

Our Worship Schedule

Contemporary Service	8:45 - 9:45
Children's Service	8:45 - 9:45
Sunday School Hour	10:00 - 11:00
Traditional Service	11:15 - 12:15
Children's Service	11:15 - 12:15

Grace Presbyterian Sunday School

Nursery – Room 103	Kathe Walker	Judy Thigpen
2 Year – Kindergarten Room 112	Debbie Metoyer	Frances Kitterman
1st – 5th Room 117	Cathy Bendall Johnnie Davis	Michelle Miles
6th Grade – Up – Room 109	Lee Busby Carl Jones	Kevin Bopp

Adults

In-Betweeners – Rm. 100

Bible Discovery – Rm. 101B	John Dotson	Bill Bendall
Friendship Class – Room 101	John Price	

Call Sara Lawson, S.S. Superintendent, 867-3431, or Suzanne Getman, Asst. Superintendent, 382-7777 with questions or if you are interested in joining one of these classes.

The Shining Light of Grace

From the Pastor

Christmas holidays. When I was in school those two words were my two most favorite. They mean that I would be out of school for two weeks and that in the middle of those two weeks would be Christmas.

Growing up Christmas was always family time. We would gather at my Grandparent's home on Christmas Eve and celebrate the season with our aunts and uncles and cousins. It was a magical time.

But what I didn't like about Christmas was that it took too long to get here. From the time we got out of school for Christmas break until Christmas finally arrived seemed like a year. And Christmas Eve night was the longest of my entire life. It was agonizing trying to sleep when you knew Santa Clause was coming. The 10:00 pm news always gave a report that Santa had been sighted by their radar and he was headed our way. That was our sign to hit the sack.

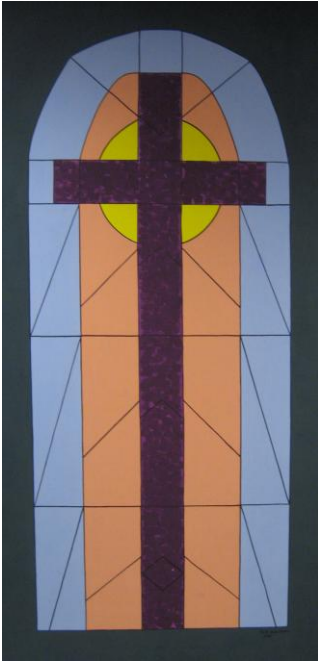
My brother and I would always wake up early on Christmas morning. We shared a bedroom and on Christmas Eve we hide a flashlight in our room so that when we woke up we could sneak out of our room and shine the flashlight into the den and see if Santa had brought our presents. We didn't want to turn on the lights in case he was coming down the chimney or something. We didn't want to scare him off.

My poor mother didn't like to get up early. She was always grumpy on Christmas morning. I now know why and I have empathized with her. I learned first hand when our boys were young just how little sleep parent's get on Christmas Eve. Santa needs lots of help.

Now that my parent's are not in the best of health, the memories are more important than ever.

I hope that all of you have a merry Christmas and that you make some good memories.

New “Stained Glass” Window



Grace Presbyterian has a new stained glass window. No it's not in the sanctuary - it is in the Sunday School class . Polly Schrimper has painted another masterpiece to be shared by the Sunday School and the Day School children. The children love the addition of the stained glass cross to their class. Please come down to room 117 and enjoy the painting.

Thank you again Polly for sharing your time and talents in creating a special place for our children to learn and worship.

Did You Know? Did you know that we will soon have a library at Grace Presbyterian Church? Rosemary Gordon has been working on organizing the church library room. She and her husband, John, have been spending their Saturday mornings unpacking the many, many boxes of books that have been in storage since the merger and placing them on the book shelves. When all the boxes are empty, the books are arranged on the shelves, and the room “looks like a library” Rosemary will be able to inform us about the use of this wonderful asset to our church. When you see Rosemary ask her if you could help her plus give her and John a big pat on the back for the long hours they have been working.

