

# Grace Notes

December 2011

Grace Presbyterian Church  
9301 N. Rodney  
Parham Road  
Little Rock, AR 72227  
Website  
[www.littlerockgrace.org](http://www.littlerockgrace.org)

## Staff

Reverend  
Shauna Silmon  
Pastor

Conner McMains  
Music Director

Tracy May  
Administrative  
Assistant

Office Phone  
501-225-3274

Fax  
501-227-6304

Care & Concern Line  
501-225-8818

Church E-mail  
[gracepresby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracepresby@sbcglobal.net)

Office Hours  
M-F: 9:00am-5:00pm

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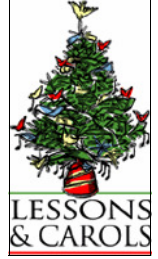
Sunday School  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday Coffee Fellowship  
10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Hour  
10:30 a.m.

## Lessons & Carols Service

December 11th, 2011  
10:30 am



### Lessons and Carols: An Advent Journey

Advent is a holy season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ. It is also a journey from darkness to light. Christians across the world celebrate this holy season in many different ways, one of the most important ways being the service of Lessons and Carols.

The first "Service of Lessons and Carols" was held in 1918 on Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge. This first service contained a set of nine scripture readings, each followed by an appropriate carol or hymn. It has been nearly a century since this first service and it has become a very popular style of worship, adapted into many different forms throughout the years.

The Lessons and Carols service that will be used at Grace this year is titled "Candles and Carols: A service of hope, peace, joy, and love." Composed and compiled by Mark Hayes and Pamela Martin, this set is a mixture of carols, prayers, and scripture lessons and will take place on Sunday, December 11 during the regular morning worship service. The choir of Bryant First United Methodist Church will join us, as well as the Bryant FUMC Handbell Choir (with members of the Grace Handbell Choir) and numerous instrumentalists.

Come out on December 11 and hear this beautiful service. It is a wonderful way to complete *your* journey through the season of Advent and immerse yourself deep into the true spirit of Christmas with your church family.

"The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelled in the land of darkness, upon them has light shined." -Isaiah 9:2

Conner McMains, Choir Director

### Financial Corner

October Income	\$ 13,929.36
October Expense	\$ <u>18,559.70</u>
October (loss)	( -4,630.34)
Year-to-Date Actual as of 10/31/11	
Income	\$ 159,309.36
Expenses	\$ <u>172,275.13</u>
Y-T-D (loss)	(\$ -12,965.77 )

Birthday Endowment Fund as of 9/30/11—  
\$21,401

Almighty's Dollar as of 10/31/11— \$2,960  
Balance of Loan from Presbytery  
as of 10/31/11— \$32,466.38



**Give the gift that keeps on giving!  
Give a donation in honor or in  
memory of a friend or loved one's  
birthday or special holiday.**

### Message from the Treasurer

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Second Corinthians 9:7

Our operating results for the month of October are a net deficit of \$4,630. The year to date results, through the end of October, is a net deficit of \$12,966. Keep in mind that we had a planned loss in the amount of \$13,153 for the 2011 year.

We have a proposed budget for the 2012 year that is going to begin with a projected shortfall in the amount of \$22,240. We are still working to secure additional pledges to support the activities of our church. If you have not pledged or wish to increase your pledge please contact either me or Tracy May so we can adjust our pledge total and adjust our budget.

Please join me in praying for our church and guidance from God for us as a church family to do the work God has in mind for us.

