

Light of Grace

a monthly publication of:

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1120 17th St S, Moorhead, MN 56560-5752

Office Phone: (218) 233-1857 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Church E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodist@gmail.com

Church Website: www.graceumcmoorhead.org

Pastor: Roger Grafenstein

Pastor's E-Mail Address: graceunitedmethodistpastor@gmail.com

Parsonage Phone: (218) 233-0255

Vol. 25, No. 1
January 1, 2014

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Dear Friends,

Another Christmas past in spite of the Twelve Days of Christmas and the arrival of the wise ones on Epiphany many of us start to ponder the undecorating. The Christmas carols fade from the radio abruptly. Plus, it's time to set aside the 2013 calendar, if we are to be where we need to be and do what we need to do in the days ahead, and transition to 2014.

If I listen very closely to *the first few days after Christmas God seems to whisper two things—one a fact, the other a fear. First, the years go by ever so quickly. Second, after all the investment in Advent, Christmas and having checked another year off the calendar, what if nothing has changed?* What if no one I am blessed to serve has been changed by the Christmas message? What if I haven't been changed somehow by living through the season, and by living through a calendar year, yet again? What if the decorations are put away and the 2013 calendar exchanged for the 2014 calendar and we are exactly who we've always been?

Foremost, we've always been loved by God. So, the deepest reality in our lives doesn't need to change. However, we've always been loved by God so deeply that if we understood that love fully, many of the realities and priorities in our lives would change. Our focus would change NOT because we're up to "bad" things. *Our plans and desires would change because the world is filled with people literally aching to know: 1) They are lovable; 2) Things can get better; 3) There is always hope; 4) There are those who care; 5) The maker of the universe isn't seeking to do them harm—but is seeking to meet their needs and offer a fresh start. The God of the manger is a tender, gentle, powerfully life-changing, world-changing God.*

*Blessed
to Be a
Blessing*

Shepherds become heroes. Foreign travelers become part of a new world-family. A teen-aged, unwed, impoverished Mom becomes a young woman forever treated as royalty. A simple, non-descript carpenter becomes a model gentleman, father and symbol of what real manhood looks like. A baby who will grow into a man and be executed as a criminal becomes the one we've called our king, savior and teacher for over 2,000 years. If these basic facts of our faith aren't enough to lead us to re-think how we treat every person, then what will? If these heroes of our faith aren't enough to encourage us when we are wounded, vulnerable, and struggling on the fringes of life, then who will bring us hope?

January 5th is Epiphany Sunday and the first Sunday of the New Year. *John Wesley, our United Methodist founder, created a "covenant renewal" service for the start of a new year. The service offers us a way to say "Yes" to the God who loves us deeply.* It offers us a chance to take hold of the fresh-start God offers each of us by letting go of the stuff that keeps us from being who God calls us to be and taking hold of whatever spiritual-growth-work God calls us to for the new year. I invite you share in the worship moment. I also invite

you to use the survey that the Grace Church Council provided at Church Conference and will provide the first few Sundays in January. The survey lists five possible priorities for Grace UMC. We are wondering which priority resonates most with your heart of faith and your gifts for ministry.

Welcome to 2014 at Grace UMC. By the grace of God, may Grace UMC be a blessing in your life this year. Through Grace UMC may you find a way to be a blessing unto another child of God. *May God's transforming grace still be at work in us.*

God's Peace,
Pastor Roger



Peggy Anderson (House)	(R.E.M.)
Elouise Brendemuhl	(Kinder Care)
Mabel Burkhardt	(Bethany)
Lois Ferguson	(Eventide)
Hyacinth Kronbeck	(Park View)
Marjorie Ladwig	(Eventide)
Tom Collins	(Eventide)
Mabel Johnson	(Fairmont)
Delores Dronen	(Fairmont)
Ruth Ann Krutz	(Elim)
Jim Johnson	(Golden Living)
Mary Jane Phillips	(Eventide)
Jeanne Schwager	(Sheyenne Crossing)
Vi Williams	(Bethany on 42nd)

PRAYER LIST at Home

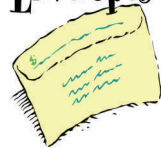
Roger Opp	Vicky Westra
Jackie Kopp	Charley Bowman
Dale Smith	Grant Mohr
Joan Ostlie	Esther Vollbrecht
Lane Englehardt	Betty Jensen



January Birthdays

5- J. Oelke
 B. Beck
 7- I. Smith
 12-L. Roppe
 13-D. Triptow
 14-K. Thiseth
 16-K. Triptow
 B. Loeks
 C. Gedrose
 19-W. Port
 22-L. Hamm
 25-J. Eide
 27-D. Dronen
 28-D. Shaw
 C. Gedrose
 29-B. Paulson

Offering Envelopes



Offering envelopes for 2014 are in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes and on January 1, 2014 destroy your 2013 envelopes to avoid getting the envelopes mixed up. Also if you do not find a box of envelopes with your name on them and would like offering envelopes, please call the office and your envelopes will be ready to be picked up the next Sunday.

