



Grace 2 U Newsletter

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Recently I had the blessing to observe my ninth anniversary since my transfer of ordination and installation as pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church. It has been a joy to recall and reflect upon our time together, through the ups and downs, the denominational issues, membership changes, global pandemics, births, deaths, baptisms, marriages, staff changes, and all the varieties of life as we know it in this place where God has led us.

Over the last 9/10th of a decade, we have experienced many blessings at Grace. We have enjoyed the adoption of the Godly Play program for our children's ministry, and have had the pleasure of working with talented leaders for this effort. Among others, Jennifer Kudlas, Erica Barker, Emily Britt, Sharra Kelley, Vanessa Seese, and Suehelen White have done an amazing job of working with our kids at Grace, and skillfully teaching them about the love of Christ.

Our music program, including the efforts of our chancel choir to provide inspirational leadership during our worship services, has continued to bless and impress. Jeanne Luke Longerbeam and Gene Seese have both provided excellent guidance to our music program, and our accompanists, especially Brad Maple, Cecile McGuire, Donna Bailey, and many fine substitutes, have consistently proven that superior worship music is possible even in a small congregation. The introduction of our choir intern program has blessed us with several talented young singers, most recently Lauren Collins, Madison Unger, and TJ Hageli.

Our dedicated team of Deacons and Elders, too many to count, have been amazing in their willingness to prayerfully devote their time, talent, and energy to leading and serving Grace with admirable skill and dedication. It's hard to imagine where we would be without their selfless service and leadership.

We have enjoyed several upgrades and improvements to our church building, including new paint inside and out, a resurfaced parking lot, brand new floors in the administrative wing, a new church parlor, remodeled bathrooms, and new computers for the staff, among several other updates. All of this has been capably maintained with great care and attention by our devoted sextons, including Andy Clemons and Joe Fortune.

We saw the addition of new worship opportunities, including a Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week, and an Ash Wednesday service to inaugurate the season of Lent each year. We've even experimented with a Saturday Vigil on Easter Weekend and a second Christmas Eve service. Our Blessing of the Animals service was adopted by the local Humane Society and now occurs in conjunction with their annual event.

Our congregation has been so faithful in attendance, participation, ministry, service, and giving. Through the continued generosity of our faithful membership, we have maintained a benevolent presence in the community, and we are making a discernible difference in the lives of those to whom we minister in Dawson County and beyond.

Our dedicated office manager, Crystal Seymour, has expertly managed all our business throughout my entire tenure as pastor, and none of this could function without her. Grace has been blessed by her sunny disposition,

steady hand, and dedicated service since before the church was chartered more than a decade ago. This hard-working and devoted employee has my sincere gratitude for all she does on our behalf.

We have married and buried, baptized and blessed, ordained and installed, laughed and cried, prayed and sang, worshiped and ministered, and through it all we have enjoyed the opportunity to do everything as a community, a fellowship, and a family. Here's to many years of effective and transformational ministry to come. In Jesus' name.

Grace to you,

David



WORSHIP TEAM

Grace to you from the Worship Team.

Happy Ordinary time.

We hope this article finds you healthy and safe. Ordinary time is upon us according to the church calendar. However, this is not a time to relax. One of my favorite sayings is found in James 2 :17: "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Bob Thornton from Bible study quotes this scripture a lot and lives it through his activities on behalf of the church. My point being, there is a lot of work to be done during this ordinary time around Grace Church.

With the end of COVID-19, hopefully, the church is slowly getting back to full speed, and

this is where the wonderful members of Grace Church come in. The churches committees such as the Worship Team need our members back in meetings helping to maintain and improve our church.

I cannot speak for the other elders, but I know the Worship Team can use assistance in the choir, communion preparation, ushers and liturgists are also needed. If the Holy Spirit moves you to do some work to keep your faith alive, then please let me or Pastor David know.

God Bless!

