

Something Great is Happening...

THE GOOD NEWS

at Gashland Presbyterian Church

"Where our mission is to exalt Christ, equip believers, and advance His kingdom"

January/February

2012

The Hope of Advent on Display at GPC:



Christmas, that a Savior has been given to us to take away our sins.

Gashland offered two Christmas Eve services that were well attended and helped our families and guests prepare themselves to celebrate Christmas with all the hope and wonder it provides. The Christmas Eve services took a special offering for local neighborhood ministries.

The Hope of Advent was not kept to ourselves, but was shared with our community through several exciting projects including the Stars of Christmas Red Carpet Event and the Women's Christmas Tea.

The Red Carpet Event was put together with **Cindy Taylor** and the Children's Ministry. The plan was to offer the children in our community a way to experience the true Christmas story. The Christmas Story was presented over the four Saturdays of Advent. Many people at GPC volunteered to help with this event and several more who could not be there provided snacks.

The Event was advertised in our community with flyers created and distributed through Gashland Elementary School.

GPC celebrated Advent this year under the theme "The Hope of Advent." **Dave, Mitch** and the Choir led by **Bob Johnson** brought hope-filled messages to the congregation as we turned our hearts toward the meaning of

Children from Kindergarten through 5th grade were invited. One of the big selling points of the program was that parents in the neighborhood could enjoy two hours each Saturday of "me time." The first Saturday for the Event was on Thanksgiving weekend and had about a dozen kids show up. They all had a great time and word of mouth spread so that by the last week 21 children attended. Most of these children were not from our church.

The feedback from the kids and their families was very positive. We are excited about the new relationships and connections that this event has forged with our community. We are thankful to the many volunteers at GPC who came together on short notice to make this ministry a promising success.

There are always volunteer opportunities at GPC to work with the Children's Ministry program. If you would be willing to help *Advance the Kingdom* through this meaningful work, please contact Cindy Taylor.

The Women's Christmas Tea was held on Monday evening Dec 12th and was a great success. The Tea was held in the Ministry Center and every table was filled. Ladies in our congregation and their friends were able to listen to the Oak Park Orchestra play Christmas music while enjoying tea and dessert. The desserts were served by the men of our congregation. **Beth Armstrong** gave a motivational message for the women to "shine like stars in the universe."

Help Needed for Hillcrest Transitional Housing Ministry

Hillcrest offers displaced families a disciplined educational program. Hillcrest's objective is to move families from homelessness to self-sufficiency within 90 days by addressing the total situation of the homeless family. In exchange for rent/utility-free housing, residents are required by written agreement to work full time, obey program guidelines and attend volunteer taught classes in life skills, employment, community living and budgeting. Residents enrolled in this program do not receive service from other community ministries such as the Salvation Army, etc.

The Mission of Hillcrest is to be a transitional housing program providing a Christian environment that helps homeless families become self-supportive, self-reliant contributors to society.

GPC adopted one of Hillcrest's apartments in the Avondale area several years ago. We, as a church, are responsible for:

- Furnishings of the apartment
- Ongoing maintenance
- Cleaning & stocking the apartment with food to prepare for the new family's arrival

- Christmas, Birthday and Graduation presents
- Monthly meal
- Financial support to the ministry

How you can help – Hillcrest is a great opportunity for individuals or small groups to show Christ's love in a tangible way to a family in need. For this ministry to be a success requires the involvement of many people. Please prayerfully consider one of the following:

- Clean the apartment with a team
- Donate food or money to restock apartment for new families (place food donations in the Hillcrest Ministries basket under the missions bulletin board across from the chapel).
- Provide a meal
- Respond to needs listed in Sunday bulletin as they arise
- Contact **Bruce Brinkmeyer** 816-734-9954 or **Amy Clapham** @ 816-916-1753 to volunteer or donate.

Check out all that Hillcrest provides at <http://www.hillcresttransitionalhousing.org>



Remembering Jo Carver

Josephine L. "Jo Jo" Carver passed away Saturday, December 17, 2011, at her home. Josephine was born in Kansas City, KS, to Agnes and William Renner. She attended Manual High School. She worked for Dolly Madison and A & P Bakeries from 1946-1960 and Marcon Mfg., 1970-1986.