The Shining Light of Grace

Children's Church Schedule

Date	0845 Leader	Asst	Puppet Asst	1115 Leader	Asst	Puppet Asst
Dec 7th	****	No Children's Church	Joint Service	****	****	****
14th	Kim Upshaw	Jan Evans	Wendi Glenn	Beth Turner	John Dotson	Alex Fry
21st	Need Leader	Linda Foster	Mark Gray	Beth Turner	Sandra Gillespie	Catie Waddell
28th	Kim Upshaw	Sandy Renee	Wayne Gillespie	Need Leader	Carl Jones	Blake R.
Jan 4th	Kim Upshaw	Dana Jackson	Amy Jackson	Beth Turner	Amy Bishop	Amy Jackson
11th	Suzanne Getman	Dossett Foster	Christy Tinnen	Beth Turner	John Dotson	Alex Fry
18th	Suzanne Getman	Walt Schrimper	Wendi Glenn	Beth Turner	Sandra Gillespie	Catie Waddell
25th	Suzanne Getman	Jan Evans	Mark Gray	Beth Turner	Carl Jones	Blake R.
Feb 1st	Kim Upshaw	Linda Foster	Wayne Gillespie	Beth Turner	Amy Bishop	Amy Jackson
8th	Kim Upshaw	Sandy Renee	Christy Tinnen	Beth Turner	John Dotson	Alex Fry
15th	Kim Upshaw	Dana Jackson	Amy Jackson	Beth Turner	Sandra Gillespie	Catie Waddell
22nd	Kim Upshaw	Dossett Foster	Wendi Glenn	Beth Turner	Amy Jackson	Blake R.

Beth Turner Childrens Church Coordinator 907-
- 9454

If You Have A Schedule Conflict = Please Switch With Another Team Member And Call Linda In The Office To Let Her Know So The Bulletin Will Be Correct.

Thank You All For Your Faithfulness
"When Children Worship God - Amazing Things Happen!!!!"

Ho Ho Ho -- Santa Clause Is Comin' To Grace

You are invited to join Santa for breakfast on **Saturday morning December 13** from 9:30 - 11:00. Pancakes and sausage will be served. Pictures with Santa will be available to remember this special Christmas event.

Any elves that would like to be Santa's helper during the breakfast contact Sara Lawson 867-3431 -

slawson@lawsoneng.com. Santa promises a happy jolly day.

The Congregational Life Committee would like to thank all the Veterans and their guests who attended our Veterans Service on Sunday, November 9, 2008. We especially thank all of you who gave us your information about your time in the service plus your photo. Thank you to those on our committee who provided this service. Without the following names we could not have had the successful service that we had. We send our grateful thanks to Linda Cole, Pastor Larry Turner, Jean Jones, Wendi Glenn, Sara Lawson, Garrett Guenther, Blake Ragghianti, The Cub Scouts, Lee Guenther, Andrew Vawter, Jason Russell, Daniel Hicks, Bob Vawter, Janet Vawter, Michelle Miles, Debra Metoyer, Samantha Metoyer, Catie Dooley, and Elaina Gray.

The Shining Light of Grace

From the School Programs

As the weather gets colder the excitement is growing as the children prepare for the Christmas season!

On November 14th we shipped off 30 gift wrapped shoe boxes filled with small gifts to Samaritan's Purse.

These gifts will be given out to underprivileged children around the world. All the supplies were donated by our center families.

On December 1st we will start our holiday food basket drive for needed families. These supplies will be turned over to our Presbyterian Women's group

to help provide baskets for families needing help this holiday season.

Our center is blessed by caring families that always share with others, some are single parent families and doing so is truly a sacrifice of love.

This past six weeks an out pouring of love and compassion was demonstrated to the widow and family of Skip Dickinson, our driver who passed away after a short illness.

Fund raisers were held, food taken to the family and staff and center families attended his memorial service.

While we are a child care facility, our staff and families do witness that Grace Presbyterian Child Care Center is a ministry serving others.

So as our children put up holiday art work and make out wish lists for Santa I am reminded daily of the blessings God allows me by being a part of this wonderful place.

All of the children and staff join me in wishing you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas season!

The Magnolia Tree

When my green thumb Mother decided to sell the old home place, she ask me to transplant a sapling from the magnificent ole magnolia tree that had graced her front yard for several years. So to preserve the memory of the magnolia and to keep it in the family, I planted the tree in the clay dirt of our back yard. The tree lived but it didn't grow, no matter what I fertilized it with or the special care I gave.

After 3 or 4 years I decided to relocate the tree into an old flower bed that was full of mulch and good soil. Man, did it start to grow! Mom's little tree is now 25 feet high and produces the most fragrant big white magnolia blossoms. .

