

## Celebration Sunday All-Church Combined Worship Nov 22 @ 10:15 a.m.

God is good! All the time!! And we are taking a special time to celebrate all the blessings God has given to Grace Church in the past year. The entire congregation is invited to participate in a combined worship service and family meal beginning at 10:15 a.m. on November 22 in the Family Life Center. Reservations are requested—please contact the church office to **confirm your family's participation so that we can set aside places for you!**

The FLC will be transformed into a sanctuary with tables and chairs. We will celebrate Holy Communion by serving one another at each table, experience the power of music with several of our music



*The Matus family enjoyed the Celebration Sunday in 2008. Pictured are Chris Schmidt, Kevin and Cindy Matus, and Nolan.*

ministries, and hear a powerful message on the unique importance of Jesus Christ.

Following the service, we will enjoy a delicious meal prepared by chefs extraordinaire Mike and Barb Pinkleman. Bring desserts to share.

Volunteers are needed for table decorations, room clean-up and kitchen clean-up. Help us celebrate what God has done at Grace Church!

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what makes Jesus truly  
**u•nique [yoo-neek]**

Sunday message series  
on who Jesus is

**grace church**

Nov. 1 - Dec. 24, 2009

Is Jesus just one great man among many? Or is he simply the greatest teacher, prophet, savior among others who are claimed to be? Is there something about Jesus that makes him truly unique? If so, what sets him apart from every other person who ever lived?

Join us for this sermon series starting November 1 and continuing through Christmas Eve and find out for yourself.

- Nov 1 **The Unique Person** (Who Jesus is)
- Nov 8 **His Unique Purpose** (Why Jesus Came)
- Nov 15 **His Unique Death** (Why Jesus Died)
- Nov 22 **His Unique Importance** (Why Jesus Matters)
- Nov 29 **His Unique Birth** (Why I Believe in the Virgin Birth)
- Dec 6 **The One & Only Savior**  
(Why I Believe Jesus is the Only Way)
- Dec 13 **The Universal Gift**  
(Why I Believe Jesus is for Every Person)
- Dec 20 **Your Unique Response-ability**  
(Why I Believe Not Everyone Will Be Saved)
- Dec 24 **Making It You-nique** (The Christmas Story & You)

## Christmas Eve Schedule Announced Soon

The Worship Team meets on November 11 @ 12 noon to discuss plans for the Christmas Eve worship services. "This is our first year to have the Family Life Center available for Christmas Eve, so the Worship team will take a look at how we can incorporate that facility into our worship plans. I expect that we will have dynamic and powerful worship in both the Sanctuary and Family Life Center," said Pastor Dennis Ditto.

The Worship team is led by Cindy Krock, and it will meet in Room N3, just off the Narthex and main church office.



All preschoolers and families are invited ...

Thursday, December 17  
6:30—7:15 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Come to hear about the most exciting birthday ever!


- Grace Puppeteers
- Simple Christmas Craft
- Hand Chimes and Carols
- Birthday cupcakes (of course!)

## Youth Talent Show Slated for Nov 20th in FLC, 7 p.m.

You have probably watched American Idol on TV at some point in the last several years. Or maybe you saw internet video performances from overnight singing sensations Paul Potts and Susan Boyle on Britain's Got Talent. But now you can see the very best—live from Perrysburg: It's **Grace's Got Talent!** featuring Grace youth from 6th through 12th grade.

This event is the first of what is planned to be an annual showcase of talented young people within our midst. Admission is either \$2 per person or a food item for the PCU Food Pantry. Concessions will also be available before the show and during intermission. All net proceeds of Grace's Got Talent! will go towards youth missions.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and all seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a great event to invite friends and neighbors and family to so they can see what Grace Church is doing. Don't miss out on the best, funniest, most amazing collection of talent ever assembled under our roof!



Make up Auditions  
November 8, 2009

2:30 p.m.  
Family Life Center

Any youth who could not / did not audition on October 25 are invited to this special second-chance opportunity to be part of the show!

We still have performance slots available for musicians (instrumental and vocal), dancers, gymnasts, jugglers, magicians, comedy skits, and more!

