newly elected elders will be examined at the June Stated Meeting of the Session, which is Monday, June 18, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. Their Installation/Ordination service will be a part of the joint worship service on June 24, 2007 at 10:30 A.M.



### **Extended Care**

Summer Camp is going great with 73 children and a super staff! God is truly blessing us.

We miss having Vacation Bible School this summer, but we are using the church “Heartshapers” curriculum and Betsy Bogan is conducting Chapel every Monday morning.

We are looking forward to Fall and new beginnings with the three centers merged as

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one and a new building to serve in. The children are enjoying watching the ground being prepared for the new building.

The Extended Care has put in the new playground for older children to play ball and other outside sports. We request that groups using the playground please instruct the children in their care to respect the equipment so that we might all enjoy it!!

Have a great summer!



### GRACE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Board members** -- Moderator: Jan Evans; Vice Moderator: Wendi Glenn; Secretary: Sandra Gillispie; Treasurer: Susan Lawson; Historian: Dot Hathaway; Church Hostess: Jane McGoldrick

**Circle Leaders** -- Virginia Martin, Becky Karnes, Miree Pomeroy, Sara Lawson and Sandy Kurhli.

We have four members on the PW Coordinating Team for the Presbytery of the Mid-South. They are Jean Starnes, Spiritual Enrichment Rep.; Jean Markham, Search Committee Chair; Dot Hathaway, Historian and Sara Lawson, Newsletter Editor. Jean Starnes is the Treasurer of the Synod of The Living Waters Coordinating Team and Chairperson of the Nominating Committee of the Synod.

What a wonderful year we have had.

We have had a good Bible Study at our Circle meetings each month about the Perspectives on Genesis and those who lived during that era.

Our big project this year was the publishing of our cook book, *A Taste of Grace*, using numerous recipes from our church members and friends. Polly Scrimper was the chairperson and did a wonderful job. We have sold 235 cook books and our profit to date is \$370.76.

We sponsored the spaghetti dinner for the fund raiser for the expenses of those from Grace who will be going on the trip to Honduras. We also donated the hot dogs, hamburgers and buns for the fund raising car wash. We are proud that we can be a part of the Shining

Light from Grace to help those going to Honduras.

In June we awarded the Honorary Lifetime Award to Sandy Kurhli. The June gathering was held June 11<sup>th</sup> with picnic style pot luck. We enjoyed visiting with one another.

The PW will have a gathering in September to start off our 2007-2008 year of Circle meetings, Bible Study, projects, Secret Pals, etc. Circles are for all ages. We encourage all of the women from Grace Presbyterian to join us this fall.

Your Shining Light could shine though Grace.



### **COMMITMENT COMMITTEE**

The church's financial picture through the month of May is reasonably good, with income exceeding expenses by almost \$12,000. However, this good news is tempered by two factors. First, pledged income is still lagging behind the amount actually pledged for the first 5 months of the year by nearly \$5,000. Second, within the next few weeks, the church will be securing a loan of \$500,000 to help finance the new building project, and it is hoped that the monthly loan payments, estimated at nearly

\$4,000, can be made from the general fund. The church is holding some of the monies in the Building Fund in reserve, and these reserve funds can be used initially to help with monthly payments as needed, but within a year or so the mortgage payments will have to be made entirely from the general fund.

So it is imperative that we do several things. First, if you did make a pledge to the general fund for 2007, please try to keep up to date with your giving. Second, if you did not make a pledge for this year, we encourage you to give as generously as possible for the remainder of the year. We hope that everyone will strongly consider making a financial commitment to the general fund for 2008 during the fall stewardship campaign, as this greatly assists the Commitment Committee in making budget plans for the coming year. Finally, please remember the Building Fund. This is the third and final year for pledges to the fund to be paid, and it is estimated that an amount of \$70,000 to \$90,000 is still outstanding. So if you made a pledge to the Building Fund and have not completed payment, please try to pay the balance due before the end of the year, but as always, sooner is better than later. If you did not make a Building Fund pledge, you are still welcome and encouraged to make contributions. By the way, the Building Fund will be kept active after this year, and it would be a great help to funding the new building project if church members continue to make contributions to the fund after 2007.

This is a most exciting time in the life of Grace Presbyterian Church. Soon we will begin to see a new building rising to the east of our current structure. This new building will greatly enhance our opportunities for ministry as we seek to work and witness for the Lord. It is vitally important that we practice good stewardship of that which God has given to us so that our dreams can become a reality.

