

**Week of
December 16, 2024 to
December 22, 2024**

*GraceNotes is a
weekly publication of
Grace Presbyterian Church*

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**Pay special attention to
items highlighted in WHITE !
These are NEW or changed!**

Email:
becky.couch@gmail.com

**NOTE:
This issue of
GraceNotes
is slightly abbreviated
because the editor
is out of town!**

GraceNotes

Ministry in the Life at
Grace Presbyterian Church

Our First Annual Christmas Pageant ...

It was a very special worship experience for all ages!

On Sunday, December 15, 2024 we all experienced a joyous worship service! Everyone who attended heard the scriptures in a new way! We each chose a special costume - an angel, an animal, a shepherd or a member of the little town of Bethlehem - and we were able to be an important part of the service!

The interactive no-practice pageant was truly a celebration of the anticipated birth of the Christ child! We created our own live nativity scene as the scriptures were read and the songs were sung. It was fun to not worry about all the movement and the noise. We were transported back in time and rejoiced in being a community that was excited about our Savior’s birth!

The Christian Education Ministry thanks everyone who helped make our very first Annual Christmas Pageant a huge success!

Next week: *GraceNotes* will be filled with pictures and thoughts from those who participated in our First Annual Grace Presbyterian Christmas Pageant.



Church Calendar

Wednesday, December 18
Strength & Balance
Exercise Class via Zoom
10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, December 18
Taco Salad Supper
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18
Come & See Worship
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 21
“The Longest Night”
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 22
Fourth Sunday in Advent

NOTE:
all donations to any
Christmas giving
opportunities
end today!

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Worship
10:30 a.m.

Liturgist: Elaine McCann
Ushers: Shalyn Shourds,
Terry Hendricks
Livestream Tech: LeRoy Thompson,
AV Tech: Sergio Perez
Offering Counters: Brian Anderson,
Ana Waggoner
Guardian Angels: Becky Couch,
John Hendricks
Teachers: Net Musfeldt, Linda Black

ADVENT 2024



December 18
6:00 p.m. - Taco Salad Supper
7:00 p.m. - “Come & See” Service

December 21
“The Longest Night”
7:00 p.m.

December 22
4th Sunday in Advent
10:30 a.m. - Worship

December 24
Christmas Eve - Evening Service
5:00 p.m. - Communion

December 29
10:30 a.m. - Worship

January 5
Ordination and Installation
of Class of 2027
10:30 a.m. - Worship ~ Communion

Unhanging of the Greens
immediately after worship

A very special service shared with our community

Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

“The Longest Night”



We are looking forward to this very special service again this year. This is something we started last year and it was well attended.

We hope this service can become a tradition: “The Longest Night..” The name comes from the season when we experience the shortest day and the longest night of the year. But the name also applies to the feeling that a number of us have about this season. It is the “long dark night of the soul,” “the winter of our discontent,” in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming.

For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult. For others, Christmas Eve, or New Year’s Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we recognize the pain of loss where you are invited to claim that pain and, we pray, will give it over to the Christ child. In doing so, we trust that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

This service will be livestreamed for the community to reach as many people as we can.

Your
last
Mexican
food
“fix”
for
2024!

TACO SALAD SUPPER

**Wednesday
December 18
6:00 p.m.**

**Everyone is invited!
(nothing to bring ... just come and enjoy)**

Mission & Neighborhood Outreach has special opportunities for us to ...

Share Christ's love this Christmas!



Collecting through December 22

Questions? Please contact
Jamie Curtis 817-291-2675

Let's make this a special Christmas ... Blessing the girls at Phased IN

This year our Adopt-A-Family will be just slightly different than it has been in the past. We have "adopted" the young women at Phased IN in Arlington. Currently there are eight residents.

Thank you for being a generous congregation!

- The gift poster had 16 gifts listed. That was a robe and pajamas for each girl in their size and their favorite color. All those gifts were chosen pretty quickly! **If you chose a gift, please bring the wrapped gift (with the gift tag attached) to the church no later than after worship on December 22.**

Here is how we can continue to help even more:

- We will also be collecting **cash** and **checks** to be used to purchase gift cards. These gift cards will be given to the girls to purchase items at their discretion. There is a box on the table in the Narthex for your checks and cash gifts, or you may put them in the offering plate. If you write a check, make sure to note on your check that it is for Adopt-A-Family.



One of our most loved Christmas traditions ... Grace Mitten Tree

from Sunday Dec. 1 to Sunday, Dec. 22

The cold weather will be arriving soon, and we all have a wonderful opportunity to keep the children of SafeHaven warm this year through our donations to the "Mitten Tree." The "Mitten Tree" is a favorite Grace Christmas tradition. We will decorate the tree with children's mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks from **Sunday, December 1 through Sunday, December 22**. All items will be delivered to the children at SafeHaven in Arlington. We appreciate all your support! Each year we collect more and more items!

