



The Grace Vine

A Publication of Grace Lutheran Church

Chester, VA

January 2011

Pastor's Ponderings



As I write this, in mid-December, Congress has yet to decide whether the Bush tax cuts will carry over into the new year for all Americans. And, of course, no one knows what all the effects will be of the Healthcare Bill. We do know that those of us who have been blessed for many years with employer-provided health insurance will now be paying income tax on that benefit.

If you've been worrying about how all these things will affect your life in 2011, have I got good news for you! According to Pastor Ken Klaus, of Lutheran Hour Ministries in a recent Daily Devotion, it seems that Harold Camping, founder of Family Radio, Inc., has predicted that 2011 will only be about 5 ½ months long! He has predicted that Jesus is returning in judgment and glory on May 21, 2011. I don't know how he derived this date [I almost wrote "divined this date", but I seriously doubt the Divine had anything to do with it], but I can confidently make my own prediction: Jesus is not coming back on May 21, 2011.

How do I know this? Jesus told me – and you – and everyone else who cares to read His Word, in Matthew 24:36: "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

So I seriously doubt that God has given a revelation denied even to Jesus during His time on earth to Harold Camping.

However, it is good for us to be reminded periodically that Jesus is coming back some day. It may not be in 2011 – or it may be. I have [obviously] no special knowledge, but it is intriguing to me that we live in a time that is just about 2000 years after Jesus' coming, and Abraham, with whom God began the specific fulfillment of the promise to redeem the world, lived about 2000 years before Jesus' birth. There is an appealing symmetry to that, so I would not be surprised if Jesus came soon.

That is not a cause of worry for us who believe in Him as our Savior from sin, death, and Satan. He tells His disciples, after describing the Last Day in pretty vivid terms, "When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." [Luke 21:28] We have nothing to fear about that day; our Savior is coming to take us home.

However, for most of the world it will be a day of a terrifying revelation that the Bible was right and that time has run out.

So, if you are making New Year's resolutions, may I suggest two?

1. Be ready. Whenever that day comes, be ready. Readiness consists in trusting in Jesus and living your life to please Him. If you believe in Jesus you are ready for His return. How do you want Him to find you? I live with the hope that not only will Jesus find me in faith, but also living my life in such a way that He will look at me, smile, and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

2. Help someone else be ready. Tell the people in your life, in a respectful, winsome way what Jesus means to you. Look for opportunities, pray for opportunities, to help others know Jesus as you do. He promises that when that opportunity comes, the Holy Spirit will give you what that person needs to hear.

We will be focusing on the *Ablaze!* Movement at Grace more in 2011. We'll be inviting and encouraging all our members and friends to share their relationship with Jesus with others. I hope that in 2011, you will resolve to be a part of that.

Bonnie joins me in wishing you God's richest blessings in 2011!

In Christ,
Pastor



On December 12th, Luke Andrew Dollery, infant son of Stephen Jeffrey Dollery and Erin Marie Dollery became a child of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. His sponsors are Ron and Bev Marburger. May Luke ever grow in grace and faith.

The old saying "What you are speaks so loudly I can't hear a word you are saying," expresses a truth so relevant to Christian Evangelism. What we are must make an impact on our non-Christian friends before



we can expect to be effective in winning them to our Savior. People must be able to see that we "practice what we preach." If we have true faith, it should show!

The Holy Spirit is working within us giving us God's power. We have been equipped to make visible to our friends and acquaintances the presently invisible Savior. We must talk the talk and walk the walk with our Lord. Then the Holy Spirit will fill us with Christian character as Paul so clearly states in Ephesians 5. Others will then see in us the fruits of the Spirit that Paul wrote about in Galatians 5, 22-23 namely "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control." People will then find in us a person they can truly trust. Think about it

Bill King

Outreach



Monthly Gracevine Report

General Fund Total Giving	\$370,264
General Fund Total Spending	\$356,388
Surplus	\$13,876
Missionart Support	\$4,837
Seminary Support	\$5,543



2010 will soon be history, and I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU! to all the singers, ringers, vocal soloists, and instrumentalists that have been willing to take their valuable time this past year to share their musical talents with Grace! Imagine what a Lutheran church would be like

without music! Unthinkable! Without all of you, our worship services would be rather bland. Many of our scripture verses encourage us to make joyful noises to our God. Especially we read this in the Psalms! Using our voices and our instruments make our worship joyful for us as well as the ONE we worship! Thank you to all the new musicians (singers and ringers) who have been willing to take a chance this year and learn some new skills. It is brave of you to try something new and different. I hope you have felt like you are learning and growing from your efforts! I am a firm believer in the need to exercise both the body and the brain to keep everything moving and alert! We certainly do that when we learn music. It is fine physical as well as mental exercise! Thank you as well to all the members, staff, and church leadership who support the music ministries at Grace. Without your encouragement and financial support, we couldn't do what we do. Putting together our worship experiences at Grace is a real team effort! Thank you to each one of you who make this ministry possible! I am deeply grateful! Happy New Year and may God shower you with many blessings in 2011!

