



# Grace 2 U Newsletter

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Administrative Team /  
Evangelism and Mission  
Team
- 3** Fellowship Team / Social  
Justice Team
- 4** Worship Team
- 5** Grace Notes / Women's  
Ministry
- 6** Prayer Requests
- 7** Liturgist & Usher  
Schedule / Reminders
- 8** Birthdays / Anniversaries



I'm writing these words shortly after our most recent Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service at Grace. It turned out to be a lovely experience, in spite of the bitterly cold weather which made attendance a little tricky for some, and completely impossible for others. Even so, we had a large and enthusiastic crowd to celebrate one of our favorite annual traditions. Had the weather been more agreeable, we might have seen a completely packed sanctuary.

One noticeable difference for Christmas Eve at Grace this year was the number of new faces. While I cannot be sure of exact numbers, it appeared that our visitors outnumbered our members that evening. What a wonderful surprise! While this is probably not the sort of attendance pattern we can expect on most Sundays of the church year, the growth in our community with new neighborhoods, residents, and businesses adding to our population seems to indicate that we can anticipate increasing numbers of visitors in 2023.

Your church building's ideal location and visibility, your well-deserved reputation as one of the most welcoming and friendly local congregations, and your consistently high-quality worship services will continue to attract and minister to new folks looking for a church home of their own. Please be looking for new people in worship and continue your excellent efforts to engage and welcome them. Share with your new friends and neighbors in the community the news of our only local Presbyterian worship option. Invite someone to our ladies' Bible study or our adult Sunday school class. If you hear an enthusiastic singer during worship, encourage them to attend our Wednesday choir rehearsal and

become a member of our fantastic music ministry.

We are looking forward with optimism and inspiration to a blessed 2023. Your music team, Bible teachers, and worship leaders are committed to even more excellence and improvement in the coming year. Your deacons are ready to minister with enthusiasm and compassion. Your ruling elders are continuing to inspire their ministry teams to create more opportunities for learning, growth, mission, outreach, and community ministry than we have been able to do in the last couple years of pandemic challenge and adjustment.

I hope you are excited, prayerful, and committed to having one of our best years yet at Grace Presbyterian Church. I'm looking greatly forward to experiencing it with you.

Grace to you,

David



### **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

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The administrative team activities for the fourth quarter of 2022 were as follows:

1. With extensive help from Bill Keller, church treasurer, prepared and approved the 2023 church budget.
2. Purchased and installed a new Christmas tree for the sanctuary.

3. Continued the safety and security oversight for the Sunday services.

Joe Fortune, Admin Elder



### **EVANGELISM / MISSION TEAM**

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We ended the year of 2022 with our promotion of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation, and peace. Generous gifts to the Presbyterian Giving Catalog are signs of our gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the broken-hearted and sharing our faith around the world.

In 2022 it was suggested and accepted with great enthusiasm that we join our gifts together and donate the cost of an entire well. I am glad to report that we met our goal and more, giving access to clean water to a community, thus changing lives with water close to home, better health, and daily living.

As we move into 2023 we are planning a special day for our ladies on February 18th. At the home of Priscilla Taylor with lunch provided, we will have the opportunity to learn about three important missions and will have a representative from each ministry speaking to us:

1. Kay Parrish, Director The Good Shepherd Clinic
2. Sue Seldomridge, President and working team member of St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference
3. Brad Taylor, Director of World Reach Mobile Bible Institute

There will be more information forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Grace to you!  
Mary Ann Sheehy




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## FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Did you notice the cars slowing down and people waving while Gene was taking the group picture in front of the church while the talented piper was playing on "Kirking" Sunday?

Did you enjoy the food prepared by Papa's Place? The sweet potatoes and desserts? The beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall? Here is a list of the ladies who made it possible:

Jane Miller, Priscilla Taylor, Peggy Thornton, Barbara Quintrell, Marsha Loftin, Bonnie Fry, Margie O'Byrne, Grace Walden, Pat Tracht, and a very special shout out to Elaine Coker who did all the coordinating with Papa's Place. A "job well done" to each of you and grateful thanks from all of Grace.

In case you are wondering about the leftovers, meals were taken to the shut-ins in the congregation, and the remainder of food was taken to the officers working the Detention Center at The Law Enforcement Center. (A tradition started by Grace and Wayne Watkins years ago.) Since the officers cannot leave their posts, they are grateful for a hot meal delivered to them.

