

From the Editor

And speaking of God's lesser creatures (we were, weren't we?)

As many of you know, I have cats . . . or vice-versa. And I have kitty-doors so they can come and go. These two facts, taken together, make for some adventures at my house.

Case in point: I'm sitting at my computer a few minutes ago when out of the corner of my eye I spot one of my little beasties trying to sneak past me to the bedroom. Now, a cat trying to sneak is distinctive behavior, so it caught my attention.

"Hold it right there, Reuben! What have you got?"

"*Mrwff*," he replied, looking guilty, voice muffled by the small bird in his mouth.

"You know the rule – No snacks in the bedroom." Shoulders sagging, he slinks back to the kitchen with his bird. "Good Reuben," I told him.

I would have let it go at that, had it been a mouse or maybe a small squirrel. Birds, however, tend to be really messy. By the time he gets finished with it, there will be feathers everywhere.

"Take your bird back outside," I told him, opening the front door.

"*Mrwff!*" And out they go. Scary. You'd think he could really understand me.

Got an adventure you'd like to share? Drop us a line!

newsletter@grace-pres.org

Carl

Our Worship Schedule

Contemporary Service	8:45 - 9:45
Sunday School hour	10:00 - 11:00
Traditional Service	11:15 - 12:15

Grace Presbyterian Sunday School

Nursery	Kathe Walker	Judy Thigpen
Room 103		
2 Year – Pre-K	Wendi Glenn	Frances Kitterman
Room 102A	Debbie Metoyer	
Bible Quest		
Kindergarten – 5th	Susan Lawson	Michelle Miles
Room 102B	Cathy Bendall	
Bible Quest		
6th Grade – Up	Carl Jones	

Adults

In-Betweeners Class Discussion -- This is a new adult class for young adults, college aged through 30's. Clyde Getman will help coordinate class materials

Session Room

Call Sara Lawson, S.S. Superintendent, 867-3431, or Suzanne Getman Asst. Superintendent, 382-7777 for questions or if you are interested in joining this new adult class

Bible Discovery	John Dotson	Bill Bendall
Room 101A	Study – I Corinthians	
Friendship Class	John Price	
Room 101B	Discussion – Book of Acts, Titus	

Fond Farewell to Pastor Judith

*We are all searching for ways to show appreciation
For all you have meant to our Grace Congregation.
We feel very surely that God sent you to Grace
Through his agent Tom Pickering as he led our interim
chase.*

*Your radiant smile let us know you cared;
Even though you knew we were all a little bit scared.
Your love for us, your passionate pastoring and preaching
Has left us all with good memories of your spiritual
teaching.*

*You chided us gently about changes we needed to be making,
But you praised us greatly for positive steps we were
taking.*

*Your sermons, spiced with humor, were inventive,
And they kept those in the pews most attentive.*

*It seems like only yesterday that you were just starting;
Yet, we all knew you would too soon be departing.*

*You and David, it is safe to say, will be sorely missed,
But we all can still keep you on our special friend's list.*

*We pray that God's blessings will be with you every day,
And that, once in a while, you will again come our way.*

*We know that, after some much-needed rest;
Whatever church calls you will get one of the best.*

*In Christ's love,
A Thankful Member
Grace Presbyterian Church*

Letters to the Editor

Dear SLOG:

A recent book, *The Assault on Reason*, by Al Gore was recommended for reading in the prior newsletter. Since you have so much time on your hands, you should also read the following recently published books on topics of great interest to concerned citizens:

- *State of Emergency*, by Patrick Buchanan
- *Day of Reckoning*, by Patrick Buchanan
- *Power to the People*, by Laura Ingraham
- *Religious Literacy*, by Stephen Prothero
- *What's So Great About Christianity*, by Dinesh D'Souza

On a historical note, you might also find interesting *The River of Doubt - Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey*, by Candice Millard

Harold Howard

From the Pastor Nominating/Transition Committee

Bio for Larry Turner and family

Larry Turner was born and raised in Decatur, Alabama. He is the youngest of four children, who all still reside along with his parents in Decatur. Larry moved to Memphis in 1979 to attend Crichton College (Mid South Bible College) where he later spotted his future wife, Beth, on the Volleyball Court in 1981. Larry also attended University of Memphis and completed his B.S in psychology in 1989. He completed his Masters in Counseling 1991 also from University of Memphis. His Masters in Divinity was completed in 1996 from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. Larry loves to read Christian non fiction, play golf, and he is movie buff.

