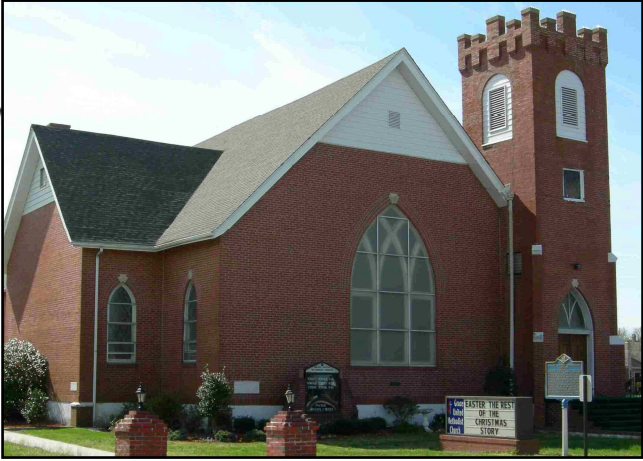


*September 2011*



*Grace* United Methodist Church

7 S. King Street  
Georgetown DE 19947

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**Newsletter**  
**Time Sensitive Material**



September 2011

## *Greetings...*

*in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ*

The summer months are coming to an end and we are about to begin a new season of preparing for the fall and winter months ahead. Maybe the traffic will slow down as the school buses start up. Let us pray for their safety on the roads. May we also remember to pray for all the students and staff returning to school for a new year of learning.

The Bible speaks of life as a road or path that we are called to travel. Below please find a few examples of the truths we can find in Scripture dealing with the roadways of life:

**Matthew 7:14**, "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (We can't always go just because others are going.)

**Acts 2:28**, "You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence." (Joy and contentment come with walking with the Lord.)

**Psalms 119:105**, "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path."  
(The Bible is our roadmap.)

**2 Corinthians 6:3**, "We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited." (Look out for others.)

**John 14:6**, "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" (Jesus is the answer for life!)

According to Scripture, the road of life is narrow and it is not easy to find, it is sometimes mysterious, it teaches us to care for others, and begins with knowing Jesus who is the way into the heavenly city...our ultimate destination. To help you navigate the roads of life I have found this condensed formula that was devised by a studious Christian that converts the trip this way.

*"the road to hope is not straight...there is a curve called failure ...a loop called confusion...speed bumps called trials...red lights called enemies...caution lights called family...and flats called suffering. But...if I have a tank full of love...a spare called determination... an engine called perseverance...insurance called faith...my GPS fixed on the second coming...and a driver called Jesus...I will make it to a place called heaven filled with hope!"*

Let us look forward to the journey that lies ahead with expectation and great joy. God is with us!

Peace  
and Blessings,  
*Pastor Betty Jo*

### Upcoming training and Growth Programs:

Following is a listing of informative sessions scheduled for the near future in and around our area. Contact info is given, or check with church office for more detail.

- ❖ **Church Hospitality and Ideas for First time Visitors** – to be held Saturday, September 17 (9am-3pm) at Bayside Chapel Selbyville, DE, Register by Sept. 9.
- ❖ **The Well** – Magnolia DE, sponsored by Peninsula-DE Conference. May choose courses in 22 ministry areas. Some of the titles offered:
  - Church Heritage
  - Imagine No Malaria
  - Ministry with Crime Victims
  - Knowing Your Neighborhood
  - Bible Drama
  - Apportionment is Not a Four Letter Word
  - Hindrances to Unanswered Prayers
  - Sacraments
  - Prison Ministries
  - Be Well together
  - Spiritual Leadership
  - Young Adult Round Table
  - Mission Central Hub
  - Giving Churches Do Not Go Broke
  - Liturgical Dance
  - Building a Worship Design Team

Deadline for registration October 1. See flyer on bulletin board at side entrance of church for more information.

