

Grace Notes

Grace United Methodist Church

5407 North Charles Street., Baltimore, Maryland 21210 • 410-433-6650



www.GraceUnitedMethodist.org

Volume 19, No. 11

November 2011

FROM THE

God's mercies – new every morning



Dear Friends,

Although Grace Church wrapped up its fall stewardship campaign at the end of October, the scripture lessons that anchored the campaign have not stopped running through my head. *New Beginnings at Grace* was centered around a reading in Lamentations: “*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God’s mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness, O Lord.*” What exactly are God’s mercies? How do we experience, in tangible ways, the faithfulness of God? Those questions feel particularly poignant as we approach the year’s end. November typically is a time we consider the blessings of our lives and Christmas seems to have a way of presenting itself as a culmination of the ‘hopes and fears of all the years.’ How do we offer God praise for the mercies that are new every morning, or the steadfast love that never ceases?

When I think of all of the changes that have occurred in my family’s life in the past year, it is not hard to name the mercies of God. Saying good-bye to one congregation and being so warmly welcomed into another one reminds me of the beautiful constancy provided by Christian communities. Watching my children grow and thrive is its own particular joy which keeps me alert to the reality that we all need each other. The treasures of our lives truly are the people that we love. More recently, I’ve thought about how God’s mercy is transmitted through laughter. Whenever we get flooded by the anxieties of life – and there is much to be anxious about – laughter can be the healing balm that creates space for renewed hope. Although it can sound simplistic to our very sophisticated selves, I do believe God is active in each of our lives in very concrete ways. God’s mercies are new every morning. One challenge of faith is to scout out the clues of God’s handiwork.

Yet for every time I affirm the nearness of God’s mercies, I am also pained by the suffering present all around us. One in seven children now lives in poverty in Baltimore, a concrete result of our long-lasting economic distress. To remember that each night many, many people in our city go to bed hungry creates a sobering challenge to the promise of God’s steadfast love. With every expression of gratitude for God’s mercies, we can also ask where in our world do God’s promises feel particularly outrageous, profoundly unrealized. These are the places where the faithfulness of God is awaiting the work of our hands, anxious for the labor of our love. One of you recently shared with me a *Baltimore Sun* article about a childcare center for homeless children and asked, ‘maybe we could do something like this?’ Another one of you told me about a sister church, making plans to leave their too-big building and, with the help of outside funding, renovate it into available apartments for homeless families and asked, ‘maybe we could support this ministry?’ The newest seeds in Grace’s long witness in this city are being planted right now, the fruit of which we will see in God’s good time.

The newest seeds in God’s long witness in this city are being planted right now

As we move towards the season’s gratitude, feasting and gift-giving, I offer this prayer for your devotions, adapted from a prayer from Walter Brueggemann:

Holy God, you call us with concrete intentions for all creation, bidding us to be agents of your will. Yet we are a strange lot: called but cowardly, obedient but self-indulgent, devoted to you but otherwise preoccupied. Even in our mix of answering and refusing, we give thanks for your call. Give us fresh vision, great courage and outrageous hope. Make us haunted by your large purposes, ever following the path of Jesus. Amen.

Grace and Peace,

Amy

Worship services in November

Sunday, November 6 - ALL SAINTS - Rev. Amy McCullough preaching

Sunday, November 13 - Rev. Amy McCullough preaching

Sunday, November 20 - Rev. Amy McCullough preaching

Wednesday, November 23 - 7:30 p.m.

at Church of the Redeemer

5601 N. Charles Street

Music by the combined choirs of Grace and
Church of the Redeemer

Rev. Amy McCullough preaching

*Bring a loaf of bread or rolls to be blessed and taken to
family's Thanksgiving Day meal*



your

Sunday, November 27 - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT - Rev. Nancy Webb preaching

ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be two services on Christmas Eve – at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

There will be a single service at 10 a.m. on **Christmas Day**

* * * * *

Reconciling Ministry at Grace

On Saturday, September 10, the Grace Church Reconciling Committee hosted the first meeting of the fall for BWARM, Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling Methodists. Members of the committee set up delicious refreshments in Fellowship Hall as people gathered from Baltimore, Washington, DC, Frederick, and southern Maryland to share what the Reconciling Church Movement means in their personal and church lives.

The meeting began with worship in the choir seats in the chancel, led by Rev. Amy, including communion. The preacher for the day was a student from Wesley Seminary, Joey Heath, who is very hopeful that the United Methodist Church will follow the lead of several other mainline denominations and remove the prohibition in the *Book of Discipline* that excludes otherwise qualified persons who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender, from being ordained in the UMC.

