

grace  
WE'RE AMAZING

Annual Report for 2012  
Grace United Church of Christ  
1185 Pleasantville Road  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
740-654-0565

Council President

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6*

It is nice to have the opportunity to look back on 2012 for accomplishments and work left to do! I began 2012 with the goal of updating the progress on God's Dream Team Strategic Plan, initially created in September 2010. Additionally, the Safe Sanctuary Policy needed review to broaden the scope to include natural disaster, fire and other safety concerns as well as amend some areas of the policy as it related to the protection of children. Those were assignments I gave myself to be accomplished with the assistance and support of many. More on that later.

Additionally, the Church Treasurer, Business Affairs Board and our church secretary were charged with the creation of a proposed budget to be presented to Council in October 2012 so that it could be shared with church membership in November prior to the congregational meeting in December. This was accomplished and I would recommend this becomes practice going forward to allow ample time for members to consider the budget and ask questions if needed.

We also determined the need to have an external financial review. This is required by our Constitution and is not a forensic audit. It had been several years since we even used an internal committee to do this and everyone acknowledged any internal committee needed a process to utilize. This was conducted by Jones, Cochenour & Company and a written report was reviewed by Executive Committee and Pastor Ruth with the preparer. The final report was discussed in Church Council and distributed for review within the boards. It was also made available at church for interested parties. The report noted there is a great deal of excellent practice already in place and noted some areas for fine tuning. The Treasurer, Business Affairs and our church secretary were again charged with creating work flow to address these identified areas. Some have already been changed and some are in process. This is work that should continue per the recommendations of the external reviewer.

We had some additional challenges during 2012 which required responsiveness from Executive Council and every board in one way or the other. A major power outage brought church cancellation and downed trees. A second Sunday brought church in the basement with water in Dixie cups to try to stay cool! Several break-ins resulted in additional insurance claims, a new safe and the gift of a security system from an anonymous donor. Pastor Ruth submitted her resignation after serving faithfully for four and one-half years to answer a call to serve as chaplain at the Kamehameha School in Hawaii. We celebrated her time with us with a luau! Immediately upon receiving and accepting her resignation, planning began to begin the process of calling an interim pastor. The goal was to have an interim pastor in place by late autumn. The Executive Committee went right to work with the guidance and support of Association Minister Roger Miller. In the interim, supply pastors led worship and we had a hymn sing. We are a congregation that adapts and looks forward! Less than three months from Pastor Ruth's resignation, we welcomed Pastor Dennis Sparks and launched directly into Advent Season. Council agreed an update about all of the events and work would be helpful in the newsletter and I provided this up until this past month. Feedback was very positive and I would encourage consideration of this in the future. We are now immersed in a period of change and transition!

My written updates regarding Safe Sanctuary and God's Dream Team will be provided to Council in January. The members of God's Dream Team have already reviewed the draft some time ago but the final work product for both this update and the Safe Sanctuary Policy were delayed by the events of the summer and fall.

**My recommendations for 2013 and the future include the following:**

- Pastor Search and Call Committee formation and implementation
- Continued implementation of the External Financial Review recommendations to include the creation of a document to be utilized by an internal review committee in January 2014 for review of 2013. The majority of 2012 was included in the External Financial Review.
- Constitution Review

- Continued preparation of the proposed budget for sharing with members in November to allow for time to review and ask questions prior to the December Congregational Meeting
- Continue to engage members and friends in the work of the church both locally and beyond. Opportunities exist during our interim ministry period and with the call process for a new settled pastor.

**My heartfelt thanks to Jack Patterson, Steve McCandlish, Ron Harvey and Sherry Jones for the many hours of additional time spent in managing challenges, responding to texts, calls and e-mails and in meetings! I couldn't have asked for a better team on Executive Council. Additionally, I must acknowledge Sandy Brown who kept the office running despite all of the challenges throughout the summer and into autumn. My thanks to each member of every board who stepped up throughout 2012 and did the work they are to do even when the tasks broadened and assignments changed. Women's Guild and the Youth also continued to have a vital presence within our faith community. Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Council President during 2012. It was a year of unique challenges but wonderful gifts at each and every corner. I look forward to serving in different capacities during 2013 and will do all I can to support and assist Jack, Steve, Sherry, Ron and Mark Brown as they work as your new Executive Council. Blessings to them and to each of you during 2013!**

