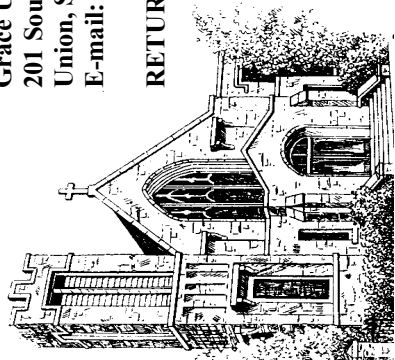


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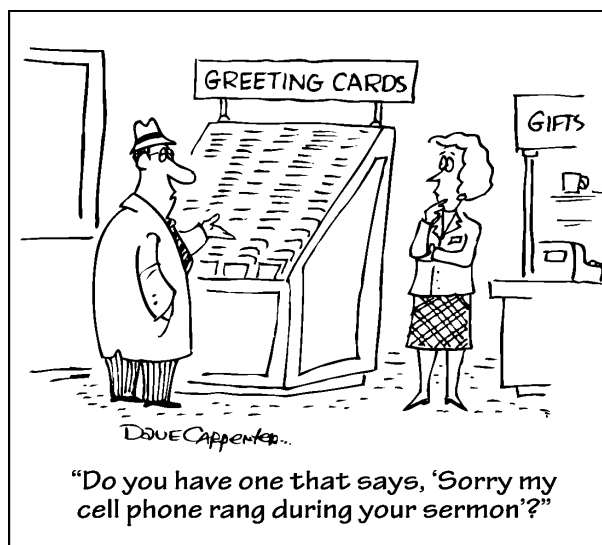


Grace United Methodist Christian Enrichment Program is preparing for the 2014-2015 school year with lots of activities. Classes will begin on August 18. There are still openings in some of the classes, so if you know of

anyone, please tell them. Open House for the parents will be held on Thursday, September 4 at 6:00 PM. Don't miss out on the fun! Come and visit anytime.

Sunday School News

Children will not want to miss out on the fun in Sunday School. The videos are really good and everyone loves the music, games and activities. At the end of the summer, there will be something special for all the children that have participated. Come and join in the fun!



THE GRACE MESSENGER

Grace United Methodist Church

Mission: To love God completely and to serve Jesus Christ unselfishly

P. O. Box 446, Union, South Carolina
Rev. David Bauknight., Pastor

Office: 427-1266
Cell Phone: 803-480-2153

From the Pastor

"School Daze"

Well it's that time of year again. Summer is wrapping up and the kids are getting ready to go back to school in less than three weeks. Then our kids will be up early and out the door early each morning. The house will not only be quieter, it'll be much cleaner and the food will seem to last longer. Our children will be transitioning from Summer slack-off mode to back to school mode with all its classes, sports and homework. Their brains and bodies are being challenged again after a Summer's worth of television, I-Pods, I-Phones, texting, Tweeting, Snapchatting & other communicating.

As parents, this should also be a time to challenge our heads, hearts and bodies. Many people skip church during the Summer and Bible studies and seminars seem to be far and few. We tend to go into a relaxed Summer mode of our own (a spiritual vacation). We skip morning devotion, replace church with a trip or a Summer sport, and we tend to cut down on our prayer time. Although a season of rest is good for us, it's never advisable to take a vacation away from God. I am ever so grateful that He is a 24/7 Lord who sticks with us throughout all four seasons. Imagine the destruction and devastation that Satan would inflict on the world and our lives if God took the Summer off. We wouldn't be here now, that's for certain.

So here's some advice. Take this new Fall surge of energy that comes with the cooler weather and our kids return to school and tap into it. Make sure that we get up every Sunday morning to worship the Lord who created us, redeemed us and provides for us. He

August 2014

deserves at least one morning of our busy schedules. Beyond going to church each Sunday, (that's the bare bones minimum), Fall Bible studies and small groups are starting up soon. Connect with other people and learn from their experiences and also share your own. It's comforting to know that other people have struggled and continue to struggle with the same problems we face. These small group forums are a great way to get a biblical perspective on facing life's challenges and hear about other people's tactics and testimonies of God's faithfulness. It's not good to be alone, God created us to be in fellowship with other Christians.

Not to sound like a broken record - but I will because it's that important - set aside regular quiet time with the Lord each day. Get a good daily devotional to guide you through the Bible. Read the Bible each day and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Then spend some time in prayer - worshipping or simply talking to your Lord. He's a 24/7 God remember? He's always there for us and He wants to fellowship with us. There is no better time spent than one-on-one time with our Savior, Jesus.

So for all of us, kids and parents alike, it's time to go back to school. Keeping God in the equation is a sure path way to a wonderful school (and work) year. Now go out there and be a good and prosperous student (and worker).

Joshua 1:8 is our prompter: *"Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

Peace...Pastor David.

UMW General Meeting

The UMW will have a tea on Sunday, Aug. 17th at 3:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Kathy Stepp from Duncan Acres UMC will present "A Handful of Women - A History of UMW". All ladies are encouraged to attend. See you there!



YAH - YAH Fun Day AUGUST 6

The popular event, YAH -YAH Fun Day for senior adults is BACK! It is open to all denominations and limited to the first 300 people registered. Sponsored by The Spartanburg District, the group will be entertained on Aug. 6th by "Cap and the Collar" and "Buttermilk Sue." We will enjoy fun, fellowship, and food!

The bus will leave at 8:00 AM from the parking lot and return at 1:30 PM. If you plan to ride the bus, please call Carolyn Turner at 427-1266 as soon as possible.

Circle Corner

Circle of Hope – No Meeting during the summer

Johnnie Sanders Cir. - No Meeting during the summer

Lucy Lee Shuler Cir. – No Meeting during the summer



Back to School Bash



On Sat., August 16th at 6 p.m. Grace and First Baptist Church will host a Youth Back to School Bash. We will gather in Mark's Park to celebrate the up-coming school year. Fellowship of Christian Athletes Former Director, Pierre Salmon, will be the guest speaker. Come enjoy Christian music, cook-out dinner, and games - Whiffle Ball, Flag football, Corn hole, and Volley ball. We will wrap up the night with a bon-fire and s'mores. Don't miss the fun!



Special Offering August 24

We will receive a special offering on Sunday, Aug. 24th in support of The Potter's House Ministries. This is an important outreach in Union County that helps those less fortunate with food. Please make your check out to Grace and mark it for Potter's House.

Family Night Supper Is Fourth Wednesday



Every month an amazing meal is shared in the fellowship hall with our church family. Everyone brings a dish of a vegetable, meat, salad or dessert. We begin with a short devotional led by a member of the host class. The next Family Night Supper will be August 27 at 6:30. The host class will be the Clyburn/Whitener class. Come and savor a great meal with your church family.

Notes of Thanks Received

To serve our church at the organ was a privilege and a blessing for which I am truly thankful. I shall treasure the beautiful gold necklace given to me on Sunday.

Love, Susan Lawson

~~~~~

There are some things you do for love, not money. That is the way I felt about keeping our music going, never guessing that it would be for six months. God's time is not always our time but it was necessary to secure the organist / choir director that God planned for us. When I wear the lovely necklace, I will be reminded that God is always with us and in control. Thanks so very much!

Carolyn Turner

~~~~~

You all have completely redefined what Grace has meant for me. You guys have been so awesome. Thank you for the welcoming dinner, the experience of Salkehatchie, the starting of an amazing youth ministry and for giving me the opportunity to start my ministry at Grace. I am glad to be apart of this church family and to be apart of what God is doing in His church. Amen!!

