



Grace Notes

Volume 33

Issue 4

September 2023

A Message from the Minister:

The Mission Statement of Grace Presbyterian Church was written by a team of members who were chosen by the Session during a time of transition before I came to be your pastor. There was a longer statement, now called our Statement of Community, which can also be found on our website. The more succinct Mission Statement was adopted by the congregation shortly after I arrived in 2003 and appears below:

Glorify God by
Reaching out to the community and the world,
Accepting all as children of God, being
Christ-centered in our service and ministry, and
Embracing God's love and grace through the Holy Spirit as a church family.

Believe it or not, the fact that an acrostic can be made with it using the name of the church wasn't planned!

A Mission Statement is important because it expresses why this church exists in the community, reflects the congregation's values and priorities, and guides the ministry of the church.

The Session spent the past few months in strategic planning to discern a Vision for the church. A Vision Statement shows what the congregation aspires to do and to be, maps out how the mission will be accomplished, promotes a focus on the future instead of the past, encourages openness and inclusiveness, and alerts people to the need for change. Change isn't always popular, but it is always necessary in our changing world. The Vision Statement that has been agreed upon is to "Discern ways to reach out to the community in order to grow the future ministry of the church." A Town Hall meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, September 24 to share in more detail the steps we will undertake to achieve that Vision, some of which are already underway! Please plan to attend this important meeting!

Blessings,

Robin

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jer. 29:11,

Grace Presbyterian Church (USA)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation
5555 Wall Triana Highway
Madison, AL 35758
256-722-0508
www.gracepcusa.org

Pastor

Rev. Robin Palmer

Director of Music Ministries

Jamie Clay

Handbell Choir Director

Martie Kullman

Organist

Brenda Davis

Session

Jamie Clay

Dan Dixon

Carol House

Tracey Kennedy

Martie Kullman

Marsha Latham

Susan Marenka

Tom McLaughlin

Annette Solari

Clerk—Rebecca Harbor Jones

Ministry Team Leaders

Administration & Finance

Carol House

Christian Education

Andrea Craig

Congregational Care

Valerie McLaughlin

Mission

Jim Hutcheson

Music & Worship

Kate Laury

Property

Betty Brown

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Women's Retreat – Cozy Mountain Lodge, Where Women Find Shelter in God

We are actively accepting registration forms for the Retreat being held on **September 30**. Every woman who is on the rosters and some others should have received an invitation either by email or by mail along with the registration form. If you did not receive one, please let Valerie know. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall which we hope to change to a warm and cozy mountain lodge. The closing date for

registration is September 24. The fee for the retreat is \$25.00 and covers a continental breakfast and lunch along with retreat supplies. We will start at 8:30 and hopefully end by 4:15 (unless you are having too much fun to leave). Hope to see you there!

Congregational Care Survey—Valerie McLaughlin—Team Leader

Thank you to those of you that took the time to fill out the survey we put out last month. I was surprised by some of the tallies. Number one was Cooking Lessons followed by Art Classes, Seminars, Game Nights, Book Club, Crafting Expertise, Fellowship Idea, Do it Yourself Workshop, Movie Night, Talent Show/Auction and S'mores in that order. We will actively be looking for a chef and an artist. If anyone has ideas as to who could do a seminar, let me know. Would anyone like to take over starting a Book Club? CC can handle some of these ideas, but we are a small group and could use some help. Just let Valerie McLaughlin or Marsha Latham know about your interest in joining the team.

Grace Notes

is published monthly by
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rebecca Harbor Jones, Editor

To submit articles by email, please submit to BOTH addresses below:
rebharbstp11@earthlink.net
secretary@gracepcusa.org



GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5555 Wall Triana Highway
Madison, AL 35758

256-722-0508 Office

Home page: www.gracepcusa.org
Email: pastor@gracepcusa.org

FALL POTLUCK LUNCH SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER: Get ready for some fall dishes! We are having a potluck on **September 10** in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. The word is that someone has asked to provide the dessert, so we only need main dishes and sides for that day.

OCTOBER: The date has not been determined but could be October 22. Look for updates in upcoming communications.

NOVEMBER: On **November 5**, we will have a Stewardship Commitment Sunday Potluck. As is our tradition, commitment cards will be placed in the offering plates during worship.

DECEMBER: On **December 10**, we will have a potluck with special music provided by the handbell choir. They will play some traditional and secular holiday music that we don't normally sing or hear in worship..

WHAT YOUR SESSION IS DOING

The August Stated Meeting of the Session was held by Zoom. Elders present were Jamie Clay, Tracey Kennedy, Martie Kullman, Marsha Latham, Susan Marenka, and Tom McLaughlin. Elders Carol House and Annette Solari and the clerk were excused.

Rev. Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Marsha Latham gave the devotional and opened with prayer.

Because of the power outage, there were no minutes to approve.

Ministry Team reports were heard.

One quote has been solicited for repairs to the outside of the building and the roof. Two more will be sought.

After reviewing the Strategic Plan, September 24 was chosen as the date for a Town Hall meeting after worship to share the plan and progress with the congregation.

Rev. Palmer reported on the June Presbytery meeting. Tom McLaughlin volunteered to be the elder commissioner to the called meeting of Presbytery to be held by Zoom at 4:00 p.m. on August 15.

Rev. Palmer closed the meeting with prayer.

Rebecca Harbor Jones, Clerk of Session



Pancake Breakfast

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Come to church hungry!

The Christian Education Team will be providing pancakes along with other delicious breakfast foods on Sunday, September 10 beginning at 9:30 a.m., to kick-off the new Sunday School Year. Donations for purchasing Sunday School materials will be accepted.



STEPHEN MINISTERS

As always, if you need to talk to one of our Stephen Ministers, who will keep whatever you say confidential, even to the other Stephen Ministers, please contact Valerie McLaughlin (256-837-8108) or Pastor Robin (256-722-0508).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

A big welcome to our new members, James (Peter) and Shirley Finley!! They have been received by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church, Trussville, Alabama.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 8, 2023

We will be collecting donations for PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING the first Sunday in October.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, and provides education and exposure to those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict and nurturing reconciliation, and stand in support of our global sisters and brothers, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.



AMAZING GRACE FLEA MARKET

The Amazing Grace Flea Market will be on Saturday, October 7, in the Fellowship Hall. This annual flea market raises money for the ministries of the church, most recently providing funds for our new website design, which will go live soon and will be a large part of our outreach and communication with the community. Items to donate include household goods, clothes, sports equipment, outdoor décor, crafting items, toys, and furniture. Donations can be brought to the church beginning Sunday, October 1. Items do not need to be priced; the buyers decide what to pay. Be watching for a sign-up for volunteers to help set up during the week and to work the day



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

HOLY COMMUNION: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

POTLUCK: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

TOWN HALL MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

WOMEN'S RETREAT: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP: MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

AMAZING GRACE FLEA MARKET: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023