The altar visuals for the service were rainbow colors, prepared for us by the chair of the Grace Reconciling committee, George Kahl. David Brock provided piano accompaniment for the



Be sure to notice our new portico banners!

service.

The group then returned to Fellowship Hall to hear about the recent national conference, "Sing A New Song" that was co-sponsored by the Methodist Federation For Social Action and the Reconciling Ministries Network in Huron, Ohio. Rev. Nancy was privileged to attend this conference in late August.

The conference helped equip people to make a difference at the upcoming 2012 General Conference of the UMC in late April and early May in Tampa, Florida. Removing the language from the *Book of Discipline* that "Homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" would be one of the hopes for that gathering.



Rev. Amy to speak at UMW

The November 9 meeting of the United Methodist Women will feature Rev. Amy McCullough as guest speaker. The program begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch. This group, dedicated to mission work locally and abroad, welcomes all women as well as men to their programs. They would love to have you join them to hear this very special "guest speaker." To make a lunch reservation (\$8.00), call Ruth Ann Beachler, 410-252-8906.



We

welcome Kate Murphy, a senior at Loyola College in Maryland, to the Nursery Caregivers on Sunday mornings. She will be here from 8:15-11:15 a.m. helping to care for our little ones during both services of worship.

To the members of Grace U. M. Church

“Will you be loyal to the United Methodist Church, and uphold it by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service?”

How often do you remember what you promised?

How often do you pray for Grace Church?

How often do you attend the services at Grace

Church or another church when you are away?

How often do you give to Grace Church to help pay for our costs of helping others in trouble and for maintaining our building ?

How often do you give of your time by teaching or helping with a Church activity or being an attending member of a committee that makes decisions about how things should be done or how much we can help a needy cause?

How much you do each of these things is not as important as the fact that you do what you promised, as much as you are able. God does not count the number of times that you pray for the church, the number of pennies you give, the number of times you walk in the door, the number of minutes you give. He cares that you give what you can when you can. Will you remember what you promised when you joined church? And will you do what you promised to the best of your ability?

God be with you as you go in life and make decisions as you feel what is right.

-- Written by a long time member of Grace Church

WHY GRACE?

Why Grace? As I reflect, my path here seems more circuitous than some but then, maybe not. From childhood, I was a United Brethren, Evangelical United Brethren and now a Methodist.

I attended church regularly as a child under the guidance of my parents and then, as a youth and young adult, always very active in the life of my church. However, when I married and moved to Baltimore, I floundered and began sleeping in on Sunday mornings. Then, the minister who had married Paul and me was transferred to Bosley UM Church near Sparks, and my mother’s sadness (he was her pastor) became my joy.

When we returned to Baltimore in 1988, after a short move to St. Mary’s County, we returned to Bosley. The children were six and four. Even though I loved Bosley, I soon found that we were spending half of Sunday traveling to and from, in worship and then in Sunday school.

We visited Grace just down the street. This large, beautiful and welcoming church offered me the opportunity to worship and hear incredible music while my children could attend Sunday school where they could learn and grow, where Beth could be nurtured and Nathan could (challenge and) be challenged by some wonderful Christian guides.

Both children were confirmed here and Beth was married here and even though Nathan no longer attends church regularly, he attended Bible study while at Fort Benning and just spoke to me of conversations about Moses with the chaplain while serving with the National Guard in Egypt.

I’ve met wonderful friends here. I’m part of GROWL and the prayer group. I applaud Pastor Amy’s decision that the children attend the first part of worship (so I can experience that fellowship and, of course, the music) and I eagerly anticipate Disciple Bible Study.

– Janet Ander





“Grace for Grayson”

The continuing story of Grayson Gilbert is one of miracles and triumphs. Unfortunately, however, as the Gilbert family’s financial

status worsens, Grayson’s story is potentially one of tragedy.

The poignant account of Grayson’s miraculous “Divine Strength” in the *Sun Magazine* May 22, 2011 issue touches us all -- particularly the several members of Grace Church who have taken on a mission to help the Gilbert family as they struggle to keep medical bills paid. We have met with Grayson’s dad, Steve, who describes the horrors faced when Grayson’s internal bleeds occur and his incredibly complicated daily health regimen, involving special meals and medical treatments along with vast quantities of supplies and pills, some of which insurance does not cover.

Steve also reminds us of Grayson’s passionate mission to benefit Hopkins Hospital and “help other sick kids” -- starting at age 5 with his inspired creation of the Miracle Tie Collection, and continuing by participating in Hopkins Children’s Center, Children’s Miracle Network and many other fundraising and awareness events.