PHONE DIRECTORY

A new phone directory will be available the middle of January. If you have changed your address, phone number, or e-mail address, please let the office know as soon as possible.



Ministry TEAM Program...A New Way of Being the Church at GUMC! The TEAM's mission is to serve at funerals, Sunday fellowship, as well as to provide ushers, greeters, the opening welcome and readers. TEAM 4 (Jan/July). Ministry TEAMS Coordinator is N. Grow


701-293-3260—J. & O. Alveshere
 701-893-5350—K. Baker
 701-526-8379—J. Blake
 701-367-0371—C. & D. Borgen & Family
 218-227-5942—R. & B. Christopherson
 218-287-9292—T. & B. Church & Family
 218-236-5438—K. Cole & Family
 218-233-0442—T.& L. Collins
 218-236-8502—G. & L. Davis
 218-236-9086—M. Held
 218-287-1002—R. Helland
 218-233-5110—R. Herman
 701-426-9206—C. Holden
 218-233-6557—J. Mann
 218-498-2942—T. & P.Moon
 218-233-2885—N. Moore
 218-236-0141—R. & P. Murray
 218-233-3883—D. Nix
 218-287-3817—A. Severson
 218-233-7474—S. & P. Struble

OFFERING ENVELOPES

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to N. Grow for receiving the Women of Grace "Woman of the Year" award.



FINANCIAL UPDATE DECEMBER		 GENERAL OPERATING FUND
INCOME:	\$ 15,975.00	
EXPENSES:	\$ 11,800.00	
APPORTIONMENTS:	\$ 5,662.41	

Date	Psalms	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Wed, Jan 1	am: 103; pm: 148	Isa 62:1-5, 10-12	Rev 19:11-16	Matt 2:13-23
Thur, Jan 2	Am: 34; pm: 33	1 Kg 19:1-8	Eph 4:1-16	John 6:1-14
Fri, Jan 3	Am: 68; pm: 23, 27	1 Kg 19:9-18	Eph 4:17-32	John 6:15-27
Sat, Jan 4	Am: 85, 87; pm: 89: 1-29	Josh 3:14-4:7	Eph 5L1029	John 9:1-12, 35-38
Sun, Jan 5	Am: 66, 67; pm: 145	Am: Prov 2:1-15	Col 3:12-17	John 6:41-47
Mon, Jan 6	am: 46, 97; pm: 96, 100	Isa 49:1-7	Rev 21:22-27	Matt 2:14-21
Tues, Jan 7	am: 103; pm: 114, 115	Deut 8:1-3 Am: 85, 87; pm: 89: 1-29	Col 1:1-14	John 6:30-33, 48-51
Wed, Jan 8	am: 117, 118; pm: 112, 113	Exod 17:1-7	Col 1:15-23	John 7:37-52
Thur, Jan 9	am: 121, 122, 123; pm: 131, 132	Isa 45:14-19	Col 1:24-2:7	John 8:12-19
Fri, Jan 10	am: 138, 139; pm: 147	Jer 23:1-8	Col 2:8-23	John 10:7-17
Sat, Jan 11	am: 148, 150; pm: 91, 92	am: Isa 55:3-9; pm: Isa 61:1-9	am: Col 3:1-17 pm: Gal 3:23-29, 4:4-7	John 14:6-14
Sun, Jan 12	am: 146, 147; pm: 111, 112, 113	Gen 1:1-2:3	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:29-34
Mon, Jan 13	am: 1, 2, 3; pm: 4, 7	Gen 2:4-25	Heb 1:1-15	John 1:1-18
Tues, Jan 14	am: 5, 6; pm: 10, 11	Gen 3:1-24	Heb 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Wed, Jan 15	am: 119:1-24; pm: 12, 13, 14	Gen 4:1-16	Heb 2:11-18	John 1:29-42
Thur, Jan 16	am: 18:1-20; pm: 18:21-50	Gen 4:17-26	Heb 3:1-11	John 1:43-51
Fri, Jan 17	am: 16, 17; pm: 22	Gen 6:1-8	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:1-12
Sat, Jan 18	am: 20, 21:1-14; pm: 110, 116, 117	Gen 6:9-22	Heb 4:1-13	John 2:13-22
Sun, Jan 19	am: 148, 149, 150; pm: 114, 115 pm: 114, 115	Gen 7:1-10, 17-23	Eph 4:1-16	Mark 3:7-19
Mon, Jan 20	am: 25; pm: 9, 15	Gen 8:6-22	Heb 4:14-5:6	John 2:23-3:15
Tues, Jan 21	am: 26, 28; pm: 36, 39	Gen 9:1-17	Heb 5:7-14	John 3:16-21
Wed, Jan 22	am: 38' pm: 119:25-48	Gen 9:18-29	Heb 6:1-12	John 3:22-36
Thur, Jan 23	am: 37:1-18; pm: 37:19-42	Gen 11:1-9	Heb 6:13-20	John 4:1-15
Fri, Jan 24	am: 31; pm: 35	Gen 11:27-12:8	Heb 7:1-17	John 4:16-26
Sat, Jan 25	am: 30, 32; pm: 42, 43	Gen 12:9-13:1	Heb 7:18-28	John 4:27-42
Sun, Jan 26	am: 63, 98; pm: 103	Gen 13:2-18	Gal 2:1-10	Mark 7:31-37
Mon, Jan 27	am: 41, 52; pm: 44	Gen 14:1-24	Heb 8:1-13	John 4:43-54
Tue, Jan 28	am: 45; pm: 47, 48	Gen 15:1-11, 17-21	Heb 9:1-14	John 5:1-18
Wed, Jan 29	am: 119:49-72; pm: 49, 53	Gen 16:1-14	Heb 9:15-28	John 5:19-29
Thur, Jan 30	am: 50, 59; pm: 60, 118	Gen 16:15-17:14	Heb 10:1-10	John 5:30-47
Fri, Jan 31	am: 40, 54; pm: 51	Gen 17:15-27	Heb 10:11-25	John 6:1-15

