

May 10, 2011



Grace Presbyterian Church
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Confirmation 2011



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2011, confirmed in Christ on May 1, 2011. Welcome to our adult church family! Pictured are: Molly Willihnganz, Courtney Cullen, Marq Clawson, Sophie Willihnganz, Morgan Meier, Peter Puleo, instructor Jen Smith, CE Director Brad Westergaard,



instructor Karen Ferstl, Quinn McCallum, Liz Wilson, Jacob Anderson, Riane Wilkie, Matt Berg, Tessa DeYoung.



Two Services May 15 & 22

We have two services on Sundays, May 15 and 22. On May 29 we begin the summer schedule with a single 9:30 service with coffee and fellowship immediately following.

Gluten Free - Fructose Free Communion

Grace Presbyterian Church has gluten free wafers available during our communion service for those participants who need/want this option. The wafers are located in the **center** of the communion trays. The center ring of communion cups contain water and not grape juice. Again to better accommodate our members and guests. Thank you, Deacons for attending to all our members!

Mission Committee Update

We received thank you letters from Church World Service for our donation of 62 Hygiene Kits and 12 School Kits. Almost 40,000 Hygiene Kits were sent to Haiti to survivors of the January 12 earthquake. Church World Service also responded to the disaster in Japan. Kits are a gift of hope in a time of need.

Also, the Grace Church **OGHS** collection came to \$2,373.16 this year. That is \$125.40 more than last year. Thank you for all your hard work and contributions.



- ▶ The **Morning Circle** will meet June 1st at 9:30. Charlene Kikkert & Helen Glewen are hostesses.
- ▶ The **Evening Circle** will meet June 1st at 5:30 PM in the Reception Room. Trudy Miller will lead Lesson 5, Singing Hymns of Hope in our study about Revelations. Bring a sandwich or something light and Ann Peck will provide something to finish the meal. Ruth Meylink will lead the meeting. For more information about this rowdy bunch of ladies, please call any of the above.

New Grace Church Phone Directory is Available

The newest Grace Church phone directory is finished; copies are in the hall across from the office. If you notice any inaccuracies, please let us know in the office. Some people no longer have landlines so we may not have correct phone numbers for them. Please update your information at church. If you'd like an email address published for your household next year, please let us know that as well. We'd like to add them for 2012. Thank you.



Monthly Potlucks This Summer



Nurturing Connections will be hosting monthly potlucks this summer. The potlucks will be the first Sundays of June, July and August. They will start after the summer worship service (approximately 10:45AM). Please stay after church and join us for food and fellowship! Beverages will be provided.



Our sympathy goes out to all family and friends of member **Ardeth Bayley**, who passed away on April 26. Ardeth was active in helping with Sunday school for many years. Ardeth's memorial service will be held at a later date. Please pray for the family as they mourn their loss.

The "Thank You" Column

Dear Grace Church Family,
I can't thank you enough for the opportunity to serve as the 2011 Confirmation leader. It was a blessing to be able to establish a spiritual connection with the AWESOME young people of our church and I look forward to future endeavors and service. Thank you session for the card, gift certificates and the emotional gratitude. Thank you Cheryl Bird for your time and effort on the Christian music CD's. Thank you Brad Westergaard and Ron Wilkie for operating the equipment and improvising when needed:) Thank you Chris and Paula who tolerated my inability to plan ahead and to Karen Ferstl for teaching on Sundays. Most of all thank you Tracy Propst for assisting in preparing the class syllabus and curriculum. Your talent for organizing and ideas is a true blessing and I am so fortunate to call you friend!

God Bless, Jennifer Smith

Trinity Church Spring Rummage Sale

Trinity United Methodist Church, 308 Oneida St., Beaver Dam, will have their annual spring rummage sale on Wed. May 18 from 4-7PM, Thurs. May 19 from 9AM-4PM, Fri. May 20 from 9AM-12PM. Clothing, Books, Jewelry, Toys and games, housewares, glassware, small appliances and much more! No early sales.

