

John's Epistle

Happy New Year

What makes you happy? Seriously, think about it for a moment. What is it in life that truly fulfills you, the thing that makes it worth getting up in the morning? Is it family? Work? A hobby or creative activity?

More than likely, your answer isn't a simple one. It's not just one thing, but many, a combination of factors. Happiness is a much more complex concept than most of us consider on an ordinary basis. And the things that tend to make us most happy in life can sometimes—or frequently—drive us absolutely nuts.

Even defining happiness can be difficult. It is a feeling, of course, but it's much more than that, a state of being. And it's hard to say what the most important characteristic is of happiness—satisfaction, fulfillment, love, contentment. All of these are surely part of what makes us happy, but it would be hard to say that just one of them is enough to guarantee happiness.

Yet here we are, at the beginning of yet another new calendar year, spouting the greeting, "Happy New Year!" as if everyone (and we) knew exactly what that meant. Perhaps it's all relative and we simply trust that they'll understand we mean for them to have whatever it means for them.

The very concept of happiness, it seems to me, requires freedom. In fact, as our Declaration of Independence states, "the pursuit of happiness" is a basic human right that can only be gained if people are free. But we often find that one person's pursuit of happiness makes it difficult for another to pursue the same goal, so we create laws to keep one another from using freedom to enslave each other. It's all so complicated it makes my brain hurt. (These are the things your pastor often is daydreaming about. Yikes.)

As Christians, there is just one thing that makes us "happy"—loving the Lord with all our heart and soul and strength. As Jesus suggested more than once, the "life application" of this truth means loving one another.

The people called Methodists have had for centuries now a unique way of recommitting themselves to this holy ideal of life. It began each New Year with what was called the Covenant Service, a time of renewal in which the covenant with God was explicitly stated in public worship together. John Wesley composed a most beautiful and precious prayer that the people said together as a way of summarizing their commitment. I have a copy of that prayer on the wall in my office, given to me years ago by some dear friends:

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

This, my friends, is what I mean when I wish you a Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,
Pastor John

UPHOLDING OUR CHURCH BY OUR ... PRAYERS PRESENCE

Prayers of healing and comfort for:

Jim & Barbara Baker (Jim & Rita Gay's friends)
Carsen Bang (Travis Crouse's son) receiving treatments
Jenny Cappel (Anice & Charles Byler's daughter) health concerns
Linda DiPonzio (Ron Harris' sister) diagnosed with liver cancer
Ladd Fields (Carol Kennedy's father) recovering from surgery
Tom Graves who is recovering in a rehab facility in Plano
Katie Liston (Joan Douglass' great-niece) who has lupus and receiving treatments
Keith Lund (Amy Gardner's father) who is at home recovering
David Mathews who is recovering at his mother's home
Helen Morales (Harvey's neighbor) recovering from an infection
Frank Roland (Ross Richardson's friend) who is on hospice care
Bailey Young (Kelli Goolsby's 2nd cousin) recovering from surgeries
Jaun Zamora (Bianca's father) health concerns

Prayers of celebration for:

The birth of **Andrew Robert Harper** on December 26 to Major Justin & Jenny Harper. Betty Harper is the proud great-grandmother

Ongoing prayers for those dealing with cancer:

Amanda Ashlock (Craig & Nancy Bornstien's friend), **Adrian Andrews** (Jack Wakin's nephew), **Janie Downy** (Penny Wakin's mother), **Helena Fair** (Richard Fair's mother), **Anita Ferman**, **Romy Fidlon** (Paula Richardson's niece), **Phyllis Guller** (Rita Gay's friend), **Deanna Hedrick** (Jan Chisham's cousin), **Marvin Ingles** (Ross Richardson's friend), **Robin Love** (Karen McNaughton's friend), **Candy Mathews**, **Jan Rhea** (friend of the Boyes), **Lou Snell** (Becky Burtner's aunt)

Other ongoing prayers:

Jack Mohler (Sandi Smith's father) receiving hospice care
David Stevenson who is having health concerns

Prayers of protection and safety for:

Armed forces throughout the world, especially for Grace folks who are deployed
SPU Jeremy Bailey (Starners' great nephew) US Army who is in Afghanistan
MSG Dawn Cantele (Howard & Linda Burris' niece) US Army who is in Afghanistan
PFC Bradley Herron (Chuck & Andi Schruhl's grandson) serving in Afghanistan

Prayers for healthy pregnancy:

Erin Clayton, **Sarah Meyers** & **Chelsey Morrow** (Susan Morrow's daughter-in-law)

If there is an emergency, please call the pastor on his cell phone: Rev. John Fleming at 214-384-1139.

