

# GRAPEVINE

January 28, 2009

## Parson to Person

Thanks!

Over these ten months that I have been with you, I have had so many positive experiences for which I want to thank and commend you.

I'll start with the staff. They received me graciously, and have continued to help me daily in a dozen ways. Frequently I have to ask about this or that person, or about how this or that is done here, or where this or that is. My interrupting must get annoying, but they are patient and good natured. They have had to pick up additional work, and have done so graciously. Thank you, staff, for your spirit and hard work!

I'll continue with the officers. Some of the committees and their elder-leaders have been little impacted by this interim. Other elder-leaders have had a steep learning curve. Dan Hans was the institutional memory and hands-on administrator. With his departure and my ignorance, the elders stepped up, learned, and now act. Thank you for your willing and effective leadership!

I want to comment on the congregation generally. As a report found elsewhere in the *Grapevine* says, the members contributed generously in 2008. We were concerned that donations and participation would decline for three reasons. First, the departure of the long-time, effective senior pastor often causes people to pull back. Second, some hold back, waiting to see if they like the future pastor before committing. Third, the general economic shrinkage and morale of people makes us cautious. I commend you for maintaining your donations and participation! Thank God for the spirit of the church!

Let's continue to serve the Lord with energy, intelligence, imagination, generosity and love!

Yours,  
Harry

### Inside:

- Year-end Financial Report
- Dinners for 7 or 8
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- "A Night of Music"
- Student Care Packages
- Young @ Heart

# Happy Birthday to...

## February 1

Keith Baker  
Karen Breighner  
Diane Hoffman  
Thomas Piper

## February 2

Freda Hulton  
Kyle May  
Greg Trax  
Lydia Walker  
Pam Wisor

## February 3

Penny Breighner  
Elizabeth Farnham  
Mary Flinner  
Linda MacAskill  
Sophie May  
Kasey Rathgeber  
Deb Siefken



## February 5

Blaze Graff  
Christopher Kulkusky

## February 6

Allan Blue  
Lucas Dayhoff  
Michael Haverlock  
Lori McNair  
Viola Reaver

## February 7

Hilary Wolf

## February 10

Ab Rainbow  
Daniel Snyder

## February 11

Matt Clark  
Susan Wicklein

## February 12

Chuck MacDonald  
Walker Daniels

## February 13

Margaret Dombrowsky

## February 14

Carolyn Durboraw  
Cody Smith

## February 15

Sandra Yarber Dixon  
Robert Bigham

## February 16

Alison Golanoski  
Carly Hinton  
Bob Hoylman  
Carrie McMaster

## February 17

Kate Mowrey  
Clare Alloway  
Barry Breighner  
Nicole Bridel

## February 19

Arlene Jury

## February 20

Jack Reese  
Deborah Litten

## February 21

William Fitzpatrick  
Faye Johns

## February 22

Patti Schwartz  
Margaret Crone

## February 23

Henry Heiser  
Dana Hubble

## February 24

Henry Rice

## February 25

Marty Fitzgerald  
Robert Lindsay  
Laura Morton

## February 26

Kody Kulkusky  
Bryan LaRoche

## February 27

Myrt Watson  
Gary Morrison  
Susan Moyer

## February 28

Rush Benson  
Jean Conover  
Robert McQuaide  
Joyce Morrison  
Lovette Mott  
Rad Schultz  
Bill Tindall  
Courtney Weaver  
Jordan Williams

## (February 29)

Alexander Heeschen  
Charlotte Win-lotte sheimer



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## Thank You's:

We thank everyone for the cards, gifts, well wishes AND COOKIES during the Christmas season. We are blessed to be a part of the G.P.C. church family. God's peace to all of you in 2009.  
Love from  
The Nyiris - Lou, Candace, and Alex

The Contemporary Ministry Team would like to thank all who shared their time and talents during the Advent and Christmas season. Special thanks to the dedicated Contemporary musicians, and tech team. Thanks to Doug Forbeck and the usher/greeter team. Thanks to Paulette Brabender for her creative touches. Thanks to all who helped with our special advent evening service, especially Beth Fitzpatrick and friends who served refreshments. Thank you to Wendy, Mark, Tessa and Bryn Beauchat for portraying the Holy Family and all who helped with Advent candle lighting and scripture readings.