GRACE CHURCH CALENDAR May 15 - May 29, 2011

Sunday May 15 - Music Appreciation

8:15 AM Worship
9:45 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship - Music Appreciation

Tuesday May 17

9:30 AM Senior Coffee
7:30 PM Meditation

Wednesday May 18

8:30 AM Meditation
9:45 AM Women's Book Group
5:30 PM PAVE Board Meeting
5:30 PM Power to Prosper Meal
6:00 PM Power to Prosper Class

Thursday May 19

6:30 PM Spanish Class

Friday May 20

7:00 PM **Youth Game Night**

Sunday May 22

8:15 AM Worship
9:15 AM **Adult Class on Youth & Alcohol in our Community**
10:30 AM Worship

Tuesday May 24

9:30 AM Senior Coffee
Presbytery at West Granville
6:30 PM Session Meeting
7:30 PM Meditation

Wednesday May 25

8:30 AM Meditation
9:45 AM Women's Book Group

Thursday May 26

6:30 PM Spanish Class

Saturday May 28

2:00 PM Cody Freber/Scott Infalt Wedding

Sunday May 29

9:30 AM Worship

For Sunday May 15

Head Ushers: 10:30 – Jr. & Maria Krause
Ushers: 10:30 - Peg Vande Zande, Holly DeYoung, Bob Wyman
Greeters: 8:15 - Alyce & Bob Schoenwetter
10:30 - Ann & Dave Walter
Next Courier: Deadline for articles is **Monday May 23rd at 10 AM.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS



WOMEN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP Meeting every Wednesday (1st Wed. meets away from church) morning from 9:45 – 11:00 in the Reception Room of the Church. Come and join us!

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB First Tuesday Book Club will meet June 7th at 6:30 PM in the Church Library. We'll be going back to 1863 when we discuss the book, **The Killer Angels**, by Michael Shaara. The book is about four days of the Battle of Gettysburg. Please call Sharon Titus or Ann Peck if you would like to know more about our group. We welcome new members.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER (Meditation) meets Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9:45 in the chapel. Join this group that meets to nurture and sustain spiritual vitality in contemporary life. New faces are always welcome. For more information call Debbie at 485-4848.

TUESDAY EVENING MEDITATION This group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in the chapel. Guided and quiet meditation with the use of Tibetan singing bowls helps us focus our hearts and minds on the Creator. Come experience a time of peace in a hectic world. Contact Ken Zeyher for more information at 887-9216 or bowsetc@gmail.com.

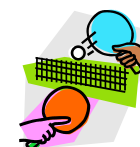
SPANISH CLASS The Spanish class that meets at Grace has meetings on Thursday nights from 6:30 -8:00pm. This is an advanced group (level 2-3) which uses a variety of material to aid in sharpening their Spanish skills. If you are in need of practicing your Spanish this may be the group for you. Contact Tami Mohammed at 356-0322 or tamiom@yahoo.com for more information.

Are You in Need of Prayer?



The Grace Email Prayer Chain is here to support and lift you up in prayer. Prayer requests can be sent, called in to the church, or submitted online. Visit www.bdgracechurch.org/prayerrequests.cfm to submit your requests or to sign up to receive prayer chain emails.

Youth Game Night – May 20th @7pm



All youth are invited for a night of friends, food, and exhilarating, action packed-, star-studded games. The high school room now has a Wii! Come and check it out. Friends welcome.

VBS Underwater Adventure



This year's Vacation Bible School has been set for June 20th – 23rd. Kids ages 3 through those who have completed 5th grade will experience an underwater adventure while learning about Jesus and His love for them. There will be an optional lunch (\$1/child/day) from Noon – 12:30pm, VBS Programming from 12:30-3pm, and optional childcare (\$4/child/day) (\$2 each additional child) from 3-5:30pm. [Registration information](#) is available in the church office and on the Grace website, please register by June 13th. Volunteers are also needed! We hope to see you there.



