

# Grace Presbyterian Gazette



October, 2021

## PASTOR'S CORNER

---

### Reformation Day

How can it be October already? But it is good to have the first feel of fall air and the refreshing that comes with it. I know many of you look at your calendars at home and see the day of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October designated as Halloween. I hope many of you know October 31 is also Reformation Day. It is the day the Protestant churches remember Martin Luther posting his 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. If you are wondering if there was a connection or if this was just a coincidence, the truth is Martin Luther posted his theses on October 31 for the very reason of Halloween, or All Hallows Eve.

The very next day, November 1, is All Saints Day and many would be coming to church on November 1 in 1517 seeking penance and indulgences from the church for those who have died previously. So Martin Luther posted his theses, or points of discussion, on the door on the eve of November 1 to bring attention to the church and to the congregation on what needed to be changed or reformed. One of the big issues was the selling of forgiveness for the dead by the church, known as indulgences.

Martin Luther was a troubled man in his own soul during this time. Luther was very aware of his own sin and original sin and of the judgment due to him and others because of sin. Luther feared God and that judgment and treated scripture and Jesus as an atonement but yet Luther could not escape the shame and indignity of his own sin. Two years after the posting of the theses, Luther while studying and teaching on Paul's letter to the Romans found this verse in chapter 1 at verse 17, "For in it

God's righteousness is revealed from faith to faith just as it is written: The righteous shall live by faith."

It was this verse that gave Luther his "Tower Experience" during which Luther finally understood, God's full grace and mercy was given to man by man's faith and faith alone. No longer was it the behavior or actions of man or any attempt by man in his salvation – it was simply faith alone, in Christ alone.

That is when the true reformation began for the church and for us, when Luther realized Jesus Christ fulfilled the law and the church was no longer legalistic; but now simple faith in Jesus Christ was all a person needed to receive God's grace and mercy and forgiveness.

So this year on Halloween night when someone knocks on your door, remember the knocking of Martin Luther hammering his change to the church door in Germany and the realization of God's grace for it is by faith alone we come to God through Christ alone.

Grace to you all,

*Jim*

## "THE DEACON'S POST"

---

Good day from all of your Deacons here at Grace Presbyterian Church. Our Deacons continue to be focused on providing care and support to all of those in need at our church, and truly want you all to know we are here to assist you in any way possible. Joyfully, our church is doing well, however we do have a few individuals that have needed and received our help in the past month. We have reached out and assisted Charlie and Jean Brown, as she continues to recover from her fall. Joyfully, I can report she is doing better and has returned home from rehab, but still has a ways to go before being back to 100%. Please pray for her and Charlie as she continues to recover. We have also lifted up Betty and Herman Ellis, so please continue to pray for the Ellis family as well. Nancy Davis sadly has dealt with the passing of her brother in law and while he lived a very good and long life, losing a family member is always a difficult time for us all, so please continue to pray for Nancy and her family as they navigate these waters. The Deacons and all others in our church have very loving hearts and truly are here to help you if you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to let any of the Deacons know if you need any assistance at all.

In Christ,

Joe Pruett, Moderator of Deacons

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

- ◆ Every Wednesday at 6pm, there is a **3 N 1** meeting at our church. Three in one because it's Fellowship, Singing, and Bible Study. This group meeting is open to anyone and everyone. Just bring your Bible and your appetite! We will have a light supper, do a little praising the Lord through hymns, and study God's Word. Plan to be there!! (if you remember to do so, give Joe Pruett a call [501-733-1650] before the meeting and let him know you're coming; want there to be enough food for all . . . Thanks) (but if you forget to call ahead, don't let that stop you; come anyway . . . don't miss the togetherness)
- ◆ **New Sunday School class:** Beginning September 12 at 9:30, we will be discovering the meaning in the Gospel of John. There's a companion study workbook that will be provided and Joe Pruett will be teaching the class. This class is designed to reveal an understanding of central Christian truths. The stories in the Gospel of John are amazing; you won't want to miss it.
- ◆ We will be doing our **semi-annual clean-up** of Grace Presbyterian's section of **Prince Street** on Saturday morning, October 9th. We will meet at the church at 10:00 a.m. and should be finished by 11:30 with a sufficient crew. We will have a limited number of orange safety vests, but if you have one please bring your own, plus a "grabber". Hope to see you then.
- ◆ October 10th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. we will meet at the 5th Street Park Pavilion for our **Annual Church Picnic**. Don't forget to bring lawn or board games for extra fun!
- ◆ Please call or email the office if you would like to help with **church cleanup**.
- ◆ If you would like more information about the **Mission and Evangelism Team activities** or if you would like to join the team, please contact Ken Hunter or call the church for more information.
- ◆ The **Ministry Center** does not need egg cartons at this time. They do still need bags and food. If you would like to help, you can place your donations in the two tote bins located in the hallway at church, contact Ken Hunter or call the church for information. Items can be dropped off Monday -Thursday 4:00-5:00.

# MISSION AND EVANGELISM

---

- ◆ We filled 100+ snack pack bags for distribution to the homeless by the Conway Ministry Center on Saturday, October 2nd.
- ◆ Volunteers from GPC will be cleaning our section of Prince Street on Saturday, October 9th. If you would like to help we will meet at the Church at 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ The committee also approved our participation again this year in "Operation Christmas Child" and "Angel Tree."

## BIRTHDAYS:

10/14 - Charles Jordan, 10/13 - Josh McConkie; 10/16 - Adele Pruett; 10/22 - Kenneth Stowe; 10/23 - Roseanne Johnson; 10/23 - Tim Ralston; 10/31 - Jean Brown - 10/31; 10/31 - Rick McCarron

## CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (10/1/2021):

**Prayer Concerns:** Heather Beczo, daughter-in-law of Tibor and Ilona Beczo; Tibor Beczo; Jean Brown; Ron Carter, brother of Jean Brown with cancer; Bill Conner; Joe Dablock; Virginia Driggers, friend of the church; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Charles and Trudy Jordan; Vivian Sackhoff, mother of Jeff Sackhoff; Connie Staal, friend of Larry and Lavon Dunn; Phil and Cheryl White, father of Nancy Davis' daughter-in-law with heart trouble; Jeff and Jenny Whitehead, friends of Joe and Sue Dablock.

Like us on  @gracepresconway or  @GracePresConway  
For a free downloadable copy or podcast of the sermon, please visit our website at  
[www.gracepresconway.org](http://www.gracepresconway.org)

## OUR DENOMINATION:



### ELDERS:

John Davis  
Ken Hunter  
Pat Rice

Ralph Scott  
Barbara Watkins

### DEACONS:

Jenny Harrison: 417.459.2550  
Karen Griffin: 501.269.2485  
Annette Sackhoff: 501.472.3783  
Henry Hawk: 501.730.4173

### STAFF:

**Admin. Assistant:** Erin Tucker, ph. 501.504.6899  
**Lay Pastor:** Jim Hays, ph. 501.499.2885  
**Lay Pastor:** Joe Pruett, ph. 501.733.1650  
**Organist:** Lyle Rupert  
**Choir Director/Pianist:** Eloise Stowe

### OFFICE:

1010 Hogan Lane, Suite 2  
Conway, AR 72034  
501.504.6899  
[gracepres@conwaycorp.net](mailto:gracepres@conwaycorp.net)