Are you ready for some football? Our next church wide event will be our "Souper Sunday" Luncheon held right after Church on the day of the Super Bowl. A sign-up sheet will magically appear in plenty of time for you to sign up to bring your favorite soup or dessert. If you wish, wear your team colors.

None of these events could have been possible without the generosity and commitment of the entire Grace congregation.

With sincere thanks to each of you and wishes for many blessings in the coming year.

Your Grace Fellowship Team  
(Betty Powell reporting)




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## SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Season's Greetings!

You are truly a giving congregation. We donated more than 30 coats to the Homeless Veterans to be distributed around North Georgia. A special thanks to Betty Powell for

bringing the opportunity to my attention. We delivered dozens and dozens of socks to North Georgia Assisted Living just before the

Christmas Holiday. What a joy it is to share with our community.

As we embark on 2023 I encourage you to take social justice as a personal day to day journey in your walk of faith.

Grace 2U  
Kristie



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### WORSHIP TEAM

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Grace to you from the Worship Team!

Triumph! Kirking of the Tartans was a huge success. What a great team effort. I cannot say enough about the fabulous members of Grace Church that helped. I do want to recognize the members of the Worship Team. They are:

Nancy McCue, Christy Jordan, Carol Watkins, Gene Seese, Daniel Manke, and Joyce Ball.

A special thanks to Carol Watkins for herding everyone to the front of the church and getting us in the correct order to enter the church. She made it look easy, but trust me, it's not.

Thank you for all the work you guys do for Grace Presbyterian Church!

In addition to the Worship Team, there was a huge participation from the congregation to make the celebration a success. The altar boys

and girls, the bagpiper James Rutmann, and Christy Jordan for conducting calling the clans. The clan members, the choir, and our guest musical performers!

The congregation was even kind enough to stand out in front of the church for a group picture. The pictures have been posted to Grace's Facebook page. They turned out great!

In addition to Kirking, we had the Hanging of the Greens! You can tell this was a boundless achievement simply by looking around the sanctuary. One simply cannot ignore the Christmas feeling that comes when looking at our tree, the poinsettias, or Advent candles.

A special thanks to the members who came in and organized everything for us the day before. A special thank you to Carol Watson who did 80% of the work before anyone showed up!

I also want to thank the faithful members of Grace who served as ushers during the year. It is a very important job that doesn't get much recognition. However, the Worship Team recognizes you and appreciates you.

One final note of thank you to Daniel Manke who has been doing a lot of work to get our streaming and sound system back online.

God Bless You! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mark, Shannon, and TJ Hageli



## GRACE NOTES



It's been a wonderful Advent Season. If you missed the Christmas Eve Service, you missed our Handbell Choir and Chancel Singers but don't fret! You can still see the service online and we will have more performances coming up in the new year.

Many thanks for your support of the music at Grace. Your support of our interns is so appreciated. We are always looking for more singers in the loft to join us on Sunday mornings. If you'd like to sing with us, our first rehearsal in the new year will be Wednesday, January 4th at 7pm. We also have limited openings in our handbell choir, please see me if you're interested in joining.

Finally, we have one personnel change to announce. Donna Bailey has moved to Gainesville to be closer to her children and grandchildren and has decided to step away from splitting time at the piano. We are so pleased to announce that Hannah Stocksdales will be taking over as our full-time accompanist.

Hannah is very excited to be expanding her role at Grace and we are so pleased that she will be with us every week.

Have a joyous New Year and we look forward to presenting more beautiful music during worship every week!

Grace2U, Gene



In early December, the Ladies of Grace enjoyed a lovely Christmas luncheon at the home of Kristie Meyers and Joey Homans. Kristie was such a gracious hostess and had their home beautifully decorated for Christmas. It was a wonderful time for us to fellowship with one another and to be treated to a delicious meal. Thank you so much, Kristie, for opening your home to us and being the "hostess with the

mostest". You most definitely should be featured in Southern Living next year.