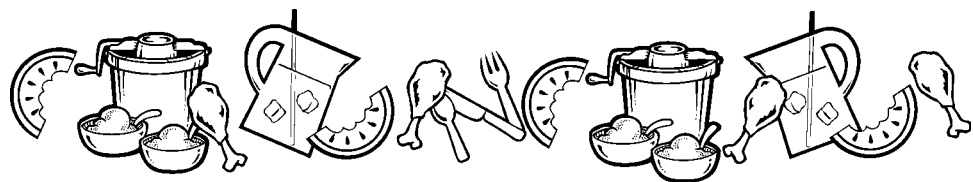
**Please join us for an Adult Education Session on
Sunday, May 22nd from
9:30-10:15AM.**

Alcohol and the Young Adult



Drugs and alcohol are more accepted by students and easier to obtain than ever before. Every parent, Aunt, Uncle, Grandparent or community member has a responsibility to young adults in their families and communities to talk to children/students about alcohol use/abuse. Find out how you can make a difference in the lives of your nieces, nephews, sons, daughters, grandchildren and children in our community.

"The children that matter to you, matter to us"



Sunday's Cool Breaks for the Summer

This past Sunday was the conclusion of this year's Sunday's Cool programming at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We concluded our year of stories with The Great Commission and the Ascension of Jesus, complete with a balloon launch. We pray you all return to us in the fall for another year of Sunday's Cool!



Carnival of Stories

Thank you all who helped make the Carnival of Stories a wonderful event. Thank you also to everyone who has been a part of Sunday's Cool this past year. God has used you ordinary people to create something extra-ordinary, we look forward to starting it up again in the fall!



AN OPEN LETTER TO STUDENTS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR CONFIRMATION

My dear brothers and sisters,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation. I hope the very best for you as you begin your “adult” experience of the faith and the life it holds out. There is no telling where it will take you, but I’d like to suggest a little about the shape and texture of the journey as I understand it. At the first service on the day of your confirmation I shared most of this letter as my sermon. Today, in the newsletter, I’d like to share it with you.

Two Sundays ago you chose to reaffirm your baptism vows and claim for yourselves the faith that others claimed for you a long time ago. With that public act, you took your place among believers in our church promising, with God’s help, to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, living according to God’s word. That promise, if you truly honor it, will set you apart from much of the world for the rest of your lives. For with those words you have agreed to study and learn a way of thinking and being that is seen by many people as foolish, naive, even negligent. A way of thinking and being that takes its cues from God and not from people, from the kingdom of heaven, not the kingdom of men.

Let me show you with a couple of examples how such a life might differ from the life that others might expect from you. Here is a little of the world’s wisdom, see if you’ve ever heard such things: take care of number one; God helps those who help themselves; don’t get mad, get even; kill or be killed; get while the getting’s good. Oh, we could come up with more of such “wisdom” you know. All we’d have to do is circulate paper and pens among any group of adults and we could come up with another dozen or two such “wise sayings,” another couple dozen things that “savvy” people—tough people—smart people—successful people live by. I must say to you that while such “wisdom” as this, swirling “in the air” in our culture, may be true for some people, may even work for some people, it is not true for us, it is not ours, and can now no longer be yours. Living according to those maxims I’ve quoted to you is not true to our story. It does not honor our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Such sayings as those I read to you do guide the lives of millions and millions, but they are not road signs to anywhere you’ll want to go as a Christian. Let me show you what I mean.

The world will tell you, “Take care of number one.” I guess that makes sense as far as it goes. Of course you should take care of number one, you are a treasured part of God’s amazing creation, but if you are to be a follower of Jesus Christ, you have not only responsibility for number one, but also number two and three and four and five and on and on. When you accept Christ as your brother, you accept with him all God’s children as your brothers and sisters.

The world will tell you, “God helps those who help themselves.” Well yes, sort of. God does help those who help themselves, but God also helps those who don’t help themselves, and even more God helps those who can’t help themselves. And God surely helps and takes great joy in helping those who help others. As followers of Jesus Christ, as you grow spiritually, you will come to understand that all of us are helpless, one way or the other, and that mostly God’s grace is not awarded to us based on such distinctions.

The world says, “Don’t get mad, get even.” Well, the don’t get mad part sounds familiar, scripture cautions against that. Anger is rarely a Christian project. As the writer of James so beautifully puts it, “the anger of man doth not work the righteousness of God.” If you find yourself angry a lot, as a Christian, you need to ask yourself why. Usually when I’m really mad at somebody or something, it’s as much about me as it is about them. As for “getting even,” it is never the Christian thing to do. It is not our story. If the need to get even is something you carry with you, you’ll need to put it down if you’re going to make this journey with Jesus.