Grace United Methodist

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year	2 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 1:30PM Martha Circle 7 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry No Scouts	3	4
5 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship w/Communion 10:15 AM Children's Sun- day School	6 1 PM Quilters	7 7 PM Scouts Parents Mtg	8 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	9 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 10:30 AM North Star Clergy Mtg. 7 PM Scouts	10	11
12 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Children's Sun- day School	13 1 PM Quilters	14	15 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	16 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 11:30 AM F-M UM Clergy 7 PM Lydia Circle 7 PM Scouts	17	18
19 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Children's Sun- day School	20 1 PM Quilters	21 6 PM Trustees 7 PM Church Council	22 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	23 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 9 AM Park View Terrace 10 AM Golden Living 2 PM River Pointe 7 PM Scouts	24	25 Scouts Pinewood Derby @ Church
26 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Worship 10:15 AM Children's Sun- day School	27 1 PM Quilters	28	29 5:00 PM Churches United Dinner 6:15 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM AWANA 7:15 PM Choir	30 9 AM Bulletin Deadline 7 PM Scouts	31	

November 24, 2013

Members and Friends of Grace Church,

Your Administrative Council has been thoughtfully and prayerfully developing a long range plan on how Grace Church may best carry out our mission as described in the United Methodist Book of Discipline. We have been deliberate in our solicitation of your thoughts. Most recently we asked for your Reflections, Hopes and Heart Whispers for Grace Church.

Today we again are asking for your guidance. Last Sunday November 24, council held a Visioning & Goal Setting Meeting. We distilled the recent inputs and must now clarify our abilities to successfully carry out the possible goals we have identified. With your input, we will then make our final selections.

From the UM Book of Discipline

Para. 120 *The Mission* – The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches provide the most significant area through which disciple making occurs.

Para. 122 *The Process of Carrying Out Our Mission* – We Make Disciples as We:

- Proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;
- Lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- Nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace such as Wesley's Christian conferencing;
- Send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel, and;
- Continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of our body of Christ.

The Administrative Council has identified 5 potential long range goals to carry out our established mission.

- Grace Church will be recognized for community learning. We will lead compelling bible study, provide unique community education options, and visible community service opportunities.
- Grace Church will be recognized for ministering to the youth of our community. We will minister, teach, listen, sing, mentor, feed, advocate, console, and offer Christian fellowship.
- Grace Church will be recognized for ministering to the College Students who have chosen to make Moorhead/Fargo their home. We will minister, provide refuge, teach, listen, mentor, feed, advocate, console, sing, and offer Christian fellowship.
- Grace Church will be recognized for ministering to the Homeless. We will feed, shelter, clothe, minister, teach, listen, sing, advocate, console, and offer Christian fellowship.
- Grace Church will be recognized for ministering to the Senior Citizens within our community. We will minister, teach, listen, sing, feed, advocate, console, and offer Christian fellowship.

(Continued on Back Page)

Please respond to the following questions:

Of the 5 goals described above, which two are you most drawn by god to give of your time and talents?

First Choice:

Second Choice:

What talents do you have that you could contribute to help us succeed in the goals you chose above?

First Choice:

Second Choice:

Can you identify friends, co-workers, relatives, or neighbors who might be excited to join us in the goals you chose above?

First Choice:

Second Choice:

Which two goals do you feel that Grace Church is best equipped to tackle when considering the resources at our disposal?

First Choice:

Second Choice:

Of the 5 goals described above, which one are you least drawn by god to give of your time and talents?



***Grace United Methodist Church
1120 17 St S
Moorhead MN 56560
(218) 233-1857***

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED