

March-April  
2011

### Upcoming Events:

- March 20 Prayer Walking Class
- March 25 Youth Dinner and Movie
- March 28 Deacons Class
- April 12 Leadership Banquet
- April 21 Maundy Communion Service
- April 24 Easter Sunrise Service



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# Graceland Newsletter

## Pastor's Ponderings

Recently, a letter was read to the congregation congratulating us for the accomplishments in reaching people for Christ. The letter came from the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at Southern Baptist Seminary. It noted, based on the number of baptisms and the ratio of baptisms to resident active members, recorded in the most recent published Annual Church Profile, Graceland ranked in the top 4% (the top 2,000 churches) of all Southern Baptist Churches. What an accomplishment to celebrate! It is truly special to be recognized for a job well done. Of course, we would exclaim, we were merely being faithful to the call of Jesus and we acknowledge that much work yet lies ahead.

***“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men” (Mark 1:17).*** “Follow me” denotes that Jesus is both the leader and example for our lives. Here at Graceland, a call to fishing could spark a mad rush for tackle boxes, poles, and boats hitched to our trucks. For the first century disciples, the call sparked them to action as well: ***“at once they left their nets and followed Him” (Mark 1:18).*** Leave their nets and equipment, you may ask. Yes, that is correct. They left their careers, comforts, communities, and even families to embrace a higher purpose in life. Their purpose was to share the love and grace of God to all people in need around them. It is the same call we have today, to leave our own personal interests (or use them for a new purpose) to fully invest ourselves into transforming the lives of others. In the process of transforming others with the gospel of Christ, we ourselves are transformed and blessed - both blessings for this life and for eternity!

As we now embark upon our journey with Jesus through the Lenten season and to the cross, let us remember another call to follow Him: ***“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me’ (Matthew 16:24).*** Taking up a cross is the image of sacrifice and surrender to a higher purpose in life. Just like the first disciples, Jesus still calls us to abandon self-interests and actions to fulfill His purpose. We are called to be faithful in following His leadership and example and to transform the world one life at a time.

Continued page 8

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

## Upcoming Graceland Mission Trips

For the past several years, about forty people have participated in Graceland Baptist Church mission trips. We have traveled to Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Southwestern Virginia and have served as witnesses of God's love to hundreds of people. While we always make an impact in the local communities, we always come back changed. We come back with our priorities in life adjusted, we come back with a simpler view of life, and we come back knowing God's love is real in our lives. The year 2011 will be more of the same as we want to invite you to participate in two different mission trips. First, in August, we will travel to Booneville, Kentucky to help build, or rebuild a home for a family in need. We will be working with a local Baptist missionary, Paula Settle, who coordinates mission projects for work teams in a coal mining community. Paula has invited our church to come to Kentucky to share God's love with the people and to offer hope to hope-strained community. We will focus on construction during this mission trip, though there will be other ministry opportunities for men and women who feel called to attend but do not have the desire to construct. We ask that if you are interested in attending to please prayerfully consider your role and attend the meetings when they are announced.

The second mission trip will be in late October or early November. We will send a team to Brownsville, TX and Matamoros, Mexico to work with the missionaries Marc and Chacho, who have visited our church. This team will minister to Mexicans and Americans through children's activities and daily outreaches. The Mexican people are very loving and welcoming. Even if you don't speak Spanish, this mission trip is available for your participation. We truly rely on God during every moment of the trip, and if you feel God calling you to step out and trust Him, prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry. It will change your life.

## Local Missions and Service Opportunities

Not every person is available to serve God for a week on a mission trip due to any number of reasons. For this reason, I want to make you aware of local volunteer options, so you can serve God when you are free. First, the schools around us are in dire need of help with volunteer readers and mentors to students. Many of the children are in need of extra help that the teachers cannot provide due to classroom sizes. As a result, some children are falling behind and could benefit from some special attention. This individualized attention that our church's volunteers can provide may be the difference between long term success and failure for these children. Statistics suggest that children who cannot read on a fourth grade level by the time they leave elementary school are at high risk for dropping out of school. We have men and women in our church who can help children read. If this is you, please consider letting me know so I can help you get involved.

A second way to help within the schools is through supporting the backpack program at Amelia County Elementary School. The New Beginnings Sunday School class has adopted ten students who they are feeding on the weekends by sending backpacks full of food home with the kids. Amelia County Elementary requested this help because ten of their children were going hungry. Unfortunately, local families continue to suffer from poverty and the inability to purchase food. As a church, have provided a gracious, generous response, for which the school is grateful. In the fellowship hall is a box for food collection if you feel led to donate food for the backpack program. By the box you will find a list of food items for the backpacks. If you'd like to donate money to this program, please write a check payable to Graceland Baptist with "Backpack Program" in the memo line.