Mark Hageli



FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP. One of the Great Ends of the Church. Fellowship is "the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God".

At Grace we have a number of ways we fellowship: when we sing "Bind Us Together" at the close of worship, visiting while enjoying refreshments in the parlor, the ladies prayer and Bible study groups, the Ladies of Grace (LOGS) luncheons and outings, the men's prayer breakfast, maintaining a prayer list, and the special times we gather as one spiritual group to share food and fun. And more.

I am putting together a group of awesome ladies (and men willing to serve) to plan some memorable events.

If you have ideas and suggestions, please let me know. We welcome the input.

Blessings. Betty Powell



EVANGELISM / MISSIONS

Links of Love was a great project during Covid since we could not be together. Considering our scattered presence, I think we did good. The children have been working with Suehelen on the links. The links represent each gift that was given. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Mary Ann Sheehy



GRACE NOTES

What a joy it has been to see people return to the pews this past month and to see all your faces again (literally!). It has also been my pleasure to bring the chancel choir back to the loft for the month of June and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have! The choir and I will be taking a break for the month of July as I finish my master's degree and plan for a full return to choir this August.

We hope to welcome many new faces to our group this fall. We need singers for all voice parts and would love to have you join us. Our

first rehearsal in August will be held on Wednesday, August 11th at 7pm. Come by and give us a try, we are a fun group who loves to praise the Lord. If singing is not for you, please consider supporting our student intern program. Your support (financially and spiritually) makes a huge difference in these young lives. Please reach out to me and/or Mark Hageli to see how you can help.

On a personal note, Chris and I will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary by renewing our vows on Saturday, July 31st at Grace and you all are invited! Please see me or Chris on Sunday mornings if you have not received an invitation. A reception will follow the ceremony downstairs. We both hope you will be able to join us. Have a wonderful summer!

Gene Seese



The Ladies of Grace recently enjoyed a potluck luncheon and planning session. It was wonderful to be together again after such a long time and to get organized for the next few months. As you make plans and appointments, please remember that the Ladies of Grace normally meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:15 in the church fellowship hall.

Our next outing will be lunch at a restaurant in Dahlonega or Dawsonville on Tuesday, July 20th. I will be sending an email soon with the time and location. You will need to RSVP for this luncheon since I will need to make a reservation for the group. On Tuesday, August 17th we will

meet at the church for a potluck luncheon. For the September 21st luncheon, I am hoping one of the ministry teams will volunteer to provide lunch. Please let me know if your team is willing to do this in either September or October.

Please share restaurant and activity suggestions with me as we are always looking for new adventures. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 478-396-5052 or peggythor1@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing many of you at the July luncheon. Please have a safe and happy summer.

Blessing,

Peggy Thornton



In Our Prayers: Laurie Allison (Marsha Loftin), Osvaldo Alonso (Suehelen White), Francis and Ruth Ann Ball, the family of Paige Berrigan (Joe Fortune), Michelle Blair, Susan Bruno (Jo West), Lee Bueno, Chase Busby, Bill Cain, Tom Cole (Dan Scott), Collins family, the family of Sam Cooke (Lauren Collins), Jeff Coombs (Bill and Joann Keller), Jan & David (Chris Seese), Debbie, Katy Dennis, Arlene Devience (the Hageli family), Frank Duke (Kay Parrish), Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), Rachel Lynn Foster, Bill Gear (Hanne Gear), Sandy Grimes, Hannah Hays (Marsha Loftin), Paula Harris, Amy Gibson's Family, Joan (sister of Paula Halteman), Doug Jones (Margie's brother), Winfred Kelley, Louise Kelly (Chris Seese), Lamar (Richard Smith), Shelby Lee, Jason Leonard, Linda (Mal Zajac), Rhonda

