

February 12, 2012

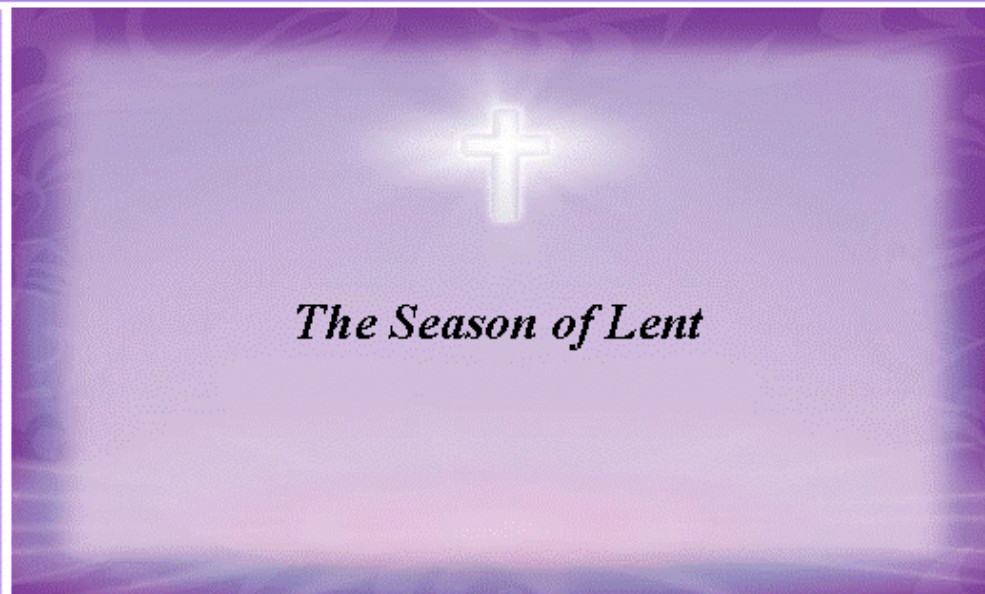
Sixth Sunday
after the Epiphany



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MISSION: TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIS LOVE KNOWN

Tidings of Grace

Volume I, Issue 138



The Season of Lent

Lent is upon us and begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The preface to Lent this year will be the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which is traditionally a light-hearted evening of eating before beginning the serious self examination of Lent. The problem with self examination and repentance is that "most people repent their sins by thanking God they ain't so wicked as their neighbors." - Josh Billings

That's the kind of self serving repentance which rejoices in finding someone worse than you! The problem with comparing ourselves to others is Jesus. Jesus is our model. Jesus is our Savior but He is also the New Adam of God's New Creation. The goal of Christian living is 'to have the mind in us that was in Christ.'

By the standard of Jesus we all miss the mark. The Good News is that we ALL have God's Holy Spirit to help us turn more perfectly toward God. (Turning toward God is in fact what 'repentance' means).

Lent is a six week period of time when we can examine our hearts and lives, to see what may be impeding our growth and our joy. It is a time of weeding pruning spring cleaning and new planting. It can be an annual check-up for the soul, a time when individually and as a church we ask and answer the question John Wesley asked each time during the early Methodist class meetings - "How is it with your soul?"

We can respond with despair, or we can respond with denial. We can deny that there is a problem, that our sin keeps us from being fully connected to God and to others. We can deny that our sin creates barriers against God's power in our life. But deep down we know we have some spring cleaning to do.

We can deny, or we can despair, but neither of these responses will help us with our problem. Our problem is that we have chosen and will continue to choose against God's will for our lives. We have sinned. We still sin. We continue to choose our will over God's will. Despair will not save us, denial will not make it go away. There is only one way to deal with our sin, and that is head on. Face to face. On our knees.

And so, the beginning of our journey to Easter, our journey to the fullness of new life filled with the resurrection power of God, is being honest about our sinfulness. That is called confession. Confession does not mean that we tell God something God doesn't know. When we confess, we are acknowledging what God knows about us. Yes Lord, I have chosen my will and not yours, my way and not yours, my pleasures instead of your joy.

The beginning of our Lenten journey is confession, and repentance. Repentance is not about being sorry-- repentance is about turning around. Repentance is in recognizing that the road you are on leads nowhere, because God is not leading. Repentance means recognizing that the road you travel leads away from God, and making the decision to turn back to God.

"True repentance is to cease from sinning" - Ambrose of Milan

In Lent we take off the blinders, quit blaming, and wrestle with our demons. We will find that we need God's help. We will also find that God's Holy Spirit is available to help us turn and turn again into God's embrace. God is our strength. Lent reminds us of our dependence upon God from beginning to end in faith. Lent makes Easter that much more joyful. Lent reminds us that God has done for us what we could never do on our own.

