



Pastor's Ponderings

In the book of Acts these words begin verse 43 of chapter 2: **“Everyone was filled with awe.”** Have you felt the sense of “awe” recently? The feeling is the awesome presence of God moving in our midst. Since the first service in January of 2009, the Spirit of God has been moving among us and I, for one, am in “AWE.”

Every Sunday here in 2009 decisions have been made for Christ. Last Sunday we baptized nine more believers into the fellowship. In the last two months, God has added to our number 21 through baptism, and others through transfer of letter or statement of faith. Add to these the number of rededications to God and service. What a sense of awe!

Recently, another event brought about this divine awareness. Rebekah mistakenly dialed a wrong number in an attempt to speak with a member. Realizing her mistake, she hung up and dialed the correct number. After a few moments the church office phone rang and a woman inquired about a missed call she observed on her caller ID. She went on to relate that she decided to call because she had been praying to God and noted the ID identified Graceland Baptist Church. What had she been praying you may ask? She was praying for God to lead her to a local church here in Powhatan. Is that a coincidence or God incident? My mouth dropped in amazement for I am inclined to believe the later.

You can witness this sense of awe in the words of members and the expressions on their faces. You can even catch a glimpse in the surrounding community as citizens express that Graceland is a church where things are happening. Just this week a person who has been visiting here exclaimed, “Pastor, you have something beautiful here at Graceland with such a loving and caring fellowship of believers, may this always be valued and protected. I have seen firsthand how quickly the devil can invade to take it away.” May this never be! It is my prayer that this spirit among us be valued and protected always.

Acts 2:42-47 states how the sense of awe and the wonders and signs that accompany it were maintained. The believers devoted themselves to Christian teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread (both in communion and fellowship), to a common purpose (the cause of Christ to reach the world), to the sharing of resources in meeting the needs of others, and to “sincere hearts” praising God and praying. I know sincere hearts are praising God and praying daily. I feel His presence in our midst as the result.

Let us keep up the prayers and all our efforts so that we may continue to experience what the first century church experienced in Acts 2:47: **“And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved!”**

Love in Christ,
Ron



Upcoming Mission Trips:

Mission Trip to Louisiana In February Katrina House

Graceland is sending a group to Port Sulphur, LA to start the building of a new house to replace a home that was destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina. Port Sulphur is about 80 miles southeast of New Orleans on the Mississippi Delta.

Sixteen people from Graceland will be participating in this mission trip: Keith Bradbury, Dawn Bradbury, Stuart Condrey, Carolyn Jones, Walt Jones, Stephanie Blanton, Fran Leehy, Neal Leehy, John Vincent, Barbara Vincent, Carolyn Watts, Ron Wyatt, Matt Winters, Matt Snyder, Mark Casteel and Bruce Bartlam. The team will be framing the entire house including the roof. Several of the team members will be cooking and providing meals for everyone.

The group will be traveling by cars, leaving on February 21st and returning home on March 1st.

We ask for your prayers for our project as we represent our church and as we strive to be a witness to those that we come to meet while we are there.



Nicaragua Mission Trip

Ed and Kathy Spowls will be returning to Nicaragua in February.

Any contributions you feel led to give would be greatly appreciated.

They Leave on February 19th and will return on the 28th.

Please pray that God will prepare the receiving hearts for His message.

Junior Church News

JR. CHURCH IS A VERY EXCITING PROGRAM GIVING CHILDREN, FIRST GRADE THRU THE SIXTH GRADE, A LEARNING TOOL TO USE IN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES.

IT GIVES OUR TEAM GREAT PLEASURE TO SERVE AS TEACHERS TO YOUR CHILDREN. WE PRAY THAT THEY KNOW GOD IS WITH THEM THROUGH ALL THINGS.

REMEMBER TO ASK YOUR CHILDREN WHAT THEY LEARNED EACH SUNDAY.

TEAM LEADERS NAMES ARE GREG AND CHRIS LEMASTER, STEPHNIE BLANTON AND JAKE ALDRIDGE, ANGELA AND DARNYSHA NARD, APRIL AND DOUG DOWDLE, CHRISTINE DORTON AND HAROLD MANN.

ANYONE INTERESED IN BECOMING A PART OF THIS TEAM CONTACT SHOULD CHRISTINE DORTON AT 598-7417.

Danielle Smith is starting a book collection for Flat Rock Elementary school **in memory of her mom, Daphne Andrews**. Daphne worked at this library for a long time and loved working with the children.

The school does have some requests, but all elementary school books are welcome.

Please see the bulletin board for the requested books.

You may bring the books to the office or give them to Danielle.



