Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

On Saturday night, December 24, we will be having two Special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. It is always a well attended event as we celebrate the Christ of Christmas in the context of the Lord's Supper followed by a beautiful candlelight service. There will be the traditional singing of Christmas carols as the contemporary message of Christmas is brought alive. Let this become part of your family Christmas tradition as well.

One Service on Christmas & New Year’s Day.

We will just be having one Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. on Christmas and New Years to be “One Church and One Family”.

Worship Schedule

Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship Services 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Greetings,

It is exciting to think that we are on the cusp of another great year ahead. 2011 has been incredible with so many wonderful mile stones. Since I just shared with you a few weeks ago my annual report, I won't repeat again all of the many wonderful things that our Lord accomplished at Grover since this time last year . I will comment on December, though.

As we began the month with an emphasis upon missions through our Parade of Flags, I am happy to say that we have already surpassed our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by $3,000.00 dollars. To date we have received $10,570.00 for foreign missions. That is an incredible achievement, only made possible through the generous contributions of our members. Thank you for your commitment to our Lord's work. I can not think of a more appropriate Christmas gift to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will continue to receive offerings through the end of December.

I also want to thank everyone who played such an important role in our Christmas Musical and Living Nativity. Hundreds of lives were touched in Warrensburg as we shared the gift of Christmas with our community. Over a thousand witnessed the Living Nativity and somewhere between 500-600 enjoyed the lovely Christmas Musical presented by our Chorale.

This weekend we will be inviting even more to attend one of our two Christmas Eve Services on Saturday night at 5 & 7 p.m. As always, it will include a beautiful Lord's Supper Candle Light Service with the beautiful songs of Christmas. Christmas Day we will just have one big Worship Service at 10:45 a.m., as we unite together as a church family (No Sunday School).

While I know there will be many fellowships and New Year's Eve parties going on December 31, we will indeed be having Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., and one worship service at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 1, to kick off the New Year.

On Wednesday Night, January 4, we will be starting back up our Wednesday night suppers and services at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. respectively. The Deacons will be cooking and providing the first meal of the year. On Wednesday night, January 11, we will be having Deacon Ordination. Next year's chairman will be Steve Fox. On the next Wednesday night, January 18, I will be starting our January Bible Study in the Book of Ecclesiastes. A study guide will be available for those who wish to have one, and together we will be looking at "Answers to Life's Questions".

Movie Night: On Sunday night, January 22, we will be sponsoring a showing of the new Christian movie entitled, "Courageous" at 6:00 p.m. It is an excellent Christian film for the family. The theme for the movie is, "Honor Begins at Home". It is a very practical movie with outstanding reviews.
We are also sponsoring a Mission Trip to Haiti that will be January 22 through February 4th. Please talk to Jeannie Campbell if you think this is something you would like to support or be a part of.

There are always many opportunities to commit and recommit to the things we believe in at the beginning of a new year. While most new year's resolutions are not taken very seriously, you might want to pray this year about what the Lord would like to lay on your heart as you dedicate 2012 to Him.

Blessings Full Steam Ahead,

Pastor Randy

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**Movie Night!**

Sunday night, January 22, 2012

We will be sponsoring a showing of the new Christian movie entitled, *Courageous* at 6:00 p.m. On January 22. It is an excellent Christian film for the entire family.

The theme for the movie is, *Honor Begins at Home*. It is a very practical movie with outstanding reviews! Invite your friends and family!
What an outstanding effort by so many to make the Chorale’s seasonal mission presentations of “He Made a Way in a Manger” a HUGE success. These presentations are a direct reflection of many servants’ hearts at work. Each individual, doing their best to do their part, and using their spiritual gift(s) and/or talent(s) to provide unity in the body through their diversity. GPBC members living out scriptural mandates...

“What an outstanding effort by so many to make the Chorale’s seasonal mission presentations of “He Made a Way in a Manger” a HUGE success.