Peace,

*Johanna Pearce*

# Grace United Church of Christ

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## 2012 Pastor's Report

**It has been a privilege to serve as interim pastor of Grace United Church of Christ since November 4, 2012. Thank you Grace Church for the support and the many gifts and cards during the Christmas season. I look forward to assisting the church in the process of preparing for the future and the searching for and calling of a new pastor.**

**Pastoral departures are a challenge for any congregation. Grace Church is to be commended for its effort and ability to move forward in ministry and worship as a faith community after the departure of Pastor Ruth Farrell. The Church Council has done a great job in its ability to lead the church in sending forth its former pastor and calling an interim. I have felt very welcome as the interim pastor. I have appreciated the welcoming bulletin board that has featured my wife Rebecca and me. I also appreciate the church's leadership and the volunteer work of many people in preparing for the Advent and Christmas season.**

**With the celebration of Christmas behind us, Grace Church will now turn its attention to both the work of various boards in the year 2013, looking to the future goals and ministry of the church and establishing the process for calling a pastor. My role and commitment is twofold, to both prepare for worship and carryout pastoral responsibilities for the church and to help the church take a look within the calling of Jesus Christ in today's changing world. In addition to functioning in the role of the pastor, I also see myself serving as a consultant to the church. I have already begun bringing new ideas to the church's leadership. These concepts will be expanded in the future.**

**To begin the new year, I propose an activity helping the congregation to look back into its history. We will need at least a two hour gathering. I also plan to take the Church Council through the process of how to lead the congregation in "moving off the map." While we will review the many years of service and ministry of Grace Church, we will also look at new ways to become an "emerging" church in today's world.**

**Within the context of all we do to prepare for the future and the calling of a new pastor, we will stay in touch with the UCC process and documents that are designed to assist the church during this time frame. Included in this process is a review of what it means to be a UCC congregation, and what is the congregation's commitment to the United Church of Christ and the wider church.**

**My report for 2012 also needs to include my pastoral activities with the church since my arrival. Listed below are many of those activities:**

**Attended the Central Ohio South Eastern Association Meeting (just prior to becoming interim pastor)**

**Attended the following boards – Worship, Christian Education, Membership Action and Administration.**

**Attended the Church Council and Congregational meeting.**

**Assisted in Christmas Decorating of Church**

**Attended Lancaster Pastor's Prayer Meeting**

**Coordinated sales of olivewood carvings from Bethlehem**

**Made two trips to Cleveland to pick up and deliver Micheal Zoughbi**

**Attended in Cookie Walk**

**Attended in Community Chorus Concert at Grace**

**Attended Men's Chorus at First UMC**

**Planned and/or Coordinated 10 Worship Services including 2 communion services**

**Prepared and Delivered 5 Sermons**

**Held a staff meeting and Christmas luncheon**

**Visits to Hospital and Nursing Home – 4**

**Coordinated Parsonage Activities - Time Warner Cable, ATT phone and internet upgrades, Chimney Cleaning, Garage Door repair, pest control.**

**Posted several church activities on Facebook**

## **Grace UCC Treasurer's Report for 2012**

2012 proved to be another good year in the financial life of our church. More of our members began to pledge their contributions, and this giving remained steady and strong, ending the year at \$7,000 more than anticipated. Unpledged giving was the question mark all year, but as often happens, it rallied at year's end, leaving us on solid financial ground. The General Fund, which provides the operating money for the day-to-day expenses of the church, ended with a positive balance, with General Fund Income of \$165,684 and expenditures totaling \$140,600—leaving a surplus of about \$25,000. This money will be carried forward in the general fund to be used for future expenses. Much of this carry-over is the result of less-than-anticipated expenses—which can largely be attributed to the weather. The mild winter held down electricity costs as well as those for snow and ice removal. Then the summer drought came, which minimized the need for lawn mowing services. Those weather events, coupled with a period of about a month without full pastoral expenses, allowed expenditures to come in nearly \$11,000 under budget.

The preparation of the 2013 budget was much more difficult, however, as we face many unknowns entering into the search for a settled pastor. The Endowment Committee generously pledged to support the purchase of a much-needed new office computer and will be assisting with some expenses related to the pastoral search committee. However, with insurance and electricity rates still on the rise, the budgeted expenses grew by nearly 5%, about \$7,000 more than for 2012. What looks particularly bleak, however, is our projected income for the year. Following our fall Stewardship campaign, we were down about ten pledging units from 2012 to 2013, leaving projected income nearly \$8,000 less than for 2012. With the potential for a \$15,000 shortfall in this coming year, we definitely need to see our church attendance and membership rise, thereby widening our base of support. And as we did in 2012, we will need to hold down our expenses as much as possible.