SERVICE

OUR SERVICE THANKS TO...

...**UMW** for making new Chrismons for the Christmas tree
 ...**Everyone** who helped decorate the Celebration Center for Christmas!
 ...**Anice Byler** & **Bert Winn** for cleaning out the Celebration Center closets!
 ...**Gary Witt** for fixing several lights
 ...**Pamela Rylander** for keeping the landscaping looking great.
 ...**Super Seniors** for the folding & stuffing of the bulletins.

December 4, 2011

Worship.....217
 8:30 am.....93
 11:00 am.....134

Sunday School.....105

December 18, 2011

Worship.....268
 8:30 am.....125
 11:00 am.....143

Sunday School

December 11, 2011

Worship.....257
 8:30 am.....115
 11:00 am.....142

Sunday School

December 24, 2011

Worship333
 7:00 pm.....268
 10:30 pm.....65

December 25, 2011

11:00 am 211

GIFTS

November Operating
 Required thru 12/31.... \$30,086
 Received thru 12/31.... \$23,297

Year-to-Date Operating
 Required thru 12/31.... \$361,037
 Received thru 12/31.... \$395,396

LEAP OF FAITH Campaign Pledges \$135,696
 Monies Received Toward Pledges \$127,410

Thank You!

Charley and I would like to express our deep gratitude for all the acts of loving kindness shown during the recent death of my mother. The prayers, cards and food were greatly appreciated. We are very appreciative of Pastor John's very comforting visits and prayers at this time. We don't know how people without the support of a loving church family make it through these times of grief. I would also like to thank the Grace Adult Bell Choir for being with me through the difficult years with mother. You guys have been a tremendous source of strength and comfort.

In His Love,
 Anice & Charles Byler

Grace Church,
 I can't begin to tell you how much we appreciated your love and support during our time of grief. Special thanks to our wonderful Care Committee for providing a wonderful luncheon at Dale's service. Grace folks are truly grace-filled!

The Family of Dale Wagener
 Eileen Wagener and Pat Eversole

This is Keith Mong, Cheryl's husband. I can not thank each one of you enough for your wonderful, heartfelt comments in the wake of Cheryl's homegoing Oct 27, 2011, and Memorial Service of Nov 19, a service of blessed triumph because of Jesus Christ. Thanks especially for your prayers. She is now worshipping, which she loved to do, in Heaven 24/7!!! Thank God for the Living Hope which is ours today because of what Christ has done for us at the Cross. Love always, until we meet together around the Throne of God in Heaven someday.

Keith Mong

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Pastor's Bible Study 7:00 Choir	<i>5</i> 9:00 Super Seniors 6:00 Legal Clinic 7:00 Created by God 6:15 Praise Band	<i>6</i> 6:30 Created by God	<i>7</i> 8:00 UMM Breakfast 9:30 - 3:00 Created by God
<i>8</i> 8:30 Disciple I 12:30 Disciple IV 12:15 MISSION BOARD 1:30 Quilter's Corner 5:00 Adult Bells 5:00 GUMY 5:30 Confirmation	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 5:30 WORSHIP	<i>11</i> 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Faithweavers 6:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 Youth Bible Study 7:00 Choir	<i>12</i> 9:00 Super Seniors 6:15 Praise Band 7:00 UMW	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 8:30 - 2:00 CHURCH PLANNING RETREAT
<i>15</i> 8:30 Disciple I 12:30 Disciple IV 5:00 Adult Bells 5:00 GUMY 5:30 Confirmation	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Faithweavers 6:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 Youth Bible Study 7:00 Choir	<i>19</i> 9:00 Super Seniors Potluck 6:15 Praise Band	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i> 8:30 Disciple I 12:30 Disciple IV 5:00 Adult Bells 5:00 GUMY 5:30 Confirmation	<i>23</i> 6:30 Stephen Ministry 7:00 Disciple III	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Faithweavers 6:00 Pastor's Bible Study 6:00 Youth Bible Study 7:00 Choir	<i>26</i> 9:00 Super Seniors 6:15 Praise Band	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i> 8:30 Disciple I 12:30 Disciple IV 5:00 Adult Bells 5:00 GUMY 5:30 Confirmation	<i>30</i> 7:00 Disciple III	<i>31</i>	 <p>January 2012 Grace UMC</p>			

Kids Korner

Thank you to...