Larry and Beth have been married since 1982 – 25 + years and counting. They have been partners in ministry for their entire history together, however it is evident that they make each other a first priority. Their ministries together with Larry on staff have included 5 years of Youth ministry, 3 years of Young Adult Ministry and of course the last 11 + years with Larry in the pastorate. Beth’s ministry passion involves both Children’s and Music Ministry- put those together and you have the “ Crazy Bible

School Music Lady” in addition to supporting Larry in various other roles.

Beth is the youngest of five children; was born and raised here in Memphis. Beth is a Registered Nurse, also attended the University of Memphis and graduated from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in 1982. She has expertise in several Clinical specialties, but currently serves in an Administrative roll. Beth loves to sing, read Christian novels, garden, and varies other hobbies.

Larry and Beth have two children. Chris Turner, 23 years old, currently lives in Bartlett with his dog Lennox. He is a waiter at the TGI Fridays here at Wolf Chase Galleria. He is very excited that

The Shining Light of Grace

Mom and Dad are going to be close by! Larry and Beth call him their “miracle” child! He had Brain surgery for a rare condition at age 16 but survived with no deficits and has done very well. He is an excellent soccer player, loves to sing Karaoke, looks like his Mom and has a very tender heart like his Dad.

Justin Turner, 20 years old, currently lives in Helena, Alabama and will be staying with Mom and Dad’s house while it is on the market. He is an Assistant Manager at Kay Jewelers in Birmingham. Justin is the “spitting” image of his Dad at any age, but can sing like his Mom- he does a mean “ Casting Crowns” – Mark Hall impersonation.. He loves video games, movies with Dad and reading. He is his Mom and Dad’s baby boy- very special- and multi talented.!

When Larry and Beth talk about the boys, you will here them say that they must have done something right. They are proud parents and hope to see both boys back in school soon!

From the Presbyterian Women

February will be another busy month for the PW. We welcome Rev. Larry Turner and his wife, Beth to Grace Presbyterian Church with open arms. Both will learn right away that we are very busy ladies with many projects.

February Circle Meetings:

- Circle # 1 will meet Tuesday February 12, 2008 at 10:00 AM at the church.
- Circle # 2 will meet the FIRST MONDAY February 4, 2008 at 10:00 AM at the home of Becky Karnes. PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.
- Circle # 3 will meet Tuesday February 19, 2008 at 10:00 AM at the church and go to lunch after the Bible Study.
- Circle # 4 will meet Monday February 11, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the church
- Circle # 5 will meet MONDAY February 11, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the church with Circle # 4. PLEASE NOTE THE CHAGE.

At the writing for our January newsletter we had 8 food baskets scheduled. We were able to fill 11 baskets thanks to the response that went out for can goods and non-perishable foods. We also provided toys and gifts to 30 children from these 11 families. We received enough money to pay for the hams and perishable foods to put in the baskets plus money to pay for the extra gifts that we needed to buy. A BIG, BIG thank you goes to Ken Hathaway who worked all day with us getting the baskets ready and using the dolly to transport the baskets to the family cars who came to pick up their gifts. He also helped to make deliveries to two families. Thanks Ken and the 8 members that helped wrap the gifts and load the baskets. We hope to add more names to our needy family food baskets for next December.

Kitchen Requirements

When you use the church kitchen the following must be observed:

The Shining Light of Grace

1. Wash, dry and put away anything you use.
2. Clean counter tops.
3. Clean coffee pots if they were used.
4. Put all towels & washcloths in container on counter.
5. Empty trash can in the dumpster outside.
6. Label & date items put in the refrigerator and/or freezer. If not labeled they will be discarded.

Your help will provide a clean and sanitary kitchen for all of us to use. Thank you

From the Congregational Life Committee

Sneak preview of February 2008 fellowship events:

The Congregational Life Committee will sponsor game night Friday, February 29. Additional details will be published in the weekly bulletins.