In addition to our General Fund, we have several other funds which have held steady throughout the year. Each of these funds is a separate accounting entity with its own sources of revenue and its own expenses. The Charles and Julianna Pearce Memorial Fund shows a balance of over \$98,000. The Capital Fund has a balance of \$37,295. And as of 12/31/12, the General Fund passbook account had a balance of \$85,832.

One of the financial highlights of this year came this past July with the hiring of Jones, Cochenour, & Co. to complete an external review of our financial records and procedures. The results of this review were already made available to the congregation, and I am happy to report that their findings revealed no major problems. There were, however, several suggestions made regarding our policies and procedures which would improve efficiency and provide a stronger checks-and-balances system within our operations. While many of the recommendations were put into place almost immediately, there are some which will require further discussion and the development of written policies before implementation. I will be working with the Business Affairs Board and the Church Council to develop these policies throughout the coming year. Much of this will help to fulfill a goal of mine from last year, which was to develop a team of individuals who are knowledgeable about the day-to-day financial operations of the church. Hopefully, increased participation will facilitate improvements in our internal controls. It concerns me that some of our institution's financial knowledge is known by only one or two employees/congregants, which would pose a significant hardship should these individuals become unavailable.

As we move forward as a congregation and begin our journey to call a new settled pastor, it is critical that our financial picture remain strong, allowing us to attract the best possible candidate to fill the role of pastor at Grace Church. Thank you to all who gave so generously and faithfully throughout 2012. I pray that our congregation will be blessed with abundance throughout the coming year, as we continue to do the work God calls us to do—within our church, in our community, and throughout our world.

Respectfully Yours,

Sherry Jones  
Grace UCC Treasurer

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT 2012**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total Weekly</u>	<u>Total Monthly</u>	<u>Total Yearly</u>
January	\$12,040.16	\$694.00	\$139.00	\$12,873.16	\$12,873.16	\$12,873.16
February	\$8,210.74	\$733.00	\$172.00	\$9,115.74	\$9,115.74	\$21,988.90
March	\$14,114.95	\$611.00	\$85.00	\$14,810.95	\$14,810.95	\$36,799.85
April	\$14,540.11	\$641.00	\$765.00	\$15,946.11	\$15,946.11	\$52,745.96
May	\$8,478.56	\$581.00	\$2,126.00	\$11,185.56	\$11,185.56	\$63,931.52
June	\$10,331.82	\$628.00	\$200.00	\$11,159.82	\$11,159.82	\$75,091.34
July	\$11,652.63	\$1,027.00	\$451.00	\$13,130.63	\$13,130.63	\$88,221.97
August	\$11,824.29	\$218.00	\$221.00	\$12,263.29	\$12,263.29	\$100,485.26
September	\$25,217.77	\$501.00	\$247.00	\$25,965.77	\$25,965.77	\$126,451.03
October	\$17,467.00	\$750.00	\$525.00	\$18,742.00	\$18,742.00	\$145,193.03
November	\$20,257.09	\$457.00	\$34.00	\$20,748.09	\$20,748.09	\$165,941.12
December	<u>\$39,804.88</u>	<u>\$546.00</u>	<u>\$3,346.00</u>	<u>\$43,696.88</u>	<u>\$43,696.88</u>	<u>\$209,638.00</u>
	\$193,940.00	\$7,387.00	\$8,311.00	\$209,638.00	\$209,638.00	\$209,638.00

Submitted by Financial Secretary Peggy Nigh

**MEMORIAL FUND REPORT 2012**

INDIVIDUALS REMEMBERED

7

AMOUNT IN MEMORIAL FUND 12/31/2011	\$4,085.87
Memorial Fund Donations	<u>\$2,162.50</u>
Balance	\$6,248.37
Memorial Fund Expense in 2012	\$256.00 (Banners)
	<u>\$2,148.00</u> (Trees)
MEMORIAL FUND BALANCE 12/31/2012	\$3,844.37
Money received for Memorial Walkway	\$100.00
Memorial Walkway Expense	0

Submitted by Jean Cochran

\*Memorials were donated directly to the Women's Guild and Choir and are not included in the figures reported in this report.