A third local mission opportunity is working with Matt and Greg at the Nottingham Green apartments in Henrico. Each Friday, we hand out the Panera Bread to the residents and host a bible study in one of the apartments. This is a great way to observe and participate in the movement of God in people's lives. Not only do we impact Americans' lives, but we witness the movement of God in the lives of people from all over the world. During Powhatan's spring break from school, we will partner with other local churches and host a Children's Ministry Day at the apartments in order to help connect families with God's love. We need as many partners in ministry as we can get for this outreach. We expect 500 children to attend, so we'd love to have 20 volunteers from Graceland working with us. We'll hand out refreshments, play games, and have a brief worship service. The date of the Children's Ministry Day will be Thursday, April 21, from 1-3 PM. Please join us if you can.

Matt

## Young at Heart

We all enjoyed our summer, and started back in September with a covered dish supper. In October, we had a game night with light refreshments. In November, we held a silent auction, and a lot of interesting items were there to bid on. We also had light refreshments. In December, we chartered a bus and a group of 27 members went out to see Tacky Lights of Virginia. We served a light bag lunch and drinks. We all enjoyed our holiday and ringing in the New Year.

In January, we had a good group of people and started the new year with dinner and a movie. All enjoyed the movie; we look forward to our February meeting which will be Fun & Games. Thanks to all our members for making our club meetings so successful.

See you all soon.

Your leader, Fran Leehy



## W O M News

Week of Prayer for North American Missions And Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. **MARCH 6-13, 2011**

Annie Armstrong Offering Stays in Our Country to Help missionaries that Serve in all areas of the United States. Our missionaries, not only carry the gospel to the area in which they serve, but also in many locations, they must travel many miles to reach isolated Communities.

They assist with deaf church services. They do church planting, teach English as a second language, teach writing, hold VBS and participate in many community ministries. Our missionaries are also doing collegiate evangelism.

Let us give Our Missionaries ....

[Our support and  
our prayers.](#)

Maundy Thursday  
Service

April 21, 2011

Time 7:00 P. M.

## WMU Report

1. We have two of our WOM ladies to serve on the WMU Council 2011-2013:  
Hazel Worsham *Assistant Director*  
Lisa Adams *Area Director*
2. April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to be held at May Memorial Church at 6:00PM
3. Set Goal for \$1, 00.00 North American Offering.

WE would love to have more ladies to join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

Hazel





“For I know the  
plans I have for  
you, plans to  
prosper you and not  
to harm you, plans  
to give you hope  
and a future ”  
Jeremiah 29:11

## Youth News

The Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday nights along with the Youth Praise Band. Students can participate in both the youth group meeting and in the praise band. Currently the youth group is studying the Character traits of the Christian.

The Youth Praise Band continues to improve and is closing in on a performance date. With the new microphones purchased by the church, the youth praise band sounds better and better each week. We hope to sing for the church by Easter.

The youth group is gearing up for a great summer, highlighted by the Passport Summer Camp trip they’ll be taking in June. Please look for ways you can help the kids through their fundraisers. If you have some extra work needed around your house, consider hiring some of the youth to help so they can pay for their summer trip.

Movie Night Fundraiser—Friday, March 25, 6:30 PM  
The youth group invites you to a dinner and movie fundraiser in the fellowship hall (or outdoors weather permitting).

We’ll have a great meal and watch *Despicable Me*.



## Education News

A new small group has formed within the church. More details to come but pray for this small group!

Special Class on Prayer Walking—John Vincent will lead a class on Prayer Walking on Sunday afternoons beginning March 20th . This class will discuss the journey of prayer and of life.

New Deacon Training—John Vincent will be leading a new deacon training in March and April. This class will meet weekly (beginning March 28th). This class is open to all members of the church—younger and older, men and women. This class will introduce you to the process and role of the deacon in the church. If you’ve ever wondered what deacons do, this is the class for you.

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching with only five months remaining until our big trip to the Big Apple! This year’s VBS theme is the Big Apple Adventure. Our VBS will take place from Monday August 1 through Friday August 5 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We have need of many hands to make this the best VBS ever. If you can help, we need you. Please let Lisa Seal or Matt Winters know if we can rely on you. If you have children or neighbors, please make sure they know about the VBS. Let’s try and have over 150 children this year!

Matt

Thank you for your partnership and your commitment to global missions. May God bless your service as you minister to others in His Name.

