



# GRACE NOTES



## *January 2014*

The year 2013 is now part of the history of Grace Presbyterian Church; celebrated as part of October's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities, recorded in annual reports, chronicled in copies of the Sunday bulletin and newsletters, and imprinted within our memories. The year 2014 is happening now as the future of this congregation unfolds before us.

We cannot change our history, we cannot predict the future, yet we can participate in the present in ways which honor the past and set the stage for a bright future. That is where we are as a congregation this January, in the midst of an in-between period of transition.

Our recent church survey reveals in a quantitative way where we are as we enter this year. In summary, for the most part we are old, have been a member here for a very long time, and are mostly content with things as they are.

If we as a church choose to continue our homeostatic state, where will Christ's Church as manifested at 3146 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street be in the future? Where do we want the church we've put our hearts into to be in 5 years? 10 years? Hopefully, over the next few months we'll be discussing that at length and determining what we intend to do the rest of this year and on into 2015.

Anthony Robbins is quoted as declaring, *"If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten,"* yet I do not believe that is true and I do not believe that if do what we've always done we will be in the same ecclesiastical state as we are now. Pastor Drew is quoted instead as saying, *"In today's world if you keep doing what you've always done, you will get less and less as the world leaves you in the dust."*

For far too long, we in mainline established churches have folded our arms and pointed at the churches young families are flocking to and proclaimed that *our* way of "doing church" is somehow more faithful and pure. All while our membership, finances and vitality dwindle away before our very eyes - less and less.

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The scribes and Pharisees folded their arms to what Jesus and his disciples were doing too, how did that work out for them? Presbyterians supposedly ascribe to the Latin motto, *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda!* (The Church reformed and always being re-formed). Too often we leave off the second part and even if we agree that a re-formation should happen we have trouble agreeing how and what to re-form.

I recently read an insightful web page titled “14 Things the Church Needs to Do in 2014” which is good food for thought and hits on many of the impediments we place on ourselves. If you use a computer, take a moment to look it up: <http://sojo.net/blogs/2014/01/01/14-things-church-needs-do-2014>. If you prefer printed material, let me know and I would be glad to print it out for you.

Blessings for an exciting new year, Pastor Drew



Please contact Pastor Drew anytime you need to! He is more than glad to have a call, text, or message from you anytime day or night and would like to visit with you at your invitation. His cell phone number is 904-382-2414, email [pastordrew@gmail.com](mailto:pastordrew@gmail.com) and he would love to be your friend on Facebook. His home address is 1660 NW 22nd Circle, Gainesville, FL. 32605.

**Elders on Call  
for January**

<b>WT Chesnut</b>	<b>(352) 256-6628</b>
<b>Debbie Harris</b>	<b>(352) 481-7078</b>

## Transitional Team

Thank you to all who returned surveys! If you have not done so your input is still welcome, if you would like a survey to fill out please let Pastor Drew know. Copies of the quantitative results are available at the church. If you would like one mailed, please let either Pastor Drew or Karen Jennings know.

Details will be available soon for opportunities in January and February for some congregational conversations to unpack what the survey results may or not mean for the future of the mission and ministry of Grace Presbyterian Church, which will hopefully bring us much closer to being able to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) which will accurately convey who we are, where we believe we are going, and what type of Pastoral leadership we feel is needed to accomplish that.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about our transitional process, please let Pastor Drew know directly.

## Christian Education

The children's Sunday school and youth presented their annual Christmas program on December 15<sup>th</sup> during morning worship after several weeks of practice. Members of the group did the responsive reading, presented special music during worship, presented the Christmas story complete with costumes and various props, and learned new music for the program. The children and youth all were very diligent in their attendance and practice and we want to say a special thank you to the parents who brought them to practices. We want to thank all who attended the program that day to support the young people.