Rev. Jim Dennis, Jr.

Gifts Were Given to the Church

In Memory Of... **Edna Pierce** (Bldg. Mtg.) by Chip & Peggy Burnett, Mr. & Mrs. Forrester, Steve & Sharon Wiley, The Mike Flippo Family, Forrest & JoAnn McKie, Kathy & Gordon Ferguson, David, Martha & Chis Hargrove, Charles & Linda Smiley, Janice Price, Brigitte Dom, Dave & Frances Redmond, Barbara Roe, Donna & Andy Tanner, Jerry Pearson, Ted & Cricket Ellis, **Dave Kichline** (Bldg. Mtg.) by The Mike Flippo Family, Charles & Linda Smiley, **Joyce Alstaugh, mother of Lisa Little** (Bldg. Mtg.) by Rob & Barbara Graybill, (UMW Scholarship) by Don & Linda Smith, **Mary Lord** (Bldg. Mtg.) by Rob & Barbara Graybill, **Dorothy Graybill** (Bldg. Mtg.) by Rob & Barbara Graybill, **Michael D. Moseley** (Youth Ministry) by Chris & Tammie Sloan

In Honor Of... **United Methodist Men (UMM)** by Michael Tarrant, author of "The Lane Will Leap" (Michael@thelamewilleap.com)



Library News!

The Reverend Bobbie Opal Taylor has given our library 6 books for our Small Group Ministry. These books can be found in the children's room of the library on a shelf near the rocking chair.



After Church Lunch Bunch

February 26, following 11:00 a.m. Worship

Want to finish a conversation you were having following the close of the 11:00 a.m. worship service? Decide you don't want to cook? Really don't want to stop at a fast-food restaurant on your way home? Don't want to eat alone? Well, now there is an alternative. Join Reverend Spurrier and choose a place to have lunch together. You may call the Church Office, 279-7525, and have your name placed on a list, or simply show up in the Asbury Building just outside Office. Those present will determine whether it is Italian, American or some other fare. Think about it. Plan on it. See you on the fourth Sunday of February. Bon Appetit.



House Buffett Donates

The House Buffett Restaurant in North Augusta is proud to be a part of our community and shares our common appreciation for children and family. It is our pleasure to donate 7% of food purchases by guests from area schools and churches, such as Grace UMC. When visiting, please tell them you are from Grace! Thank you!



AARP Free Tax Help

Two area libraries will be offering tax free help for taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those 60 and older. The Aiken Public Library will be offering this help from January 30 until April 13 on weekdays from 10-2. Call 642-2023 for an appointment. The Nancy Carson Library will be offering this help from now until April 10 on Mondays and Tuesdays from 10-2. Call 279-5767 for an appointment.

Windows 2012 Retreat This Weekend

Over 120 people from Grace and our community will be attending the 2012 Windows Retreat this weekend at Camp Twin Lakes, Rutledge, Georgia under the leadership of Dr. Ellen Shepard. Dr. John Newell will be serving as Worship Leader. Please keep these leaders and those attending in your prayers as they share in this faith journey together.

RTB Costumes Shortage!

We are in need of more women's and children's costumes for our Return to Bethlehem production. If you like to sew (simple, straight stitches) and are interested in helping with this, please contact Linda Reynolds, 279-2131.



Christian Arts at Grace

"seventh day" Youth Praise Band

6:00-7:15 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the Wesley Center. This band has an opening for a keyboard player. You should be in the 9th-12th grade.

"by the grace" Adult Praise Band

7:15 -8:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights in the Wesley Center.

Youth Drama Team

This Sunday, February 12, we will meet from 3:00-5:00 and work on "Keep 'Em Guessin" from Mulan, Jr.

Kid's Drama Team

5:00-6:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. This program is for 1-5 grade. This Sunday, February 12 and next Sunday, February 19, there is NO rehearsal. See you again on February 26.

May production of Mulan, Jr!

Children through adults are needed, wanted, and invited to participate in this special church-wide production on May 11 & 12. Please call if you would like to help with costumes, sets or props.

*For more information on any of these programs call
Mbrianne Harlan at the church office.*

Singles (35-55 Years Old)

Let's go bowling...and bring your kids!

February 18th at 2:00 p.m., Northside Lanes in North Augusta. Call Amy Vincent at 803-613-0297 or 706-830-8433 with how many people will be bowling.



Coca-Cola

Youth Fundraiser!!!