National Collection Week is November 14-21, 2011



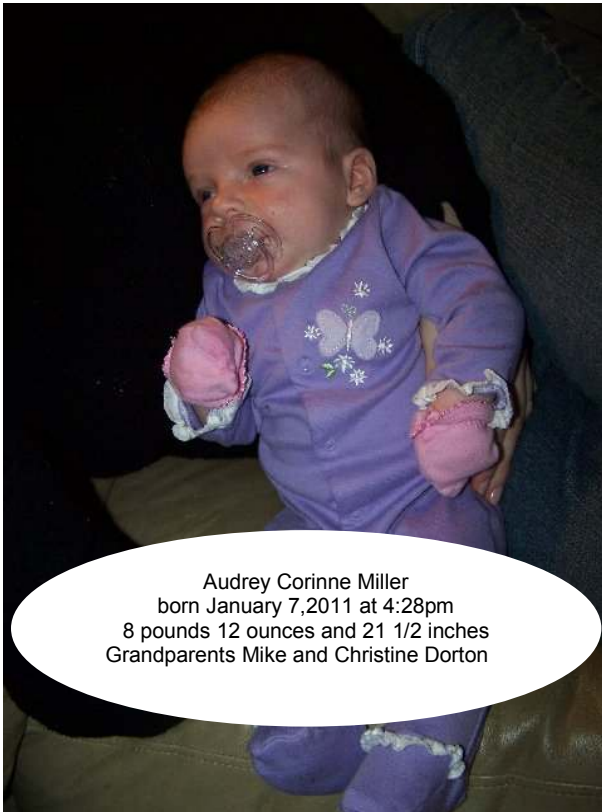
## Upcoming Classes and Leadership Training

Sunday March 20 3:00 PM John Vincent will start the study on "Prayer Walking." The study is from "Follow Me" Lessons for becoming a Prayer Walker, book by Randy Sprinkle.

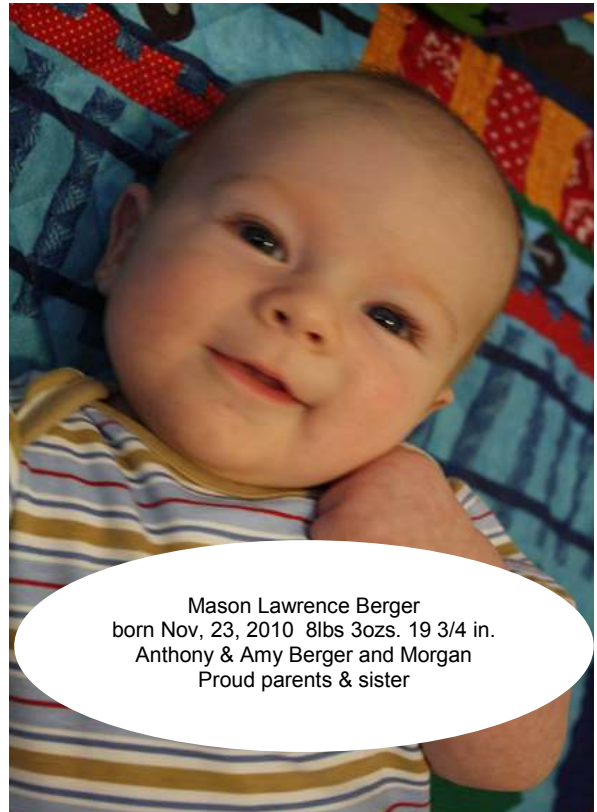
Monday March 28 7:00 PM the class on "Deacons: Servant Models in the Church". This class is open to anyone wanting to know about the duties / responsibilities of a deacon.

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 7:00PM at Central Baptist Church located at 1500 Courthouse Rd, Richmond Deacon & Leadership Team Banquet, featured speaker is Rev. Michael Catt who is minister at Sherwood Church; home of Sherwood Productions that produced "Facing the Giants" and "Fireproof". Cost is \$12. per person, spouses and guests are welcomed.

## Introducing our precious gifts from God



Audrey Corinne Miller  
born January 7, 2011 at 4:28pm  
8 pounds 12 ounces and 21 1/2 inches  
Grandparents Mike and Christine Dorton



Mason Lawrence Berger  
born Nov, 23, 2010 8lbs 3ozs. 19 3/4 in.  
Anthony & Amy Berger and Morgan  
Proud parents & sister

## NEW MEMBERS 2011

Teresa (Terry) Bragg

P.O. Box 80

Amelia, VA 23002

Billy Oliver 598-2482

907 Schroeder Road

Powhatan, VA 23139

Tim & Lisa Adams 598-6763

2579 Walkers Ridge Terrace

Powhatan, VA 23139

Shirley Gough 739-7815

13651 Bailey Bridge Road

Midlothian, VA 23112

Linda Donner

2954 Galena Avenue

Richmond, VA 23237



## Greet and Meet Our New Members

## Updates to Shut-In-List March 2011

Betty Stockner

14106 Granite Point Court

Chesterfield, VA 23838

1-804-748-5112

New address & phone

Ms. Jennifer Manaigian

2009 Moseley Road

Moseley, VA 23120

549-6506

(new phone number)