Yours in Christ,  
Randall Haynes, Treasurer

### Session Highlights

- By a unanimous vote, Session approved to end the examination and sustain the new slate of elders, Class of 2013: Bob Moore, Karen Herbert, Ellen McLemore, and Laurine Williams.
- Ordination and Installation of the aforementioned elders will occur on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011.
- By a unanimous vote, approved the 2012 Budget, which includes deficit spending and a short-fall of a negative (-) \$22,240.00.
- By a unanimous vote, approved that \$300 be moved from the Almighty Dollar Account to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



## Economics with altruism

Thanks to fair trade, Fredis Paez, a worker on the El Anjo banana farm in Colombia, and his wife were able to open a local store selling groceries and convenience items. This once unimaginable step was made possible by an 80 percent rise in income along with a microloan. Fair trade organizations approach development as a holistic process. They cultivate direct relationships with workers in developing countries, shortening a product's journey from the producer's hands to the retailer and eliminating the various middlemen found in conventional business. More of a product's purchase price reaches front-line workers, allowing people like Paez to see their incomes rise. Often, but not always, fair trade products carry an above-market price. Consumers pay more, given the knowledge that proceeds are channeled back into the farmers' or artisans' hands and communities, thereby creating broader social change. Rather than putting money into the coffers of a large multinational company, fair trade gives farmers and craftspeople a fighting chance. "Fair trade is one of the simplest ways to impact a family other than your own and one of the simplest missions we can do as Christians to better the world," says Jeanne Clapp, a hunger action enabler for Washington Presbytery in southwest Pennsylvania.

The fair trade movement began with the Mennonite Central Committee in the United States after World War II. A decade ago, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), got formally involved with fair trade. Its fair trade projects today include selling coffee, crafts, T-shirts and even sustainable palm branches (eco-palms) for churches to use on Palm Sunday.

>> For a wide-angle view of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) support for fair trade and opportunities to get involved: [www.pcusa.org/fairtrade](http://www.pcusa.org/fairtrade)

>>> To learn about the global impact of fair trade from Fair Trade USA, the leading third-party certifier of fair trade products in the United States: [www.fairtradeusa.org](http://www.fairtradeusa.org)



Most of us have never experienced a winter without jackets or coats to keep us warm. Yet, many of us have wraps that are still in good condition but are rarely used.

The Mission Committee invites you to look through your closets for "gently used" jackets or coats for children, men, or women.

Please clean them and bring them to the church office. The men's coats will be taken to the clothes closet at Stewpot; women's & children's coats will be donated to the St. Francis House for distribution to those less fortunate than we at Grace Church.

### Lectionary Readings for December For the week of:

**December 4th**—Isa. 40:1-11; Ps. 85-12, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

**December 11th**—Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11; Ps. 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

**December 18th**—2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom. 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

**December 25th**—*Dawn*: Isa. 62:6-12; Ps. 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7)8-20; *Day*: Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Heb. 1:1-4(5-



Now that the children are back in school, all of the schools are in full force and trying to collect as many box tops as they can for their schools. Please put all of your box tops in the box located in the narthex. Brady Elementary is always so grateful for our donation.

Don't throw your newspapers away. Karen Herbert will continue to collect newspapers for the Pulaski County Humane Society from anyone who wants to bring their old newspapers to the church office. Please put them in the workroom behind the office. The animals thank you for your continued support on this project.





As in years past, the sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias at Christmas. You are invited to honor or memorialize your loved ones with the donation of \$8 toward the purchase of these beautiful

plants. These flowers will adorn our sanctuary throughout Advent and will be available to take home after the **Christmas Day Service**. Please contact the church office at 225-3274 or email the church office at [gracepresby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gracepresby@sbcglobal.net) by December 5th if you would like to purchase a poinsettia.



**Hanging of the Greens Service**  
**Sunday, November 27th**  
**10:30 am**



We will begin to collect donations for the underwear tree November 27th. This year we will distribute our donations for men, women and children at Stewpot, St. Francis House and Women & Children First. These donation will be delivered the week of December 19th.




It's not too late to come join us for the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Class 'Confessing the Beatitudes'. Our next class is on Monday, December 12th at 10:00 am in the church library. We will be studying Lesson Four: Greatly Honored Are Those Who Are Famished and Parched for Justice! Matthew 5:6; Luke 6:21a; Psalm 107:1-9 .