Sue Gamber
Director of Music Ministries
320-1822
gambersw@aol.com



In Memory of

On December 17, 2010, our brother in Christ, Reade Shook, entered his home prepared for him by our Savior. Reade was a faithful, contributing, active, beloved member of Grace since its founding. His and Eleanor's names do not appear on the official charter only because they were attending their son's confirmation at their former congregation on Charter Sunday. In every way they were charter members of Grace.

Reade served several offices in the church, as well as heading the Building Committee for the 1994 addition which includes the narthex, office suite, library, nursery, classrooms, kitchen, and fellowship hall, overseeing on a daily basis every aspect of construction.

Reade was a faithful member of the Sunday morning Bible study and the Men's Breakfast Bible Study, and was a font of information about the history and development of Grace. Most recently he was serving on the Finance Subcommittee of the Planning Committee where his business acumen and familiarity with past building projects at Grace proved invaluable.

Reade is survived by his wife, Eleanor; two sons, Alan and Douglas; a daughter, Jill LaPrad; six grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held at Grace on January 8th at 11AM. Reade's cremains will be interred in the columbarium at Grace's Memorial Garden immediately following the service; after which a reception will be held in his honor in the fellowship hall.





“Happy New Year” is a greeting that we hear often during the time between late December and early January. And it is a fitting greeting because we move from calendar year 2010 to 2011. However, the Christian Church Year begins with the first Sunday in Advent (which in 2010 was on November 28.)

Why bring this up? The answer has to do with the reality that we Christians actually live in two different cultures—a secular culture and a spiritual culture. The secular culture is the world we live in and specifically the United States of America; the spiritual culture in which we live is the kingdom of God. These two cultures have very different values, especially in regard to Christian stewardship.

In our secular culture we are led to believe that we are owners of all the “things” we have. That means, among other things, that we are free to do whatever we want with our possessions and don’t have to give an account to anyone. As members of the kingdom of God we are instructed by the teachings from the Bible. The Bible gives us a very different perspective on ownership because it teaches us that God is the Owner of all things (Psalm 24:1) and we are managers of all that God has entrusted to our care.

Our eight **Biblical Stewardship Principles** provide some excellent guidance for our lives as God’s stewards. The second principle states: **“God’s stewards are managers, not owners.”** The fifth principle states: **“God’s stewards are in the world, but not of the world.”** (Note: you can go to www.lcms.org/stewardship and click on “Stewardship Ministry” [on the left side] and then on “Biblical Stewardship Principles” for the full text and study guide for the principles).

A good resolution for 2011 would be to study the principles individually, in small groups or in larger group Bible classes.

The **Biblical Stewardship Principles** help us understand what it means to be one of God’s stewards and to live as His stewards. This can be a real challenge when we live in a culture that is so obsessed with getting more and more so we can satisfy our own desires. As God’s stewards we are not our own; we have been bought at a price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) so we can glorify God and show love to others!

As God’s stewards we do well to remember what St. Paul wrote to Timothy: **“For we brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it.”** (1 Timothy 6:7 NIV) What we do between our birth and our death is the measure of our stewardship. In addition, we should not view stewardship as a task that we have to do, but rather something that we get to do with the understanding that **“Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”**



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Callao, Virginia has petitioned the Southeastern District to move from Circuit 8 (northern neck) to Circuit 10 (Richmond). This petition will be presented to the District

Board of Directors and Convention (spring, 2012) for ratification. Any concerns or questions regarding this petition should be directed to Rev. Dr. Matthew Bean, Circuit 10 counselor and Senior Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Richmond, or Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, Southeastern District President.

Matthew Bean, D.Min.
Senior Pastor
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Richmond, Virginia

Letter to the Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church:

As my first order of business as new Council President, I would like to thank John Philipkosky for his dedication, vision, leadership and his years as a Council member. John would always lend an ear to concerns at Grace and resolution of differences.