We will have our first luncheon of the new year on Tuesday, January 17th at 12:15 in the church fellowship hall. This will be a potluck luncheon so please bring a dish to share. Pat Tracht will be leading us in a cross creating craft activity following the meal. The cross will be constructed of pages from old hymnals and Pat will bring everything we need except glue guns. We will all need to bring our glue guns. If you plan to participate in the cross making activity, please RSVP to Pat Tracht 954-856-3153 or Peggy Thornton 478-396-5052 by Tuesday, January 3, 2023. You can attend the luncheon without making the cross.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas season and I wish you good health and much happiness in the new year.

Blessings,

Peggy Thornton



**In Our Prayers:** John Adams (Marsha Loftin), Ruth Ann Ball and family, Braylon Bull (Marsha Loftin), Kathy Cameron (Jeanne Kendall), Greg Chumley (Richard Smith), Linda Clemons, Cooper (Bettie Fore), Barbara Crouse, Frank Duke (Kay Parrish), Lee Duke (Brother of Kay

Parrish), Emma (Bettie Fore), John and Sandy Grimes, Mark Hageli, Howard and Paula Halteman, Paula Harris, Harvey's little sister (Katie), Erin Hathcock (Joe Fortune's Niece), Margaret Hunt (Jim Hambright's Sister), Melanie Johnson (Marsha Loftin), Doug Jones (Margie's brother), Sharra Kelley, Winfred Kelley, Lia Knowler, Shelby Lee, Jeanne Luke, Stella McCabe, Ellen Nordstrom (Margie O'Byrne's Sister), Kay Parrish, Paulina (Cynthia's mother), Jordan Permenter, Dan Scott, Chris Seese, Caleb Sprinkle (Marsha), Brad Taylor in Peru, Glo Thompson (Paula Harris), Bob Thornton, T.J. (Bettie Fore), Dan, Pat, and Briana Tomberlin, Timothy Wade (Brother of Shelby Lee), Bill Weeks, Debbie Williamson (Chris Seese), Wyatt, Tornado Damage Sufferers, pray for those with the Coronavirus and those who care for them, the Volunteers of Good Shepherd Clinic who are still serving the citizens in need by providing a healthcare home during this Pandemic .

**Assisted Living:** Marian Hopkins, Zoe Putnam

**Hospice:** Carol Ann Groebner

**Sympathy:** The family of Amanda Edwards, the family of Mike Logan, the family of Betty Rhodes



**USHER /LITURGIST SCHEDULE**

**Liturgists:**

**Ushers:**

January

January

1/1 Lynette Steritz  
 1/8 Christy Jordan  
 1/15 Lauren Collins  
 1/22 Margie O'Byrne  
 1/29 Peggy Thornton

Marsha Loftin & Betty Powell  
 Jim Hambright & Margie O'Byrne  
 Jerry & Susan Atkins  
 Joey & Kristie Homans  
 Nancy McCue & Betty Powell

**Liturgists:**

**Ushers:**

February

February

2/5 Kristie Homans  
 2/12 Grace Walden  
 2/19 Chris Seese  
 2/26 Katie Schumacher

Dan & Jane Miller  
 Gordon & Jeannette Brand  
 Jerry & Susan Atkins  
 Mike & Joyce Ball

**Liturgists:**

**Ushers:**

March

March

3/5 Joyce Ball  
 3/12 Anna Grace Martin  
 3/19 Susan Atkins  
 3/26 J.R. Banitt

Bill & Joann Keller  
 Dan & Jane Miller  
 Ron & Elaine Coker  
 Marsha Loftin & Nancy McCue

*January 8: Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

*January 18: Annual Congregational Meeting and Ordination/Installation of Ordered Ministers*

*February 12: Souper Sunday@ 12:00*

*February 22: Ash Wednesday*



**January Birthdays**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – John Joh
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Linda Clemons
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Permenter
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Penny Kelley
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Nancy McCue
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Tom Quintrell

**February Birthdays**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Barb Richeson
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Rebecca Rainey
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Marsha Loftin
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Priscilla Taylor
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Fran Dimick
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Judy Manke
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Margie O’Byrne
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Chris Seese
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Rachael Lorenz

**March Birthdays**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Richard Smith
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Ball
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Joe Fortune
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Ron Coker
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Kay Parrish
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Marian Hopkins
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Westra
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Jim Hambright
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Scott Vickery
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Glorianna Wilson
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Reed Maurer
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Jane Miller



*March*

*6 – Paula & Howard Halteman*

*20 – Sherry & Bill Weeks*

*21 – Janie & Hubert Tinsley*