

January—February  
2011

# Graceland Newsletter

## Pastor's Ponderings

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*As the merriment of Christmas still fills our hearts, we now begin the journey of a new year. Decorations will soon be coming down but our spirits need not join them. A phrase from one of the Christmas hymns continues to resound in my mind as the New Year is contemplated: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight." Hopes—dreams—aspirations and yes—fears! Fears are a normal part of human life. Today we continue to hold fears for our economy, nation, jobs, well-being, health and quite possibly even fears related to our hopes.*

*The fear of failure or not attaining our dreams holds many people back from even attempting. The very size of our aspirations seems to increase the size of our fears. We tend to be comfortable with hopes thought realistically attainable or personally achievable. God-sized goals and dreams on the other hand seem to multiply our fears. Loosing ten pounds this year seems attainable while feeding all those starving in the world appears far-fetched. Sharing Jesus with a neighbor is possible but reaching the entire world with the gospel message of Christ seems impossible. Giving an extra hundred dollars to the church is possible while reaching an ambitious church budget or building a multi-million dollar building eludes us.*

*Why? This is the question which plagues our minds. We embark upon this New Year with the thought that it will be much like the previous year. As a matter of fact, if last year was for the most part good, comfortable, and profitable that tends to be all we hope for in the next. Just keep us from tragedy becomes our prayer. In essence our hopes become shaped and limited by our fears. This is the answer to the*

*question of why. We need less focus on the first part of the hymns statement and more focus on the later portion: "ARE MET in THEE tonight." Because Jesus is here nothing is impossible!*

*It was Jesus and twelve disciples who fed a multitude with five loaves and two fish. It was Jesus, twelve apostles, and all believers since who spread the gospel message around the world making Christianity the largest religious faith today. And it will be Jesus with His present day disciples (us) who continues to accomplish the humanly impossible dreams of tomorrow.*

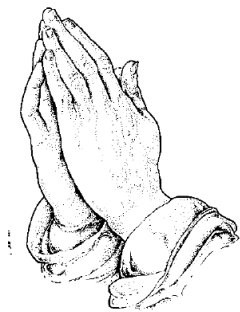
*We will dream big this year because we place our faith in the presence and power of Jesus the Christ. As the writer of Hebrews reminds believers: "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). William Carey encouraged believers this way, "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." Just as fears seem to increase with the size of our dreams the rewards of stepping out in faith also increase. The strength of faith is found in the assurance that all our hopes are met and fears overcome in Jesus our present Lord!*

*Love in Christ,*

*Ron*



PRAY FOR OUR  
SPIRITUAL  
GROWTH.  
A SPIRITUAL  
GIFT IS GIVEN  
TO EACH OF US  
SO WE CAN HELP  
EACH OTHER.



## Care Team News

Greetings from the Care Team! We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Your Care Team is excited about the new year and is looking forward to serving those in need. Distributing Ron's sermon on tape is one way in which we can serve those who are unable to make it to church. Please let me know if you know of anyone who would like to "check out" a taped sermon to listen at home. We can also make arrangements to listen to past sermons as well. Another way we are serving our church members is by "adopting" a shut-in. By "adopting" the CT member is responsible for visiting, calling and sending cards to that shut-in. However we do encourage all church members to visit those who cannot make it out of their home, but just let the CT member know so they can stay updated on how many visits they are getting. For Christmas each shut-in received a stocking full of goodies so they know we love and appreciate them. We are always looking for new members so please let me know if you are interested in helping our team.

## Youth News

We have an exciting 2011 upon us. We successfully grew our youth ministry in 2010 through the innovation of the Youth Praise Band and Youth Small Groups on Sunday nights. The after-school bible study was a great success, as well. This year will have many ministries carry over, but you can also expect some new endeavors as well. We will continue to meet on Sunday nights. As the praise band continues to perfect songs, we anticipate having a small praise and worship time prior to the bible study. We also

will continue to have small groups, though not exclusively. We will do some large group studies and activities so we can continue to get to know one another. I had an awesome 2010 and look forward to the same in 2011.