Baptist Men's Group

► February 14, 2009 -- Saturday, 8:00 a.m. -- Men's Breakfast

To all the men of the church, you are welcome to our Men's Breakfast. Please mark your calendar for the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have a delicious breakfast, devotion, and fellowship. Our next meeting will be February 14, 2009.

Thanks to all the men who cut, split, and stacked logs for firewood. Also, we painted a Sunday School room in January.

We were blessed in having 34 men at our January meeting. Let's try to top that number in February. Please come and bring a friend!

Please come and join us.

Earl Lodge



WOM News

We invite all women of the church to come and meet with us. We meet on the second Tuesday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. Hope you can make our February meeting on the 10th. At our January meeting, we discussed ways to increase our mission works. We voted on new mission projects for February and March.



CARE TEAM NEWS

Please mark Sunday, February 8th, on your calendar. Dr. Dan Bagby will facilitate a workshop on Stress Management for the Care Team immediately following the worship service on that day. A light lunch will be provided. Although the Care Team is sponsoring this event, everyone in the church is invited to participate. A sign-up sheet is provided on the bulletin board.

The Care Team has been busy this past month with calls, cards, visits and meals. We would like to thank everyone in the church for communicating with us and letting us know when there is a need. This communication link is crucial to the Team's success, and we truly appreciate your cooperation.

A meeting of the Care Team was held this past Sunday, and an up-to-date list of shut-ins and nursing home residents was presented. Care Team members are encouraged to send a Valentine to each of these people, and we would suggest that members of the congregation do the same. Those who cannot attend church regularly at this time really appreciate being remembered.

Thank you, Nelda and Pat, Co-Chairmen



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GROW

VERY IMPORTANT!

There is a calendar on the bulletin board under the "Church Information" section for any Sunday School class or any organization or individual who wants to join us - please write your name or class on the day you will participate. YOU, as an individual, may also sign up if you have any Sunday afternoon you can visit with us. Sign up for one Sunday a month or any time you can go. Many groups are coming out at different times, and this will help us in our planning process and making sure we have the right number of baskets.

THANKS, Greg

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

February 1: "Jesus, the One and Only" Study beginning January 11, 2009 through March 29, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday

February 4: 6:00 p.m. - Family Night Supper
Entree:

7:00 p.m. Business Meeting

February 7 6:00 p.m. we will have a commitment service for our Easter play.

February 14: 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

February 15 and 22: Photo sign up Dates:
There are four ways you can sign up. We hope this will make it easier and take less time for sign-up. We do want each and every one to have their photo taken.

1. Immediately following both the 8:30 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. service, we will have tables set up in the Fellowship Hall for you to sign up for your photos.

2 There will also be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

3 You may call the office, during office hours.

4 Internet sign-up will also be available

Monday–February 16th until Friday the 20th
Monday-February 23rd until Friday the 27th

Our church photography: sessions:

March 12, 13, 14; and April 3, 4
Thursdays and Fridays: 2:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

March 8: Daylight Savings Time begins

Youth News:

March 21: 2:00 p.m. Annual Youth Fashion Show: This year's theme is "God's Blessings."

There will be door prizes, tea, good food, and lots of exciting styles to see. We will need a lot of help to make this event a success. Please come and be a part of this event. All proceeds go to the Youth Mission Funds.

Christine Dorton 598-7417

April 9 7:00 P.M: "DaVinci's Last Supper"
You will not want to miss this inspirational play. Plan to be here early.

April 12: EASTER -- Thank God for what this day means to all Christians

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Please help us keep our members informed about current and upcoming events. If you have information for the Sunday bulletin, please send it to the office by Wednesday before the Sunday you need it in the bulletin. When possible, please submit your information to the e-mail address listed below. Our Web site, <http://www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org>, contains a calendar of upcoming events.

E-Mail: www.gracelandbc@earthlink.net

If you have pictures, announcements or any information you want in the newsletter, please submit it by the 15th of the previous month in order to have it printed.

Thanks to each of you. Rebekah



"We all had turns talking with Santa"



"Waiting for Santa, 'Goodies look inviting'"

Donate Your Used – Yet Usable Eyeglasses

We have a box in the Fellowship Hall for collecting used glasses for those that cannot afford new glasses. The Lions Clubs heads this wonderful project all year, but it is very important that we ALL do our part to aid others that may not be able to afford the price of new glasses. Robert Butler is in charge of the collecting for Graceland Baptist Church. Please search at home and bring all the glasses you can find. Let's fill the box to the top!

Graceland Baptist Church

We're on the Web! Visit us at:
<http://www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org/>
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