

**Inside this issue:**

Easter Celebrations at Grace	2
Update on our Missionaries	3
New Members	3
Electronic Giving Option	4

## “Does God Care?”

Dear Friends of Grace,

I once was talking with an older man about the nature of God. He asserted that I didn't have a high enough view of God because I thought God was concerned about the details of my life. “When I look at the stars and the vastness of space,” he said, “I know that, if there is a God, he is not concerned about me or any of the other ‘ants’ crawling around on this planet. He is far too great to concern himself with us.”

Last week in my personal time with God, I was reading Psalm 8 and I came across these words:

**When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars,  
which you have set in place,  
what is man that you are mindful of him,  
and the son of man that you care for him? (Psalm 8.3-4)**

I was reminded that King David had precisely the same feelings that elderly man expressed. When pondering the vastness of the universe, the intricate order with which everything is constructed, and the magnificent harmony of it all, he *marveled* that such a being would ever concern himself with puny human beings.

But David went a different direction with his feelings of insignificance. He wrote...

**Yet (!) you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings**

**and crowned him with glory and honor.**

**You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;**

**you have put all things under his feet. (Psalm 8.5-6)**

David's natural feelings were that his concerns were trivial, small, unimportant, and unworthy of the attention of the Creator of such a vast universe. But he chose to acknowledge that what God says in his word is true; he said “Yet...!” (verse 5). The Bible—God's revelation of himself—tells us more than we could ever gather from the natural order of things around us. In fact, we are the kings and queens of the earth (Genesis 1.26-28).

You and I are living in very uncertain times—things that seemed rock solid have proven to be just shifting sand. We wonder...

- Will our company survive the financial tsunami that is shaking the world?
- Will we have a job next week...next month...next year? Where will it be?
- Will we be able to continue to pay our bills? Will we keep our house? Our car?
- Will my children be able to go to college next year?

The fact that should always amaze us is that God cares for us! God knows our needs, God is aware of what we are facing. As we walk with him, God promises to supply all that we need.

This morning I was watching ‘Good

*Continued on page 4 ...*

# Easter Celebrations at Grace

Easter falls on *Sunday, April 12* this year. This year, the new county-wide Spring break falls the week *before* Easter for all of the school districts in Oakland County; this may affect some aspects of our Easter celebration. Here's a quick update on the events at each campus.

## Grace Fellowships

We will encourage our Grace Fellowships at all three locations to give special attention to the Easter season; many of them will be sharing a fellowship meal and celebrating communion during this time. Be-

cause schools will not be meeting the week before Easter, some Grace Fellowships will choose to meet for their Easter celebration the week following Easter — pay careful attention to the Worship Folder at your campus for information.

## Good Friday (Friday, April 10)

- **Commerce & Waterford** will have their auditoriums open from 1:00–3:00 pm on Good Friday and will provide materials for reflection and personal worship. There will *not* be a service or child-care during these hours.
- **White Lake** will have a Good Friday Worship Service from 1:00–2:00 pm on Good Friday in their auditorium. There will be care for nursery and toddlers offered during the service. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at the service.

## Easter Sunday (Sunday, April 12)

Our service times will be as usual at all locations:

- ❖ Commerce—9:30 am
- ❖ Waterford—9:30 am
- ❖ White Lake—9:45 & 11:15 am

Our services at White Lake & Commerce will include a drama entitled, "The Centerpiece." This drama (which was used at White Lake a number of years ago) portrays an Easter Sunday dinner in which the host family is desperately trying to ignore the fact that a huge cross has crashed through their dining room table. The drama is both a humorous and a moving example of people missing the entire reason for the celebration.

*We will encourage our Grace Fellowships at all three locations to give special attention to the Easter season.*



## Updates on our Missionaries

**Gregor & Kela Menga (Kosovo)** are presently in Shkodër, Albania where they have taken Gregor's mother, Roza, home to finish her struggle with cancer. This has taken them away from the church in Gjilan, Kosovo where Gregor serves as pastor, and required that they move their three children into Albanian schools temporarily. The family is suffering emotionally as Roza is in her final weeks of life. When we became aware of the financial burdens this move (and Roza's care)

has entailed, we were able to send them \$5,000 from our World Ministries designated funds to help. The Mengas thank you for your continued prayers.

**Donovan & Jocelyn Jocke (Bosnia)** are settled back into Bosnia after the recent adoption of their son, Nathan, in the US. Jocelyn is also due with their second child in late-March; they anticipate going to Hungary for the baby's birth. Please pray for safety in travel and childbirth and for all of the changes their

(rapidly!)-expanding family will bring to them. Pray also for Donovan's work as the team-leader of the 'Pioneers' (their mission board) church planting team in Visoko, Bosnia.

