



# GROWING IN

# Grace

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## **Growing In Grace**

A publication of Grace United  
Methodist Church  
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### **Pastor:**

**Helen Casey-Rutland**

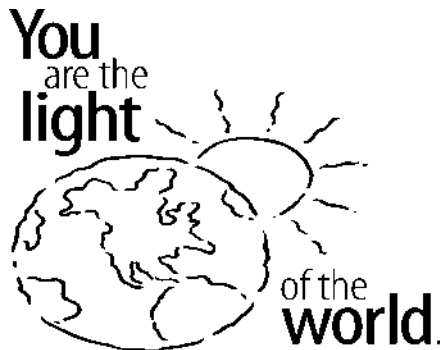
Sunday Services:

Early Worship: 8:45 am

Traditional Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Celebrating God's love, seeking God's direction together



M a t t h e w 5 : 1 4

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild nations,  
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,  
To make music in the heart.*

-Howard Thurman

**Scripture Readings:**

**January 1 ~ Bob Taylor**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; *Psalm 148*  
*Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40*

**January 8 ~ Gynetha Conway**

Genesis 1:1-5; *Psalm 29*  
*Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11*

**January 15 ~ Eddie Capps**

1 Samuel 3:1-10; *Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*  
*1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51*

**January 22 ~ Blackie Jackson**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; *Psalm 62:5-12*  
*1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20*

**January 29 ~ Garrett Ouzts**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; *Psalm 111*  
*1 Corinthians 8:1-14; Mark 1:21-28*

\*Readings for the worship services will generally be chosen from the scriptures above.  
 (Readings may vary for special services.)



**Lockup:**

**Betty Jo Jackson**

**Counting Team  
 #5**

**\*Blackie Jackson  
 Betty Jo Jackson  
 Tom West  
 Susan West**



**Acolyte for  
 January:**

**Presley Hobson**



**Ushers:  
 Team #4**

**\*John Thompson  
 Glen Banks  
 Bryan Jackson**

**GREETERS  SCHEDULE**

*1st ~ Bob & Betty Hill*  
*8th ~ Kevin and Lindsay Hobson*  
*15th ~ Phil & Katie Burke*  
*22nd ~ Sally & Bob Taylor*  
*29th ~ Frank & Audrey Wiggs*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 1:30 Points of Grace	3 10:30 UMW Board Mtg.	4 7:00 SPRC	5 6:30 Praise Choir Chancel Bells 7:45 Chancel Choir	6	7
8 12:15 Second Sunday Noon Potato Lunch	9 9:00 Senior Breakfast @Angelo's 1:30 Mary/Martha	10	11	12 6:30 Praise Choir Chancel Bells 7:45 Chancel Choir	13	14
15	16 1:30 Points of Grace 7:00 Stewardship & Finance 7:00 Trustees	17 7:00 WEP Board Mtg. 7:00 Susanna Wesley Circle	18 7:00 Church Council Mtg.	19 6:30 Praise Choir Chancel Bells 7:45 Chancel Choir	20	21
22 12:15 Fourth Sunday Fellowship	23	24	25	26 6:30 Praise Choir Chancel Bells 7:45 Chancel Choir	27	28
29	30	31	<b>Sunday Morning Children's Choirs:</b> <b>Chapel Choir 9:30-10:00 am</b> <b>Cherub Choir 10:05-10:25 am</b> <b>Parenting Class 9:45-10:45</b> <b>Sunday School 9:45am</b>			

# Youth &

## Confirmation Sunday Mornings February—May 2012

The United Methodist Hymnal tells us that confirmation is the renewal of our baptismal covenant, an opportunity to think about what God is doing for us and to affirm our commitment to Christ's holy church. It is also a time to examine the Christian faith, to learn the history of the church and of United Methodism, and to make decisions regarding our own faith. This is an important time in the life of adolescents and in the church.

**We invite middle school youth and anyone else** who would like to participate to join us at 10 on Sunday mornings. Youth will be receiving more information soon about confirmation format and plans. Many members of the church will participate and invite our young people to be included in discipleship and the life of the church.

### What adults can do to help:

- Pray for our confirmands
- Give them support and encouragement.
- **If you are an adult who would be willing to serve 2 or 3 Sundays during this process, please call me soon.**

-Juliana Smith



The youth and children successfully met our goal of raising enough money to buy a goat through the Heifer Project! Thanks to everyone who contributed, and especially to Sandy Fisher, Baker McFall, and Samantha Jo Jackson for their work on this project.

***Congratulations***  
to *MacKenzie Heath*  
who attends our middle school youth group. MacKenzie came in 5th among approximately 3000 runners in the Busch Gardens Christmastown 8K!  
Way to go MacKenzie!

# children



*Thanks* to Kim Rumsey for directing “**The Birth of Jesus Christ,**” a wonderful, colorful Christmas pageant on December 11. Thanks also to all the participants for a job well-done!

**Christmas  
Pageant**

*Thanks* also to the McFall Family for taking the lead on Christmas caroling festivities and hosting the middle-school Christmas party.

*Thanks* to Garrett Ouzts, Lynn Lambert, and others who chaperoned during the **New Year’s Eve Eve (Dec. 30) Middle School Lock-In!**



## Nursery News

At Christmas we said goodbye to our friends Chris Pope and Maya Ulmar who worked in the nursery. We will be hiring new people soon. Thank you for your patience as we find nurturing caregivers for our youngest members. During this transition, we will need volunteers, and we may be calling you to enjoy some time with the little ones!

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Coming Feb 5.

Watch the bulletin to place your orders for youth-made chili and soup to benefit agencies that serve the hungry in our community.



# NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

### What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

### What you do:














1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.



## A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ adcltne			
___ rohmtae			
___ srgbape			
___ rbieda			
___ pehtshred			
___ rdhaenlca			
___ fadoo			
Her name in Greek			
___ pdeesh			
___ dchilnero			
___ drove			
___ acehtr			
___ sarcos			
___ nusoatim			

# January Birthdays

**Happy Birthday To You! Happy Birthday To You!  
Happy Birthday Dear.....**

1	Sandi Daughtrey	15	Randy Casey-Rutland
2	Jessica Barham		Lester Knight
	Rachael Barham	16	Debbie Vause
3	Beth Boyd		Louisa Aladjabu
4	Jim Highsmith	17	Katie Burke
5	Molly White	19	Muriel Wornom
6	Bonnie Gall	20	Rebecca Seney
7	Phillip Burke		James Stewart
8	Margaret Mumford		Mills Hoyt
	Mark Hewes	21	Jimmy Harris
9	Raymond Gray	22	Philip Highsmith
11	Valorie Hilbmann	24	John Rea Stewart
	Ray Nobles	27	Jan Tyler
12	Laura Fields		Phillip Michael Burke
13	Jessica Smith	28	Allison Barham
14	Joanna Simonsen	29	Jeri Davenport
		30	Norma Banks



*"Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago." ~ John Wesley*



## Choir News by Regina South

Everyone did a wonderful job on our Christmas Celebration! Thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication. Thanks to Roger for taking care of the sound, thank you to Chris Rumsey for running the powerpoint and all those who participated ~ your wonderful work is greatly appreciated! We will resume our regular practice schedule for Chapel and Cherub Choirs on Sunday, January 8th, and for the Chancel Choir and Bells on Thursday, January 5th. I look forward to seeing everyone then! Happy New Year!



The Missions Committee would like to thank all those who have supported our projects by giving so generously of their time, talents and money. Together we have ministered to the homeless at PORT, filled Christmas stockings for needy children, donated and distributed snacks to CNU students during exam week, and provided the Nepali refugees with some basic necessities as well as special gifts to make their holiday brighter. We will provide more details later about each of these projects but for now, know that your support has brought joy and made life easier for many in our community.

*Thank You!*

Thank you so much for the cards, visits, prayers, and phone calls during my recovery from knee surgery. Your thoughtfulness was very much appreciated!

~ Joan Heaton



We would like to welcome our newest members to Grace:

***Stefan and  
Melissa Mygas***

who were received into membership on Sunday, November 20, 2011.



**Family in Christ**

***A WARM THANK  
YOU FOR A WARM  
WELCOME...***

Our journey with God has been amazing, and we are ever grateful that God too our lives and led us to Grace. The very first time we walked into Grace we felt a peace and knew God had brought us there. And what a joy to find so many people there whose lives we had crossed paths with through the years. You have all been so kind and welcoming and we are thankful now to be a part of this family of Christ.

~Mark & June Tessarolo



A great big "THANK YOU" to those of you who donated flowers for the church services in 2011.

The flower calendar is available the New Year, too. You may sign up by calling the church or Lou Thomas (596-4166) or writing your name on the flower calendar which is located on the office door.

If you have any questions, please contact Lou Thomas.



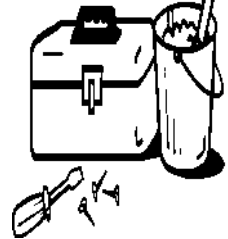
## Just a friendly reminder for the new year:

- ◆ Put any church events or meetings on the calendar in the church office.
- ◆ Use a pencil.
- ◆ Include time and location of each event.

## NEW MEETING & ACTIVITY SET-UP FORM

If you need a room set up a particular way for your event or meeting, please fill out the **SET-UP FORM** and place it in Bob Williams' mailbox at least 24 hours in advance. Forms are available in the church office. Thank you!

From the  
**CHURCH  
CUSTODIAN**



## Inclement Weather Policy



In the event that severe weather, such as snow, occurs in Newport News, Grace UMC wants you to know what to expect regarding scheduled events and worship. Please note the following policies, but feel free to contact the Church office or the pastor (757-596-0217) if you have questions.

- ◆ Call our main number 757-595-0017 for announcements regarding weather, or visit our website [www.graceumcnn.org](http://www.graceumcnn.org) and look on the home page; we will post announcements whenever we are able.
- ◆ Watch WVEC News channel 13 for closing announcements, or log on to [WAVY.com](http://WAVY.com) or [Fox43tv.com](http://Fox43tv.com) for closing listings.
- ◆ If you attempt to call and receive a busy signal or get no answer, you may assume the phone lines are probably down and the church is without power, meaning our offices and buildings are closed. Call the pastor or lay leader for more information.
- ◆ In all cases, please use your personal discretion to determine if it is safe for you to leave your home and travel to church.

**2012 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
Please welcome the new and returning members  
of the Church Council:

Chairperson:	Maggie Keator
Recording Secretary:	Tina Fields
Historian:	Marian Huber
Board of Trustees Chairperson:	Roger Patterson
Education Team Chairperson:	Ford McFall
Evangelism Committee Chairperson:	TBD
Lay Leader:	Garrett Ouzts
Lay Member of Annual Conference:	Joan Heaton
Missions Committee Chairperson:	Gloria Moore & Kim Rumsey
Pastor:	Helen Casey-Rutland
Committee on Lay Leadership:	Helen Casey-Rutland
Sunday School Secretary:	Richard Bennett
Staff Parish Relations Chairperson:	Vincent Conway
Stewardship/Finance Chairperson	Charles Wornom
Treasurer:	Betty Hill w/Tina Fields, assist
Ranhome Trust Chairperson	Al Abbitt
Financial Secretary:	Blackie Jackson
District Steward, Missions, Conference Rep.	Bob Hill
United Methodist Men's President:	Garrett Ouzts
United Methodist Women's President:	Joan Heaton
United Methodist's Youth Representative:	Ben Lambert
Worship Committee Chairperson:	Gynetha Conway
Weekday Education Chairperson:	Randy Casey-Rutland
Early Service Music Coordinator	Iris LaTulippe
Director of Music:	Regina South
Child Protection Coordinator	Juliana Smith
Members-at-Large	Eddie Capps, Beverly Ouzts, & Gloria Champine



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

Thank you to all the members who faithfully served  
Grace Church in 2011.  
We will formally commission all officers on  
Sunday, January 8, 2012.

# Mark Your Calendars



## Leadership Training Saturday, February 4, 2012

9am – 12pm

Chestnut Memorial UMC  
1024 Harpersville Road  
Newport News, VA 23601

\*\*\*\*\*

Course catalog, information, and  
registration can be found at  
[yorkriverdistrict.org](http://yorkriverdistrict.org)

A **Stop Hunger Now!** meal packaging event will also be going on nearby at Immanuel Baptist Church.  
Come help package at least 20,000 meals in 3 hours (ages elementary school and up)



**Wednesday Nights  
at Grace  
will begin again in  
February.**

Please mark your  
calendars for our  
next Church  
Council Meeting  
which will be held  
on January 18,  
2012, at 7:00 pm.



Mark your calendars  
for our next  
**SECOND  
SUNDAY  
NOON AT GRACE**

on January 8. The United Methodist Women will again be serving soup, baked potatoes and sweet potatoes with all the fixings, salad bar, and desserts in the Large Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 service. Your small donation of at least \$6.00 will provide you with great food, fellowship, and the opportunity to contribute to the budgeted apportionments for missions through the proceeds.  
Hope to see you there!



**Peninsula Pastoral  
Counseling Center**

Are you feeling depressed? overwhelmed? anxious? Do you wish you could make your relationships better? Are you facing a crisis in health, finances, work, or family? **PPCC** can help. Their staff of professionally trained pastoral counselors will work with you to address the particular and unique challenges you face. Fees are on a sliding scale based on ability to pay. Many health care plans also cover some counseling.

Call 873-2273 to schedule an appointment.

*Grace is a partner church with PPPC and supports its work through the Ranhorne Trust.*



**Sunday Morning Parenting Group  
6 sessions @ Grace United Methodist Church  
January 8 ~ 9:45- 10:45  
Large Fellowship Hall (downstairs)  
Led by Jennifer J. Del Corso, Ph.D, LPC.**

Jennifer Del Corso is a pastoral counselor with the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center. She has experience as a school counselor, marriage enrichment leader, and pastoral counselor. She specializes in parenting and family counseling. She has two Masters degrees and a Doctoral degree in counseling and is the parent of two elementary-aged children. She will lead a discussion-based group focused on strengthening and supporting parents in their faith journey and their tasks of Christian parenting.

In addition to addressing spiritual and religious issues, Dr. Del Corso will incorporate information from the book *The Optimistic Child: Proven Program to Safeguard Children from Depression & Build Lifelong Resilience*, by Martin E. Seligman.

This group is **open to anyone in the church or community**—parents, grandparents, caregivers—we invite you to come share your wisdom, questions, frustrations, and challenges. Please share this invitation with anyone who might be interested.

## TREASURER'S NOTES

by: Betty S. Hill

**Budget Update  
Through  
December 18, 2011**  
*Budgeted \$245,001*  
*Received \$228,791*

From our financial secretary, please check your year-end statements for accuracy and contact Blackie Jackson at 930-8874 with any questions.

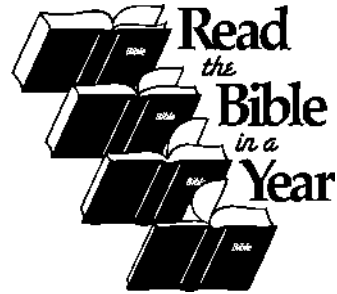
### Offering Envelopes



2012 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex; please check for yours if you have not already picked them up.

## LOST & FOUND

There are quite a few items in our Lost and Found basket in the Church office, including stray earrings, jackets, hats, gloves, umbrellas, and eye glasses. If you think you may have lost something during your time at the Church, please come by and take a look.



**Read the whole Bible in 2010!!**  
Reading guides available in the Breezeway and Narthex.

Have you ever said these things?...  
"I know the Bible matters, but I don't know how to relate it to my life."  
"I wish I knew more about the Bible but it's hard to understand." "I'm too busy to read the Bible." Let 2011 be the year that you read and get to know your Bible. Pick up your daily reading schedule for January today – it assigns just four relatively short readings a day. Begin reading January 1.

Looking for a Bible in modern English?

The *Common English Bible* is a new translation that brings the language of the Bible into modern American English. Capable Biblical scholars from many denominations collaborated to create the *Common English Bible*. Published in every price range, the *Common English Bible* is available from our United Methodist Bookstore, Cokesbury ([www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) or 800-672-1789), and other retailers. If you would like the church to help you order one, contact the church office.



## **United Methodist Day at the General Assembly.**

**Thursday, February 2, 2012, Richmond, VA**

Sponsored by The Board of Church and Society

&

The United Methodist Women of The Virginia Conference

**20 Years of Faith & Justice**

You are invited to join us as we celebrate our 20th United Methodist Day at the General Assembly. This is our opportunity to help faith communities become empowered to serve as missionaries of justice, as well as the more traditional missionaries of mercy. United Methodist Day and other avenues of faithful advocacy help us to look beyond mercy ministry to ask: "What caused this problem? What causes hunger? Unemployment? Poverty? Inadequate health care? Global warming?" By joining together and establishing relationships with our elected officials, we empower members of our congregations to wonder, "How can I make a difference? How can I be a Good Samaritan in our world to its fullest sense?" This event gives congregations a vehicle for reaching beyond themselves and introduces them to the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church in a meaningful way.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:00 a.m. Gather at Bon Air UMC for Registration & Breakfast

8:00 a.m. Travel to General Assembly

8:30 a.m. Attend committee hearings and meet legislators.\*

Capitol tours will be available (register that morning)

11:30 a.m. Gathering in Capitol for large group meeting

Noon Joint Session of House & Senate/Resolution honoring Bishop Kammerer

12:45 p.m. Return to Bon Air for lunch & speakers

3:30 p.m. Adjourn

\* Contact your Legislators' Richmond offices in advance to set up an appointment.

\*\*TO REGISTER PICK UP A FORM IN THE CHURCH OFFICE\*\*

*"...The Church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting Policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust"*

*~Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2009-2012*



## NOTES FROM YOUR TRUSTEES

There was no meeting of the Trustees this month but the Chairman, Roger Patterson, has been kept busy with the Church maintenance.

If you felt the Church Sanctuary was a little cool last week, it was. Masters Mechanical Corp. checked out the new system and found that the gas meter regulating the flow of gas into the building was inadequate to heat the Sanctuary. Virginia Natural Gas is in the process of installing a larger gas meter

for the proper flow of gas into the new boiler. We expect the Sanctuary to be more comfortable next week.

Due to generous donations from the congregation, we met our goal of \$1600 for the hot water heater in the Large Fellowship Hall. Installation is partially complete as of this time with an electrician scheduled to complete the wiring shortly. The heater should be operational sometime in January and I know this makes some of our kitchen workers very happy. In addition, a donation of a portable 5250-sized generator has been received by the Church for use in the Parsonage.

We are still awaiting a reply from the insurance adjuster concerning the roof leaks from Hurricane Irene. After our \$1000 insurance deduction, the insurance has paid the balance of \$2890 on the compressor for the air conditioning unit in the preschool class that was damaged by a power fluctuation.

The cushions have been placed on the pews in the Chapel. Thanks to all who contributed to furnishing the Church with these pew cushions.

It has been the privilege of your Board of Trustees to serve you in 2011 and we look forward to continuing to do the best job possible in maintaining the physical property of the Church and Parsonage and in allocating the funds for the greatest benefit of our Church.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, ideas, and prayers.

May the miracle of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and love and the New Year bring good health and happiness to all.

~Gloria Champine

(Continued from back page)



The word is getting out -- Grace is a community that cares about people and that wants people to know God's love, because we know that God's love changes lives. God's love has the power to heal broken hearts and rebuild broken lives and redeem broken dreams. God's love can bring joy in the midst of trouble and peace in the midst of uncertainty. God's love can sustain us when hard times come, guide us when we are not sure the path to take, and bear us up through life, death, and life beyond death.

Grace has borne witness to God's love these past weeks through an extraordinary outpouring of love and compassion. And so I begin 2012 with gratitude for all of you and, especially, for the love of God that builds us up together into the Body of Christ.

Thank you! May the Peace of Christ abide in us and guide us all the days of this New Year.

~Helen

## Coming Soon

*New Opportunities for Growing in Faith:*

- *A Gathering for Planning and Setting Goals*
- *Sacred Drama to Deepen Worship*
- *Intergenerational Mission Days and Projects*

**Watch the Bulletin, Website, and Newsletter**

★ Thank You! ★  
★ THANK YOU! ★

Thank you from the Nepali-Speaking Christian Community for sharing your space with us each week and giving so generously to us at Christmas. We praise God that we are followers of Christ together.

**Grace United Methodist Church**  
***Celebrating 55 Years of Ministry***

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## **From the Pastor's Desk...**

As the New Year begins, I want to say, "Thank you," not just for myself, but on behalf of a countless community of people who have been touched by the kindness of Grace in this season.

Over the past weeks, I have witnessed people at Grace taking groceries to families whose cabinets were bare and leaving food at the church for others in need. A host of Grace folks cooked food and welcomed the homeless and spent the night at the PORT homeless shelter. Grace people donated and wrapped gifts and jackets and household items for members of the Nepali-speaking Christian Community of Newport News that meets on Sundays at Grace. And then Grace folks showed up with pickup trucks to transport all those gifts. Through the Communion Fund, Grace helped keep a number of families warm and safe this season, including a family with disabled children and unexpected additional difficulties. Grace folks made extra year-end gifts to help fulfill our apportionment responsibilities – our common mission work with all United Methodists. And over and over, individuals at Grace took the time to listen to, to pray for, and to help out the lonely, the left-out, and the let-down among us.

As if all of that were not enough, a host of Grace folks worked behind the scenes to prepare for our special worship services and programs this season and to "fill in" wherever needed.

**(Continued on Page 17)**