(Without enough acts, this event will be cancelled)



**Operation Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

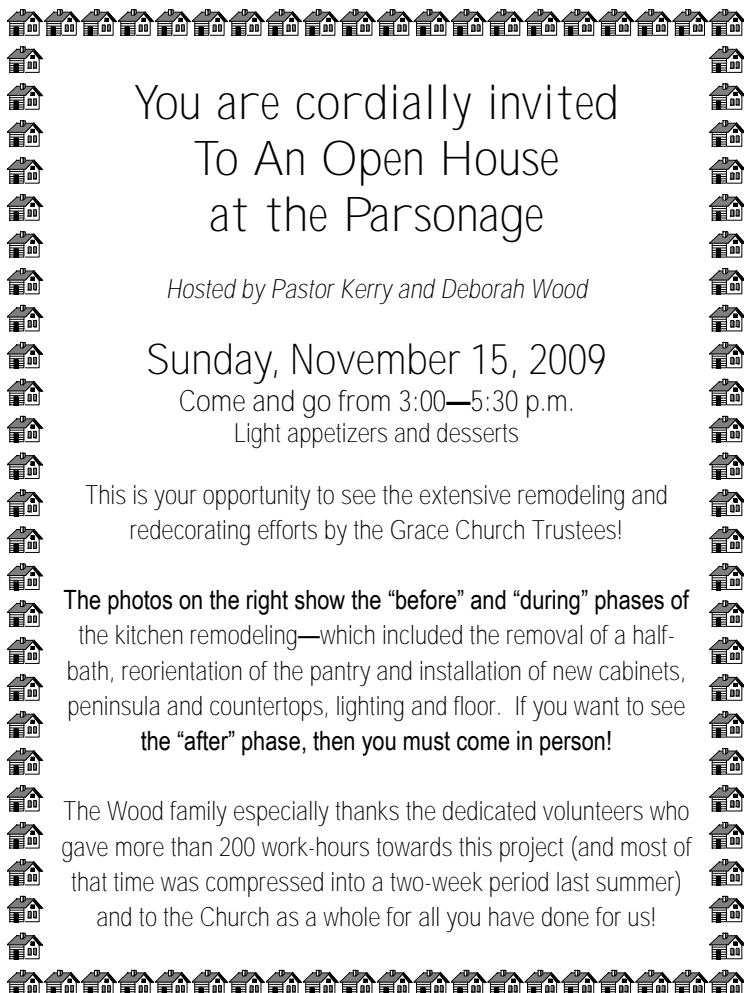
## Missions Giving Around the World

The Children's Ministries and Missions Team are jointly sponsoring this year's holiday missions emphasis project. Pick up a shoebox (or use your own) and fill it with school supplies, small toys and personal hygiene items (no foods please!) for kids all over the world. These filled shoeboxes will be sent through Samaritan's Purse International Relief to children in need all around the world.

Deadline for returning your filled shoebox to the church is Sunday, November 15th.

This is a wonderful way to put a smile on a child's face this Christmas.





You are cordially invited  
To An Open House  
at the Parsonage

*Hosted by Pastor Kerry and Deborah Wood*

Sunday, November 15, 2009

Come and go from 3:00—5:30 p.m.  
Light appetizers and desserts

This is your opportunity to see the extensive remodeling and redecorating efforts by the Grace Church Trustees!

The photos on the right show the “before” and “during” phases of the kitchen remodeling—which included the removal of a half-bath, reorientation of the pantry and installation of new cabinets, peninsula and countertops, lighting and floor. If you want to see the “after” phase, then you must come in person!

The Wood family especially thanks the dedicated volunteers who gave more than 200 work-hours towards this project (and most of that time was compressed into a two-week period last summer) and to the Church as a whole for all you have done for us!



The **“Y.A.G.O.s”** are Back Again in 2010!  
Adult Fellowship Group Resumes With Mystery Dinner on January 16th

After an extended hiatus, the YAGO Fellowship Group is returning to action at Grace Church! Originally formed for young couples with preschool children, the YAGO group is now for middle-aged adults (typically with kids in junior high through college+).

YAGO originally stood for “Young Adults Growing Older.” And over the years, that’s exactly what they have done! So now the acronym stands for “Young Adults Gotten Older”! But no matter the age or name, this group intends to have lots of fun together.