Events on the horizon:

Family Dinner and Movie Night Fund-raiser: Friday January 28 (Movie: Toy Story 3)

## Youth Fundraiser Opportunity

The youth group invites you to join us for a dinner and a movie. Like October, we'll have a meal in the fellowship hall and then watch Toy Story 3 together. The youth members will be selling drinks, popcorn, and candy. Please join us on Friday, January 28, at 6:30 for dinner. The movie will start at 7:15 pm.

TIM ALLEN

TOM HANKS

THE TOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN!



*“Before the  
mountains were  
born or you brought  
forth the earth and  
the world, from  
everlasting to  
everlasting you are  
God.”  
Psalms 90:2*



## Grow Team

The GROW (Graceland Reaching Our World) Team is always blessed by going out into our community and meeting the new residents that have just moved into the area. Many times, we have seen our neighbors come to Graceland after our visits. Sometimes, they have joined our congregation and have become very active in service as they have made an impact in others' lives.

The word impact means to have “forcible contact between two things,” and God has designed our lives for a collision course with the world (meaning He came for all people). We must make contact with the world so that the people of the world know God came for them.

I want to invite you to come and join us Sunday afternoons at 2:30 as we take out baskets of Panera Bread to people that are new in our community. You will have made an impact on your world by sharing the Love of Christ with others!! You will be blessed!!

Happy New Year,

Greg LeMaster

Note: Please see me or give me a call (598-3573) if you would like to come out and join us.

## W.O.M. News

For November and December, the W.O.M. (Women On Missions) spearheaded and helped with the following:

Samaritan's Purse

Angel Tree

Clothes Closet (collecting canned meat and chunky soup).

Hazel wishes to thank each one for meeting and passing the Lottie Moon goal. Our goal for this year was \$2000.00. She also thanks each one for their prayers.

The W.O.M. works on mission projects each month in our community, county, or international. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00p.m. until 8:00p.m. We invite all ladies interested in missions to join us!



*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

*Matthew 28:19*

## Nottingham Green Ministry

The ministry to internationals at Nottingham Green continues to explode! Through five months of relationship building, God has provided a family to host our Bible studies. We meet inside an apartment of a family from Sudan. The Sudanese father is a strong Christian and feels a call to ministry. In fact, he hosts a Sudanese fellowship at a local church. Also attending our Bible studies are families from Jamaica, Nigeria, Nepal, and America. God continues to open doors, and we are meeting new families each week. Many of these families have expressed an interest in attending the Bible studies. We continue to need your prayers.

Perhaps the greatest asset to our ministry in the apartments is the Panera Bread we

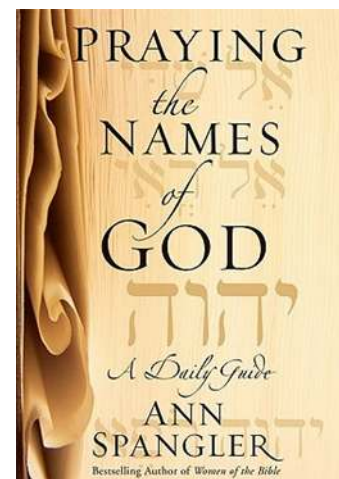
distribute. The bread opens up so many doors (literally and figuratively) since it allows us a chance to explain why we have bread and freely give it away. Greg gets a chance to tell the folks about the Bread of Life on account of the bread we have. We’ve only visited about 80 of 520 units, so we need more greeters. If you have an interest in this ministry and have a day free, contact Greg LeMaster or Matt Winters.

We’re making plans for a big Children’s Fun day during Spring Break. On Thursday, April 21, we need twenty volunteers to help us connect with 200 children and adults at Nottingham Green. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this ministry!

## Education News

For several years folks have been asking for a study on prayer. Prayer is the foundation of our faith as we use prayer to listen to God as He directs our lives. As we enjoy our new year, the church is offering two classes on prayer, and we want you to consider joining one. The first is a five week study beginning in February facilitated by Kathy Southworth called “Praying the Names of God.” This study analyzes the names of God and helps participants understand all the actions that God undertakes in our lives— based on His biblical names. The second study is facilitated by John Vincent and is called “Prayer walking.” In this study, you will develop a greater understanding for your journey of faith by taking steps

in contemplation and prayer. This study should begin around the beginning of February. I hope you’ll consider developing your prayer life through one of these studies.



## House Church Network!

As the new year begins, we have experienced God's work by beginning of three house churches! These three house churches have formed a new House Church Network! The Lord continues to bless us with another three that are in the process of starting up by the Spring 2011!! This would be awesome to see six house churches up and running by year's end!! Keep praying for us as we seek God's direction in reaching our world for Him. Also, a House Church Mission School is being planned as we teach and train others in order to equip them in beginning their own house church or simple church group.

The purpose for these house churches are simple. Our heart and vision are to impact the world for Christ! We want to take the gospel to those in the world that do not know him. We also want to take the church to those who have grown disenfranchised with the existing church model. We want to disciple these new Christians as they make decisions for Christ so we can see the kingdom of God grow exponentially. This is our agenda: to make disciples and then send them out to intentionally begin to reach our world. Some of them may be called to start their own house churches/simple church groups.

I have listed these house churches below for your prayers support! Thank you for your continued support and remember that these are all lay-led churches, and your prayers are coveted: A. Neighborhood Fellowship in Powhatan, B. Special Friends and Family Fellowship at the Powhatan Library, C. Nottingham Green Apartments in Richmond, D. Amelia Area (Spring 2011 start date), E. Powhatan Area (Spring 2011 start date), F. Businessmen's Group in Powhatan.

If you would like more information on House Churches or a House Church Mission School, please feel free to contact me at 598-3481, or see me.

## Upcoming Events

January 8th, 10:00a.m.–2:00p.m. Day of Prayer at Church

January 28, don't forget Family Dinner and Movie Night Fundraiser!

In February, Kathy Southworth will begin teaching a class for approximately 5 weeks entitled "Praying the Names of God".

In February, John Vincent will lead a prayer walking class. Date to be announced.

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

*Genesis 12:1-3*



## New Bathrooms Under Construction

I'm sure you've seen the bathrooms in the old building closed with signs on them "Do not use." That's because an exciting event is taking place behind the doors. The bathrooms are being remodeled, and they'll look great. Thanks to everyone who has been working hard in the bathrooms, including Mike Lee, Harold Mann, Dale Martin, Susan Martin, and Brenda Kagels. We anticipate the bathrooms will be finished soon.

The TEL Class honored Peggy Osborne on her birthday with a luncheon at Italian Delight restaurant in September. 23 members attended.



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*Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. John 3:18*

First John tells us that we are not to merely talk about love, but to put our love into action. When we see the needs of others, the Bible tells us to help.

At the beginning of this new year, let us resolve to put love into  
**ACTION!**

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### January Birthdays

|          |               |              |
|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 01/01/82 | Amy           | Berger       |
| 01/02/91 | Jonni         | Seal         |
| 01/02/68 | Paige         | Anderson     |
| 01/02/65 | Lisa          | Fore         |
| 01/03/57 | Judy          | Cahoon       |
| 01/07/92 | Linzy         | Andrews      |
| 01/07/99 | Katy          | Spain        |
| 01/09/67 | Sherry        | Elwell       |
| 01/09/41 | Betty         | Pike         |
| 01/10/62 | Connie        | Rothwell     |
| 01/10/63 | John W.       | Hash, Jr.    |
| 01/11/92 | Joshua        | Morris       |
| 01/13/71 | Carole        | Webb         |
| 01/15/56 | Donna         | Jackson      |
| 01/15/97 | Jordan        | Fore         |
| 01/16/45 | Harvey        | Taylor       |
| 01/16/38 | Shirley       | Bradbury     |
| 01/19/91 | Robert        | Trent        |
| 01/19/XX | Robert        | Beasley, Jr. |
| 01/20/XX | Iris          | Kenny        |
| 01/20/71 | Mikey         | Broyles      |
| 01/21/68 | Eric          | Callaway     |
| 01/21/41 | Robert Lee    | Laws         |
| 01/21/48 | Patricia      | Jones        |
| 01/22/39 | William       | Pike         |
| 01/22/46 | Patricia      | Perry        |
| 01/23/85 | Krystle       | Revels       |
| 01/24/96 | Mariah        | Wright       |
| 01/24/XX | Pat           | Kenny        |
| 01/26/90 | James (Ricky) | Painter      |
| 01/26/93 | Sarah Jayne   | Beasley      |
| 01/29/97 | Jonathan      | Carter       |
| 01/30/70 | Cathy         | Carter       |