Grace UMC Youth are having a fundraiser to benefit the youth programs at Grace. We are selling cases of 20 oz. bottles & 12 oz. bottles/cans of various Coca-Cola products. One case contains 24 of whichever beverage you choose. The youth will be selling as individuals but also in between services and on Wednesday nights. Please support the youth by purchasing your case today!

Music Notes

Music at Eleven this Sunday

Hymns: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past; Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters; My Hope Is Built*

Anthem: *Wash Me Thoroughly* (Chancel Choir)



Grace METTS to Host "Special Guest"

On February 28, Grace METTS (for those 55 and over) will be privileged to have **General Perry M. Smith** as the guest speaker. General Smith is an internationally known speaker, television commentator, and best-selling author.

Hundreds of millions of television viewers world-wide have come to know him for his regular appearances on CBS during the current war in Iraq. Luncheon will take place at 11:30 a.m. in the Wesley Center and you may call the Church Office to make reservations.



CDC Restaurant Coupon Books

The Restaurant Coupon Books that are being sold by the Grace CDC will be on sale through February 17 in the Church Office and/or CDC Office. They are \$10.00 each and good for buy one, get one offers at local establishments. Proceeds will benefit the Grace Child Development Center.



"On Eagles Wings" Golf Cart Ministry

Would you like to help transport people to and from the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings via the golf cart? If you are 18 years and older, and would like to be put on a rotation schedule, please contact Mr. Bill Thweatt.



Keyboard Player Needed

The Youth Praise Band has an opening for a keyboard player. If you are in the 9th-12th grade and are interested, contact Marianne Harlan in the church office.



Amazon Mission Trip

The Brazilian Amazon is a wonderfully beautiful place with a difficult way of life. Are you interested in an adventure that will permanently impact your life?

Consider participation in a medical "United Methodist Volunteers in Mission" trip. This trip involves living on a clinic boat sailing the tributaries of the Amazon and providing medical clinics, children's activities and general needs to the people of villages on the shore.

The trip is scheduled for the last week of July (specific dates dependent on flights) and will cost approximately \$1800.00 per person. Medical personnel are needed but a group of support people are also needed. You will need a willingness to serve, physical capacity to live in tight spaces and walk gangplanks, and manage with heat and humidity. I have done this trip before and guarantee it will be memorable. Please let me know if you are interested in this team or have questions. Contact Caroline Dennis at caroline1914@yahoo.com or 864-980-4678.

This Week at Grace

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Ex 34: 1-35: 9; Matt 27: 15-31; Ps 33: 12-22; PR 9: 1-6

8:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship (Sanctuary)
 8:45 a.m. LifeSong (Wesley Center)
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (Various Classes)
 11:00 a.m. Worship-Scout Sunday (Sanctuary)
 3:00 p.m. Mullan, Jr. Rehearsal (Wesley Center)
 4:00 p.m. Kindermusik Village (Asbury 206)
 4:30 p.m. HS Boys' Basketball Practice-Team A (Family Center)
 5:00 p.m. Kindermusik Imagine That (First Grade SS Class)
 5:00 p.m. Kindermusik Our Time (Asbury 206)
 6:30 p.m. Valentine Banquet (Wesley Center)
 7:30 p.m. HS Boys' Basketball Practice-Team B (Family Center)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Ex 35: 10-36: 38; Matt 27: 32-66; Ps 34: 1-10; Pr 9: 7-8

8:30 a.m. Job Networking Group (Asbury 206)
 9:00 a.m. Preschool 3K, 4K, 5K/Children's Day Out (Grace CDC)
 9:15 a.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 10:30 a.m. Jazzercise Lite (Family Center)
 6:30 p.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 6:30 p.m. The Foundations Rehearsal (Wesley Center)
 7:45 p.m. High School Girls' Basketball (Family Center)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Ex 37: 1-38: 31; Matt 28: 1-20; Ps 34: 11-22; Pr 9: 9-10

7:30 a.m. GRITS (Youth Wing)
 9:00 a.m. Preschool 3K, 4K, 5K (Grace CDC)
 9:30 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study (Fifth Grade SS Class)
 4:00 p.m. High School Boys' Basketball (Team B) (Family Ctr.)
 6:30 p.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 7:00 p.m. Mid High Bible Study (The Maroney's)
 7:45 p.m. High School Boys' Basketball (Team A) (Family Ctr.)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Ex 39: 1-40: 38; Mark 1: 1-28; Ps 35: 1-16; Pr 9: 11-12