Josephine gave of her time in many

ways, collecting money in many neighborhoods in Gladstone, MO, to donate for the establishment of Oak Grove Park, making bears for Children's Mercy Hosp., making quilts and hats for the City Union Mission.

Her hobbies included quilting, fishing, camping, and bowling. She was a member of GPC for 48 years, teaching Sunday School and VBS many times.

Jo's services were held at 11 AM on Dec 22nd. The Memorial Meal team provided meal for family and friends after the services. Please keep Carl and the Carver family in your prayers.

Session Notes

Gashland's Session meets on the second Thursday of every month to attend to the business of the church. The following are the highlights of the December 8th meeting:

- Session developed a transitional plan for the operation of the church after Dave Schirmer's last day of January 31st. Preaching will be provided by **Nathan Edwards**, **Beth Armstrong**, and **Mitch Lynn**. Nathan will preach the four Sunday's in February, Mitch will preach March 4th and Beth will preach the next four weeks. **Bill Brunjes** has volunteered to provide office administration to help the office run smoothly. Many pastoral care functions will be taken over by the Deacons. The session agreed to provide Dave Schirmer with six months' severance that begins Feb 1st. The session is exceedingly grateful and appreciative of Dave's service to Gashland. Dave's severance will be paid out of the church's reserves.
- **Jim Iverson's** resignation from session was received with regrets.
- The session adopted a motion presented by the Advance team to develop a Neighborhood Prayer Ministry. This ministry will create and publicize easy ways for the community around GPC to share their prayer needs with us. This ministry will be a great opportunity for people in GPC to show the love of Christ with their community and demonstrate the power of prayer. Please look for information in the coming weeks and months for ways you can become involved in this new neighborhood ministry.
- The Stewardship Results were reviewed. Pledges for 2012 totaled \$381,876. Based on reliable historical data of 24% for non-pledged giving, the total budget for 2012 is \$473,526. This budget comes in slightly below the campaign goal. Nonetheless, the session and finance team have put together a balanced budget that we believe will accomplish our ministry objectives for 2012. We are appreciative of **Bill Brunjes** and **April Downey** for directing this year's stewardship campaign.

As always, if you have questions or thoughts you want to share, please contact anyone of the elders on the back of this newsletter. Complete Session minutes are available for review in the church library.

What We Believe *(Westminster Shorter Catechism)*

73. Which is the eighth commandment? The eighth commandment is, "Thou shalt not steal." For study: Exod. 20:15

74. What is required in the eighth commandment? The eighth commandment requireth the lawful procuring and furthering the wealth and outward estate of ourselves and others. For study: Gen. 30:30; 1 Tim. 5:8; Lev. 25:35; Deut. 22:1-5; Exod. 23:4,5; Gen. 47:14,20

75. What is forbidden in the eighth commandment? The eighth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever doth or may unjustly hinder our own or our neighbour's wealth or outward estate. For study: Prov. 21:17; Prov. 23:20,21; Prov. 28:19; Eph. 4:28

76. Which is the ninth commandment? The ninth commandment is, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." For study: Exod. 20:16

77. What is required in the ninth commandment? The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbour's good name, especially in witness-bearing. For study: Zech. 8:16; 3 John 12; Prov. 14:5,25

78. What is forbidden in the ninth commandment? The ninth commandment forbiddeth whatsoever is prejudicial to truth, or injurious to our own or our neighbour's good name. For study: 1 Sam. 17:28; Lev. 19:16; Ps. 15:3

79. Which is the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's." For study: Exod. 20:17

80. What is required in the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment requireth full contentment with our own condition, with a right and charitable frame of spirit toward our neighbour, and all that is his. For study: Heb. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:6; Job 31:29; Rom. 12:15; 1 Tim. 1:5; 1 Cor. 13:4-7