Questions? Please contact Dixie Conine or Sandra Cooper
dixie.conine@yahoo.com 817-821-2604
sandra@tmiservices.com 817-992-7181

Mission & Neighborhood Outreach has special opportunities for us to ...

Share Christ's love this Christmas!

STAFF BONUS COLLECTION

DECEMBER 1
THROUGH
DECEMBER 22

YOU MAY LEAVE CASH OR CHECKS
IN THE BOX IN THE NARTHEX.



Let's not forget our staff! Staff Bonus Collection

We want our staff to know how much we appreciate all they do! Staff Bonus Collections will be **accepted December 1 through December 22**. Look for the package on the table outside the office for your donations. Bonus monies collected will be divided among paid and volunteer staff members:

Pastor Sherry, Gehlin Menti, Bonnie Schuler, Cindy Tucker and Julie Bayless. Thank you for helping show these dedicated individuals our appreciation from Grace Presbyterian!

Christmas Joy Offering

Christmas Joy Offering: The Perfect Gift

Sunday December 1 - 22, 2024

Please make your check payable to:
Grace Presbyterian Church,
with a note on your check "Christmas Joy Offering"

Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40



THE PERFECT GIFT.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and our future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to provide critical financial support to church workers and their families and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. Supporting the Christmas Joy Offering honors God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Sunday School

We have several great Sunday School classes. Try one and get connected to our church family!

Sunday mornings

9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

CLASS CONTACTS

Soul Sisters:

Karen Ellen Anderson
wbaarltx@aol.com

Contemporary Issues:

Chip Black
wblack@wans.net

Children's Church:

Dixie Conine
dixie.conine@yahoo.com

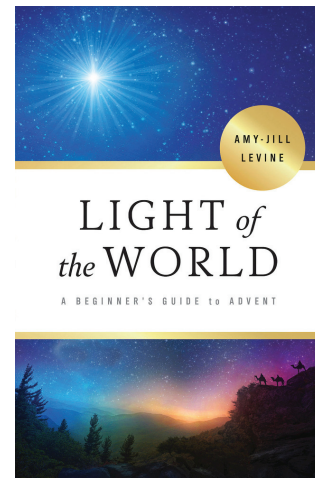
Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters has begun another new book — *Light of the World* by Amy-Jill Levine. This book explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Class continues to meet in the Soul Sisters room. We take turns being lesson leaders.

We are more than just a class ... we are prayer partners, support each other along life's rollercoaster, and treasure our friendships and the supportive bonds that are truly special. We always have room for one more!

So, join us!

For information about this class, contact
Karen Ellen Anderson at wbaarltx@aol.com



Contemporary Issues

Join us on Sunday mornings at the church for a discussion of current events from a Biblical perspective.

For more information on this class, contact
Chip Black at wblack@wans.net

Children's Church

Children under age five meet in the nursery with two Guardian Angels each Sunday beginning before worship. Children's Church teachers will guide the older children out of worship after Time for Young Disciples.

For more information on this class, contact
Dixie Conine at dixie.conine@yahoo.com

And for something to really stretch you ...

Strength & Balance Exercise Class

Meeting each Wednesday via ZOOM

10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Join us each Wednesday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via Zoom! The exercises are both sitting and standing, always the same, slow and easy, and can be modified to suit individual needs. We will be happy to send you the instructions for the movements.

For more information, contact:

Nancy Kenney, coordinator at kenneyhavas@gmail.com



2024-2025 Meetings

WOG Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of designated months. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

January 17 - 19, 2025
Annual WOG Retreat

February 13, 2025
Friendship Dinner

March 13, 2025
Heirloom Show and Tell

April 10, 2025
Packaging cookies for our shut-ins

May 8, 2025
Games and Seed/Plant Swap

Our 26th Annual WOG Retreat will be here before we know it!

“Friend Me!”

**January 17-19, 2025
Sign up at the WOG Table**

Our 26th Annual WOG Retreat is going to be fantastic! Our theme this year is “Friend Me!” and the curriculum is intended to help us create life-long friendships with the women in our church as well as with Jesus!



We have 17 ladies signed up for the retreat!

The cost is a very reasonable \$110.00!

Please pay by December 15.

(You can even spend one extra night on Sunday, January 20, for only \$30.00 more.)
Make your checks out to Women of Grace.

- The location of the retreat is just one hour from Grace. When we found **The Brazos House Retreat** we felt like we had found the perfect spot for the perfect retreat!
- The **bedrooms** are two people per room with a **private bath** for each room and trust us, the atmosphere, the beds, and even the bathrooms are a vast improvement over previous retreats!
- This weekend we have **planned more time to get to know each other better** and more time for exploring the beautiful retreat center (weather permitting). There will be time for small group study, large group discussion and lots of fun, **singing, games, crafts, puzzles** and **even time for resting** if you need a break from the world!