**Ken & Sharon Wade (Thailand) Thailand**— Please pray for Ken & Sharon Wade as they continue their work in Thailand. Pray for them as two of their children will remain in the states to attend college this year, for their ongoing support needs.

***“Pray for our leaders as they rely upon God's guidance, wisdom, and direction for their leadership”***

## New Members in 2009

The following people have been received into membership at Grace so far in 2009:

Matthew Bradley  
(Commerce)  
Danielle Conn (Commerce)  
Dave & Jodie DeJonge  
(White Lake)  
Greg & Kim Fitzpatrick  
(White Lake)  
Rick & Leisa Goebel  
(White Lake)  
Linda Herald (Commerce)  
Jerry Holcomb (White  
Lake)

Jim & Maureen Ingles  
(Waterford)  
Cheryl Quinn (White Lake)  
Todd & Laura Westerman  
(White Lake)

We now have 259 members — 27 at Commerce, 82 at Waterford, and 150 at White Lake.

The two-week “All About Grace” classes are offered four times a year — twice at White Lake and one time each at Waterford and Commerce. People are free to attend the classes at another location than the one they

attend; they can also ‘make up’ a class they missed at by attending it the next time it is offered (or later).

The next two times the “All About Grace” classes will be offered are:

- ❖ March 15 & 22 at Grace Church—White Lake (11:15 am in the “Roots” Classroom)
- ❖ April 26 & May 3 at Grace Church—Waterford (11:15 am)

**Business Mailing Address:**  
P. O. Box 611  
Milford, MI 48381



## GRACE CHURCH Mission Statement

### Volume 25, Number 1

**White Lake Location:**  
220 Bogie Lake Road  
White Lake, MI 48383  
248/ 887-3700 ☎  
248/ 887-9390 ☎

**Commerce Location:**  
3275 Martin Road  
Commerce Twsp., MI 48390  
248/ 887-3700 ☎  
248/ 887-9390 ☎

**Waterford Location:**  
2515 N. Williams Lake Road  
Waterford, MI 48327  
248/ 886-0888 ☎  
248/ 886-0122 ☎

**Please note:** We are presently having internet and phone service installed at the Commerce location so the Commerce staff can work there during part of the week. Look for new phone numbers soon in the Worship Folder.

GRACE CHURCH is a growing network of smaller, mutually accountable congregations

which are functioning as separate Christian communities

- to worship God,
- to penetrate their neighborhoods with the gospel,
- to nurture believers, and
- to equip them for service;

and are coordinating their efforts

- to provide adequate leadership and pastoral oversight,
- to pool resources for ministry,
- to increase their community impact, and
- to extend the gospel more effectively into the world.

## “Does God Care?”

Continued from page 1...

Morning America.’ There was a little interview with a psychologist about how people who are experiencing financial difficulties—‘downsizing,’ loss of job, mortgage foreclosure, etc.—should talk to their young children about it. The psychologist spoke about the fact that little children don’t need to know the details. They mostly need to know that, whatever happens, Mom and Dad will be there with them. Everything she said was appropriate...but I felt she left one thing out that Christians should emphasize. Though children definitely shouldn’t be burdened with the knowledge and expectations of adulthood, they should be invited to learn to trust

God along with their parents. The truth is, whatever we face in life we can be confident that our God is with us. The parents must learn to trust God for their daily bread; they should also invite their children to be a part of the learning process. And when God does provide, they should be invited to rejoice with the parents. I can’t imagine any greater lesson to learn in childhood; unfortunately, most of us weren’t given the opportunity.

Despite whatever feelings of insignificance you may have, the Bible teaches (and the life of Jesus Christ proves), that we are *incredibly significant* to God. He is deeply concerned for every aspect of our lives

## Electronic Giving is Possible at Grace

Those of you who are new to our church family may not be aware that you can give to Grace Church regularly and systematically directly from your checking or savings account at your bank. Contact Clare at 248/ 887-3700 to get an application.

and he wants us to learn to trust him. Right now he is taking all of us through a difficult time in which he is inviting us to trust and obey him regardless of our outward circumstances.

God has given to each of us a living family of believers in which we are invited to taste and experience his gracious

and strong ‘fathering.’ I hope you are as grateful as I am that we can walk through these tough times together and know that, while our difficulties won’t last, God’s deep care for us will.

Love in Christ,