81. What is forbidden in the tenth commandment? The tenth commandment forbiddeth all discontentment with our own estate, envying or grieving at the good of our neighbour, and all inordinate motions and affections to anything that is his. For study: 1 Kings 21:4; Esther 5:13; 1 Cor. 10:10; Gal. 5:26; James 3:14,16; Rom. 7:7,8; Rom. 13:9; Deut. 5:21



Drawing the Net The End of the Earth

By Nathan Edwards

You can get an ice-cold Coca-Cola in the most remote parts of Haiti. My wife tells me the same is true in Ghana. The Coca-Cola

Company wants to make sure everyone can enjoy the refreshing taste of their beverage. It's their unswerving ambition to reach the end of the earth to make Coke drinkers. Are we as compelled to reach the end of the earth to make disciples of Christ?

Reaching the end of the earth was our job before it was Coke's (cf Acts 1:8). Jesus told us to "make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19). In this command "all nations" refers to all distinct people groups, i.e. ethnicities, languages, clans, and families. Current figures suggest that there are about 6,600 Unreached/Under-reached People Groups (UPGs) in the world. These are the "nations" who have either never heard the gospel or who have minimal Christian presence amongst them. This amounts to nearly 2.84 billion people or 41% of the world's population. The majority of these live in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Put another way more people in our world have heard of Coca-Cola than

Jesus Christ.

But what can we do? These people are far away from us. How can we reach them? Jesus gives us the answer. Begin praying for "the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers" (Mt 9:38). This is work that the local congregation can do and must do. Jesus has told us that these fields of harvest will be reached when God is moved by our prayers to send missionaries to them. Prayer is where our task of reaching the lost begins. Accomplishing the Great Commission requires more than prayer, but it won't be accomplished without it. A congregation that wants to win the world for Christ will be a praying congregation. Are we doing our part?

There are many resources to help us in praying for the unreached. Visit www.joshuaproject.net or search for UPG prayer calendars on the internet. You can also purchase the book *Operation World* by Jason Mandryk, which catalogues every people group and gives specific prayer needs for each one. These resources can be easily incorporated into personal prayer time and family prayer time. Adopting one or more of these UPGs to pray for would be a great focus of your small group.

The Coca-Cola Company is haunted by the possibility that there are people in this world who don't have an opportunity to buy a Coke. Are we as haunted about the people who don't have the opportunity to receive the Savior? It is time that we let the burden of the lost fall upon us. It is time that we become a praying church for the advancement of the gospel. The Lord of the harvest will do his part. Will we do ours?

If you would like to be part of a Gashland prayer network for reaching the lost in our community and the world please contact me (822-2033 or nathanedwards58@gmail.com).

Devotional Series for 2012 The "One Another's" of Scripture

In 2012 we will be featuring a series of devotionals from the "one another" commands in the New Testament. These commands teach us what it means to be a loving church body to one another. Though each exhortation addresses a different issue they all grow out of the same soil, the love of Christ, which is in us. We hope that you will read these devotionals with an open and willing heart to heed and practice them so that GPC might truly show we are Christians by our love.

Love One Another –

By Pam Parker

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. (Jn 13:34,35 NIV)

Would you be willing to sacrifice your life for someone else? I don't mean physically dying for them. I mean sacrificing your life for others by living in such a way that caring for them and meeting their needs becomes more important to you than the concern for yourself.

There is a way that we can live for others and it can be summed up in one word---love. Not the kind of love that is driven by emotion but God's kind of love. His love is sacrificial, unconditional, always giving,

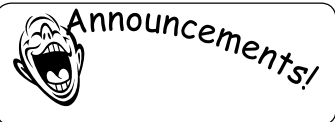
and never ending. Mere humans are unable to live out this kind of love. But when we accepted Jesus as our Savior we became a new creation, receiving his Spirit in which God's love resides. Now we don't have to conjure up love for others we simply draw out what we have been given.

When we renew our mind according to the truth of his Word (Romans 12:2 AMP) our spirit and mind are in agreement. Now his love can flow through us directing our prayer, time, talents, and resources in order to bless others.