Sue Rogers and Terry Dachenhaus are co-leading the re-launching effort, and they have

started making plans for a “mystery dinner” on Saturday, January 16th. “In the past, this has been a group for couples,” explained Sue, when asked about the group’s previous focus.

“But we don’t want to exclude anyone who would like to attend—whether as couples, or singles. And ages of kids is only generalized. Feel free to come if you don’t have children, or if your children have grown up and started giving you grandchildren!”

Some of the activities the YAGOs may do in 2010 include game nights, a road rally, haystack dinner, progressive dinner, curling at BGSU ice arena, and more.



Details on the “mystery dinner” will be forthcoming in the Jan-Feb 2010 issue of Grace Notes, but Sue and Terry are looking

for others to help coordinate the effort and help decide next events. Contact Sue at 419-874-8445, if you are interested in becoming (or returning) YAGO!

# We Our Pastors!

October was Pastor Appreciation month and our children were enthusiastic about the idea of making Pastor Dennis and Pastor Kerry feel special. Many of the children created pictures and cards for them. **Some of this work was displayed on a "We Are Thankful For Our Pastors" bulletin board.** Others were placed in their mail boxes to give them notes of encouragement throughout the month.



The Wednesday night grade 4/5 girls W.O.W. group learned about some of the responsibilities of a Pastor from Miss Kim then spent an evening baking cookies for both Pastors.



Both the children and teachers were all in agreement that we are very fortunate at Grace to have Pastors who value and get involved in children's ministry!

## Letting Kids be the Church

**It's a proven fact that kids who serve while they're young are much more likely to become adults who serve.**

**That's why on Wednesday nights at W.O.W., one of this year's goals is to provide lots of opportunities for the children to serve in a variety of ways... doing so in a community of their Wednesday night group and having a lot of fun while they're at it!**

The fall opportunities for serving have centered around the grade 4 & 5 boys and girls. The girls are spending one Wednesday night a month making beautiful stamped cards that can be used by Julie in the office to send out to members in our congregation. A different guest artist visits each month to teach the girls a new stamping technique. By June, **"the Girls of Grace" will have not only put a smile on the faces of those who have received their cards, but they will also be very capable card makers!**

The boys gift wrapped huge boxes to be used for the Operation Christmas Child displays. Both the boys and girls will help in November to create fall placemats and table settings for our Church Celebration Sunday.

W.O.W. for kids is about learning and building relationships with others but it's also about molding and shaping disciples for Christ. After all... **the church of tomorrow starts with our kids today.** Any children who have not been attending can join in any time. They will be welcomed with open arms!



*Top photo left to right: Aleia Kolodziejczyk, Ella Koskinen and Maia Williams stir the cookie dough; Bottom photo left to right: David Reddick, Trevor Metzger, Tim Reddick (back row). Derek O'Neal, Alex Bentley, Andy Rardin, Adam Lowery, and Max Cunnings (front row) show off their wrapping skills.*

# An Extraordinary Time for Grace Women

By Deborah Zimmerman

On a rainy Friday in October, 12 ladies (interesting number, reminds me of another group of 12 in the Bible...) set out to go to the Extraordinary Women's Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We left the Grace Church parking lot heading for a fun-filled couple of days! We had no idea how much it would impact our lives.

Julie Higby (who took the lead in getting tickets and securing hotel accommodations for all of us) says, **"The conference for me made me see how God uses ordinary, everyday people to bring Him to others. I doubt any of those women speakers could have imagined they would be doing what they are today if it wasn't for God anointing them to tell their stories. It has made me excited about what God's will is for me."**

We heard from Angela Thomas, Stormie Omartian, Mandisa (my personal favorite), Michelle McKinney-Hammond, Matthew West (yes, even a man) and Thelma Wells. The speakers poured out their hearts with their ordinary stories that were made extraordinary by the transforming power of Jesus in their lives. Each speaker graciously allowed us time to speak with her (or him!) after the witness and to get **pictures and autographs ... what a blessing!**

We returned home on a beautiful sunny day filled full with the inspiration of those who gave so freely of themselves to touch 1,500 plus lives.

The 12 ladies on the trip were Julie Higby, Jill Thornton, Ann Shelton, Kathy Fought, Kris Cookson, Barbara Furniss, Tammy Smith, Terri Cochran, Amanda Tuttle, Jen Cline, Helen Lowery and Deborah Zimmerman.

Each of these ladies have been attending the Wake Up Call Bible study on Thursday mornings at Grace and this session we are studying the book of Esther taught by Beth Moore. In this true Bible story, Esther is an ordinary Jewish girl who has been called



*Top to bottom:  
Group shot of Grace ladies in action (L to R):  
Julie Higby, Kris Cookson,  
Deborah Zimmerman, Barb Furniss  
and Tammy Smith.*

*Ann Shelton with Matthew West;  
Angela Thomas with Julie Higby;  
Deborah Zimmerman with Mandisa  
and Ann Shelton;*



by God in a series of incidents to go before her now husband, the King of Persia. To make a long story short, her purpose in going before her King/husband was to find favor with him so that he could overturn the edict that was already in place to annihilate all the Jews in the empire. She obeyed God and went before her King/husband; and we see her now as an extraordinary woman as she allowed God to work in and through her life. We believe the **concurrent timing of this study and the Extraordinary Women's Conference was indeed the providence of God.**

All of us thank our Lord for the opportunity He gave us to share in new friendships and new bonds with our sisters in Christ.

# Grace UTH Ministries

## Sixth/Seventh Grade

### Sunday Class Takes “The Word” to the Streets

James 1:22 says, “Do not merely listen to the Word; do what it says!” The Sixth/Seventh Grade Sunday Class with Martha Thornberry and Cindy Krock took that Scripture to heart over the last several weeks.

The class recently went on a Prayer Walk—literally taking the Word to the streets—from Grace Church to Perrysburg Junior High. The goal was to take their eyes off of themselves and instead focus on others and encourage family and friends.

The class also helped with PCU's food pantry, sorting and loading groceries. They raised funds within the class and went shopping at Meijer to help with some of PCU's most urgent needs.

Older adults became partners with class members as 30 senior citizens were selected to be pen pals. The idea behind the project is to establish ongoing relationships between students and seniors, help students to value

older generations and bless seniors with correspondence from a middle schooler. Several of the youth have already received responses from their pen pals!

Thinking spring, the class planted crocus bulbs just outside their classroom windows near the Family Life Center entrance. “We wanted the youth to see God's beautiful creation,” said Cindy Krock. “In the spring, the kids will see the lovely flowers bloom. And if the church does the flowering cross again at Easter, we will have grown our own flowers to add to it.”

During the last two months of 2009, the class will participate in the Operation Christmas Child shoebox project and go to Kingston to visit and entertain residents there. In early 2010, they will hold their annual bake sale in support of Red Bird School and participate in a special dinner with the Congregational Care team in recognizing and honoring the Grace Church Fellowship Group participants.



#### It's Coming ...

#### Sr. High weekly Main Event

Sundays, 6-8 pm  
in the Family Life Center  
Kicking off Nov. 22

Featuring: Fun & games on & off the court; food court; group activities and inspirational messages with Andy Brungard, Tim & Dave Reddick

#### Lock-In Dec 4-5 @ Grace Church

ALL Jr. Hi and Sr. Hi are invited! The evening will start out with everyone meeting in Fellowship Hall @ 6:00. We will leave at 6:15 for Dayspring in Bowling Green for their Christmas drama “Gospel According to Scrooge.”

After the drama we will return for worship, games and food. The Lock-In will end after breakfast and clean-up on Saturday morning @ 10:00.

*There is no cost for this event but you must sign up in advance so we can have enough tickets for the show.*

The sign up sheet will be between the Freshmen and 6th/7th grade SS class rooms. Any questions, contact Terri Cochran (on Facebook or @ 419-874-8061) or see Jessie, Allie or Emily.

Hope to see you there!!

## Mount Union College Choir Midwestern Tour Stops at Grace Church on January 10, 2010

The Mount Union College Choir will join Grace Church for worship in both services on January 10, 2010. The Choir is among the nation's oldest choral ensembles, tracing its roots to 1896. It has enjoyed an international reputation, performing and earning critical acclaim in China, India, Malaysia, Norway, Turkey and, most recently, Ireland in 2007. Choir members represent virtually every major area of study within the College and are chosen by competitive audition.