Laura Dominick and **Cindy Sloan** for leading the children in Christmas music!

Pat Eversole for leading children's crystal bells!

Mary Jones for volunteering to provide childcare during Legal Clinic.

Marsha Kahl for all her help with the GUMster Party!

Sunday School

January's Live B.I.G. lessons help us understand that Jesus is the Son of God.

The weekly topics:

January 1 - The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12)

January 8 - Jesus in the Temple at Twelve (Luke 2:41-52)

January 15 - Jesus' Baptism (Mark 1:4-11)

January 22 - Jesus begins His Ministry (Luke 4:14-30)

January 29 - Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law (Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41)

Coming up!!

If you need **childcare for Wednesday** evening Bible Study and/or choir, please let Marianna know at 903.892.3681 by the Sunday before.

"Created by God" for our 5th and 6th graders on January 5, 6 and 7.

GUMster's will make and take brownies to our first responders on Sunday, January 22.

VBS will begin on Sunday, July 15 - Mark your calendar

Happy Birthday!

- 1-05 **Ben Gardner**
- 1-11 **Ela Sweetin**
- 1-15 **Landrey Perkins**
- 1-21 **Haley Perkins**
- 1-24 **Rylie May**



Above and below: Children of Grace playing advent music on the crystal bells, led by Pat Eversole.



Pictured above and below: Laura Dominick assembling the children to sing Advent music - getting ready for the birth of the Messiah, Jesus.



GUMY

January 2012
Grace United Methodist Church
Youth Newsletter

AUCTION

The (Virtually) Unknown Delivery?

Guess this song from this verse!

*"He sees you when you are sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake!"*

You probably guessed and have heard this verse from the song "Santa Clause Is Coming To Town". Well an 18 yr old from Stockton, California found out some truth in these words as he tried to sneak into his home after a family-enforced curfew. For whatever reason, he opted for the chimney....As he was coming down the chimney, he was just inches away from being successful with his feet hanging visibly on the inside, when he got stuck. After being stuck for about 90 minutes, emergency crews were called. Then the young man was delivered from the chimney in 15 minutes.

What can we take from this? Besides, there's a reason that Santa is the only one who needs to be coming in through the chimney.

On Christmas Eve we'll celebrate the day that God chose to send us His Son who eventually will save us from sin & death. There are lots of names given to Him in the Old & New Testament. Savior, Wonderful, Counselor, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, and ...Deliverer...



According to some of the stories about Santa, he used the chimney to get into locked houses and still deliver the goodies to the children.

Kinda sneaky if you ask me, but God delivered our Deliverer in the form of a baby. Kinda sneaky too. Back then everyone expected an earth-shaking spectacle in the coming of the Messiah, and only the shepherds got to see the show. Other than that, God did it right in front of the eyes of the world, and hardly anyone blinked an eye in Bethlehem when He was born.

Deliverer...this coming Saturday we will honor the birth of the One that will deliver us from sin and welcome us into His life, ministry, and sacrifice. I pray that this year Christmas finds new meaning in your life. And that in the coming year His love extends from you to all you meet, greet, and see. So that we can share His great & crazy love with everyone. **BONUS!** You don't have to go down a chimney to do it!

Merry Christmas Everyone!

THE GUMY WEEK @ GRACE



Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Traditional
11:00 a.m. Blended
Sunday School: 9:50 - 10:50 a.m.
UMYF Sundays: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.*
Mid-Week Bible Study: 6:00 - 7:00p.m.*
*Unless otherwise noted on the calendar



Youth Sunday & Auction!

The Senior High Mission Team will be heading to Alabama to help out with disaster relief from last Spring's tornadoes and storms! And the Junior High Mystery Ramble will be heading to...well...frankly it's TOP SECRET!

So the donations are starting to come in and be gathered & plans are being made for our BIG fundraiser! On **JANUARY 29, 2012** Youth Sunday will be here and we will be leading worship and hosting the Auction!

While we plan and look for donations, we need everyone's help! So please think about 2 things:

- What gifts or talents do you have (music, a strong back, sports, art, computer, etc.) that you can use to donate?
- Where can you volunteer to help? (Silent Auction, gathering donations, finding donations, Silent Auction setup, publicity, etc.)

Contact Allen with any ideas or items you want to donate! 903-892-3681 or allen@gracesherman.org!