9:00 a.m. Preschool 3K, 4K, 5K/Children's Day Out (Grace CDC)
 9:15 a.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 10:00 a.m. Kindermusik Our Time (Asbury 206)
 10:00 a.m. Upper Room Small Group (Lusk Home)
 10:30 a.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 11:00 a.m. Kindermusik Village (Asbury 206)
 4:30 p.m. Kindermusik Young Child III (First Grade SS Class)
 5:30 p.m. WINGS Dinner (Wesley Center)
 6:00 p.m. "seventhday" Praise Band (Wesley Center)
 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (Blithington Music Room)
 6:15 p.m. WINGS Programs (Various Classrooms)
 6:30 p.m. Mid-High Boys' Basketball (Family Center)
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Blithington Music Room)
 7:00 p.m. Worship Committee (Conference Room)
 7:15 p.m. "by the Grace" Praise Band (Wesley Center)
 8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball (Family Center)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Lev 1: 1-3: 17; Mark 1: 29-2: 12; Ps 35: 17-28; Pr 9: 13-18

9:00 a.m. Preschool 3K, 4K, 5K/Children's Day Out (Grace CDC)
 11:00 a.m. Moms In Touch (First Grade SS Class)
 11:30 a.m. Wisdom of the Ages (Conference Room)
 1:30 p.m. Library Committee (Conference Room)
 6:00 p.m. Disciples Bible Study (Conference Room)
 6:00 p.m. High School Bible Study (Youth Wing)
 6:00 p.m. Recovery by Grace (Cokesbury Class)
 6:30 p.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball (Family Center)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Lev 4: 1-5: 19; Mark 2: 13-3: 6; Ps 36: 1-12; Pr 10: 1-2

Bus - Scouts
 9:00 a.m. Preschool 3K, 4K, 5K (Grace CDC)
 9:15 a.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 10:30 a.m. Jazzercise (Family Center)
 3:30 p.m. GS Group 5775 Meeting (Youth Wing/Annex)
 4:00 p.m. High School Girls' Basketball (Family Center)
 7:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby (Family Center)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Lev 6: 1-7: 27; Mark 3: 7-30; Ps 37: 1-11; Pr 10: 3-4

Bus - Scouts
 9:00 a.m. Jazzercise STEP (Family Center)
 1:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby (Family Center)

*The flowers on the altar are placed there to the glory of
 God and in honor of the Cokesbury Sunday School Class by
 Ed and Arlene Vincent*

**We promise to uphold Grace United Methodist Church
 with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and
 our witness.**

In Our Prayers

BIRTHS: Grace Ruby and Griffin Samuel Anderson, daughter and son of Amanda and Chris Anderson, granddaughter and grandson of Sammy and Sara Anderson and Joe and Paula Green

UNIVERSITY: Betsy Nunamaker, Danielle Whitlock

FLORIDA: Harold Hooks

RECOVERING: Betty DeBaere, Amanda Anderson, Charlotte Miller, Joyce Meyer

Our Presence 2/5/12

Worship	655
Sunday School	375

The Lord's Treasury

2012 General Budget	\$939,887.00
Requirements to Date	\$108,447.30
Receipts Thru 2-5-12	\$105,931.12
Amount Needed Weekly	\$18,075.00
Received 2-5-12	\$25,641.21
Building Mortgage Payment/Month	\$31,076.00
Total Received This Month Through 2-5-12	\$10,764.00
2012 Building Mortgage Loan	\$372,912.00
Requirements to Date	\$43,028.34
Receipts Thru 2-5-12	\$44,971.09
Amount Needed Weekly	\$7,171.39
Received 2-5-12	\$10,764.00

Our Service

Special thanks to our ...

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

LifeSong - "by the Grace"

Acolytes - Kinsey Amos, Will Biebesheimer

Torchbearers - Emily Miller, Julia Smith

Crucifer - Alaina Miller

Count Team - Melonia Cameron, Christy Jones, Barry Whitney

Offertory Duty - Hope Williams

LifeSong Greeters - (Kitchen) Hop Aiken; (Main) Bob & Mary Ann Bigger; (Elevator) Brett & Kelly Brannon

Sanctuary Narthex Greeters - 8:30 (Main) - Bill & Bonnie Baugh;
 11:00 (Main) - Wilma Allen; (Georgia Avenue) - Kurt & Kathy Bradley

Lay Reader (8:30) - Dave Redmond



"Jesus Calms a Storm"
Mark 4:35-41
Led by Piper & Mackie Walker

WINGS Classes - 6:15 til 7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evenings

*For preschoolers-Heroes of the Bible-
 Esther-Led by Tricia Pinkston &
 Allison Outlaw
 (Ashbury 110)

*For elementary grades-What's in the
 Bible-Led by Kay Poss & Kristi Poss
 (Ashbury 211)

*For elementary & mid-highs
 (4th grade & up)-Strings of Salvation
 (Beginner guitar)-Led by David Lusk
 (Ashbury 207)

*God's Graceful Guitarists
 (Intermediate guitar)-Led by Beverly
 Blevins (Ashbury 208)

KIDS

LIVE BIG

This Week's Topic:

"The Good Samaritan"
 Luke 10:25-37

B.I.G. Idea:

We believe that the stories Jesus told
 help us know how to live.