**Come join us on  
 Christmas Eve  
 for our  
 Candlelight & Communion Service  
 December 24th, 6:00 pm**

The church office will be closed from December 26-Jan. 3 in observance of Christmas and the new year



2012 Pet Blessing  
October 23,  
2011



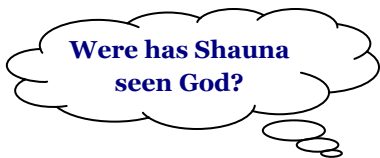
# Angels and Elves Christmas Workshop



Sunday, December 4, 2011  
from 1 to 3 PM  
in the Christian Ed. Building  
following a light lunch  
in the Fellowship Hall

Let's come together for an afternoon of holiday cheer and goodies *and* create homemade gifts for those special people in our lives. There will be all the fixins for gifts of homemade cookies, spiced tea, brownies, and materials to make your own Christmas ornaments, picture frames, bath salts and other gifts. Come join in the fun!

**For kids of all ages!**



Were has Shauna  
seen God?

**Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. (Psalm 25:4-5)**

Recently I have had the opportunity to train the new class of elders for the session. It is a real honor to be able to do this training. During the first session we each shared our faith journey stories. Even though we have all known each other, we learned more about each other and had an opportunity to see how God had worked and is still working in each of our lives today.

Our lives are a journey with God. The advent calendar in the Presbyterians Today magazine this year is called "The Unfolding Journey." As we begin to wonder and wander on an unfolding journey, the devotional invites us to discern where and how we are being called to live out Christ's message in our lives.

As we begin our advent journey this season, let us keep our eyes open for God to show us the way and our hearts open for God to lead us on the path.

God's Blessings, Shauna

# Readings and Prayers for Gift-Opening



## *How Simply Wrapped, This Richest Gift*



*How simply wrapped, this richest Gift,  
From heaven to earth come down:  
In swaddle lain upon the hay,  
Not even tinsel for a crown.  
No bow adorns this present Lord  
Nor ribbons wrap him tight;  
But hugged in warmest mother's love  
Against the chill of Bethlehem's night.  
This is the richest Gift of God;  
Salvation's promise won!  
In swaddle lain upon the hay;  
This present Lord: God's only Son.*

*By Peter Mead*

## **Prayer Before Gift-Opening**

Dear God,

Your gift came to us simply wrapped in swaddling clothes-the greatest gift of Love. As we open our gifts, some simply wrapped and some adorned in shiny ribbons and bows, help us remember that in sharing these gifts with one another we celebrate and share the love given to us in the birth of the baby Jesus. It is your gift we celebrate today, and it is in the name of your son, Jesus, that we pray. Amen.

## **After Gift-Opening**

Lord Jesus,

In your birth we see God's greatest gift of love given to us and all people. As our celebration comes to a close, come with us and keep us mindful that God's gifts of love and grace are with us always. We offer you our thanks and praise for these and all gifts. Bless us to be a blessing. Amen.

## **The New Ruling Elders for the Class of 2013**

### **Karen Herbert**



Karen has previously served on the session at Grace. She is married to Jerry Herbert and their family consists of their loving pets, Misty, Sophie, Josie, and Sunny. Before moving to Little Rock she lived in Gurdon. Prior to her retirement she was an IT Project Manager. She has served on the Outreach, Worship, GPC 50th Birthday Celebration and the June Presbytery Meeting committees. She has also served as the Presbyterian Women moderator for Grace. Karen's hobbies are reading and spending time outdoors.

Karen will be serving as the Clerk of Session.

### **Ellen Marie Groff-McLemore**

Ellen has previously served on the session at Grace. She is married to Dan McLemore and they have one daughter, Bridget. Ellen joined Grace in 2005. Ellen has lived in Arkansas most of her life and is a deputy court clerk for the Little Rock District Court—Criminal Division. She has served at Grace on the Worship, Spiritual Life and Christian Education Committees. She also is

currently the Jr./Sr. High Sunday School teacher. She recently became a certified Lay Pastor. Ellen's hobbies are art, fishing, church activities and reading. During her term as elder she will serve as the chairman of the Mission/Outreach/Fellowship Committee.