John and Joan have been longtime members of Grace and have been active in many areas in their support of Grace. Both are faithful Christians and live their lives in the same manner. We have been blessed to have John on our Council and Joan will continue in her active role as Deacon.

John approached me several months ago to become VP of Administration with the knowledge that I would become his successor. After prayerful consideration, I accepted his request but will be unable continue my duties as Director of Worship until my term as President has ended. Pete Adler has dutifully accepted to become the new Director of Worship.

On another subject, I wish to tell you of the Council's nomination of Mr. Edmund Ward for the Chesterfield Senior Volunteer Hall of Fame. We received notification that the nominees being inducted will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, where all nominees will be commended for their valuable services to the community. Twenty-two nominations were received but only 3 were inducted into the Senior Hall of Fame. We certainly thank Ed, not only for his dedication to Grace, but his community volunteer service as well.

As your new Council President, please feel free to discuss any of your concerns with me and if an answer is not available, I will resolve to obtain a response within a reasonable time frame.

I sincerely look forward to serving the people of Grace.

Your brother in Christ,

Don Smith

December 15, 2010

Grace Lutheran Church
13028 Harrowgate Road
Chester, VA 23831-4521

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of Grace Lutheran Church,

SUBJECT: CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT LETTER

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ whose incarnation began God's final steps in His plan of salvation for the entire creation.

As we all prepare for the coming of our Lord, preparing to celebrate His birth, we are also – or should also be – preparing for His second coming on the Last Day. After all, we live in the so called “now, but not yet.” And in that phrase, we understand that we have God's grace now, we have eternal salvation now, but it will not be fully realized until the “yet” part. And the “yet to come” will occur on the “end of days” or “last day” when Christ Jesus returns in victory to once and for all eternity reverse sin's effect on this world!

What a Day that will be. For those who fear, love, and trust God above all things as Luther's Small Catechism speaks to, this will be a Day of joyous celebration for the marriage feast of the Lamb and His Kingdom that has no end will begin. But, for those who have rejected Him, it will be a Day of great sorrow. And that thought reminds me that our vocation as Christians is not to live our lives as if we were in some sort of inwardly focused group – only worried about us – but as Jesus says in the Great Commission to “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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”

That is our mandate. For this little baby, both fully God and human came not to be served, but to serve. He came for one defining purpose, to take on our punishment, and hang dead on a Cross, and rise again, not for His sake, but ours. And so with the Church as well, we should not be inwardly focused, but externally to a world which is in desperate need of the Saviour!

I hope I did not get too “preachy,” but with the season of Advent here and the celebration of Christmas – Christ's incarnation – coming soon, I could not help myself. Jennifer and I both continue to do well. Being three weeks into the winter term now, I feel good about where I am at, and what lies ahead. Vicarage is only eight months away at this point, so the light at the end of the tunnel is starting to get brighter. Both Jennifer and I are excited about not only vicarage, but our child which is due on April 11th. And so far, so good, as we continue to see the obstetrician. We are blessed that God has continued to care for our baby in utero, providing thus far a healthy baby and keeping Jennifer safe as her cervix has been sown shut.

We would certainly appreciate your continued prayers for Jennifer and the baby, as well as our time out here in St. Louis studying for the Ministry. Thank you for everything you do for Christ's sake!