This Month's Memory Verse:

"But be doers of the word, and not
 merely hearers who deceive
 themselves." - James 1:22

Dates to Remember:

March 18, 2012 -
 Children's Sunday
 & Caterpillar Pick-Up

March 25, 2012 -
 Caterpillar Return

April 8, 2012 (Easter Sunday) -
 Butterfly Release

June 18-22, 2012
 Operation Overboard

=====

**An assistant teacher is needed in
 the 1st grade Sunday School Class.
 If you can help, please contact
 Wilma Allen, Patsy Miller or
 Beverly Blevins.**



YOUTH MINISTRY

~Valentine's Banquet~

Sunday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center

Snack Supper at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Wing

Youth arrive at 6 p.m.

if you are not eating Snack Supper.

MAKE NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR!!!

G.R.I.T.S.

Tuesday, February 14th at 7a.m. for 9th - 12th Graders.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Youth Volunteering)

February 21st ~ 5:30pm to 7:30pm ~ Youth Wing



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WELCOME TO GRACE!

The ministers & congregation of Grace extend a warm welcome to Robert Carr, husband of Grace member, Christy Carr, who joined Grace on January 29th. Robert is a former member of Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, North Augusta. We welcome you!

Grace United Methodist Church

639 Georgia Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841

Main Office: 803-279-7525
Child Development Center: 279-7528
Fax: 279-1434
Email: info@gotgraceumc.org
Website: <http://www.gotgraceumc.org>

Staff

Rev. James D. Dennis, Jr., Senior Minister
Rev. Ryan G. Spurrier, Associate Minister
Dr. John M. Newell, III, Honorable Location
Dr. T. Joseph Lusk, Volunteer Congregational Care Minister
Dr. John M. Younginer, Jr., Pastor Emeritus
Meki Edwards, Church Secretary
Linda Beahan, Financial Secretary
Allison Outlaw, Preschool Ministries
Beverly Blevins, Children & Family Ministries
Karen Denny, Youth Ministries
Marianne Harlan, Director of Worship Arts/Administrator
Dr. Wayne Lord, Organist/Chancel Choir
Pam McCorkle, Chancel Bells, Grace/Wesley Singers
Dana Lykins, CDC Director
Linda Dollar, CDC Finance
Donnie Malone, Church Host
Sizemore Janitorial Services, Custodian
Sizemore Security, Security

Bottom of label goes along bottom line

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Mmmm.... so good!

Pancakes, sausage and
assorted toppings!
February 21, 5:30-7:30
drop in at the Youth Wing

Sponsored by the United
Methodist Men and UMYF

*For preschoolers

*Heroes of the Bible-Esther-Led by Allison
Outlaw & Tricia Pinkston
(Ashbury 110)

*For elementary grades

*What's in the Bible-Led by Kay Poss &
Kristi Poss. Learn about acceptance,
responsibility, friendship & respect in a fun &
relevant manner. (Ashbury 211)

*For elementary & mid-highs (4th grade & up)

*Strings of Salvation (Beginner Guitar)-Led by David Lusk
(Ashbury 207)

*God's Graceful Guitarists (Intermediate Guitar)-Led by Beverly
Blevins (Ashbury 208)

*For adults

*Gospel of John Study-Led by Rev. Jim Dennis. Classes held in the
Cokesbury Classroom.

*Gospel of Luke Study-Led by Rev. Ryan Spurrier. Classes held in
the Stillwell Classroom.

*GIFTS Too-Led by women of Grace UMC. Classes held in the
Seekers Classroom.

**"Raising Rock Solid Kids in a Pleasure-Driven World." Topic for
February 15 will be "Birth Order-And What You Need to Know
About It"-Led by John & Mary Chris Newell. Classes are held in the
New Life Classroom.

Menu for February 15:

Ham, sweet potato casserole, baked apples, green beans, honey
wheat rolls, strawberry shortcake
Chicken tenders and fries!

*There will be a nursery available for those attending WINGS
programming beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Room 105.*