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” - Deuteronomy 6:5

“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” - 1 Corinthians 12:5-6

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” - 1 Corinthians 12:12

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” - 1 Corinthians 12:27

I would love to publicly thank each and every one who took part in any way to make this presentation a reality for our community. In no particular order.....THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU singers, instrumentalists, actors, actresses, secretaries, costume designers, writers, directors, tech crew, meal providers, make-up artists, set designers, set builders, set movers, greeters, riser-lender, riser-transporter, and of course our Pastor Randy. God’s message of his son’s birth and significance were proclaimed in a mighty way.... seeds planted, seeds watered. I can’t wait to watch how God will use these presentations in not only the attendees, but also in the presenters’ lives.

As I write this just one day after our last presentation, a kind of postpartum syndrome is settling upon me as one of the presenters. With all of the work, care, and concern that went into the final productions, it seems a void of some sort has formed. My mind keeps remembering portions of rehearsals, songs, and presentations and doesn’t seem to want to let go. As I reflect on why this might be, I can come up with one very possible reason... that God wants me to remember Him and that HE is the one that can fill that void... PERMANENTLY!!

This month’s encouragement comes in the form of recognizing that God is sovereign and that the resolutions that we might try to embark upon in the New Year should be led and filled by HIM. We should continue to recognize that many of the “things” that we spend our time and money on directly reflect our attitudes and priorities. We should ask ourselves, “do I reflect a God-centered life or a self-centered life?”; “Do my New Year’s resolutions have to do with becoming more like Christ, or a better self?”

Let’s start the New Year by admitting and believing by faith that God not only should be, but IS our number one priority. If we do this, then all of our earthly endeavors (and resolutions) will be in line with HIS will and our voids will be no more.

In His Service,

David
A New Day

January is truly a month of rededication and sincere life assessment. Millions of new habits will be formed and vows renewed as individuals all across the world will pledge themselves to a better life in some way, shape, or form. How may this renewed sense of commitment impact our lives as Christians and more specifically as Parkies? As we begin 2012 you could pledge to join a Sunday School class, commit yourself to attend the Spring Reach Out Training January 15th in the FLC from 2:30-5:00pm, or be a part of a Life University Class that will launch on February 12th at 6:00pm. I would encourage you to be a part of all of these opportunities, but I have one in particular that is especially fitting. Just last month I came across a four and a half year old writing in which I had written out a draft of my wedding vows. It was a terrific reminder of what I had pledged to my wife on our wedding day before her, that body of witnesses, and God himself. As a church we in a similar way have a ‘church covenant’ for which those desiring to be members pledge themselves to uphold to the best of their abilities in uniting themselves to our local body. I hope that you will take the time to prayerfully re-read our covenant and consider how you can be joyfully renewed in your commitment before the Lord in 2012:

GPBC Church Covenant

I will commit myself to God and to the members of GPBC to do the following:

1. I will strive to maintain unity in my church
   • By acting in loving ways toward the other members of the church.
   • By following the leadership of the church and submitting my life to their care.
   • By refusing to pass along any gossip that comes my way. (Rom 15:5, Heb 13:17, Eph 4:29)

2. I will share in the responsibilities of my church
   • By praying on a regular basis for the staff and members of the church.
   • By inviting those who are unchurched to attend.
   • By warmly welcoming those who visit.
   • By becoming a regular financial giver, with the ultimate goal of tithing and sacrificial giving.