Lindquist, Julie Mannheimer, Karen Permenter, Chuck & Diane Piatt, Zoe Putnam, Harvey Rainey (Husband of Rebecca Rainey), Dan Scott, Chris Seese, Caroline Seese, Sawyer Smith (Sandra Grimes), Mandy Stallard (Marsha Loftin), Nancy Stamp (niece of Grace Walden), Emily Steinemetz (Granddaughter of Hanne Gear), Brad Taylor, Glo Thompson (Paula Harris), Sam and Judy Wadsworth, Wyatt, Donna Yaughn, Barbara Zajac's family, Kara Zajac, 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, Betty Rhodes

Nursing Home/Rehab: Carol Ann Groebner

Sympathy: The family of Nancy McNeill



Grace Presbyterian is scheduled to serve at the Ric Rack food pantry from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following dates this quarter:

- July 2
- August 9, 11, & 13
- September 20, 22, & 24

Please email gp2@trailwave.net if you would like to volunteer. The food pantry is still accepting donations, the store is located at 829 Hwy 9N, Dawsonville, GA 30534.

USHER/GREETER/LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Liturgists:

July

7/4	<u>Communion Servers:</u> Bonnie Fry, Mary Ann Sheehy, Grace Walden, Carol Watkins	
7/4	Christy Jordan	Bob & Peggy Thornton
7/11	Margie O'Byrne	Betty Powell & Marsha Loftin
7/18	Joyce Ball	Gordon & Jeannette Brand
7/25	Bob Thornton	Ron & Elaine Coker

Ushers:

July

Liturgists:

August

8/1	<u>Communion Servers:</u> Daniel and Jane Miller, Jim Hambright and Margie O'Byrne	
8/1	Joey Homans	Betty Powell & Nancy McCue
8/8	Grace Walden	Jim Hambright & Margie O'Byrne
8/15	Chris Seese	Bill & Joann Keller
8/22	Kristie Homans	Bob & Peggy Thornton
8/29	Peggy Thornton	Michael & Joyce Ball

Ushers:

August

Liturgists:

September

9/5	<u>Communion Servers:</u> Andy and Linda Clemons, Gordon and Jeannette Brand	
9/5	Margie O'Byrne	Joey & Kristie Homans
9/12	Christy Jordan	Daniel & Jane Miller
9/19	Bob Thornton	Gordon & Jeannette Brand
9/26	Joyce Ball	Ron & Elaine Coker

Ushers:

September



July Birthdays

2nd – Roberta Coleman
 3rd – Daniel Manke
 4th – Hubert Tinsley
 7th – Sandy Grimes
 10th – David Jordan
 12th – Barbara Quintrell
 17th – Randy Davis
 17th – Paul Dimick
 23rd – Winfred Kelley
 23rd – Michael Putnam
 24th – Christy Jordan
 27th – Anna Simpson
 29th – Karan Winters
 30th – Nancy King

August Birthdays

3rd – Andy Clemons
 4th – Jeannette Brand
 4th – Mark Hageli
 8th – Sam McDuffie
 11th – Joey Homans
 17th – Ryan McDuffie
 17th – Betty Banks
 20th – Leigha Rainey
 24th – Sherry Weeks
 27th – Donald Taylor
 28th – David Muir

September Birthdays

1st – Gault Robertson
 4th – Foster Kinney
 6th – Grace Walden
 8th – Grayson McDuffie
 13th – Doris Greijack
 14th – Frank Banks
 16th – John Grimes
 19th – Betty Powell
 19th – Jeanne Tompkins
 20th – Martha Shaw
 20th – Reagan Parrish
 30th – Joann Keller



July

12th -

David & Jarrett Simpson

16th -

Barbara & Randy Crouse

25th -

Ryan & Sam McDuffie

25th -

Shannon & Mark Hageli

30th -

Priscilla & Don Taylor

August

1st -

Nancy & Warren King

3rd -

Peggy & Bob Thornton

10th -

Chris & Gene Seese

September

7th -

Betty & Frank Banks

8th -

Jane & Daniel Miller

19th -

Sandy & John Grimes