During January the classes will study the journey of the wise men on the first Sunday and then will begin a three week study of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

The youth will be rescheduling the game night activity in January. We have been notified that the Souper Bowl information will be arriving soon and the youth will be again participating in the national event on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

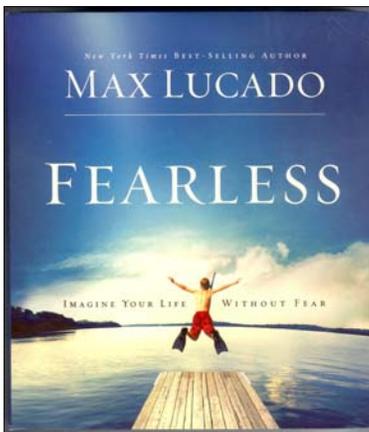
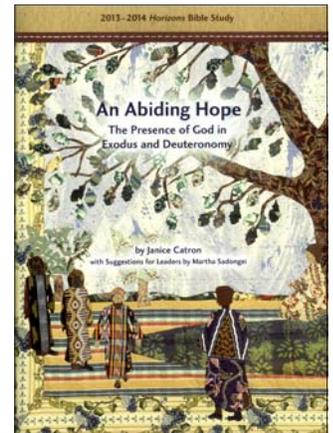
Adult Sunday school classes are moving forward into the new year; continuing the study of Ephesians led by Paul Gillespie in the church library and the discussion of the Scriptures of the 12-step program that meets in the office conference room. Both classes meet at 9:30am and dismiss in time for choir. The beginning of the new year is a great time to visit a class!

## WOMEN'S CIRCLES



Whether you work outside the home or are retired, Grace has a circle for you. Choose the one that best suits your need.

**ANNA CIRCLE** will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. We will study Lesson 5 with our superb teacher, Dorothy Nevill. Our hostesses will be Barbara Griseck and Barbara Nunnery. December was our best attendance so let's keep it up in the New Year. Anyone who needs a registration form for the Presbytery meeting on January 25 in St. Augustine, please see Ann Preston. They must be in by the 15th.



The evening Phoebe Circle meets on the 4th Monday evening of every month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. This month we meet on January 27th for more discussion and study on "Fearless" by Max Lucado. We live in fear of so many things, our children, our jobs, our finances, our friendships, our homes, and the list goes on and on. Imagine living our life fearlessly. Come and join us as we search the Scriptures and learn what the bible says about 'fear not'.

Regardless of which circle you choose to attend, you can count on lively discussion, fellowship and fun. In fact, if you're able, this is your opportunity to attend BOTH circles and take advantage of BOTH studies. If transportation or child care is needed, please contact the church office.

## January Birthdays



- 1 Diane Millican
- 2 Lorena McAlpine
- 5 *Gary Gale-Shelton*
- 8 Lindsey Schell-  
Atkinson
- 8 Dee Palmer
- 9 Mike Threet
- 10 Katie Bauman
- 13 Mabel Che-Tuma
- 15 Paul Gillespie
- 16 Owen Wingate
- 23 Rebekah Rodgers
- 24 Nancy Niblack
- 28 Julie Woodward
- 29 Sharon (Gould) Osborn
- 29 Teresa Sealey
- 29 Evelyn Caldwell
- 30 Ray Ferguson
- 31 Margaret Scruggs
- 31 Emily Youngblood

## January Anniversaries



Please call the church office, 352-376-5654, if your special day is **NOT** listed.

We are looking for help with our weekly Fellowship hours and Flowers.

Please let the office know if you would like to supply flowers for the sanctuary, and there is a sign up sheet on the wall just outside the sanctuary. Also check out the sign up sheet for Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We are looking for simple coffee, punch and cookies for Fellowship. Remember **fellowship** is the important part and the food and beverage is the side dish.

### Flowers

- 1/5
- 1/12
- 1/19 William Beaty
- 1/26



### Fellowship

- 1/5 Extras from New Years Eve
- 1/12 McAlpine
- 1/19
- 1/26





JANUARY 2014

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Gainesville, FL 32609-2175*

Address Service Requested

Phone: 352-376-5654  
Fax: 352-376-1319  
Email: office@gpconline.org



## Liturgy Passages for January

### **1/5 Second Sunday after Christmas**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
Psalm 147:12-20 or Solomon 10:15-21  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### **1/6 Epiphany of the Lord**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12

### **1/12 Baptism of the Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### **1/19 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### **1/26 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23