

Grace Notes

From: Rev. Jim Gorski

May 2026

The Haystack Prayer Meeting

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations – Mt. 28:18-19

God often moves in mysterious ways. This is certainly true as it concerns American foreign missions that began in an unusual way. It started at a prayer meeting held at a haystack in the year 1806.

At the turn of the nineteenth century there was not one foreign missions board in the United States. Today we have numerous foreign missions boards but at that time we had none. There was no sending agency by which missionaries could be supported and sent into foreign lands to reach the nations for Christ. But God changed this state of affairs when he led a freshman named Samuel Mills, who was enrolled at Williams College in Williamston, Massachusetts to start a weekly prayer meeting with four other men to pray for the nations.

Every week the five men would meet at a maple grove near the school to pray for the advancement of the gospel in foreign lands. One afternoon, as they were praying, a violent storm interrupted their prayer time and they were forced to seek refuge on the sheltered side of a large haystack near the place of prayer. There at the haystack, in the midst of the storm, Samuel Mills and three other men committed themselves to foreign missions, if God would open the door and send them out as missionaries.

Two years later, in 1808, the group enrolled at Andover Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts and amidst their studies, they continued to meet and pray for the nations. Other students, also interested in foreign missions, joined with them to pray. But despite their burden for foreign missions, there was still no foreign missions board in America to send them overseas.

To rectify this problem, the student prayer group arranged a meeting with the Andover Seminary faculty and the local church pastors to seek their help. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided they should present their case to the General Association of the Congregational Churches of Massachusetts that, providentially, was meeting the following day.

The students presented their case and two days later, June 29, 1810, the General Association of Congregational Churches responded by forming the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; the first foreign missions board in America.

Thus, from a haystack prayer meeting, held by five men in the midst of a thunderstorm five years prior, American foreign missions began in earnest. Today, the foreign missions movement in America has grown from a handful of missionaries sent out by one missions board, to tens of thousands of missionaries sent out by hundreds of mission boards. But the mission remains the same. Take the gospel into the nations and make disciples for Jesus as he commands.

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The foreign missions movement in America had small beginnings. But as one author writes: “If we are genuinely faithful in the day of small things, our small obedience will become big – but not usually right away – and many times, not in the way we expect.”

This was certainly true for the haystack prayer warriors. They were faithful in what seemed to be a small thing – to meet weekly for four years and pray for the work of foreign missions. And in answer to their prayers, God took the small thing and made it a great thing, when he established the first American foreign missions board.

As Jesus said, “With God all things are possible.”

With Heartfelt Sympathy

We offer our sincere sympathy to the family of Charlie Wimberly who went home to be with the Lord on April 17, 2026.



Charlie was a dedicated and faithful member of Grace Presbyterian Church for 40+ years. He was known for his generosity and service to others, often sharing his talents through his special love of woodworking. Besides working around the church repairing things the most outstanding is the cross in the sanctuary and the desk in the office he built for Mrs. Susan when she was secretary at Grace. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.



thank you!

Thank you to all who helped with the 100th anniversary of Monte Sano –Grace Presbyterian Church on April 19,2026.

That day was a blessing to all! It was a day to praise God and thank him for his faithfulness.

Mary Ann Bennett

Pastor Jim will be on vacation starting Wednesday May 6,2026.

On Sunday May 10th, filling the pulpit for the morning service will be Rev. Stuart Mills.

If you have a need during this time, please contact one of the Ruling Elders, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, Cleve Chandler.

★Have a safe★
Memorial★
Weekend!★

Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

“First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quite life, godly and dignified in every way.”

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



Blessed
is the NATION
whose
GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12

Please pray for the following physical concerns and spiritual needs of each, individual.

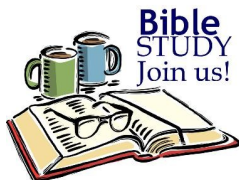
Physical Well-being of Members and Friends:

Missionaries We Support:

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”
Jeremiah 29: 12*

The Lord’s Supper

will be observed on May 3 at the morning worship service. Everyone is encouraged to be in prayer and repentance in preparation to partake in this holy sacrament



**Please Join us every Wednesday
Time: 10:30**

**Where: Fellowship Hall
Rev. Jim Gorski will be teaching from the book
“Survey of the New Testament”
By
Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.**



Ladies
ministry

Dear Sisters in Christ,
We have now celebrated our 100th anniversary of Grace Pres. many wonderful memories and many Prayer requests and a lot of answered prayers. The women of Grace meet on the second Tuesday Of the month for prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. We would love to have you join us. We are studying the book of Hebrews. We have learned a lot and have had many prayers lifted up to God In our time together. Please come join us on the second Tuesday, everyone is welcome. If you have any questions, please call Marsha Allison.

Pennies for Missions

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.

Calendar of Activities for the Month

WIC Circle Meeting:	Tuesday, May 12 at 10am
Men of the Covenant Session Meeting:	Thursday, May 21 at 1:00pm
Prayer for our Nation:	Sunday, May 24 at 12pm
Bible Study:	Wednesdays at 10:00 am
	Wednesdays at 10:30 am



Men of the Covenant

Will meet on May 21

All men of GPC are invited to the Men of the Covenant
The monthly meetings are on every first Thursday of the month.

We will have a time of fellowship, food, and a devotion from the Word of God.

The men gather around 1:00 p.m. for fellowship and the meal begins around 1:30 p.m.

*“As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.”
Proverbs 27: 17*

The next **Session Meeting** will be Sunday, May 24 at 1:00 p.m. If you have something you would like the Session to discuss, please let Pastor Jim, Jesse Arnold, Randy Borill, or Cleve Chandler know.



Grace Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

Grace Notes

Time to Update the Directory!



So that we can stay in touch with one another, and help out when a need arises, we will be updating the Church Directory

The current directory (dated July 2023) is in the Foyer with a bright green cover.

Please review your information and contact the church office with any updates (add or remove cell numbers, email addresses, etc.). *If all of your information is correct, please place a "check" mark by your name.* We appreciate your help in keeping us up to date.

**Summer
Time!**

May 2026