Preston Morton

~~~~~

Thanks to all of the wonderful people of Grace for such a warm welcome over the past two months and for the welcome luncheon on Sunday, July 13th! God certainly provides for us when we need it the most, and He definitely had specific plans for me!

Con't. next column

## Cont'd from pervious column....

I have spent the past two months unpacking boxes of books and music and getting organized. Thanks, also, for all of the prayers, cards, visits, and food for my family and me. I look forward to many years of serving God with you through music! Tommy Bishop

## Chancel Choir Notes

The Chancel Choir will resume practice on Wednesday, August 6th at 7:30pm. The back-to-choir party will be held at the home of Fran and Bob Love on Wednesday, August 20th at 7:00pm following the Church Council meeting. Choir members are asked to bring a favorite side dish. The Loves will provide the meat and drinks.



The new church web-site has been activated! Please take time this week to visit the site at [www.graceunion.org](http://www.graceunion.org). We look forward to hearing your thoughts about the site and would like your ideas as to how to make the site even more informative for you. Please note the feature on the front page for "prayer requests" as well as announcements of upcoming events. The site will be updated often, so please keep coming back to visit. Please share any feedback via e-mail at [goffd@bellsouth.net](mailto:goffd@bellsouth.net) or [mail@graceunion.org](mailto:mail@graceunion.org). The site will also be interactive through web polls provided on the front page. Our new web-site and Facebook page offer even more opportunities to communicate about the great things going on at Grace!



## Stewardship Report

### Offering Report as of July 27, 2014

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2014 Operations Budget       | \$358,819.48 |
| Needed to Meet Budget Y-T-D  | 207,011.10   |
| Budget Rec'd Y-T-D           | 198,908.49   |
| Budget Surplus/Deficit Y-T-D | -8,102.61    |
| Weekly Offering Needed       | 6,900.37     |
| Offering Rec'd Last Week     | 4,464.00     |
| Expense Y-T-D                | 228,469.47   |

### Needed: Children's Church Volunteers!

Recently we instituted a two-volunteer program with Children's Church due to our larger numbers and to comply with Methodist Safe Sanctuary guidelines. This has put a strain on the current volunteers due to the frequency they are asked to help. If you would like to volunteer to help with this program, contact Margie Ruff at 427-6452. We have a wonderful curriculum and the activities and supplies are left in the room to be used.



### MUSIC Choir Rehearsals:



7:30 pm Each Wednesday,  
in August



### Bells of Grace:

5:45 pm Ea. Sun. beginning  
in September

MINISTRY

## Christian Education Day - August 24



Brighten your day with Christian Education Day on Sunday, August 24. The fun will begin with a pick-up breakfast for everyone in the fellowship hall at 9:00 AM. We will honor our Sunday School teachers with an appreciation gift, sing songs, and show the VBS video.

At 10:00, we will begin classes. Children being promoted, will join their new class at 10:30 to meet their new classmates and teachers.

During the 11:00 service, we will present Bibles to third and fifth graders, have the Blessing of the Backpacks, and recognize our Sunday School teachers and those involved in public school education. Sunday School is for everyone; it helps us grow in knowledge and love of God.

### Opportunities

**What if...** we could move our congregation, in its context, into a healthier future?

**What if...** we could take a giant step in strengthening the discipling ministry at Grace?

August 18-22 at Lake Junaluska, two seminars are offered to assist in answering these two questions: 1) SHIFTS: Guiding the Congregation Toward Effectiveness & 2) From Membership to Discipleship. I encourage our leaders to look at these opportunities as we seek ways to live out the Great Commission. The information can be accessed through this website - <http://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/calendar/>. For more information contact Pastor David.

## Because We Care

|                                           |                   |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Eden Terrace, Spbg:                       | Mary Hodge        |
| Providence Place, PA:                     | Catherine Cooksey |
| Savannah Grace-Palms,<br>of Mt. Pleasant: | Judith Eversman   |
| NHC, Laurens:                             | Cornelia Huggins  |
| Easley, SC:                               | Eleanor Hawkins   |
| Arbor Terrace,<br>Asheville, NC           | Ann Gilliam       |
| Heartland Residential:                    | Ruth Gregory,     |
| Betty Lidkea & Mary Jo Rogers             |                   |
| Heartland Nursing:                        | Lib Ruff          |
| Ellen Sagar                               | Neely Beaty       |
|                                           | Lib Johns         |

### YAH at Andy's August 13



The senior adults will enjoy each other's company on the usual second Wednesday, August 13 at Andy's Restaurant at noon.

Come early and get your blood pressure checked. Remember, friends are always welcome. We eat and enjoy the fellowship as we catch up on news, birthdays, and anniversaries.

### MCF/Sonshiner Parent Planning Meeting

Parents know their children best. Methodist Children's Fellowship (grades 3 -5) and Sonshiners (K3—grade 2) are about fun ways of learning and building friendships while doing activities and projects together. Please come to a meeting on Sunday, August 3 at 5:30 PM. We will plan great activities to enrich our scriptural understanding.

## Fun Times at VBS



Methodists and Baptists joined forces for Summer 2014 VBS. We were so blessed to have as many volunteers as children. Mid-week attendance was 65 children and 64 adult and youth workers.

Even before VBS started, numerous volunteers worked several days transforming the fellowship hall into a "Dr. Seuss-like" forest of weird plants and animals. Videos were made nightly as well as a slide show that was presented on Family Night.

As a mission outreach, the Grace and First Baptist Church buses picked up children from the Chambertown and Horseshoe Circle areas.

Each night, a delicious snack supper was provided for the children when they arrived. Children attended chapel where Pastor David presented Bible stories and Sherry Bauknight eloquently performed The Woman at the Well.

Hollywild Animal Park graciously brought several "weird" animals for the children to see and touch. The handlers informed the children of interesting facts about the animals.

Children were encouraged to memorize a Bible verse each night and those who could recite all five verses by Friday received a hermit crab - a "weird" animal. Thanks to everyone who helped.



### VBS Evaluation August 10

All volunteers with the 2014 VBS are invited to an evaluation meeting on Sunday, August 10 at 5:30 PM in the church parlor. Please bring any ideas and suggestions you have concerning VBS.