## **2012 ANNUAL REPORT** **BUSINESS AFFAIRS BOARD**

Members of 2012 were Howard Blaisdell, Mark Brown, Ron Harvey, Joyce Landis, Thom Pearce, and Terri Wise. At the organizational meeting Brown was elected chair and council representative, Blaisdell as secretary, and Wise as stewardship representative. Goals were discussed for 2012 and were the Spring walk about for care taking of church grounds, looking into a possible capital fund drive, and assisting with a financial review to be performed by a professional firm or individual. Also discussed were carry over business from 2011 which included repair/ replace sacristy roof, replacing lighted church sign by Pleasantville Road, looking into church insurance policy, better equipping office outlets, resurfacing church parking lot, results of energy audit findings, groundhog infestation, outside drainage by the office, sanctuary eave lighting and air drafts, parsonage furnace replacement, cement repair to walkway at the church, and looking into electric provider resources. These items were distributed amongst board members and some were left for group and further discussions.

The following you will find information about the 2012 goals of this board. The Spring walk about consisted of many items. The following is a list of those items and the results of these during 2012

### **Church grounds :**

- Both storage sheds were straightened and cleaned out
- Furnace room was straightened and cleaned out
- All janitorial closets (3) were straightened and cleaned out
- Additional handicap rail installed in upstairs family restroom
- West sacristy door knob was tightened and door was weather stripped
- The wooden playground set needs to be removed. This is still being looked into for a potential buyer or a place to donate before tearing down.
- Main A-frame wooden supports to sanctuary may need future bracing or support. This is not endangering at this time but looking into possible architect or ideas to get this done in the future.
- Needed outside doors were weather stripped.

### **Parsonage grounds exterior :**

- All outdoor wood trim was painted
- All old brush piles located near back yard were removed
- Replacing porch ceiling lights, spring for front storm door, and exterior door weather stripping were on list but not acted on this year.

### **Parsonage grounds interior :**

- Continual drip in upstairs guest bathtub was fixed
- Metal handrails received touch up paint
- Indoor duct work was discussed to have professionally cleaned. After much research and discussion the board felt it unnecessary to do this.
- Water spots in entryway ceiling and office were not completed this year. The spots have not gotten bigger but painting should be done next year.
- The fireplaces seem to have draft leaks and were looked into by the Baltimore Chimney Sweep. He stated that there was approximately \$2,200.00 of work needed on this and he couldn't do this until Spring. The board held off on this and will look into in 2013.
- The garage doors need insulated and motion detectors attached and to have both checked so they are working properly. The board will see doors are insulated and the other problems were contracted professionally.

- General items not finished in 2012 because of interim pastor arriving sooner than expected but to be completed in 2013 are caulk indoor windows as needed, clean up southwest corner of storage room in the basement, and remove old smoke alarms as new ones were installed.

Items of significant expenses which were completed were cement work on the walkway for the church, installing a new rubber roof with appropriate sloping on the sacristy roof, and a new furnace and air conditioner were installed at the parsonage. The following contractors and approximate costs are as follows:

<b>Cement -</b>	Terry Concrete	\$ 2,200.00
<b>Roof -</b>	B W Roofing	\$ 2,450.00 (includes installing a few aluminum spoutings from thefts)
<b>Furnace / AC -</b>	Geisy	\$ 6,100.00

Of the remaining 2012 goal items future capital drive items are the resurfacing of the church parking lot, updating windows and lighting for the sanctuary eaves, updating all lighting throughout the church, and installing new windows at the parsonage. The remaining goal of assisting on a financial review was done by many church staff and officers. The review revealed many things the church was already doing. A few minor details were indicated for improvements. The firm of Jones, Cochenour C.P.A. conducted the review at a cost of \$2,200.00.

Staff evaluations of the office manager, organist/choir director, and the janitor were performed. The staff gave a self evaluation from forms provided and was reviewed by the board. Two board members then met with staff individually about the results from board discussions.

