

# Grace Presbyterian Gazette



January, 2022

## PASTOR'S CORNER

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BY PASTOR TERRY SIMM

As we look to the year 2022, I would like to share something Dr. David Jeremiah said in his devotional. “No one knows what 2022 holds, so don’t enter this year alone. Take Christ with you. If you are not sure of His involvement in your life, this is a perfect day for getting a fresh start with Him... God loves you. He became a Man who lived perfectly. When He died on the cross, He shed His blood to cover your sins. Begin this year by asking Him to be your Savior and Lord. Learn to walk with Him. Serve Him. He knows how the future unfolds, and He cares for you.”

There are several things that are going to happen in the next few months here at Grace Presbyterian Church. Beginning January 16th, I will be doing a six-week sermon series on Discipleship & Evangelism. Both terms are not typically high on the agenda of the local church. However, the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, ECO, is all about making disciples for Jesus Christ and for reaching the lost. ECO has said on several occasions that churches should be **baptizing** more than we are **burying** and that our greatest mission field is in our **own backyard**. This series will help us understand just how important discipleship is and what it means for the local church to take evangelism seriously. As Dr. Jim Singleton said at one of our classes, “The Missional Church will never work without Discipleship.” It is my hope that once we fully understand these terms, discipleship, and evangelism, they will become a part of our DNA and we can

create a culture of being the disciples Christ called us to be.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> Jim Hays, Ken and Renee Hunter and myself will be attending the Synod Meeting for ECO at the Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. This year’s gathering is from February 1st to February 3rd and is called “Overflow,” based on Romans 15: 13. As always ECO’s Synod Meetings have a Revival feel to them with plenty of music, worship, and break-out meetings. Included this year will be our by-annual Synod Business Meeting. We look forward to reporting back to you following this gathering.

Then in February after the Synod meeting I am planning to do a Session retreat to assess the current situation of Grace and to look at what tools we might use to give some vision and focus for Grace in the years to come. We have been blessed with a denomination that does not want us to just keep doing the same old thing, but to constantly look at ways we can be the church of Jesus Christ. Even with another variant of COVID resurfacing I believe the church can thrive in challenging times as it has always done in the past. Let us remember that the Church is not a place where we go to hide from the world—our mission is to spread the gospel and to glorify God. There will always be varying levels of opposition and persecution, but in Christ, we stand together as one body of believers. ■

## CURRENT ACTIVIES AT GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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- A **New Member Class** will be held at the beginning of the year. If you are interested please call the office or Pastor Terry. 501.504.6899 or 712.461.0918
- **SAVE the DATE . . . 3 N 1** will resume on Wednesday, January 12 at six pm. If you would like additional information, contact Joe Pruett, 501-733-1650 or Barbara Watkins 501-908-9892

# "THE DEACON'S POST"

Happy New Year from your Deacons. While the past couple of years have been trying in our lives, let us always remember that God is in control and walking with us through all of life's trials.

As we begin a new year I want to acknowledge and thank once more Henry Hawk and Annette Sackhoff for the service they have provided over the past couple of years as a Deacon. This month is their final month to serve and we all want to congratulate and thank them for their service. . We will so miss their contributions to our church.

I want to welcome Larry Dunn and Susan McNabb to the team of Deacons. These two are amazing individuals and will serve our congregation wonderfully.

We have a few folks that we need to keep in our prayers:

Ilona Beczo and her family on the loss of Tibor.

Nancy Higgins on the loss of her husband Jimmy.

Joe Dablock & Julie Olson, both of whom are dealing with cancer in their lives.

Martha Lierley who is now living in a new residence at Brookdale Center, very near to our church home.

Please continue to pray for all of the other names on our prayer concern list with our church.

January is a month with 5 Sundays, so please remember that we have designated the 5th Sunday to be one where we can make contributions to the Deacon fund.

The Deacons last month helped a couple of families in our church community and continue to be here to serve and look for ways to brighten the life of those in our church family.

joyfully, I want to make sure all of you are aware of the engagement of Ken and Karen Griffin's daughter, Amy. She will be getting married June of this year and it is ever so much an exciting time for this wonderful family.

Take care and please know that your Deacons are here to help you if needed, do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.

In Christ,

Joe Pruett, Moderator

## MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

- ♦ Your Mission/Outreach committee closed out the 2021 year by contributing to several agencies and programs. They were ECO Flourish Institute Graduate School of Ministry, Bethlehem House, Conway Ministry Center and Justin and Angela's missionary work in Thailand.

### BIRTHDAYS:

1/02 - Debbie McConkie; 1/07 - Jim Watkins; 1/09 - Ken Griffin; 1/09 - Olivia McConkie; 1/13 - Casee McConkie; 1/29 - Sharon Brown; 1/31 - Katie Scott

### CURRENT PRAYER LIST AS OF (1/8/2022):

Nancy Bingham, therapy for hairline leg fracture; Jean Brown, broken hip; Bill Conner; Joe Dablock; Steve Hoffman, friend of Nancy Davis with cancer and transplant need; Charles and Trudy Jordan; Julie Olson, cancer; Vivian Sackhoff, mother of Jeff Sackhoff; Jodie Stone, cancer; Phil and Cheryl White, father of Nancy Davis' daughter-in-law with heart trouble; Jeff and Jenny Whitehead, friends of Joe and Sue Dablock.

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r a free downloadable copy or podcast of the sermon, please visit our website at [www.gracepresconway.org](http://www.gracepresconway.org)

#### STAFF:

**Admin. Assistant:** Erin Tucker, ph. 501.504.6899  
**Transitional Pastor:** Terry Simm, ph. 712.461.0918  
**Lay Pastor:** Jim Hays, ph. 501.499.2885  
**Lay Pastor:** Joe Pruett, ph. 501.733.1650  
**Organist:** Lyle Rupert  
**Choir Director/Pianist:** Eloise Stowe

#### ELDERS:

John Davis                      Ralph Scott  
Ken Hunter                      Barbara Watkins  
Ray Crumbley



#### OFFICE:

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

#### DEACONS:

Larry Dunn: 501.329.4348  
Jenny Harrison: 417.459.2550  
Karen Griffin: 501.269.2485  
Susan McNabb: 501.327.6674