During this tour, the choir will perform in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan on its way to Chicago and back. A full concert will be offered at the First Presbyterian Church in Maumee on Saturday, January 9th at 7 p.m. At Grace, they will sing two selections in each service.



Grace Church has a special connection with the Mount Union Choir. Current choir member Rachel Wood (first person, second row from front, above) is the daughter of Pastor Kerry and Deborah Wood. In addition, former Children's

Ministries director Jessie Thompson and the late Terry Thompson were members of the Mount Union College Choir when they went to college and first met.

### Open Letter to Grace Church: Young, Old or In Between

We recently attended a conference at the Billy Graham Training Center—The Cove—in Asheville, North Carolina. We were charged to come back to inform our home congregations of the many opportunities at the Cove for spiritual enrichment and training in many areas of Christian education.

We encourage you to consider this as an option for a vacation or get-away in a gorgeous setting in the mountains. You will have a spiritual experience that you will not forget. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the programs offered throughout the year, please call us at 419-874-5434.

Blessings to you -

**Bill & Carol Melvin**

P.S. This is a great gift idea for a loved one!

### Harrison Rally Day Was Huge Success!

The Reaching Team, chaired by Trevor Van Berkom in 2009, thanks everyone who made the Harrison Rally Day such a wonderful experience! Much community visibility was formed by our many dedicated volunteers!

Perfect weather capped off a perfect day. All 500 helium-filled balloons were given away to children, scores of kids and youth had their faces painted by our talented artists, and many Perrysburg friends and families learned more about the worship and ministries at Grace Church.

If you missed out on the excitement this year, but are interested in doing something with the Reaching Team in 2010, please contact the church office (419-874-4365 or email [office@gracechurchperrysburg.com](mailto:office@gracechurchperrysburg.com)). We need creative thinkers, planners, and people who simply want to get busy doing good work for God and promoting His kingdom!

### *He is Love*

by Bob Whitenack

Jesus sits on the right hand of God  
On the throne of glory  
He is in us, and us in Him  
He is our savior, our salvation  
Forevermore, He is Love.

Crucified on the cross of redemption  
He taught us God is love  
How to pray and treat each other  
Through faith, He helps in times of need  
Forevermore, He is Love.

Ascended into heaven to be with the Father  
He prepares the way for all who believe  
To praise in glory, our Savior, our Father,  
Holy Spirit  
Our journey in life is our story  
Through Him it never shall end  
Forevermore, He is Love.

Things of earth will perish, flesh diminish  
In times of trouble, turmoil or strife  
Give to Him all your worries  
Place on His shoulders all problems  
Keeping your path for righteousness  
Forevermore, He is Love.



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**Nov 8—Grace’s Got Talent!  
Make-up Auditions**

Final Call for Youth 6th-12th grade @ 2:30 p.m.

**Nov 15—Parsonage Open House**

Come & Go from 3 p.m.—5:30 p.m.  
hosted by Pastor Kerry and Deborah Wood

**Nov 20—Grace’s Got Talent! Show**

7 p.m. In Family Life Center

**Nov 22—Celebration Sunday**

One service @ 10:15 a.m. followed by family meal

**Dec 4-5—Youth Lock-In**

JH and SH are invited from Fri 6 p.m.—Sat 10 a.m.

**Dec 17—Birthday Party for Jesus**

Preschoolers & families’ special party @ 6:30 p.m.

**Dec 24—Christmas Eve Worship**

Specific Schedule to be Announced



Come to know;  
Go to share.

Ministers: All people of Grace Church

- Senior pastor ..... Dennis Ditto
- Associate pastor ..... Kerry Wood
- Pastoral Assistant/Adult Ministries..... Deborah Zimmerman
- Children’s Ministries** ..... Kim Steel
- Adult Choir Director ..... Mitch Tyson
- Instrumental Music Director ..... Deborah Wood
- Organist ..... Rene Ackerman
- Contemporary Worship Leader..... Dan Now
- Media and Visual Communications ..... Amanda Tuttle
- Church Secretary/Bookkeeper..... Julie Hutchison
- Financial Secretary..... Jodi Newman
- Grace Preschool Director ..... Elaine Moore
- Maintenance Ministers..... Jim Quick  
Heather Burrow