εν Χριστῷ (In Christ),

Justin Pahl
Second Year Seminarian, CSL

January Schedule of Servers

January 2, 2011		January 9, 2011		January 16, 2011		January 23, 2011		January 30, 2011	
<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>		<i>Deacon</i>	
Joan Philipkosky Larry Heidorn		Joan Philipkosky Larry Heidorn		Joan Philipkosky Larry Heidorn		Joan Philipkosky Larry Heidorn		Joan Philipkosky Larry Heidorn	
<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>		<i>Assisting Minister</i>	
Jake Jacobs	0815	Jeanett Gattis	0815	Greg Hite	0815	Paul Nasi	0815	John Philipkosky	1000
Ron Fischer	1045	Dick Reese	1045	Kevin Buchter	1045	Don Smith	1045		
<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>		<i>Toller</i>	
Noah Engel	0815	Richard Engel	0815	Josh Nowland	0815	Lisa Nowland	0815	Cori Fischer	1000
Marge McCallister	1045	Jeff Rowell	1045	JoyLynn Volkman	1045	Bob Dunn	1045		
<i>Server</i>		<i>Server</i>		<i>Server</i>		<i>Server</i>			
John Philipkosky	0815	Ruth Bowling	1045	Pete Adler	0815	Jennifer Wayne	1045		
<i>Cantor</i>		<i>Cantor</i>		<i>Cantor</i>		<i>Cantor</i>			
Jim Congable	1045	Rosey Congable	1045	Bob Merrill	1045	Rachel Wilson	1045		
<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>		<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>	
Laura Eley	0815	Heath Gross	0815	Abigail Phillips	0815	Delaney Thornton	0815	Kevin Anderson	1000
Haley Jacobs		Noah Engel		Rachel Philips		Kevin Quigley		Tim Proffer	
JoyLynn Volkman	1045	Kelly Richards	1045	Austin Rowell	1045	Stephanie Sloan	1045		
Theresa Volkman		Destiny Volkman		Colin Neal		Nancy Sloan			
<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>		<i>Lectors</i>	
Ruth Bowling	0815	Christina Dhir	0815	Jeanett Gattis	0815	Jill LaPrad	0815	Joy Phillips	1000
Jackie Gustavson		Paul Nasi		Chris Gattis		Jake Jacobs		Buddy Phillips	
Dorothy Jaeckle	1045	Nancy Wanzong	1045	Stephen Neal	1045	Marti Dorn	1045		
Bob Merrill		Louise Dunton		Lisa Neal		Dick Reese			
<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>		<i>Ushers</i>	
Ruth Bowling	0815	Robin Nasi	0815	Thom Hagen	0815	Fred Townsend	0815	Kevin Buchter	1000
Peggy Gordon		Gaylord Thompson		Bill King		Ed Ward		Helen Bellflower	
Chuck Barnes		Jon Page		Pete Burke		Peter Schoultis		Barry Richards	
Paula Barnes		Larry Grimes		Dave Long		Russ Zimmerman		Brad McMinn	
Conny Erbes	1045	Rick Baker	1045	Stephen Neal	1045	Rodney Wilson	1045		
Bob phelps		Robert Beck		Corey Neal		Mike Foster			
Brad McMinn		Scott Osmundson		John Petik		David Brown			
Barry Richards		Ron Mabry		Joe Mannelta		Greg Gross			
<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>		<i>Nursery</i>	
Lisa Scott	0815	Raeann Eley	0815	Jill LaPrad	0815	Jackie Gustavson	0815	Kathleen Wilson	1000
Cris Fischer	1045	Jean Hudgins	1045	Peggy Metz	1045	Susan Nicol	1045		
<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>		<i>Hosts</i>	
Bill & Evelyn Collie	0815	Christina Dhir	0815	Bonnie Finck	0815	Jeanett & Chris Gattis	0815	Greg & Heidi Gross	1000
David & Suzanne Brown	1045	Bob & Jean Dunn	1045	Jack & Terry Eng	1045	Mike & Diane Foster	1045		
<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>		<i>Counters</i>	
Peg Adler		Heidi Gross		Stacy Wright		Rick Schabener		Millye Wooldridge	
Nancy Roberts		Barry Richards		Dave Roberts		Jackie Gustavson		Fred Weber	

January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Worship 8:15am* Worship 10:45am Asst. Minister Training at noon	3 Altar Guild 7pm	4 Deacons 7pm	5 Bible Study 10am Happy Clappers 11am	6 Joyful Noise 6pm Choir 7pm Confirmation 7pm	7 Men's Breakfast 7am	8 Reade Shook Memorial Service 11am
9 Worship 8:15am Worship 10:45am* Children's Pageant 1st Communion Cl. 12p	10	11 Staff Meeting 9:30am Council 7pm	12 Bible Study 10am Happy Clappers 11am	13 Joyful Noise 6pm Choir 7pm Confirmation 7pm	14	15
16 Worship 8:15am* Worship 10:45am 1st Communion Class 12 pm	17 MLKing Ecumenical service at 2nd Baptist 7pm	18 Angel Circle 10am "Bad Girls" 7pm	19 Bible Study 10am Happy Clappers 11am	20 Joyful Noise 6pm Choir 7pm Confirmation 7pm	21 Men's Breakfast 7am	22
23 Worship 8:15am Worship 10:45am* 1st Communion Class at 12pm	24 G.E.M.S.luncheon 12:30pm	25 Staff Meeting 9:30am Planning Committee at 7pm	26 Bible Study 10am Happy Clappers 11am	27 Joyful Noise 6pm Choir 7pm Confirmation 7pm	28	29
30 Worship 10am Receive New Members Potluck	31					