NOTE: if you have any **questions** about the location or the facility, please do not hesitate to ask **Julie Bayless**. She is ready to give you answers to any question you might have!
Contact Julie by phone: 817-688-1070,
or email baylessj@prodigy.net

Women of Grace

OFFICERS

Co-Moderators:

Jamie Curtis

email: jamie.curtis1@att.net

Elaine McCann

email: elainemccann305@att.net

Net Musfeldt

email: bmusfeldt@aol.com

Secretary:

Elaine McCann

Treasurer:

Elsa Louis

Programs:

Julie Bayless

Jamie Curtis

Retreat:

Julie Bayless

Jamie Curtis

Hospitality:

Erinn Bryant

Christian Fellowship:

Karen Ellen Anderson

Mission:

vacant

Special Projects:

vacant

Bible Study Circles:

Monday Circle:

Patti Roemmich

Night Circle:

Martha Kinard

Nominating Committee:

Erinn Bryant

All women are invited ...

Bible Study Circles

Monday Circle Bible Study

Monday Circle meets the 2nd Monday of each month on Zoom beginning at 9:30 a.m. to meet/chat and 9:45 a.m. start lesson

Meeting Dates: 1/13/25; 2/10/25; 3/10/25; 4/14/25; 5/12/25

Patti Roemmich, Monday Circle Coordinator

(817) 319-4538 email: patriciaroemmich@yahoo.com

Night Circle Bible Study

Night Circle meets the 1st Thursday of each month on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Dates: 1/9/25; 2/6/25; 3/6/25; 4/3/25; 5/1/25

Martha Kinard, Night Circle Coordinator

(817) 703-1365 email: martha.kinard@gmail.com

Fill 'er up! We have lots of room!

Burt's Big Box



Nancy and John Kenney
faithfully clean out and deliver everything from Burt's Big Box once a month. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with Grace, Nancy and John!

Don't forget how easy it is to donate to Burt's Big Box! If you have items you have no need for, we have lots of room to take those discarded items off your hands!

Burt's Big Box is located in the main hallway. General donations of clothing, shoes, and miscellaneous items are collected in the box and delivered to Mission Arlington or Arlington Charities. If you have any questions, contact:

Nancy Kenney, committee member,
 Mission & Neighborhood Outreach
 (559) 904-3856 or kenneyhasu@gmail.com

Financial Update - October

October 2024 Budget Update	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	20,134	21,626	252,788	216,257
Expenses	20,700	21,811	223,301	218,113
Income over (under) Expenses	(566)	(185)	29,487	(1,855)

**Need to be
 on the
 Grace WIFI?**



If you need to join the Grace Presbyterian WIFI while you are at church, scan this nifty QR code and it will let you right in!

Contact Us

Office:

(817) 468-0868

Address:

5500 Mansfield Road
Arlington, TX 76017

Website:

<https://gpcarlington.org/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/GracePresbyterianArlington

CHURCH STAFF:

Interim Minister:

Rev. Sherry Holloman
holloman.sherry@gmail.com
(214) 463-9037

Office hours:

Monday-Tuesday 9:00 to 1:00
Wednesday 12:00 to 8:00

Director of Music:

Gehlin Menti

Praise Team Music:

Julie Bayless

Administrative Assistant:

Cynthia Tucker

Financial Clerk:

Bonnie Schuler

Session Liaisons

RULING ELDERS:

Class of 2024

Becky Couch, Worship

Ana Waggoner, Pastoral Care

Dixie Conine, Christian Education

Class of 2025

Chip Black, Communications

Jan Nash, Clerk of Session

Walter Nelson, Building & Grounds

Class of 2026

Brian Anderson, Finance

Larry Phipps, Stewardship

Chi Ndukwe, Mission & Neighborhood Outreach

Class of 2027 has been elected!

John Hendricks

Elaine McCann

Jenny Ross

TRUSTEES:

Sam McAllister, 2024

Tom Sicks, 2025

Louie Nash, 2026

Kent Couch, 2027

Prayer Chain

Martha Kinard is our Prayer Chain coordinator. If you would like to submit a prayer request, email Martha.

Martha Kinard: martha.kinard@gmail.com

Stephen Ministry

If you are struggling with something in your life and would like someone to talk to and pray with, consider having a Stephen Minister. Contact Louie Nash at 817-999-8962 or louie.nash@sidehike.net

Stephen Leader: Louie Nash

Stephen Ministers: Becky Couch and Dick Townsend

Pastor Nominating Committee

Kent Couch

Margaret Manning

Net Musfeldt

Roger Perez

Larry Phipps