3. I will serve in the ministries of my church
   • By seeking to discover my spiritual gifts and talents and investing them at GPBC.
   • By developing an attitude of a servant.
   • By seeking the necessary training to help me minister effectively for Jesus.
     (1 Pet 4:10, Phil 2:3-4, Eph 4:11-12)

4. I will support the testimony of my church
   • By being faithful in my attendance of the regular worship services.
   • By living a life that glorifies Jesus Christ. (Heb 10:24 & Phil 1:27)

May the Lord bless us as we seek to lovingly submit to His Lordship in 2012,

- Brent
Mature in Christ

In Colossians 1:28-29 Paul said, “Him (Jesus) we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that He powerfully works within me.” This is our prayer for our youth ministry. We desire to be a tool for parents in training up their youth in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus so that they will then go and do likewise. I believe all Christian parents and youth workers with their students can in many ways relate to Paul’s effort of pouring everything into the lives of others so that they may mature in the faith. By God’s grace, this will be the first full semester of ministry within and launching out from ‘The Park’. With that said, I want to sincerely thank Margaret Wittman and the fellowship committee for their work in organizing the house warming shower, for the youth area. Grover Park, you not only purchased everything in the registry for the youth area, but you went above and beyond and provided over $200 dollars that will go directly to providing scholarships for future students to be a part of youth retreats, camps, and mission trips. Your love and generosity are amazing. As our Wednesday night Huddles fire back up on January 11th, we will begin our semester long series of examining the ‘Heroes’ of Scripture. In this adventure we will study a praiseworthy characteristic that individuals in Scripture displayed, but that ultimately God is the Hero of the story. As we begin our new year, here are the basics of our monthly gatherings you will want to take note of:

• Breakfast with Jesus from 9:30-10:30am. Of course, our doors are open by 9:10am for students to hang out and get a jump on breakfast. We will be spending time in the book of Proverbs this semester and understanding what it looks like to be a wise student in the eyes of God.

• Family Crossfire will begin on February 12th as one of our Life University classes. You will be hearing much more about this next month, but in short we desire for parent(s)/guardian to come alongside your student and have a tremendous amount of fun as you learn more about each other and the Word together.

• Memory Monday will get kicked off January 23rd and we will meet every Monday that Warrensburg has classes with exception of the Monday after SLAM Weekend.

• The doors for Huddles will open up @ 5:15pm. After students are done with dinner they will come back down to The Park to connect until Huddles formally begin at 6:30pm and conclude at 7:40pm. We decided to move our start time back in large part because 6:00pm was not enough time for most of our students in extra curricular activities to make it in time. This schedule will be more accommodating, though do note we will not formally dismiss until 7:40pm.

• Party @ The Park. This will be a monthly Friday night hangout where we open our doors to our youth and the youth of the community to try to build relationships and have some fun doing it.

- Brent
Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for all that you have done for me and my family. The recent event involving my aunt is very hard on my family, some of us more than others. None the less, I would like to ask to continually pray for peace and comfort for my family. There are some of you who donated money for my plane ticket, and I believe that God put that on your hearts because he put some things on my heart to do while I was there and both things were so fitting. Thank you every one for all of our support and love that you have always!

- Regina Hicks

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**Youth - Key Dates to Remember!**

- December 31<sup>st</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>: The Eve lock-in from 8:30pm-morning worship.
- January 4<sup>th</sup>: Youth Fun Night & Vision Night 6:00-7:30pm
- January 11<sup>th</sup>: First Night of Huddles from 6:30-7:40pm
- January 15<sup>th</sup>: Church Reach Out Training from 2:30-5:00pm in the FLC
- January 22<sup>nd</sup>: Church Movie Night: COURAGEOUS @ 6:00pm in the Sanctuary
- January 23<sup>rd</sup>: First Memory Monday from 2:30-5:00pm
- January 27<sup>th</sup>: Party @ The Park from 7:00-9:00pm
- February 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>: Mother-Daughter retreat
- March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> SLAM WEEKEND

*(Put me on your fridge :-)*

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**Trust God in Everything**

**Conference for Tweens, Teens, Women**

February 25-26, 2012
Saturday 12:55 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
&
Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Camden Hotel and Conference Center
Branson, Missouri
Registration is not refundable, but it is transferable!
$20 registration fee for women
$30 registration fee for girls (grades 3-12)
More information is available at
www.mobaptist.org/wm
or call Wanda Shellenbarger,
Women’s Ministry Consultant,
Missouri Baptist Convention, 417-529-0724.