This isn't something God suggests that we do, it is a commandment. Yes, there is a hurting world of unbelievers that need our love, but God again and again throughout the Scriptures brings us back to our brothers and sisters in Christ (I John 3:23, 4:11-12, II John 1:5, I Peter 1:22). Our love for each other should be constant, sacrificial, and immediate. We are then promised that as a consequence of our love for each other unbelievers will be drawn to Christ (John 13:35).

How is your love walk towards those in our congregation? Would others be drawn to Christ by your relationship with your brothers and sisters at Gashland? Do your words and actions concerning our church body reflect God's love or human judgment? God doesn't make obedience to John 13:34-35 conditional. In other words, we have to show real sacrificial love to brothers and sisters who don't believe and act like us. We even have to love brothers and sisters who don't love us in return.

Challenge yourself this New Year to study every Scripture on love and then meditate on how Jesus lived each one out in His earthly ministry. Jesus is our example of perfect love in action. There is a whole world of hurting and lost people watching to see if there is anything really different about being a Christian. What they see in our love for one another will be their answer. (Pam Parker is presently serving as a deacon)



If you would like to help make a meal for the folks at Ronald M c D o n a l d House, please c o n t a c t **Joyce Grady** at 419-5625. The 2012 dates are February 26th, May 6th, August 26th, and November 4th.

Treats for the Youth – If you would like to help out with treats for the Student Ministry Group (20 to 25 Middle School and High School kids) please call me, Joyce Grady 419-5625 and let me know which Sunday morning you would like to do the treats (doughnuts, brownies, cookies, cupcakes, whatever is convenient for you to make or buy)

Cake bakers wanted - We need birthday cakes for City Union Mission's Fellowship of Men's Group Birthday Celebration. They can be either homemade or store bought. The cakes need to feed 8 to 10 men. We need cakes for the following Tuesday's: March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, and June 12th. Contact Joyce Grady 419-5625

Save the Dates:

Saturday, April 28th – Northland Women's Conference
July 22nd – 27th – Vacation Bible School!!

Pastor Search Update

We have moved past the initial interview phase with several applicants and are in the process of conducting more in-depth interviews, talking with their references, and telling them more about our church body. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers. Specifically, please pray that the pastor whom God has called for this position will be clearly revealed. Please contact Paul Weatherford with any questions.

Gashland Presbyterian Church

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Kansas City, MO 64118

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Elders:

If you have any questions about our church or want to bring something to the session's attention please contact any one of the elders listed below.

Beth Armstrong:	454-0799	Mark Blakley:	858-5440
Bruce Brinkmeyer:	734-6022	Nathan Edwards:	822-2033
Dennis King:	468-4783	Arcie McCue:	453-6174
Chris Taylor:	206-2058		

Rev. Dave Schirmer: 436-3583
Rev. Kent Mathews: kentmathews@sbcglobal.net

Deacons

If you become aware of any need, be it yours or another's, please let the deacons know. We are here to help:

Lisa Miller	813-1236	Ken Masters	835-5907
Lyn Vande Polder	746-6824	Lisa Binner	456-1623
Diane Younger	436-8798	Mary Bahl	464-4808
Peggy Delury	468-9735	Al Eichelberg	741-1470
Pam Parker	468-6373		

SHOWERED BY THE
Spirit
4TH ANNUAL MIDKILLAND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

JOIN US TO HEAR GUEST
SPEAKER
EVA SELF
&
WORSHIP LEAD BY
AUTUMN IN REPAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2012
DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 A.M.
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS 8:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ENDS AT 3:00 P.M.
REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY
CONFERENCE ADMISSION SPECIAL:
\$20 BEFORE FEBRUARY 14 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

GPC information

Worship Times
8:30 Traditional Worship in sanctuary
9:45 Adult and Children Sunday School
11:00 Contemporary Worship in Ministry Center

Church Office Hours 8:30 – 5:00 M-F
phone 436 - 3583 | Fax: 436 - 7767
www.gashland.org

Contact the Editor:

For submissions, feedback, or announcements to be included in the newsletter, please email gashlandnewsletter@gmail.com or call Becky Edwards at 816/822-2033 by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

Prayer of Salvation

Oh God, I know that I am a sinner. I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Please take control of my life and make me the kind of person that You want me to be. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen