



You can also download a copy of these announcements from www.gcfweb.org

This Week

December 16 - 22, 2007

Sunday, December 16th

9:00 am – Worship Service
Mid School Gathering, Youth Building
10:45 am – Worship Service
High School Gathering, Youth Building

Monday, December 17th

6:00 pm – Advent Choir

Wednesday, December 19th

7-8:30 pm – Grades 3-5 Break Out Project Night, Station Room

Growing Grace

Envelopes for giving to the Growing Grace Campaign can be found in the office, information center, or the usher table in the back of the auditorium.

Pledges remaining: \$377,000 Total Given: \$1,397,629
Wish List giving: \$25,347

Financial Update

	FYTD (7/1 – 11/30/07)	December (current)
Budget	\$223,630	\$44,726
Total Income	\$183,554	\$19,383
Total Expenses	\$212,140	
Current Benevolent Fund Balance	\$908	

Ministry Opportunities

Christmas Gift Wrapping for Our Business Neighbors

Last year we spent time at Valley River Center wrapping people's presents for free as one way to show God's love in a tangible way. This year we want to offer free gift wrapping at GCF to our immediate business neighbors during the week of Dec. 17. Right now we are thinking it would be for two days for about 3-4 hours each day, probably during lunch time. If you are interested in helping, contact Tracy at tracy@gcfweb.org or 683-9205.

Gift Giving this Christmas via Angel Tree and Abbie Lane

Gifts are due today. Please contact us if you will be bringing your gift by during the week or email Tracy at tracy@gcfweb.org. Delivery of the gifts is set for Wednesday, December 19 at 6:00 pm. Meet at GCF to load up and we'll go from there.

Other Opportunities

Third Service

We will be kicking off a new service beginning January 6th. For this transition, we will also be changing the times for all of our Sunday morning worship services. Our new schedule will have three services, at:

- 8:00 am – Nursery & Preschool provided
- 9:30 am – Nursery, Preschool, K/Elementary & Mid School classes scheduled; Grace Institute for Biblical Leadership
- 11:00 am – Nursery, Preschool, K/Elementary & High School classes scheduled

In addition to these changes, the Grace Institute for Biblical Leadership will also be moving from Wednesday evenings to being offered during the 9:30 service. With all of these changes taking place we ask you to be patient and remember our call to "love people where they're at and help them follow Jesus." Following this goal means that we make changes and take risks, remaining focused on loving God, and loving people.

A NOTE FROM THE STAFF

With the addition of the new café and many of the other changes around Grace, we as a staff would ask that you remember to be respectful of the atmosphere in the auditorium during the services. While we wish to be open and welcoming in our services, we also desire to see people focused on God and his glory. It is for this reason that we ask you to be thoughtful about food and drinks in the auditorium and also to silence phones and other

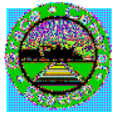
electronic devices. Please remember that sometimes the slightest distractions can remain in our minds, and during services these include people getting up to leave, unwrapping candy and gum, spilling drinks, leaving early, or talking loudly during the service. We love having a casual atmosphere here at Grace, but please be mindful of others and of our reason for being together- to worship. Thank you.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Come and join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Monday night, December 24th from 11:00 pm to 12:15 am Christmas Day. We will sing traditional Christmas carols, enjoy special music, and readings from the gospels. Bring the whole family!

Grace Institute Moves to Sunday

The Grace Institute for Biblical Leadership is a series of classes intended to provide a survey of biblical, theological, and spiritual life topics. Beginning in January, the Grace Institute will be moving to Sunday morning during the second (of three) services. For the winter term, we will be looking at the book of Genesis. For more information, including the winter term syllabus, visit the Institute web site at www.gcfweb.org/institute.



Grace Central Station

2008 Children's Ministries Upcoming Events:

1/17: Children's Ministries Staff Trng, Station Room

1/18: Kidz Jam for 4th & 5th Graders, Station Room

Women's Opportunities

Our winter Bible Study will be starting in a matter of a few weeks. Don't wait too long to sign up for this next study. We will be doing "Discerning the Voice of God" by Priscilla Shirer. Sign-ups have begun at the Information Center. Even if you can't pay for your book today, make sure that your name is down to reserve it. The cost is \$12 for a book.

SOMETHING NEW!!! We will be offering a Women's Bible Study on Wednesday evenings called "ENJOY, A Thirst-Quenching Look at Philippians." The time will coincide with the time that you might have kids here at the church already. It is only open for the first 14 women who sign up at the Information Center.

Leadership Development Program

The LDP is a course that is intended to deepen your faith and increase your effectiveness as a husband, father, or ministry leader. You will be prepared to meet today's challenges through a deeper understanding of God and His Word. You will be challenged but not overwhelmed. During this course you will be learning to lead like Jesus, develop a better understanding of the Scripture, and acquire practical ministry skills. We will begin in January and meet on Monday evenings. The course is limited to 15 people and the cost is \$30 a month. Applications are available in the Information Center.

Parking Note

Please note the signs in the parking lot regarding the section directly outside the main doors. This part of the lot needs to be reserved for those with physical limitations and our senior citizens. If you don't fit in either of these groups, please respectfully use other parts of the lot.

Check out the Website

Remember to check out the church web site at www.gcfweb.org. On the website you will be able to find information about Grace ministries, as well as a calendar of events taking place in the church. In the diaBlogs, you will find regular thoughts and opinions from the church staff regarding matters of culture or whatever is on their mind (see "Got an Opinion?"). You can also check the library section of the website to download recordings of sermons and Grace Institute lectures for your own study time.

Got an Opinion?

This week's blogs:

"It's the political season again. The presidential candidates are debating, like Ducks and Beavers over football. States like Iowa and New Hampshire have been invaded by outsiders trying to catch prisoners for their cause." -- Pastor Steve

"It seems that we as Christians want for shopping for gifts and going to parties to be recognized as Christian activities, so much so that we're willing to wage verbal warfare for that cause. However, this year something gives me hope." — Pastor Jon

Our pastors (and missionaries when possible) take turns writing on various topics pertaining to our culture, our community, and whatever is on their minds (which is sometimes scary). You can view their blogs on our website at www.gcfweb.org and contribute your thoughts as well -- if you want to.

Happy Days

Birthdays — Today: Margaret Kintigh, Matt Mathiesen, John Rose

December 17: Mark Raimer

December 18: Logan Clark, Daniel Deal, Jason Schar

December 19: Tyler Phelps

December 20: Bryan Holiman, Erin Koss

December 21: Theresa Hilkey, Taylor Quimby, Pat Turanski

Anniversaries — Today: Bill & Phyllis Conant (#41)

December 18: Isaac & Tammy Hallock (#8)

December 20: Bryan & Elizabeth Holiman (#10)

Max & Grayce Coffey (#49)

Thank You

We so appreciate the trees in the foyer that were donated by Dan & Renae Kintigh from Kintigh's Mountain Home Ranch. Thank you Dan & Renae!