### February Birthdays

|          |                  |                 |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|
| 02/01/XX | Mary             | Watson          |
| 02/01/96 | Bethany          | LeMaster        |
| 02/01/63 | Kathy            | Layman          |
| 02/01/37 | William (Bill)   | Skipper         |
| 02/02/66 | Henry            | Lester          |
| 02/02/XX | Jeanette Jackson | Preston         |
| 02/04/47 | Patricia "Pat"   | Beninghove      |
| 02/05/44 | Carolyn          | Taylor          |
| 02/05/50 | Joseph           | Gordon          |
| 02/05/57 | Randy            | Huddleston      |
| 02/05/91 | Jessica          | Glidewell       |
| 02/06/66 | Vickie           | Perkins         |
| 02/07/53 | Winifred         | Beasley         |
| 02/09/79 | Jonathan Scott   | Cable           |
| 02/09/38 | Louise Osborne   | Spiers          |
| 02/10/43 | Barbara Cable    | Lang            |
| 02/11/43 | Esther           | Clarke          |
| 02/11/81 | Crystal Boyer    | Gravitt         |
| 02/11/98 | Jennifer         | Fore            |
| 02/13/62 | Cheryl Ann       | Cooke           |
| 02/14/48 | Joseph F.        | Beninghove, Jr. |
| 02/15/72 | Wendy            | Norwood         |
| 02/15/77 | Angela "Robin"   | Williams        |
| 02/16/74 | Matt             | Snyder          |
| 02/18/45 | Carolyn          | Jones           |
| 02/18/85 | Monica R.        | Baker           |
| 02/18/28 | Hassell          | Osborne         |
| 02/21/95 | Elizabeth        | Bradbury        |
| 02/22/39 | Mary Lou         | Bradbury        |
| 02/22/56 | Janice           | Edelen          |
| 02/26/91 | Nicole Justine   | Cavazos         |
| 02/26/60 | Michael          | Sparks          |
| 02/26/80 | Chatham          | Dorton          |
| 02/28/69 | Phoebe           | Wright          |
| 02/28/71 | Mark Edwin       | Davis           |
| 02/28/82 | Jennifer         | Spicer          |

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.*

*2 Corinthians 4:16*



## FAITH, FAMILY, FUTURE IN F.O.C.U.S.

### Shut-In Update and Birthdays

Mrs. Thelma Whitaker (6-26)

c/o Linda Ondrati

4251 Audubon Oak Circle Apt #101

Lakeland, FL 33809

863-606-5241

Dorothy Younce (5-28)

547 Clayville Road

Powhatan, VA 23139

598-4347

Ms. Jennifer Manaigian (11-13)

2009 Moseley Road

Moseley, VA 23120

598-4417

Mr. Art Williams

2425 Moore Road

Powhatan, VA 23139

Roscoe & Dale Gunn

(11-17) & (10-21)

1847 Jeter Road

Powhatan, VA 23139

598-5323

Ms. Ruth Moore (3/30)

P O Box 2556

Midlothian, VA 23113

598-3044 –Maxine

Home address: 1400 Dorset Rd

Mrs. Brenda Yeary (10-11)

4513 Bookridge Road

Chesterfield, VA 23832

744-5551

Mrs. Susan Hardie (3-17)

2540 Butterwood Drive

Powhatan, VA 23139

598-8466

Bobby & Jeanette Preston

(10-14) & (2-2)

Lexington Court

1776 Cambridge Drive

Richmond, VA 23238

Betty Stockner (12-14)

4000 Hailey Crescent Dr.

Apt. 103

Midlothian, VA 23113

303-7325 (until February)

Jimmy Lassiter (10-7)

1201 Schroeder Road

Powhatan, VA 23139

598-2973

740-6174



975 Dorset Road, Powhatan, VA 23139

(804) 598-3481

E-Mail [gracelandbc@earthlink.net](mailto:gracelandbc@earthlink.net)

**We're on the Web!**

**[www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org](http://www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org)**