- ❖ **Student Exchange Program** – have a student, age 15 – 18, live in your home and attend local school. Contact Regional Manager Patty Grafty 866-755-0921, or [www.PIEUSA.org](http://www.PIEUSA.org).
- ❖ **FREE – Women's Conference at Grace Church** – November 5, 1-3 PM. Presenters: Candy Abbott and Linda Mason. Snacks provided. Mark your calendars now and invite someone. Open to all women. Held in Mulligan Hall. Registration not required but appreciated.

### Prayer Request

As evidenced by people living in Kansas, Oklahoma, West and South Texas, and ever-increasing areas in other parts of the country, the drought condition is reaching critical status; cattle are being auctioned off; crops have burned up; and drinking water is becoming a concern. Please join us in this prayer circle.



Let's make this one of the largest prayer circles ever. It will be as though everyone is holding hands around the world: *Father, You said whatsoever any two or more come together and agree and ask in Your Son's name, it shall be given. We come to you, humbly, and ask that you bring down the rain to our parched lands. Our farmers and ranchers need it desperately, as well as our firefighters. We ask this all in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### Welcome Pastor Betty Jo

Everyone is invited – Sunday, September 18 – noon...immediately following 11am service... covered dish luncheon to welcome Pastor Betty Jo and her family to our family at Grace. Bring a side dish or a dessert if you can... or just bring yourself; there's always more than enough for everybody.



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## Church Council

The mid-summer Council meeting on August 2 was very well attended with 21 members present, including Pastor Betty Jo. It was her first of these meetings and she was welcomed.

There were committee reports and various discussions, highlights follow.

Worship Leaders Judy Keeler and Hilda Parker had met with Pastor Betty Jo and she asked if we could have a Lay Person conduct the service at least one Sunday a month. They would lead the service and she will deliver the message. She would like to have this the first Sunday of each month. Lay Leader Donald Carey will look into this prospect.

Pastor Betty Jo would like to have a brochure containing a picture of the church and information about it made up for insertion into the Sunday bulletin. The hope here is that members who attend services would take this insert and give it to a friend or neighbor where it could generate recognition and interest in Grace, and perhaps bring some new folks into our midst. Edith Stephens has volunteered and is now working on this piece.

The wearing of name tags in church was mentioned as a positive step in making people acquainted and welcome. Other ideas toward that end are invited and encouraged.

It was pointed out that our website needs updating to reflect the change in Pastors. We have it on good authority that this will be fixed by the time you read this.

Special music was discussed; whether and how often we should have it. We need to know how much it costs and how much is in the budget for it. The suggestion was made that perhaps some of our church members have musical talents they could share. A recommendation was put forth to survey the membership and find out what they would like. Answers should be available by next meeting.

Finance Committee has been working on a plan to computerize the recording of offerings collected at Sunday church services. Thus far, it has all been done by hand and pencil, and the consensus is that it's time to move into this century. It will involve a conversion to a computer program and a 'fail-safe' way to assure a ready correlation of names and envelope numbers. Money and checks, of course will continue to be counted by hand; only the data entry will require computer skills. Edith Stephens is currently working to set up a tie-in with the newly computerized membership list, and to make provisions for capturing the figures for non-members who regularly attend and contribute to Grace. The ultimate program will also be able to produce the year-end individual members' reports for tax purposes. There will be a good deal more meeting and planning before this goes "live." They want to be sure the end product is secure, confidential and non-threatening, and to set up a mechanism to provide new members with information. The Trustees will look into the possibility of getting a new computer to handle this work. The tentative plan is to have a system up and running by the first of the new year.

Lay Leader Donald Carey attended the Peninsula-DE Conference. They will be offering several retreats. He has the information on them, so see him if you are interested.

There is still a need for "Pew Captains" who will contact regulars when they are absent from Sunday church services. Church is willing to supply cards and postage. Contact Emilie Sizemore (856-2411) if you are interested.

A number of members have raised the possibility of finding an Organist for our church. Following a discussion, it was agreed to form a committee to look into it. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact the church office.

Next meeting will be October 4, 2011 at 7 PM. All members welcome to attend.

## **Finance Report**

Amount received from July 3 to August 21 = \$18,161.79

Amount needed for same period = \$22,672.00

Apportionments paid for July and August \$2,928.00.