**Let's Remember them with a call, a card, or a visit.**

**MARCH**

3/1	Evelyn	Blankenship
3/7	Kathryn	Hash
3/7	Francis "Frank" P.	George
3/7	Gerald Wayne	Cubbage
3/7	William Gerald	Glidewell
3/8	Bradley Layne	Puryear
3/8	Courtney	Wrenn
3/8	Susan	Martin
3/10	Frances Rothwell	Leehy
3/11	L.D.	Breeden
3/11	Stanley Holt	Patterson
3/11	Barbara Gayle	Taylor
3/11	Terri	Wyatt
3/13	Cynthia	Morris
3/14	Charlotte	Brockwell
3/14	Bonnie Ann	Cook
3/15	Madeline	Beasley
3/17	Susan	Hardie
3/17	Marvin (Sammy)	Frame
3/20	Pat	Bartlam
3/21	Edward Ferrin	Painter
3/23	Joyce	Smith
3/23	Rebekah	Hepler
3/24	Robert	Butler
3/24	Heather	Baker
3/24	Katrina "Tina"	Futrell
3/25	Linda	Sadler
3/25	Jennifer	Kinnemont
3/26	Sandra	Lambert
3/26	Earl	Lodge
3/27	Jessica	Blanton
3/29	Darlene H.	Gregory
3/30	Corrine Dorton	Miller

**APRIL**

4/2	Michael	Saunders
4/4	Nelda	Lodge
4/5	Leslie	Revels
4/6	Dale E.	Tomlin
4/7	Vivian	Beasley
4/7	Doug	Dowdle
4/8	Shaun	Patterson
4/8	Brenna	Andrews
4/11	Peggy Spiers	Lawhorne
4/11	Phoebe Ann	Spiers
4/11	Charles (Chuck)	Spicer
4/12	Rebecca	Gordon
4/12	Katelyn	Seal
4/14	Judy Hatcher	West
4/16	Mable Hill	Bradbury
4/18	Ciera	Wrenn
4/19	Sherri Lynn	Cubbage
4/20	Renee	Shamoon
4/22	Stephen B.	Newman
4/22	Shirley	Wilson
4/23	William C.	Bailey
4/23	Allen	Bradbury
4/27	Mary Elizabeth	Sadler
4/28	Robert Joseph	Pittman
4/28	Kyle	Taylor
4/28	Meredith	Taylor
4/30	Nicole Marie	Driskill

***On the Blessings of Life***

*Go forth in the joy of the Lord,  
knowing how blessed you are.*

*Celebrate the beauty of nature around you.  
Celebrate the goodness of fellowship with others.  
Celebrate the opportunity to grow and learn and  
take up the challenge of each new day.*

*Most of all; celebrate your life,  
How blessed you are!*



***Pastor's Ponderings Continued***

Are we up for the challenge? Yes, let us celebrate the work Christ has done in and through us while also recognizing that so many more opportunities lay before us. There is a world around us every day in need of the grace and love of God. May we, like Jesus, be the willing vessel to take this into our homes, workplace, communities, state, nation, and world!

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for what you have done in us and through us. Thank you for lives which have been changed by Your love—including ours. Help us to continue to follow you faithfully and to serve you fully for we realize that so much work yet is before us. May we celebrate Your accomplishments in and through us while recognizing that the work is not completed until every soul is transformed by Your truth or we stand before you in glory! Amen

Love in Christ, Ron

**Easter Sunrise Service**

The day is fast approaching for one of our most enjoyed annual events: The Easter Sunday Sunrise Service. This service will be a time of both somber and jubilant resurrection songs with a special dramatization in a character message held in front of the crosses. After our time at the cross, we will join together in the fellowship hall for a continental breakfast. This special service is one of the highlights of the Easter season. The service will begin at 6:00 A.M. Please plan now to attend.

**Maundy Thursday Communion Service**

A very special communion service is held annually on Maundy Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. this year.

The word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word "mandatum" which refers to the mandate which Jesus gave His followers: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you." At this special service during Holy Week we will commemorate the Last Supper through songs, scripture readings, dramatization, and sharing in Holy Communion. This very special and moving service will spark personal reflection and help to set our consciences on course to experience the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on Good Friday. Please mark your calendars.



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**We're on the Web!**

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