



Grace 2 U Newsletter

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On June 10, 2012 I completed the process of transferring my ministerial credentials from my former denomination to the Presbyterian Church (USA), at which time I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as the called pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Dawsonville.

Having just observed my tenth anniversary as your pastor, I have spent some time reflecting on what the past decade has meant for us as a church. Among the many experiences we have shared, some of the highlights that caught my attention include:

- I have become the longest-serving pastor of this congregation (admittedly, this one wasn't too hard considering the relative newness of the church).
- We have been thrilled to welcome many new people who joined the church and became active members of the congregation.
- We have experienced the heartbreak of denominational turmoil and saw a lot of members leave to worship elsewhere during that time; then we who remained grew stronger and closer as a result.
- We witnessed the growth of the **Good Shepherd Clinic**, which eventually moved from our basement to a much more spacious and effective facility, becoming a stand-alone non-profit entity staffed with employees and volunteers from our church.
- We hosted a stated meeting of **Cherokee Presbytery** in our sanctuary, welcoming commissioners, ministers, and delegates from all over north Georgia.
- We installed video equipment in the sanctuary and began to share our worship with online viewers.

- We made many substantial improvements to our facility, including renovated bathrooms, new floors and carpeting, interior and exterior painting, brand-new energy efficient windows, and a new digital piano, among many other things.
- We hired two consecutive talented choir directors, and have enjoyed high quality music in worship that would rival churches many times our size.
- We weathered the storm of a global pandemic, transitioned to an online-only streaming worship experience, then returned intact to begin the next chapter of our life together in a changed world.

There are many other things which have occurred in the last decade, blessings and trials, joys and sorrows, gains and losses. Through it all, this congregation has proven itself to be remarkably resilient. The future of Grace cannot be predicted with any accuracy, but it is certain that our people are among the finest and most dedicated believers around, and I am so blessed to serve here.

We hear often from those who claim to know about such things that the Christian church as we know it is changing rapidly, and that what the church becomes within a generation from now may be unrecognizable to people today. On this side of the onset of a global pandemic, I think we are beginning to see those changes accelerate. This may be challenging and even concerning to some, but I believe that this may be an excellent opportunity for us to think and dream about how we can continue to live out our callings as the people of God in this community now and in the future.

To paraphrase my ordination vows from 2012, I think this next decade can be a defining one for us at Grace, as we prayerfully and faithfully step into a new world right here in Dawson County to minister and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with *energy, imagination, intelligence, and love*.

Grace to you,

David



ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

The administrative team continues to oversee the financial and building challenges of our congregation. During this time, we:

- Continue oversight of safety and security of the church, led by Rob Coker.
- Held clean-up and junk removal day. Lunch provided by Betty Powell.
- Oversaw installation of new windows in the administrative building. Windows funded by an anonymous donor.

Joe Fortune
Administrative Elder



FELLOWSHIP TEAM

Although the Ladies Bible study group is on summer hiatus, as part of the Fellowship Team the group continues striving to meet the "great ends of the church" by continuing the weekly prayer lists updates and welcoming any requests for prayers or special needs. And supporting Jeremiah's house with supplies, prayers, and offers of help with their needs. The Ladies group is full of mighty prayer warriors.

The group has reached out to our beloved Ruth Ann Ball in this time of grief over the loss of her beloved Francis, an integral part of Grace, as the Church receiving treasurer for a number of years. Please keep Ruth Ann and her family in your prayers.

The Group has also reached out to Carol Ann Groebner with prayers, flowers, cards, and with the hope she will again feel connected to her church family.

The LOGs (Ladies of Grace) once again enjoyed a summer outing around the pool at Priscilla Taylor's beautiful home. Although the weather made for a short swim, the group moved inside to enjoy a pot lunch luncheon like only the LOGs can prepare.

The Ladies will continue the Third Tuesday meetings during the summer so watch and listen for announcement of the activities.

With sadness and good wishes, the Bible Study Group said goodbye to Barbara Robbins who had been a faithful member and special part of

the group while building her new home near Lake Oconee.

Our sympathy and prayers to Joey (and Kristie) Homans.

Blessings. Betty Powell



SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

Summer Greetings from Social Justice!

Jeremiah's Place in Dahlonega is a campus that was created in 2014 to provide transitional housing for families that find themselves without a home. In coordination with the Ladies Bible Study, we were able to contribute an overflowing pick up load of supplies to aid in their mission. They serve a multi county area including Dawson County.

Our next community outreach will be to the school nurse program for the upcoming school year. Consistently, hunger is a common reason that children visit the nurse's office. Having a healthy supply of crackers and small snacks in each office is an invaluable resource for one of the communities true unsung hero, the school nurse.

Here are some helpful items:

Peanut Butter Crackers (or other cracker packs/snacks)
 Peppermints (the large barrel type container of "puff" peppermints)
 Children's Benadryl
 Kleenex
 Children's Tylenol
 Wipes
 Girls Period Supplies
 Small Paper Cups

We will collect these items throughout the month of July for this community outreach.

Thank you all for your unending generosity.

Kristie Homans



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 chapter 2 verse 17, "So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." I know Bob from bible study says this verse 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.

The choir is seeking volunteers to play the new hand bells that have been ordered. If you are interested, please see Gene, our Choir Director. The worship team needs some help with communion setup and take down, please contact me or Nancy McCue if interested. If you'd like to serve as an usher or liturgists, please see Pastor David.

Finally, I hope some of you are moved to join the worship team. Our meetings are short and the work we do helps make the worship meaningful. You get a lot back for your efforts!

God Bless.

Mark Hageli



GRACE NOTES

Another choir season comes to a close and it has been a great year, all things considered. We might be small, but our group has persevered, and the congregational support has been amazing. The kind words and support of our interns and adults is so appreciated. Anna Grace, Sarah, and JR will be back next year as senior interns, as well as Katie as Assistant Director. We look forward to possibly adding a 4th high school intern in the fall. Hannah has graduated and will be attending UNG this fall as a Piano Performance major. We have been blessed to have her at the piano and she has decided that Grace will be her new home this fall! She will continue to split time with Donna and will also sing in the choir this year when not at the keyboard. What a blessing it is to have her stay with us and it's because of your support and encouragement that she has found what will hopefully be her life-long passion.

The choir will take some much-needed time off during the summer, but you'll see us throughout July in a solo and small group capacity. Even though we are off, plans are well under way for this fall. We have decided to return to Wednesday evening practices, beginning with our first rehearsal on August 10th at 7pm. Look for reminders as we get closer, we'd love to add members to our group. Also new for the fall, we will be starting up a handbell choir. Thanks to a generous donation

from Grace Walden and given in honor of her children Elizabeth Walden Peden, Charles William Walden, Jr., and Christopher Raglan Walden. We now have a three octave set of

handbells to add to our music ministry. We will be looking to recruit some ringers, no experience needed. Again, look for more information about this soon. In the meantime, enjoy some pictures of these beautiful

bells 😊 .



Bible Study:

Women's Bible study is taking our summer break. We will meet again on August 9."

-Carol Watkins



As always, thank you for your support of all things music, we could not do this without you.

With so many opportunities to perform, we hope to see more of you joining us in our ministry. Have a wonderful summer and looking forward to an amazing new season this August!

Grace2U, Gene



Farewell Luncheon for Paula Halteman on April 5, 2022.



In Our Prayers: John Adams (Marsha Loftin), Ruth Ann Ball, Braylon Bull (Marsha Loftin), Linda Clemons, Mary Delasota (Bob Thornton), Frank Duke (Kay Parrish), Lee Duke (Brother of Kay Parrish), Amanda Edwards (Grace Walden), John and Sandy Grimes, Howard and Paula Halteman, Paula Harris, 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 Knower, Shelby Lee, Rut and Noel Liles (Margie O'Byrne) Mike Logan (Sarah Logan), Louis (Rachael Lorenz), Jeanne Luke, Jordan Permenter, Dan Scott, Caleb Sprinkle (Marsha), Nancy Stamp (niece of Grace Walden), Brad Taylor, Glo Thompson (Paula Harris), Timothy Wade (Brother of Shelby Lee), 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, Betty Rhodes

Hospice: Carol Ann Groebner

Sympathy: The family of Francis Ball, the family of Steve Seese

USHER /LITURGIST SCHEDULE

Liturgists:

July

7/3 Bob Thornton
7/10 Kristie Homans
7/17 Christy Jordan
7/24 Joyce Ball
7/31 Grace Walden

Ushers:

July

Marsha Loftin & Betty Powell
Jim Hambright & Margie O'Byrne
Bob & Peggy Thornton
Nancy McCue & Betty Powell
Joey & Kristie Homans

Liturgists:

August

8/7 Chris Seese
8/14 Joey Homans
8/21 Katie Schumacher
8/28 Grace Walden

Ushers:

August

Dan & Jane Miller
Bill & Joann Keller
Marsha Loftin & Nancy McCue
Mike & Joyce Ball

Liturgists:

September

9/4 Peggy Thornton
9/11 Lauren Collins
9/18 Susan Atkins
9/25 Sarah Hickman

Ushers:

September

Gordon & Jeannette Brand
Dan & Jane Miller
Ron & Elaine Coker
Jerry & Susan Atkins



July 31 Blessing of the Backpacks

September: Church Picnic



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

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

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

16th – Barbara & Randy Crouse

25th – Shannon & Mark Hageli

25th – Ryan & Sam McDuffie

August

1st – Nancy & Warren King

3rd – Peggy & Bob Thornton

7th – Betty & Frank Banks

10th – Chris & Gene Seese

September

8th – Jane & Daniel Miller

19th – Sandy & John Grimes