While Grayson’s and his family’s dream is to help other sick children, our dream -- and our responsibility -- is to first help our own, the Gilbert family. And so, under the sponsorship of the Mission Outreach Council, a special “Grace for Grayson” Fund has been established. You are encouraged to send a contribution, designating your donation to the “Grace for Grayson” Fund at any time. The Church also plans to support this initiative through Church-sponsored events beginning 2012. Please watch for announcements and information about these future fundraising events.

Grayson and his family meet these challenges with amazing courage and good spirit. We seek your support.

Barbara Bond
Mission-Outreach Council

THANK YOU

A big thank you to our Crossroads Club for their generous donation to my outreach program. Copies of my inspirational book, *More Than a Band-aid for the Small Child Within*, are touching lives at the House of Ruth, the Ronald McDonald House, Prison Fellowship After Care Program, Johns Hopkins Cancer patients, and two Methodist Pastoral Counseling Centers.

Thank you and God bless you!

Marguerite Stucki

“ . . . that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be”

Fill up a BOUNTIFUL BAG

special requests for Manna House:
coffee, sugar, rice, canned goods

special needs for GEDCO Cares:
regular size canned goods, cereals, pasta (1 lb. box), peanut butter, jelly, rice (1 lb. box)

Please bring your food items to the church before Thanksgiving so that the items can be delivered November 25



Our 3 Holiday Trees

Three Christmas trees will be placed in the Narthex at the end of November – the Linens tree, the Toiletries tree and the Undies tree. When doing your holiday shopping, please remember those less fortunate and pick up a few gifts for others. You are invited to place your packages on or under the appropriate tree. The gifts will be taken to Manna House and the Susanna Wesley House to brighten the holidays for their clients.

Congratulations to Kristen McGuire, VIP winner!

Sponsored by *The Daily Record*, “VIP – Very Important Professionals – recognizes Maryland leaders based on their professional accomplishments, a commitment to inspiring change in their community, and their tremendous accomplishments achieved before or by age 40.” Recognized for her work with Baltimore Collegetown Network, Kristen joins an impressive list of under-40 professionals representing law firms, business groups, hospitals, non-profits and universities honored at the VIP 2011 awards ceremony September 26, fittingly held at the Tremont Grand(s).

And we at Grace Church are privileged to have her as chair of our Mission Outreach Council.

Congratulations, Kristen!

(Photo - Baltimore Sun)



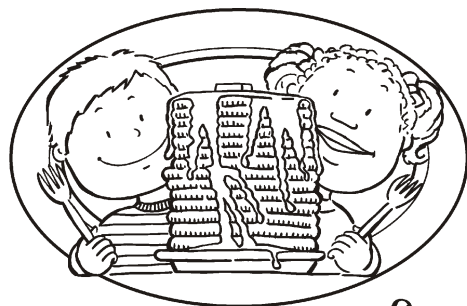
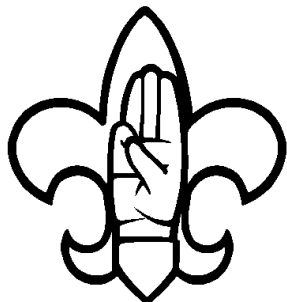
BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Heartiest congratulations to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in November.

- 1 Cynthia Frank, Ed Frederick, Heather Sharpe
- 2 Hunter Buettner, Jonathan Howe, Georgia King, Dr. W. Richard Shindle, Joanne Weber
- 3 Emma Charles, Allison Paul, Rachel Wolven
- 4 Kristen Frankenfield
- 5 Alice Mack
- 6 Ruth Ann Beachler, Amanda Friedel, Sam Harris
- 8 John Stidman
- 9 Lily Burchell
- 10 Emalia Feldman, Dr. Susan T. Strahan
- 11 Jason Bradley, Maureen Danz
- 12 Katherine McGuinn, David Wingate,
- 13 C. William Clark, Frank Dudek, Ann Everton, Paul Wingate
- 14 Davis Booth
- 15 Douglas A'Hern, Sara Mullan
- 16 Elizabeth Bridges, Lois Klein, Carole McCrory
- 17 Brady Bayne, Jacob Bissett, Lauren Carroll, Linda English
- 18 Peyton Woodward
- 19 Dennison Byrne, Shirley Dandy, Matthew Green, Helen Mosher
- 20 Wendy Wallace, Sue Wilkerson
- 21 Charles Greenland
- 22 Francette Boling, M. Lee Starkey
- 23 Marcos Calderon, Scott Hudson, Downing Kay, Amy Coates Madsen
- 25 Elizabeth Adolph, Barbara H. Simmons, Turbit Slaughter
- 26 Romney Rice, Susan Shebel
- 27 Louis M. Hatter, Jr.
- 28 Jennifer Ward
- 29 Jane Emich, David Jones, III, Betsy Scott
- 30 Autumn Klein, Edward Personette

Boy Scout Troop 612 Fundraiser

There is still time to place your order for grapefruit, navel oranges and many varieties of birdseed – deadline November 12. Order forms have been in the Sunday bulletin and are on literature desks around the church. www.troop612bsa.com. Please support this troop which meets at Grace.