Day Trippers has tentatively scheduled a trip to Reelfoot Lake on Tuesday, February 26 to see the majestic Bald Eagles. When we arrive at Reelfoot, we will enjoy a 2 hour Ranger guided bus tour. Of course we will be eating lunch at one of the restaurants adjacent to the lake. Additional details will be published in the weekly bulletins.

Annual Picnic at Ellendale Park on Saturday, April 26. Activities will begin at 10:00 am. There will be food and games.

Byron Graves

386-6779

bgraves6@bellsouth.net

From the Memphis Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN)

Mark your calendar.

The MIHN guest will arrive on Sunday Feb 17. We will be hosting up to 14 guests for the week. I am very excited that the guest will be able to use our new showers. A hot shower is something that we take for granted. But it is a luxury when you are homeless. Thanks to the building committee and others who helped plan the new facility we no longer have to travel somewhere for showers.

I want to thank each of you in advance for everything you will do to make our guest comfortable and welcome. If you are a regular, thanks again. If you have not volunteered yet, please give it a try. There are approximately 50 slots to fill each week that we host. There are no hard jobs. Most take only a couple of hours. But each job must be done to meet the needs of the guest. A sign up sheet will be available in the hallway. Also, a supply list will be posted in the kitchen. Please mark the items you plan to bring so we won't have too much or too little of any item. The items can be placed in the kitchen and marked for MIHN.

For more information:

Dana Jackson

dtjacks@bellsout.net

377.9374

From the Friendship Sunday School Class

The Friendship Class (John Price) is taking a break from our study of the Book of Acts. We're going to listen to a series of CDs entitled Tough Grace in Difficult Places, by Charles Swindoll. It is a study on the Book of Titus.

We'll begin our study on January 13, and we'd love to have visitors. We meet in the new building, first classroom on the right. Judy Price will be guiding these sessions.

Judy Price

386-8976

jjpricetn@aol.com

From Grace Presbyterian Child Care Center

We have finally moved into the beautiful new educational wing and are now looking for creative ways to store everything. We appreciate so much David Hyde (one of our parents) and all of the staff for the long hours spent moving us. We also want to thank Bill Carroll for all his help. Finally, we all appreciate the sacrifices that Grace's members made to make this new facility possible. Our children, families, and staff are all so impressed and excited to be in it.

Teresa Simpson

strvnwritr@yahoo.com

Jonah Chapter 3

When Jonah saw Nineveh was saved and not destroyed, He became greatly displeased and greatly annoyed.

*"Is this not what I said
Before I had fled?"*

I knew you were a compassionate God and from sending harm you would avoid."

"Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better that I die."

"Have you any right to be angry?" the Lord did reply.

Jonah went out

And sat down to pout.

He waited and watched to see what would take place by and by.

The Lord provided a vine to give Jonah relief from the sun.

He was very happy for what the Lord God had done.

But then God did provide

A worm by his side

Which chewed the vine so that it withered and was gone.

The next day God provided scorching wind and hot sun in the sky.

Jonah grew faint and again he wanted to die.

He was angry and said

"I am better off dead."

But God responded, "At the vine you are greatly angry. Why?"

"Jonah, you have changed your thoughts about the vine even though

It was not you who made it or caused it to grow.

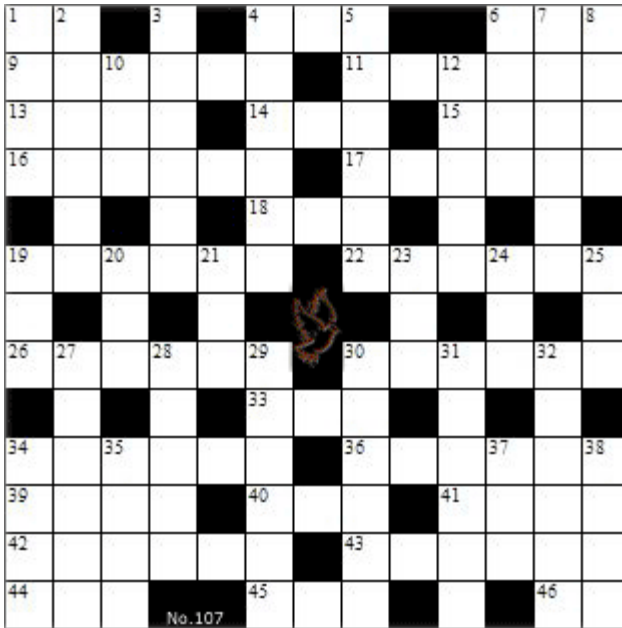
It thrived

And then died.

So can't I change my thoughts about the Ninevites and my grace to them show?"

Suzanne Getman

The Shining Light of Grace



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ACROSS

- 1 I speak the truth in Christ, I ___ not lying (Rom 9:1)
 4 stayed behind to ___ Queen Esther for his life (Est 7:7)
 6 Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the ___ of the world (John 1:29)
 9 they had brick for stone, and slime had they for ___ (Gen 11:3) ASV
 11 Joshua did it; he left nothing ___ of all that the LORD commanded (Josh 11:15)
 13 Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an ___ of manna in it (Ex 16:33)
 14 The breath of God produces ___, and the broad waters become frozen (Job 37:10)
 15 He had forty sons and thirty grandsons, who ___ on seventy donkeys (Judg 12:14)
 16 full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they ___ the unstable (2 Peter 2:14)
 17 the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light ___ in the prison (Acts 12:7)KJV
 18 decay (Isa 50:2)
 19 a tent that will not be moved; its ___ will never be pulled up (Isa 33:20)
 22 Strengthen the feeble hands, ___ the knees that give way (Isa 35:3)
 26 let it be used to repair whatever ___ is found in the temple (2 Kings 12:5)
 30 not leave your post; calmness can lay great ___ to rest (Eccl 10:4)
 33 I, Daniel, was exhausted and lay ___ for several days (Dan 8:27)
 34 praying for you and ___ God to fill you with the knowledge (Col 1:9)
 36 insolent, arrogant and boastful; they ___ ways of doing evil (Rom 1:30)
 39 Your feet are ___ in the mud; your friends have deserted you (Jer 38:22)

- 40 Then Jesus said, "He who ___ ears to hear, let him hear." (Mark 4:9)
- 41 For my yoke is ___ and my burden is light (Matt 11:30)
- 42 Then the high ___ stood up before them and asked Jesus (Mark 14:60)
- 43 Fear and trembling have beset me; ___ has overwhelmed me (Ps 55:5)
- 44 So they ___ out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel (Luke 9:6)
- 45 He saith unto him, ___, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. (John 21:16) KJV
- 46 "Come, follow ___," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:19)

DOWN

- 1 30th book of the Old Testament
- 2 Saul, receive your sight! And at that very ___ I was able to see him (Acts 22:13)
- 3 taking out a stone, he slung it and ___ the Philistine on the forehead (1 Sam 17:49)
- 4 People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from ___ (Luke 6:44)
- 5 How can the ___ of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? (Matt 9:15)
- 6 As ___ as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water (Matt 3:16)
- 7 But Christ has ___ been raised from the dead (1 Cor 15:20)
- 8 The LORD will fight for you; you ___ only to be still (Ex 14:14)
- 10 Their breastplates were fiery ___, dark blue, and yellow (Rev 9:17)
- 12 I will be able to defeat them and ___ them out of the country (Num 22:6)
- 19 unhappy (Matt 19:22)
- 20 brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched ___ (Deut 26:8)
- 21 is there flavor in the white of an ___? (Job 6:6)
- 23 she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with ___ and pitch (Ex 2:3)
- 24 Cornelius answered: "Four days ___ I was in my house praying (Acts 10:30)
- 25 affirmative response (Acts 22:27)
- 27 I ___ you before God that what I am writing you is no lie (Gal 1:20)
- 28 he will bless those who fear the LORD, small and great ___ (Ps 115:13)
- 29 Isaac lived a hundred and ___ years (Gen 35:28)
- 30 Elijah's successor (2 Kings 2:9)
- 31 they helped David against the band of the ___ (1 Chron 12:21) KJV
- 32 but to serve, and to give his life as a ___ for many (Matt 20:28)
- 34 the poison of ___ is under their lips (Rom 3:13) KJV
- 35 with skin and flesh and ___ me together with bones and sinews (Job 10:11)
- 37 O Lord, let your ___ be attentive to the prayer of this your servant (Neh 1:11)
- 38 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of ___ and Sidon (Matt 15:21)

From the Session

I. Stated Session Meeting December 17, 2007

A. Membership:

1. Death of James Krech, December 3, 2007.
2. New Member, Kirsten Waddell, by Transfer of Letter and her baptized children, Angel Cooley, Sarah Waddell and Vaughn Waddell
3. Roll Totals: Active - 238; Inactive - 60;
Baptized Children - 34

B. Various correspondence

C. Report from the Pastor

D. Treasurer's Report

E. Ad-hoc Committee Reports

1. Building Committee
2. Pastor Nominating Committee

F. Sessional Committee Reports

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Schools | 5. Personnel |
| 2. M.O.R.E. | 6. Property |
| 3. Congregational Life | 7. Commitment |
| 4. Worship | |

II. Called Session Meeting January 6, 2008

A. Church budget for 2008 (approved)

B. Sale of piano (offer to members at appraised value)

C. Letter of resignation from Cathy Harris from the Session (accepted)

D. Motion to call Congregational meeting on January 13 (approved)

III. Called Session Meeting January 13, 2008

A. Proposal for joint worship service February 2, 2008 (approved)

IV. Congregational Meeting January 13, 2008

A duly called congregational meeting was held in the sanctuary at 10:45 A.M. for the purposes of presenting the Budget for 2008 and to elect representatives from the membership to sign the official call to Rev. Larry Turner. The Moderator, Rev. Judith Reese, called us

to order and offered an opening prayer. She seated the Clerk of Session to record the minutes for the meeting and established that a quorum was present for business. The Moderator then explained the purposes of the meeting.

John Price, Chair of the Commitment Committee, was called to present the Operating Budget. Copies had been provided to everyone present. After all questions, about the budget, were answered by John Price or by Treasurer, John Evans, the Moderator called on the Clerk of Session to present a recommendation to the congregation.

The Session had recommended that the Pastor Nominating Committee members, who were elected by the congregation and had completed the difficult task involved in calling Rev. Turner, be the ones to sign his official call. Rev. Reese then opened the floor for other nominations. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to close nominations and elect the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee by acclamation. They were John Dotson, Ian Evans, Mark Gray, Dana Jackson, Debbie Metoyer, Walt Schrimper and Larry Toussaint.

The Moderator then called on the Clerk to review the minutes of the meeting. This was done. Rev. Reese entertained a motion that they be approved. A motion was made and seconded that they be approved as read. Motion passed. Since the business had been completed, a motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed.

The congregational meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Judith Reese.

Moderator: Rev. Judith Reese

Clerk: Dossett Foster

From the Grace Presbyterian Youth

Saturday, February 2nd: Youth Service Project, TBA.
Sunday, February 3rd: Youth Super Bowl Party, TBA
Wednesday, February 6th: Youth Bible Study, 6:30-7:45PM.
Sunday, February 10th: Youth Study, 6:00-8:00PM.
Wednesday, February 13th: Youth Bible Study, 6:30-7:45PM.
Sunday, February 17th: Youth Game Night, 6:00-8:00PM.
Wednesday, February 20th: Youth Bible Study, 6:30-7:45PM.
Sunday, February 24th: Winter Jam Concert 3:00PM-TBA.
Wednesday, February 27th: Youth Bible Study, 6:30-7:45PM.

Hug Bugs are Back!!!

The Youth are selling Hug Bugs again to raise money for the youth fund. These little pom-pom critters will be passed out on Sunday, February 10th. These little critters make a great gifts for that special someone.

So, make a donation to the youth fund and order some.
There will be order forms in bulletins.

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering

Our Youth will hold soup pots at the church doors on Sunday, February 3rd. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. The Youth will be collecting monetary donations as well as canned goods.

The collection will go to the Soup Kitchen at First Presbyterian Church, Downtown.

Cristaldawn Perry
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