Thank you to young adult G.P.C. member T.J. Remaley for his worship leadership in December and January.

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## Condolences:

Our sympathy and prayers are with:  
Mimi Johnson on the recent death of her brother.  
William Stansbury on the recent death of his sister Gloria Payne.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

As we begin the second half of our Sunday School year, below you will find the listing of our regular adult classes plus several special series. All classes run from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

<u>Class</u>	<u>When</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>The Wired Word</u> Today's hot topics are explored in depth from a Christian point of view. Class participants, if interested, can receive Sunday's topic each Thursday for a preliminary study via email.	January - May (except March)	MacAskill Room
<u>You Matter More Than You Think</u> In this DVD/discussion series for women we will explore the power of a woman's life and the ways in which a woman can make a difference in the world. Workbooks will be available for each participant.	January 18 - February 22	Top Floor Room
<u>How We Got the Bible</u> This 5-week series will be led by our favorite guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Charles (Buz) Myers. Look for more details on page 6 of this newsletter.	March 1 - 29	MacAskill Room
<u>Young Marrieds</u> This group for young married couples will discuss ways to live a life with purpose, using the video series and Bible study called "Elevate".	January - May	Eisenhower Lounge
<u>Men's Bible Class</u>	January - May	Crane Library
<u>Women's Bible Class</u> These 2 classes will study "Old Testament People of Commitment".	January - May	Paideia House (downstairs)

**Year-End Financial Report**

As of December 31, 2008, we completed 100.00% of 2008 with our budget of \$693,936.

Income for the year was 101.72% (\$705,841).

Expenses for the year were 109.26% (\$758,212).

Our year-end Amount Available for Operating Expenses was \$47,376, and our Dedicated Funds balance was \$132,205.

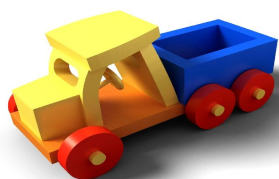
We finished the year with a strong December, with pledges actually exceeding the pledges received in December 2007, and we set a new record for the Christmas Fair giving. For the year, pledges actually exceeded our budgeted amount by almost \$20,000. Expenses exceeded budgeted expenses with several one-time costs such as money set aside for the Pastor Nominating Committee, the installation of the movie screen, etc. Our Stewardship campaign is down overall from last year approximately 5.5% to date, but we feel that this reflects the uncertain economic times. More pledges are expected, but we also believe more will give in 2009 without returning a pledge card.

At the January 11, 2009 meeting, Session approved the 2009 Budget of \$720,567, which is a 3.84% increase. This is slightly lower than the 2009 Proposed Budget provided to the congregation with the Stewardship mailing. The amount of this budget related to our staff, including social security taxes, medical, pension and allowances, is approximately \$440,000 or 61%. The next biggest category is the amount we budget for missions, which is \$122,934 or 17.06% of the budget. A copy of the 2009 Budget summary will be included in the Annual Report. We realize that it will be more difficult to meet this budget given the current economic climate, but we also recognize that we have an excellent staff, who have taken on even more in a time of transition, and have a strong desire to continue the mission work we support. We are relying on the continued generosity and support of our congregation. We will continue to share our financial status in the Grapevine throughout 2009. May God continue to bless you and the work of our church in 2009.

• Don Stabler & the Finance Committee

### Preschool Toys Needed

Are many of you struggling to find room for all of the kid's new Christmas toys? If so, we've got the answer. The Preschool Sunday School class is in need of preschool age toys such as baby dolls, trucks, puzzles, trains, Playdoh tools, Legos, and any other gently used toys for ages 3-6 years old. If you're interested in helping, please place your donations on the tables in the preschool classroom (yellow room next to the nursery). Thank you so much for helping our little guys and gals enjoy some free play time during class!



### **PARKING:**

We have permission from the Adams County Housing Authority, 40 High St., to park in their lot during their off hours. On Sunday mornings, we should park facing their building, so that members of Trinity U.C.C. may use the rest of the lot.