Pancake Breakfast

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

What a special double-treat day! Come to church to feed your spirit and also feed your body before or after the service. Enjoy a delicious breakfast of orange juice, pancakes and sausage prepared and served by the fabulous chefs in the Crossroads Club Adults and children over 12 \$5; ages 5-12 \$3; 4 and under are free.

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed – then spend this extra hour enjoying food and fellowship in Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU CROSSROADS!!

Within the family at Grace

DEATH

William C. "Bud" Gause
September 23, 2011

MARRIAGE

Abby Flower and James Wallace
August 13, 2011 in Maine

Lectionary readings for November

- November 6:** Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13
- November 13:** Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- November 20:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
- November 27:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Special Gift

We acknowledge with gratitude this gift to the

Music Fund

in memory of

Carolyn Cook and William C. Gause by
Kitty Allen



Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin.

God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff-- including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see. Happy Fall!

Sermons online

Miss church last Sunday? Would you like to be able to consider the message of the day more deeply? You can now download Sunday sermons from our website – www.graceunitedmethodist.org and click on the “sermons” link on the main menu



Altar Flowers

If you would like to remember a loved one or honor someone special in your life by placing flowers on the altar for our Sunday worship, there are some openings on the list. Please contact Lois Klein in the church office.

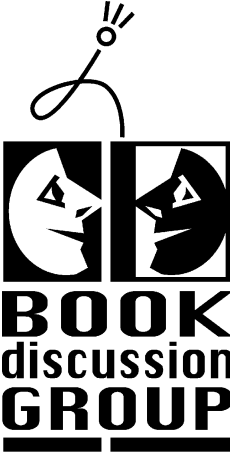
Our supplier for many years closed up shop in recent weeks, and we are now working with another florist in the Hampden area. Currently the cost is \$25 per vase, and you can take the arrangement with you at the conclusion of the 10 a.m. service if you wish.

We are most grateful to those who support this ministry, providing a beautiful addition to our worship and lifting up in memory honored ones.

NEXT GRACE NOTES DEADLINES

November 10 for the December issue
(mailed Nov. 28)

December 1 for a joint Christmas-January issue
(mailed December 19)



Love to read?
Everyone is invited to join the Grace Book Club for a discussion of *The Piano Shop on the Left Bank* by Thad Carhart. We will be meeting Monday, November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. For December we will be reading *Look Again* by Lisa Scottoline. We'd love to have you join us!

Grace Preschool News

Our new website is up and running! Check us out on www.gracepreschoolbaltimore.com

While Grace members do not receive a tuition discount, they are given preference on the admissions listing. If you are considering a top-flight education for your young child, age two and up, you will want to include Grace Preschool in the discussion.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Friday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

* * *

A little food for thought

1. Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble, but a “steering wheel” that directs you on the right path throughout.
2. Why is a car’s windshield so large and the rear mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. Look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy them - they will not last forever. If going wrong, they can’t last that long either.
5. When God solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities. When God doesn’t solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
6. A blind person asked St. Anthony, “Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?” He replied, “Yes. Losing your vision.”
7. Worrying does not take away tomorrow’s troubles. It takes away today’s peace.

Grace United Methodist Church
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PLEASE RUSH

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Senior Pastor	Amy Peed McCullough
Associate Pastor	Nancy J. Webb
Director of Music/Organist	Bruce R. Eicher
Associate Organist	David C. Brock
Director, Children's Choirs	Kathryn Arnold
Director, Youth Choir	Robert Cantrell
Director, Handbells of Grace Quartet	John Kessell
	Alice Mack, soprano; Kathryn Arnold, contralto
	Steven James, tenor; Robert Cantrell, bass
	Andrew Trofatter, associate tenor
Youth Director	David Beachler
Administrative Assistant	Christina Rushing
Church and Business Secretary	Lois Klein
General Treasurer	Lynn Beachler
Preschool Director	Barbara Blair
Custodial Staff	Bob Ashby, Chris Gause, Carolyn Sandler

Grace Notes

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