The tree makes me think of the parable of the Sower, we all know and love in Matthew 13. All the tree needed was some good soil and it grew and produced.

Don't you think Grace Presbyterian Church is planted on good soil? Lets help it grow and produce.

The Peace of Christ
Joe Bishop

The Shining Light of Grace

From the Presbyterian Women

Our December gathering of all four circles will be held Monday, December 8, 2008 at 6:30 PM at the church with a pot luck, December Bible lesson, Christmas gift exchange and the revealing of our Secret Pals. Each circle will bring three toys for toddlers to be presented to the toddler nursery for our Christmas gift to the church. Mark your calendar for this fun evening to start our Christmas season.

Saturday, December 13, 2008 will be our Breakfast With Santa. Watch for information about the time, menu, reservations, and the fun your child or grandchild can have with Santa.

We will be filling Christmas baskets with food and gifts at the end of December for several families in need. Watch for the date and time in our church bulletins for you to help. The children from our Preschool, Mother's Day Out and Extended Care will be collecting the can goods for us.

We will be having our annual Silent Auction in the spring of 2009. If you plan to make a craft for this auction you may want to start now. More about this will be in later newsletters. The Silent Auction was such a success this past May we are hoping to do the same this coming spring, with your help.

We are still selling our cook books, A Taste of Grace. If you have not purchased one you are really missing out on some delicious recipes. The price is \$12.00 per book and all the profits from this book goes to our church building fund. You may purchase these books at the church office or call Jan Evans at 386-4672. Remember they make wonderful Christmas gifts.

There will be no PW board meeting in December.

Get to know our organist, Jean Jones

Jerry and I have been married 43 years, have three children, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. I raised my three children to be good Baptists. Baptists apparently make good Presbyterians because our entire issue became Presbyterians. My daughter told me that she believed she was born to be a Presbyterian. I whimsically asked her, “Does that mean you were *predestined* to be Presbyterian?”.

Jerry is in the masonry business and enjoys ushering at Bellevue Baptist Church where we are members. Jerry, however, rarely misses an opportunity to attend seasonal and special events at Grace Presbyterian.

I studied piano throughout elementary and high school but was always fascinated with the organ. I decided that I would take a few private lessons and master the instrument.

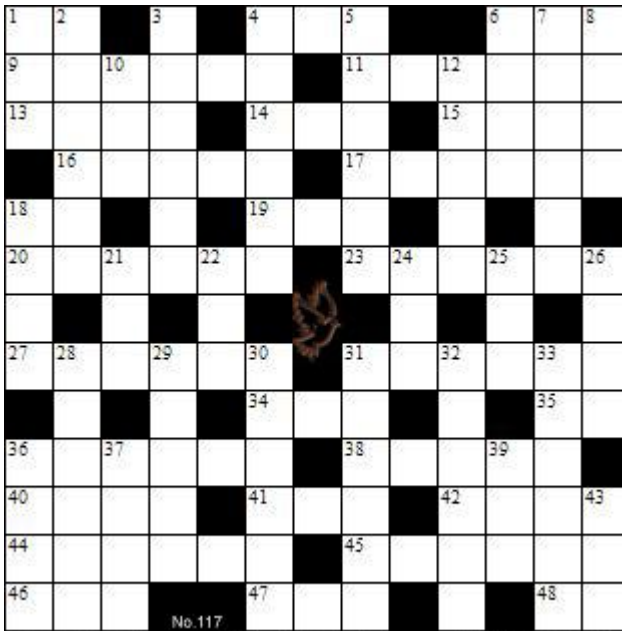
I'll never forget my first organ lesson. The teacher was explaining something to me and I asked, “Do you mean that I have to wear shoes and play with both feet?” The teacher gasped, took in a volume of air that upset my heavily sprayed bouffant hairdo and said, “Absolutely yes!”

The ‘few’ private lessons I planned to take lasted 14 years, and I did learn to play the pedals with both feet. I enrolled in the University of Memphis and earned a BMA and MMA in Sacred Music in 1990 and 1994 respectively. In 2005-2006 I had the privilege to serve as Dean of the Memphis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

I am ever grateful to God for leading me through this myriad of musical phases in my life. And I am so blessed and thankful to be the organist of Grace Presbyterian Church.

Dossett Foster,
Clerk of Session.