IN CONCERT W/ TODD AGNEW



January 8 will be a big day! We'll be going to First United Methodist Tom Bean to see Todd Agnew in concert! We will be leaving Grace at 5:30p, the cost is... FREE, however there will be a love offering taken up during the show! Plus a chance for autographs after!

Todd Agnew was born, adopted and raised in Dallas. And is has written many contemporary Christian songs that are used in worship. Some of you may have heard a version of "Amazing Grace" called, "Grace Like Rain" that has been played in worship, which is one of his more known songs.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

MidWeek Bible Study !

We'll take some time off from our Mid-Week Bible Study during the Christmas Break so everyone can enjoy the holidays and time with their families! Bible Study will resume on January 11!



Visit the Youth Page Online

<http://www.gracesherman.org/youth>

or on Facebook


Search for Grace Youth - Sherman, TX



Grace United Methodist

Grace United Methodist Church, 2800 Canyon Creek, Sherman, TX 75092

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 11:00a NO GUMMY	2	3	4 No Bible Study	5	6	7
8 Worship 8:30 & 11a Sunday School CONCERT @ TOMBEAN FUMC - Leave Grace 9:50 a	9	10	11 Wednesday Night Study 6:00p	12	13	14
15 Worship 8:30 & 11a Sunday School UMY 5 - 7p 9:50 a	16	17	18 Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:00p	19	20	21
22 Worship 8:30 & 11a Sunday School UMY 5 - 7p 9:50 a	23	24	25 Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:00p	26	27	28
29 YOUTH SUNDAY & AUCTION! Worship 8:30 & 11a Sunday School 9:50 a	30	31				

January Birthdays!

Hannah Buechler - Jan. 7

January Snack Suppers

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
Jan. 08 - Todd Agnew
Concert
Jan. 15 - Porter & Sutter
Jan. 22 - Fleming & Kahl
Jan. 29 - NO GUMMY

Allen's Contact Stuff!

Office: 903-892-3681
Cell: 903-271-7060
Email: allen@gracesherman.org

LEGAL CLINIC FOR JANUARY

Legal Clinic will be at 6:00 p.m. on **January 5.**

Family Circle Sunday School Class will help with serving food.



QUILTER'S CORNER

The Quilter's Corner will meet from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 8 in the Community Room. Bring a project to work on and a snack to share. Come join the fun & fellowship. For more information call Susan Pinion at 903-893-2597 or Virginia Bovee at 903-815-8548.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

This month's meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on **January 12** in the church Narthex. The program "Peace as Action" will be presented by Selina Klinghamer and Barbara Williams as hostess. All women of Grace are welcome to attend an evening of fellowship, food and an interesting program. Don't forget to bring your items for the Sherman Housing Authority: toilet tissue, paper towels, dishwashing liquid. Contact Virginia Bovee if you have questions at 903-815-8548.

THANK YOU

Mother & I want to thank all who came and caroled her at Carrus. It was a surprise to her as much as a celebration. She's 92 and has exceeded all expectations in spite of her age. Of course, she is a special lady to me but I am so honored that you took the time to come see and sing for her.

Again thank you,
Jan Chisham & Rachel Johns

January Birthdays

2nd.....Fred Holbrook	14th.....Bobby Brock
.....Lloyd Perkins	17th.....Tori Crowe
3rd.....Tom Busby	18th.....Ross Richardson
.....Gene Miller	19th.....Bill Busby
4th.....Mary WardlawGary Witt
6th.....Mary Ford	20th.....Buffy Hanson
.....Chase Gowen	22nd.....Steve McClellan
.....Rhonda Luckett	23rd.....Joyce Sampson
.....Rick Burkhalter	25th.....Brian Wolff
7th.....Hannah Buechler	26th.....Cindy Weaver
.....Dan DominickBarbara Williams
.....Becky McClellan	27th.....Jesse Perkins
8th.....Zach BalchDavid Rylander
.....Kara Wilson	29th.....Kathy Parker
11th.....Gloria Beck	30th.....Susan Morrow
.....Jim Harrison	31st.....Sean Sutter
.....Bryan KahlDrew Wade



Dr. Marvin Guier, Northwest District Superintendent, led the Grace UMC Annual Charge Conference on December 18.

KEY CARE REQUESTED ITEMS FOR DECEMBER

sugar, jelly, jello,
toothpaste, shampoo and bar soap

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Grace UMC Planning Retreat is Saturday, January 14, at Grace starting at 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided at \$10 a person. Babysitting will also be provided as needed.