--Janice Owens

### *The Wicker Basket*

*The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the mountains of eastern Kentucky with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, 'Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?'*

*The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, 'Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water.' The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.*

*The grandfather laughed and said, 'You will have to move a little faster next time,' and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.*

*This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was 'impossible to carry water in a basket,' and he went to get a bucket instead.*

*The old man said, 'I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough,' and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.*

*At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty.*

*Out of breath, he said, 'See Papa, it's useless!'*

*'So you think it is useless?' The old man said, 'Look at the basket.'*

*The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean.*

*'Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible.. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out..'*

*Moral of the wicker basket story: Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't retain a word.*

*I really like this story because I don't remember things like I used to....but then I think God isn't concerned about my brain anyway, He's more concerned about my heart.*

## **Newsletter**

Thanks to our contributors, and for the rest of you who may want to provide information for future issues *please drop them at the church office – marked for "Newsletter" or email them to: [robertam19973@comcast.net](mailto:robertam19973@comcast.net)*. Deadline dates for items are now posted in the calendar portion of each newsletter. Please take note and try to get your material in on time. Please post the calendar where it can serve as a reminder of what's happening at Grace.

# Grace United Methodist Church

## Ministry Leaders and Committees for 2011

1. <b>Church Council Chair</b> .....	Emilie Sizemore	(10-12)
2. <b>Church Council Vice Chair</b> .....	Jayne Ellen Dickerson	(11-13)
3. <b>Lay Leader</b> .....	Donald Carey	
4. <b>Treasurer</b> .....	Janice Owens	(08-11)
5. <b>Church Council Secretary</b> .....	Mary Ellen Grinolds	
6. <b>Youth Member</b> .....	Lauren Mahaffey	(07-09)
7. <b>Membership Secretary</b> .....	Edith Stephens	(10-12)
8. <b>Financial Secretaries</b> .....	Marian Holson	(10-12)
	Jean Coar	(10-12)
	Mary Brittingham	(10-12)
	Joyce Paugh	(10-12)
9. <b>District Steward</b> .....	Dick Holson	(10-12)
10. <b>Church Historian/Barratt's Liaison</b> .....	Donald Carey	
11. <b>Lay Member to Annual Conference</b> .....	Donald Carey	
12. <b>Reserve Lay Member to Annual Conference</b> ..	Dick Holson	(10-12)
13. <b>Youth Area Leader</b> .....	Mike Willing, Ruth Ann Willing	
14. <b>Church School Superintendent</b> .....	Bill Campbell	
15. <b>Education Area Leader</b> .....	Bill Campbell	
16. <b>Evangelism Area Leaders</b> .....		
17. <b>Worship Area Leader</b> .....	Judy Keeler	
	Hilda Parker	
18. <b>Missions Area Co-Leaders</b> .....	Doug & Suzanne Moses	
19. <b>Stewardship Area Leader</b> .....	Brian Pettijohn	(10-12)
20. <b>Finance Chair</b> .....	Janice Owens	(10-12)
21. <b>Trustees President</b> .....	Jerry Hammond	
22. <b>Staff-Parish Relations Chair</b> .....	Donald Carey	(11-14)
23. <b>Gifts and Graces Chair</b> .....	Pastor Betty Jo Magee	
24. <b>Communion Steward</b> .....	Carol Cordrey	

### At Large members to Church Council:

2011	2012	2013
Diane Huff	Ruth Rust	Taylor Helm
Pete Sizemore	Gene Roach	Pam Harper
Marilyn Clark	Donna Edwards	Scott Townsend
Edith Stephens	Daniel Kraus	Maria Hammond

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**Grace United Methodist Church**  
**Rev. Betty Jo Magee**

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 Sunday Services 8:30 and 11 AM • Communion first Sunday of Month

**Our Vision:** Responding to God's call, we will spread the good news of Jesus Christ.  
**Our Mission,** with the help of God, is to make disciples who witness by word and deed to the good news of Jesus Christ from Georgetown throughout the world!