The Shining Light of Grace



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ACROSS

- 1 ____, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked (2 Kings 6:15)
 4 Go to the ____, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise (Prov 6:6)
 6 ____ to them! They have taken the way of Cain (Jude 11)
 9 like a lion among the beasts of the ____ (Mic 5:8)
 11 Greetings, you who are ____ favored! The Lord is with you (Luke 1:28)
 13 on your way in safety, and your ____ will not stumble (Prov 3:23)
 14 part of 13 across
 15 sons and thirty grandsons, who ____ on seventy donkeys (Judg 12:14)
 16 Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ____ be with you (Luke 24:36)
 17 the building fitly ____ together groweth unto an holy temple (Eph 2:21) KJV
 18 She said ____ herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." (Matt 9:21)
 19 Whoever flatters his neighbor is spreading a ____ for his feet (Prov 29:5)
 20 O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you ____ me (Ps 30:2)
 23 at his waist was a belt with a dagger in its ____ (2 Sam 20:8)
 27 to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, ____, Philadelphia (Rev 1:11)
 31 of lions and lionesses, of ____ and darting snakes (Isa 30:6)
 34 and a quarter of a ____ of seed pods for five shekels (2 Kings 6:25)
 35 Yes, it is ____ you say, Jesus replied (Matt 27:11)

- 36 occupation
 38 He is able to open the scroll and its ___ seals (Rev 5:5)
 40 second son of Adam (Gen 4:1-2)
 41 The ___ who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man (Matt 13:37)
 42 and my couch will ___ my complaint (Job 7:13)
 44 Smite the ___ of the door, that the posts may shake (Amos 9:1) KJV
 45 But small is the gate and ___ the road that leads to life (Matt 7:14)
 46 He is demon-possessed and raving ___. Why listen to him? (John 10:19-20)
 47 But Jacob replied, "I will not ___ you go unless you bless me." (Gen 32:26)
 48 Come, follow ___ Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men (Matt 4:18-20)

DOWN

- 1 Therefore each of you must put ___ falsehood and speak truthfully (Eph 4:25)
 2 the stork, any kind of heron, the ___ and the bat (Lev 11:19)
 3 Paul greeted them and reported in ___ what God had done (Acts 21:19)
 4 Esther summoned Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to ___ her (Est 4:5)
 5 their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their ___ (Rev 9:21)
 6 "May your God, ___ you serve continually, rescue you!" (Dan 6:16)
 7 David was the youngest. The three ___ followed Saul (1 Sam 17:14)
 8 for one official is ___ by a higher one, and over them both are (Eccl 5:8)
 10 the gazelle, the ___ deer, the wild goat, the ibex (Deut 14:5)
 12 the ___ harvest will fail, and the harvest of fruit (Isa 32:10)
 18 the wisdom of ___ world is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor 3:19)
 21 Look at the birds of the ___ ; they do not sow or reap (Matt 6:26)
 22 The sons of Benjamin: Gera, Naaman, ___, Rosh (Gen 46:21)
 24 After the Lord Jesus ___ spoken to them, he was taken up into (Mark 16:19)
 25 Abimelech took an ___ in his hand, and cut down a bough (Judg 9:48) KJV
 26 Egypt will ___ like a fleeing serpent (Jer 46:22)
 28 ___ and all the princes of Kedar were your customers (Ezek 27:21)
 29 I have not ___ in a house from the day I brought Israel (1 Chron 17:5)
 30 You are worthy to take the ___ and to open its seals (Rev 5:9)
 31 though I am ___ from you in body, I am present with you (Col 2:5)
 32 there shall be earthquakes in ___ places (Mark 13:8) KJV
 33 Do not accept a ___ for the life of a murderer (Num 35:31)
 36 Be careful, keep ___ and don't be afraid (Isa 7:4)
 37 ___ your heart and not your garments (Joel 2:13)
 39 And he touched the man's ___ and healed him (Luke 22:51)
 43 bring two male lambs and one ___ lamb a year old (Lev 14:10)

The Shining Light of Grace

The Church Library is being set up and once everything is ready, books will be available for checkout. You can help us purchase new books and related materials by asking for Library Stamps when you make purchases at Family Christian Stores (formerly Zondervan). You can receive stamps on your total purchase whether you have bought books, CD's, gifts, etc. You will receive one stamp for each \$5.00 spent and then we can use stamps instead of cash to buy new books for the library. When you pay at the register you must ask for library stamps. Please give stamps to Rosemary Gordon or Wendi Glenn.