All 2011 and incoming 2012 committees, ministry chairs and at large members are invited to attend. The goal of this meeting will be to establish our plans and set goals for Grace UMC in 2012. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the hallway. If childcare is needed please contact Marianna Perkins at 903-892-3681 or at marianna@gracesherman.org.



YOUTH AUCTION TIME!

Well the time is coming! Time to start planning for the big fundraiser that will help support Youth Summer Missions!! The AUCTION! We appreciate all the support that Grace has given in the past and give thanks to each

of you in ALL the ways you have supported us! As many of you know the money raised from this fundraiser will help get our Junior and Senior High youth out and about in service to those in need. We would love to involve those who have helped in the past and invite others (new members, visitors, and some of the new businesses in town) to jump on board!

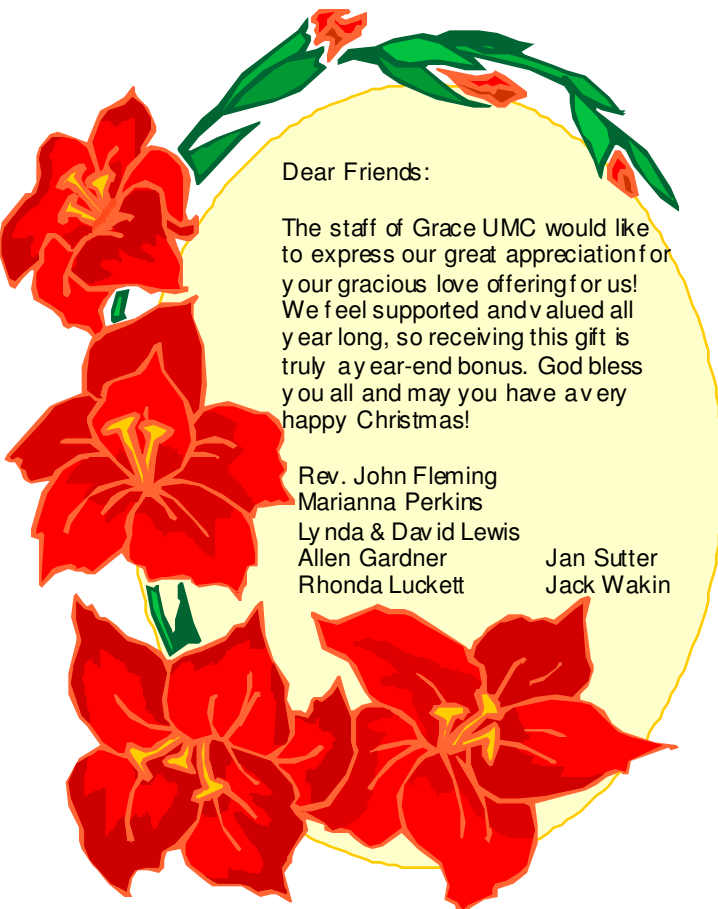
Do you have a talent or gift that you can share or teach such as sports, tutoring, music, computer skills, woodworking or housecleaning. Or maybe donate that gift you were considering re-gifting. These are just a couple of donation ideas that could help us raise funding for this summer.

Again we are thankful for the support of everyone at Grace in prayer and deed! If you have questions, please contact Allen Gardner at 903-892-3681 or allen@gracesherman.org.

Grace Notes

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2800 CANYON CREEK SHERMAN, TX 75092
PHONE 903-892-3681 FAX 903-892-8254

Scheduled Sunday Worship Times: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages: 9:50 a.m.



Dear Friends:

The staff of Grace UMC would like to express our great appreciation for your gracious love offering for us! We feel supported and valued all year long, so receiving this gift is truly a year-end bonus. God bless you all and may you have a very happy Christmas!

Rev. John Fleming
Marianna Perkins
Lynda & David Lewis
Allen Gardner
Rhonda Luckett

Jan Sutter
Jack Wakin

WORSHIP SERVICES

JANUARY 1 -

HAPPY NEW WORLD

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 & Revelation 21:1-6a

JANUARY 8 -

ONE BAPTISM

Acts 19:1-7 & Mark 1:4-11

JANUARY 15 -

KNOCK, KNOCK

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) & John 1:43-51

JANUARY 22 -

WALKING BACKWARD

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 & Mark 1:14-20