### **Downstairs Rug Needed**

Fifteen years ago, Josie Brownley and her sorority donated a green rug which we placed downstairs by the stage. This rug has served the GPC children and youth well as Primary Choir, Youth Club, and MidSHIP make use of that space. However, it is time to replace the rug. If you or anyone you know has a 21' x 15 1/2' rug which is in good shape and needs a home, please call Phyllis at 334-1235, ext. 5. It does not have to be green, but preferably not a light color. Thanks!



### Undergraduate Student Care Packages

If you are the parent of an undergraduate college student from our congregation, you can help ensure your child gets a Spring semester care package from their church family by submitting the following information below to Rev. Lou Nyiri in the church office or by email [gpclou@embarqmail.com](mailto:gpclou@embarqmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your help.

Return the following information to Rev. Nyiri by **March 1st**.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Mail Address of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name & Phone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Upcoming Events:**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Vacation Bible School will be held  
from June 22—26, 2009.

We want YOUR CHILD to be there!



**New Arrivals:**

We celebrate the birth of  
Audrey Camille Trax,  
daughter of Greg & Carrie Trax,  
granddaughter of Dave & Pat Conklin,  
on January 16, 2009.

**Dinners for Seven or Eight**

The goal of these dinners is to provide church members the opportunity to enjoy fellowship with other members at three casual, adult-only dining experiences. If getting to know eighteen to twenty-four church members in this type of setting sounds appealing to you, then Dinners for Seven or Eight is for you.

This year's goal is for 25 dinners to occur each month. This means we need a minimum of 100 singles or couples to sign up. After sign ups are over (February 15, 2009 is the deadline to register) a schedule will be made which designates one person to host the dinner in their home (You choose if you wish to host). The host then contacts the people in their group and coordinates a date & time for the meal; prepares the main course & drink for the evening; and informs other members involved so they can bring appropriate accompanying dishes. The side dishes will be a vegetable, salad or dessert.

A different person hosts each dinner and is grouped with six or seven other people. Sometimes we have more participants than hosts, so if you so desire you may request to host more than one dinner. You may also choose to be a substitute who is called if a regular participant runs into calendar problems and cannot attend a particular month's meal. As a substitute you will then bring the meal portion of the individual or couple you are replacing (ie. salad, vegetable or dessert).

Remember these dinners are to be casual and adults-only.

\*\*\*\*\*Dinners for Seven or Eight Registration Form\*\*\*\*\*

**(DEADLINE to register is February 15, 2009)**

**ATTENTION: Rev. Lou Nyiri**

Yes, I will be a REGULAR part of Dinners for Seven or Eight

Yes, I will be a SUBSTITUTE part of Dinners for Seven or Eight

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (Where dinner will be held if hosting): \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ I check email regularly: Yes / No

Wish to Host: Yes / NO

Put a "1" by the month you would most like to host, "2" by your second choice, and "3" by your third choice. If you are willing to host more than one meal place a "1" by the two months you would be willing to host a dinner.

March \_\_\_\_\_

April \_\_\_\_\_

May \_\_\_\_\_

# "How We Got The Bible"

March 1—29

Rev. Dr. Charles (Buz) Myers

Some people believe that the Bible we use today merely fell out of heaven in its present form. But nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, the Bible stands at the end of a long process of **selection, transmission, and translation**. But what books were excluded, and why were others included in the canon of the Bible? How were these writings passed down through the centuries? And why are there so many different translations of the Bible into English? These and other questions will be addressed in this five-part series, led by the Rev. Dr. Charles (Buz) Myers, as we will look at exactly how we came to have the Bible that we know and love.

So come join us on Sundays, March 1—29 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the MacAskill Room. Rev. Buz Myers, an ordained Presbyterian minister, holds a Ph.D. degree in New Testament language and literature from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has taught Bible courses at two seminaries and Swarthmore College before coming to Gettysburg College in 1986. Dr. Myers also served as recording secretary on the committee that produced the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

## PW CIRCLES

### Elizabeth Circle

Monday, February 16 @ 1:00 p.m.