### **Robert "Bob" Booth Moore**

Bob Moore has previously served as a deacon and an elder at Grace and has been on the Stewardship, Finance and Worship Committees. He is married to Norma Moore and they have two children, Kathryn and Karen and have 6 grandchildren, Matthew, Kyle, John, Andrew, Kate and Liz.

Bob has been a member of Grace for 45 years and has lived in Little Rock for 75 years. He is a retired physician. His hobbies are traveling, photography, hiking, camping, sports, learning in retirement; reading, service organizations (YMCA, Lifequest and St. Vincent Infirmary). Bob will be serving as the co-chair of the Administration Committee.

### **Laurine Davis Williams**

Laurine has previously served on the session. She is married to Ed Williams and they have two children, Mandy and Brian, and four grandchildren, Nick, Emilee, Anna and Jackson. She has been a member at Grace for twelve years. She is previously from Illinois and moved to Little Rock in 1976 and is a music specialist at Fair Park Elementary School. Laurine has served on the Christian Education Committee and is one of the elementary Sunday school teachers. She also works with the children in choir and handbells. Laurine's hobbies are music, reading and spending time with her family. Laurine will serve as the co-chair of the

Christian Education Committee.

Grace Presbyterian Church  
9301 N. Rodney Parham Road  
Little Rock, AR 72227

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### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Dec. 7	Pete Corn
Dec .8	Betsy Browne Martin Kasten
Dec. 10	Bill Sterling
Dec. 12	Gloria O'Dell
Dec. 22	David Williams Emma Choate
Dec. 23	Ellen Randall
Dec .25	Janel Miller
Dec .26	Gary Fleming
Dec .27	Blake Buckalew
Dec .28	Wesley Prewit



### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Dec. 10	Doug and Linda Hanson
Dec .29	Bill and Helen Sterling
Dec. 31	Cathy and Carroll Spann



Come join us while children from McDermott Elementary come to our church and give us the gift of Christmas caroling. They will be here on Wednesday, December 14th. Watch for further information on the exact time in the church bulletin and emails.



## **December Sunday Ministries**

**Head Usher:** Ed & Laurine Williams

### **December 4th**

**Liturgist:** Tom Fletcher

**Visitor Greeter:** Mary Allsopp

**Coffee Fellowship:** Susan Scott

**Nursery:** Candy Heulitt

**Communion Preparer:** Norma Moore

**Communion Servers:** Chris Martin, Katherine Harpole, Johnny Reep

**Advent Candle Lighters:** Nancy & Randall Haynes

### **December 11th**

**Liturgist:** Johnny Reep

**Visitor Greeter:** Chris Martin

**Coffee Fellowship:** Andrew Skinner

**Nursery:** Nancy Haynes

**Advent Candle Lighters:** Richard & Janel Miller

### **December 18th**

**Liturgist:** Janel Miller

**Visitor Greeter:** Martha Thannisch

**Coffee Fellowship:** Betty Winter

**Nursery:** Susan & Amy Scott

**Advent Candle Lighters:** Candy & Eileen Heulitt

### **December 24th**

**Liturgist:** Ed Williams

**Visitor Greeter:** Betty Fulton

**Communion Preparer:** Katherine Harpole

**Communion Servers:** Tom Walton, Martha Thannisch,  
Katherine Harpole and Addi Scott

**Advent Candle Lighters:** Ed & Laurine Williams

### **December 25th**

**Liturgist:** Norma Moore

**Visitor Greeter:** Laurine Williams

**Coffee Fellowship:** Cleo Mattox

**Nursery:** Martha & Maggie Thannisch