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**Save Labels for Cash!**

Save your Best Choice Labels and place them in the Jar in the Foyer on the Information table and raise money for our Youth Group! Every label saved is worth six cents. Call the church office for more information, 747-7196.

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**F.A.I.T.H. Riders “Bike Night”**
January 26, at 6:00 p.m.
Please feel free to contact Kevin Colburn for more information, at 909-9415 or email, at faithriders2007@yahoo.com

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**Food Pantry Needs**
On Sunday January 15, we will be collecting Non-Perishable Food Items, Paper Products, & Cleaning supplies., for the Food Pantry. Please remember those in need in our Community by donating!
Plug In!
Where do you want to be plugged in at GPBC?
Opportunity abounds!

“No Matter Whatever It Takes”
Tidbit Party
Tuesday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m.

Seven months ago we stared a program that paired willing women to pray and encourage each other. We plan to have a special night on January 17 to discuss the program and see how it’s going. Bring some tidbits (finger foods) for a light supper, and come to share and learn more about how we can grow as Christian Women.

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Game Night ~ Come Just As You Are!
The movie night held in October was so popular, we were asked to do a game night! So, join us on Tuesday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m. for an evening of fun and games. Bring your favorite game if you have one. Be a player or an observer - we’ll all have fun! Be sure to bring your favorite snack & enough to share!

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Women’s Spring Retreat at Windermere
Our annual Women’s Weekend is scheduled for April 27-29, 2012. In January we will meet to begin our planning for this very special event as we seek to focus on what God wants for the conference. If you want to be a part of this group, please feel free to contact Melissa Gower at 238-0212.

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Opportunities Abound!
The Women’s Ministry seeks to help others by faithfully supporting food ministries in the church. We periodically prepare the Wednesday night dinner, and also provide dinners to help BSU Student Ministries reach out to UCM students. Frequently there are families in our church who need assistance with meals because of illness, sorrow, or new babies. If we all work together we can do much to show God’s love through our action in serving others. If you would like to be put on the list of those we can call when we need food items, or if you believe God may be calling you to help with planning and coordination of meal preparation, contact Melissa Gower at 660-238-0212 or pmgower@embarqmail.com.

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Looking Ahead!
In May we will be starting a six week Bible Study.

Other activities and opportunities will be announced through the year, so stay tuned… and get plugged in!

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Women’s Ministry Prayer Chain
There is a way to get plugged in to GPBC though our prayer chain. Be sure Monica Fox (monnie_54@yahoo.com) has your e-mail address, and when you have a prayer request, stated or unstated, let her know, and she will send out a note to the women on the Prayer Chain to start praying.
The New Year is here! I realize that there are still 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day and 365 days in a year, but it still seems like 2011 really zipped by! We can praise our Heavenly Father for His magnificent love, mercy and grace that He bestows each day. Have you counted your blessings from last year? Are you looking forward to what God is going to do in the days ahead? Continue to pray for one another that God’s presence and provision will be so very evident in our lives.

Recently a large number of Grover Park members were involved in reading through the Bible in 90 days. What a blessing it is to read God’s Word and His wonderful message of Faith, Hope and Love through the saving grace of Jesus Christ! If you weren’t able to participate, you can be assured that there is no better time than the present to pick up your Bible and get started. Brent Bullard can give you a chart that will guide you along the way. You may wonder what does reading through the Bible have to do with stewardship. Read on!

As you read through chapter after chapter, it becomes apparent that God never gave up on His people. He perhaps had every reason to do so. His children rebelled, followed idols, sinned greatly and wandered away from the Truth. Yet, God in His wonderful mercy bestowed blessings on His people. Jesus was God’s ultimate blessing, the gift of Salvation. As Jesus walked this earth, He taught, healed, blessed and provided. The Bible reveals to us that God continues to provide for us through His Son. We can count on His provision in our lives just as He has throughout history.