Hostess: Nancy Saunders  
610 Harmony Dr. - Apt#105  
Brethren Village  
New Oxford, PA  
624-5952

Study Leader: Linda MacAskill  
Lesson 6: Luke 10: 25-37; 17:11-19

### Mary Martha Circle

Monday, February 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

Hostess: Judy Bullis  
202 Belmont Rd.  
Gettysburg, PA  
334-6323  
Study Leader: Judy Bullis  
Lesson 5: Luke 8: 40-56



### Esther Circle

Thursday, February 19 @ 9:30 a.m.

Members meet in Eisenhower Lounge.  
Study Leader: Sue Kolmer  
Lesson 6: Luke 10: 25-37; 17:11-19

### Ruth Circle

Tuesday, February 10 @ 7:30 p.m.

Contact Amy Stewart @ 677-8426  
Members meet in GPC Library.

## "A Night of Music"

Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - an evening of food and fun! A Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m. begins our evening. This will be followed by a program at 6:30 p.m. of great GPC musical talent! You will not want to miss the fantastic show. If you would be interested in participating in the program, call or email Becky Wareham (359-7623 or [bbwareham@embarqmail.com](mailto:bbwareham@embarqmail.com)).

For the Potluck Dinner - If your last name starts with A-M please bring a side dish or salad. If your last name starts with N-Z bring a dessert to share. The meat and drink will be provided by the Fellowship Team. Please call Lou at 334-1235, ext. 4, send an email to [gpclou@embarqmail.com](mailto:gpclou@embarqmail.com) or fill out the form below by *Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>*.

Attention: Rev. Lou Nyiri

The following number of people - \_\_\_\_\_ - will attend the Potluck Dinner on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## YOUNG AT HEART

Our February get-together will be our annual pizza luncheon on **Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon.** After the meal we will have a brief business meeting followed by a monologue by storyteller/comedian Richard Ezell. A donation will be taken to cover the cost of the pizza and salad. All are welcome. To be sure that enough food is prepared, if you are not on a regular call list but would like to attend please contact Pam or Dick Wisor at 359-8896 or email us at [pwisor@hotmail.com](mailto:pwisor@hotmail.com).

## GPC SMALL GROUP MINISTRY **2009 LENTEN SMALL GROUPS**

### Christian Prayer for Today by **Martha Moore-Keish**

Now is your chance to be a part of an exciting opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship! Our annual Lenten Small Groups will explore together one of the most central and important aspects of Christian living—the practice of prayer. We will talk about the challenges of prayer at different times and in various contexts, and we will look at questions such as “Who is the God we encounter in prayer?”, “Who are we who pray?” and just “What does prayer do?” This book is “wonderfully readable” and helpful for revitalizing one’s prayer life which after all is one of the most important exercises of our faith !

Groups will meet weekly during the six weeks of Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25th. Groups will meet in homes, at the church and at local restaurants. You will be contacted by your group leader about the exact starting date and location. Each session will run approx. 75 minutes and will include fellowship, informal discussion, and a time of prayer. Please call Candace Nyiri at 337-2939 if you have any questions.

**Deadline to sign up is Sunday, February 22nd.**

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**2009 Lenten Small Group Sign-Up**  
(Please mark 1st and 2nd preference-exact locations to be announced)

- Sunday 12:15 p.m. Lunch Group
- Tuesday mornings 7:15 a.m. (Dunlap’s Restaurant)
- Tuesday mornings 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday evenings 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 12:00 noon (Brown Bag Lunch Group)
- Thursday evenings 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday Lunch Group (Hanover area)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Cost of the book is \$12.00



# CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE


Sunday mornings in the sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for an engaging worship experience centered in God's Word!

Everyone is invited! Bring a Friend.

- February 1      The Great Adventure: Journey of a Lifetime
- February 8      Women's Sunday
- February 15     The Great Adventure: Companions on the Journey
- February 22     Ordinary Radicals: Service of Communion

***“Lord Jesus Christ, show me who you are and how I can follow you today.”***

 **Next Newsletter Deadline:**  
**Noon, Thursday, February 5, 2009**

*Gettysburg Presbyterian Church*  
*208 Baltimore Street*  
*Gettysburg, PA 17325*  
*(717) 334-1235*

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