“Kill or be killed,” the world says. I’d have to say that, ordinarily, our story is a story of

people who die for others, not people who kill others. Jesus, Stephen, probably Paul and Peter, priests and nuns in Rwanda, and hundreds of thousands of other faithful have shown us the way. Christians mostly see violence, and especially killing, as a failure of the humankind before God.

“Get while the getting’s good,” they say. If it means being what we call a good steward of life and its opportunities, making the most of the minutes God gives each us, then, yes, that’s a useful piece of wisdom. If it describes selfish accumulation of things, or getting yours first, or pushing to the head of the line, or taking advantage of the weakness of others, well, that doesn’t really comport with who we are and what we’re up to. Ours is a different dance, if you know what I mean. Christians are known for what they give, not what they get. In Christianity rightly lived, the last are first and the first last.

Now, I could go on with such ideas, but I won’t. I think you see where I’m going. You are taking your place today with a great throng, angels and archangels, the saints who gather here with this community of faith, and those who have gone before—saints in every time and place, as we say—to sing God’s praise and travel a holy way. The way of Christ and it is truly a different way to be in the world. So in place of the “wise sayings” I read to you earlier, I commend Matthew 5. Take some time to read it and pray about it. It points the way to a life worth living. In it you’ll read such things as: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, “the merciful, the pure in heart, peacemakers, those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake . . .”

You’ll find this: “You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire.”

And this: “. . . when you are offering your gift at the altar, [*the world says, “If you have something against your brother or sister, you must go and forgive them before you come before God, but I say*] if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile.” [*The world says, what I have is mine, and I am keeping it for myself, but I say to you*] “Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.”

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Different wisdom! Do you think! To the world it makes no sense. To us it makes great sense because of what we believe happened in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

Christians do not try to live this way, because we think it works better. Some days it won’t work better. We do what we do because it is the truth and God is like that and we are

called to be like that, too. Disciples turn the other cheek, lend where they may not be repaid, go the second mile, avoid promiscuity, they try to remain faithful to their marriage vows, struggle for peace when war is easier and good business besides, because God is like that. This is the truth of God who is specifically, concretely revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

I welcome you on this journey with us. I wish you the best on it. Over the years I hope that you will learn to trust its wisdom and so find its peace, a "peace that passes understanding." I hope to hear one day that your lives have born, not the fruit of the world, necessarily, great power or wealth or prestige, but the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. For of such is the kingdom of heaven.

CHURCH FINANCIAL NEWS

CHECKING ACCOUNT:

January 1, 2011	\$ 22,898.18
January Income	\$ 29,262.94
January Expenses	<u>\$(17,552.54)</u>
February 1, 2011	\$ 34,608.58
February Income	\$ 15,504.57
February Expenses	<u>\$(18,467.57)</u>
March 1, 2011	\$ 31,645.58
March Income	\$ 17,901.48
March Expenses	<u>\$(17,916.02)</u>
April 1, 2011	\$ 31,631.04
April Income	\$27,476.46
April Expenses	<u>\$(22,044.04)</u>
May 1, 2011	\$ 37,063.46



INCOME & EXPENSES:

<u>April - Income</u>		<u>April - Expenses</u>	
Envelopes	\$ 20,988.00	Missions	\$ 3,445.37
Loose Offerings	\$ 261.50	Session	\$ 0.00
Per Capita	\$ 399.20	Worship	\$ 1,803.57
Sunday School	\$ 38.50	Christian Education	\$ 2,720.40
Fellowship	\$ 101.00	Administration	\$ 7,099.32
Building Rental	\$ 25.00	Property	\$ 3,100.75
Interest Earned	\$ 5.40	Deacon	\$ 0.00
One Great Hour Mission	\$ 2,362.86	Pastoral	<u>\$ 3,874.63</u>
Disaster Relief – Japan	\$ 100.00		
Presbytery Grant	<u>\$ 3,195.00</u>		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 27,476.46	EXPENSES	\$ 22,044.04

Rejoice in your talents. God has given you unique gifts. Don't focus on what you can't do. Wisdom comes from appreciating your talents – and accepting your limitations!