2012 also provided a few surprises for not only this board but for all at Grace U.C.C. There were break ins / thefts at the church and a June storm damage creating tree damage on church grounds. The church was broken into a couple of different times. Minimal damage included broken windows and doors. Minimal theft occurred during these break ins but the safe needed to be replaced (although it was not opened during break in). A new safe was purchased from Bruck Safe in Columbus at a total cost of approximately \$2,000.00. A security system from South Central was installed after break ins and was paid for by an anonymous donor. Some of the copper downspouts were stolen or damaged during a theft. The board had aluminum downspouts installed as replacements to discourage future thefts. Tree care from the June storm was awarded to Heritage Tree Care. I wish to thank all individuals who helped in cleaning up after this storm. Also I would like to thank Ron Harvey for his continued care for the Memorial Walkway and the church parsonage.

In closing I thank ALL who helped throughout the year in giving their talents in helping maintain the beautiful facilities and grounds at Grace U.C.C. A list of unfinished business for 2012 will be forwarded to the 2013 board.

Respectfully,  
 Mark A. Brown  
 Chairperson – Business Affairs Board

## **Christian Service Board Highlights for 2012 Annual Report**

The Christian Service Board raised funds and sponsored projects this year that would help our local community and the world beyond.

Funds were raised during the year by selling gift cards through the SCRIP program. A percentage of the value of gift cards purchased was returned to Grace to help with our projects. We received \$785.19 from SCRIP in 2012. This money was donated to Maywood Mission to help with their programs for the needy of our community. Maywood Mission is a non-profit organization that helps the underprivileged in Lancaster and Fairfield County by providing day-care, a free medical clinic, a thrift store, and items to help families who are in need.

Our annual Cookie Walk was held on December 15<sup>th</sup> to raise money for Maywood Mission projects. Thanks to our generous bakers who baked cookies and gave donations, a total of \$826 was given to Maywood Mission to support their missions and for their food pantry and emergency fund. Our bakers provided us with a beautiful array of many types of homemade cookies that served to bring the local residents into our church that day.

The CSB provided meals quarterly for approximately 30-40 people who attended the By-the-Way Clinic, which is sponsored by Maywood Mission. The CSB members prepared a meal for the attendees in March, June, September, and December, on the third Tuesday of each month. The By-the-Way Clinic is a free service tended by local doctors and nurses who give medical help and advice to those who cannot afford regular health care.

Members of Grace volunteered to prepare one meal a month for the temporary residents in our local homeless shelter. This effort was coordinated by Jonathon Pang.

In December, our Mitten Tree project collected 242 hats, gloves, socks, scarves, and underwear for Maywood Mission. Our church members and friends were very generous and made this project a huge success.

Your Christian Service Board wishes to thank everyone for his or her generous support of our projects during 2012. Thank you for helping us help others in need!

Sincerely,

Cindy Kishler

Chris Claypool

Ann Heimberger

Pam McCandlish

Jim Vaughan

Peggy Selby

## **Membership Action Board Annual Report of Activities 2012**

**The Grace UCC Membership Action Board Members for 2012 were: Sue Hochradel, Elaine Wells, Carroll Daugherty, Joyce Landis, Phyllis Claypool and Grace Pang.**

**In addition to completing many duties and projects this past year, the MAB also enjoyed fellowship through holding many of its meetings in each other's homes.**

**Activities and projects worked on and or/completed in 2012 included:**

- 1. The MAB updated the membership list.**
- 2. In June, the MAB hosted the Choir Appreciation reception with cake and punch.**
- 3. We hosted many potlucks after worship from January through December.**
- 4. We filled the Boards for 2013.**
- 5. MAB held a progressive dinner, with different members hosting parts of the meal in their homes.**

**We would like to thank Joyce Landis, Elaine Wells, Sue Hochradel and Phyllis Claypool for their service on the Membership Action Board.**

**We would also like to welcome Barb Claypool and Johanna Pearce to the Membership Action Board of 2013.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Pang**

## **Grace United Church of Christ 2012 Annual Report for Worship Board**

The members of Worship Board for 2012 were Carol Bosch, Barb Claypool, Judy Farmer, Joyce Harvey, Joan Kraft and Peggy Nigh, and they met in members' homes.

They rotated the responsibilities of securing greeters (at the front door) and ushers for worship services, preparing for communion, and changing the banners and paraments in the sanctuary to the appropriate liturgical colors as needed.