What can we give Him in return? First, we can give Him our hearts. By accepting Jesus as Savior, we also can give Him our time, talent and treasure. We are called to share Jesus through our witness of His saving grace. We can also share what He has given us. That’s where stewardship comes in. There are numerous avenues of service at Grover Park. You might be called by God to (in no particular order): teach a class, wash some dishes, sing in the chorale, visit the nursing home, take out the trash, lead a small group, plant the garden, share the Gospel, prepare a meal, give a testimony, serve on a committee and the list could go on and on. There are many areas of service, and all are important.

Oh yes, and stewardship includes money. You didn’t think I would forget, did you? It’s a fact that most of what we do here at Grover Park has a cost involved. There is a price in both human and monetary capital. But the point here is not to make Grover members feel guilty about giving. The point is that your participation is valuable, not only to fellow members, but also to God. The New Year also brings a new financial year in the life of our church. Your decision about what you give is between you and God. When you receive your contribution envelopes, please consider using them on a regular basis. We may not give equal gifts, but together, through God’s blessing and grace, we will all be a regular part of the mission of Grover Park Baptist Church: “To Know Christ and to Make Him Known.” Happy New Year! God is good!

- Bill Gravely
If you are a follower of Jesus, 
YOU have been part of fulfilling the great commission. 
WE HAVE, as Randy stated, gone way beyond our pledged amount for Lottie Moon this year. These monies will send many Missionaries over this world to be YOUR HEART, YOUR HANDS and YOUR VOICE. 
It is exciting to see WHO and WHERE the IMB with our Father’s help will send workers too. PRAISE THE LORD!!!!!!

Looking to January the Mission focus is 
“Shoes4Souls”.

We will be collecting new or gently used shoes for peoples around the world that have faced many natural disasters this past year. I will be taking some to Haiti with me. It has been two years since the devastating earthquake there. Rebuilding is happening but there are still many folks that are still in desperate need. I don’t know about you but I have too many shoes. I can’t imagine having only one pair or possibly none. The lack of shoes is one of the reasons so many people have worms, they walk in the dirt and sand without any covering on their feet. If you would include a pair of socks with each pair of shoes except for flip flops and sandals.

We will be having a work night on Jan. 19th at 6:30 p.m. Our plan is to finish and or start projects or whatever is needed. Projects include Pillow Case Dresses and Mission Dolls. I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in making these gifts to take to the children of Bocampatriot and Gombo. Please pray that the right choice is made for each child.

January 22, Jeannie will travel to Haiti. We will travel by lumber truck to the Mts. and Hills for 12 hrs. in order to reach of the villages. At the villages we will provide medical care, give them hymnals and Bibles in their language along with doing construction of homes and churches. We also provide Bible School and Bible study along with much sharing of the Word. On my last trip many of the young men wanted to learn English so during our clinic we had ESL lessons along with the care given. We ask for your prayers during our travels and while serving. Please pray that we will take the needed supplies with us in order to meet the needs of those we care for.

Mark your Calendars now for our Annual Mission Festival, February 29th. It will be held in the Family Life Center.

If you would like to have your ministry featured, please give Jeannie Campbell a call, at 238-6501.
NEW MEMBERS
Paul Wilson
Cheryl Wilson
Caleb Wilson
Sarah Woodard
Elise Hardy

Our Staff...

Dr. Randall S. Neal - Senior Pastor
David Robinson - Music Minister
Brent Bullard - Minister of Youth & Education
Mark Wigginton - Assistant Youth Pastor, Intern.
Tammy Shirley - Administrative Assistant
Debbie Maguffee & Ray Fann - Custodians

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. & Worship 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Shepherd's Place (Children) 10:45 a.m.
Youth - CrossFire 6:00 p.m.
Children - R.A.'s / G.A.'s 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Dinner 5:30 p.m., Family Worship Night 6:30 p.m.