Special services included: Good Friday, "Low" Sunday on April 15<sup>th</sup> (a relaxed and casual worship), hymn sings on April 29<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup>, and a Pet Blessing and outdoor service on August 26<sup>th</sup>. A brief, unplanned worship service was held in the Fellowship Hall on July 8<sup>th</sup> after a storm and power outage.

The youth led the Thanksgiving service and Jonathan Pang delivered the sermon. Two Christmas Eve services were held.

The Christmas trees in the sanctuary and narthex were showing their age; so new trees were ordered, assembled and decorated for Christmas 2012. Marilene and Gary Culp asked to retire from holiday decorating. Members of the worship board, several members of the congregation and the youth decorated the church for Christmas 2012. On behalf of the church members we extend our gratitude to the Culpes for their many, many years of annual decorating.

During Advent, Rev. Sparks hosted Michel Zoughbi from Bethlehem, and woodcarvings done by Christians in Bethlehem were displayed and sold.

Submitted by  
Joyce Harvey

## Women's Guild Financial Report for 2012

Checking Account Balance as of 12-31-2011	\$ 1336.72
Income	<u>+ 5774.00</u>
	\$ 7110.72
Expenses	<u>- 3584.04</u>
Checking Account Balance as of 12-24-2012	\$ 3526.68

### Income

Covenants	\$ 1370.00
Pete/Leprosy	109.25
We Care Donations	300.00
Devotionals	52.75
Noodle Sales	355.00
Meals for WG	60.00
Memorial Gifts	805.00
Conrad Rehearsal Dinner	645.00
China Painters' Meals	1815.00
Misc. (Carnival Foods)	<u>262.00</u>
Total	\$ 5774.00

### Expenses

Reconciliation w/Bank	\$ 24.75
Decorations	47.90
Stamps/cards	84.62
Paper Products	98.73
Memorial Gifts (7 X \$25)	175.00
Flag Fund	99.18
Lunch for Seniors	260.35
We Care Food/Meals	341.35
Gifts/cakes	52.00
Bldg/Maintenance	88.97
Conrad Rehearsal Dinner	312.07
China Painters' Meals	621.34
Donations to Organizations	
Maywood Mission/Food Pantry	325.00
American Leprosy	115.84
Community Action/Food Pantry	300.00
Fairfield Co. Emergency Shelter	200.00
Meals for Homeless	100.00
Meals for WG	159.82
WG Retreat	<u>177.12</u>
Total	\$ 3584.04

Respectfully submitted by  
Joyce Harvey, Treasurer

# Webmaster/Sound guy

## 2012 Annual Report

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### **Facebook**

This year we've made great strides with our Facebook page, but I know we aren't yet reaching all of our members who use Facebook. This is turning out to be a very useful means of communicating with those who 'like' us. We are posting at least once or twice a week (sometimes more). We urge every member or friend of the congregation who uses Facebook to like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurchLancaster>.

### **Blog**

We have also essentially relaunched the blog this fall (<http://graceucclancaster.blogspot.com>). While some of the material here is cross-linked to the Facebook page, this is a place where we can (and do) put longer posts. Again, if you use an RSS reader consider subscribing to the blog feed. If you don't know what that is or how to do that, ask me, I'd be happy to show you how it works. Between them, these are our primary online ways of communicating with the members and friends (and potential new visitors) of Grace UCC. I anticipate working more closely with the boards to make use of these online resources in the coming year.

### **Graceucclancaster.org**

This past year we've also put a lot of work into the website and our usage of the domain. We have more plans to make use of these resources in the coming year to communicate with members and friends and as a tool for outreach to the community. One of the big things is we've started posting audio recordings of the sermons (and even a couple of videos) on the website (<http://www.graceucclancaster.com/sermons/>) and on iTunes (links are posted on the blog and Facebook when the latest sermon is posted on the website). We've created e-mail lists for council and the boards (and for the search committee once it is formed) and we hope to use them for communication within the boards and if members need to contact them (look for more info in an upcoming newsletter).

My request related to all of this is that I could use some assistance, if there are any members who have talent in web design (which I really don't), I could use help keeping the website fresh. I also could use some assistance with making sure content gets posted in a timely fashion. And, finally, Jonah Pearce has helped me out on Sunday mornings with the sound system, but there are Sundays (especially during the summer) when I can't be there and it would be useful to have at least one more volunteer (so there are three of us) to learn how to run the sound board so that we could set up some sort of schedule. Thank you all for your support in these efforts.

---Jim Clausing