

Grace Notes

April 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

I don't do this very often, and probably do it less than I should, but I want to take some time to toot our church's horn a bit. Over the last two years Grace has developed a strong relationship with Bridger School. I want to share with you what that relationship means in terms of our church's involvement, my personal involvement, and the impact of the relationship on Bridger families.

Our congregation members are involved in the life of Bridger at many levels. On a weekly or semi-weekly basis, we have people helping in the library, tutoring, and helping to pack and deliver backpacks containing food for food-insecure families. In addition to these contacts, we have several people who help set-up and distribute food to Bridger families monthly through Meal For Minds. We also have people who help with special events at the school and the annual PTA auction, which raises funds to help students and teachers at the school.

On a personal level, besides helping with some of the above mentioned activities, I attend semi-monthly meetings of the school's partners, and also sit on the school Site Council which meets once a month.

In terms of the impact our church has had on Bridger, I want to give you some numbers. During our involvement with Meal For Minds, our congregation has helped to distribute over 40,000 pounds of food to almost 150 Bridger families. During our time of helping with backpacks, we have packed and distributed over 800 pounds of spaghetti, 800 cans of pasta sauce, 1600 cans of tuna, 800 boxes of tuna helper, 800 cans of vegetables, 800 cans of fruit, 800 jars of peanut butter, 800 loaves of bread, and 4800 packets of instant oatmeal to Bridger families. And in our time in helping with the PTA auction, we have helped raise around \$90,000.

But the numbers do not tell the entire story. Our church is developing a very positive reputation in the Bridger community. In a conversation with one person at Bridger, she told me she felt that 80% of the student population knows the name "Grace Baptist Church." She said they may not know exactly what Grace does, but they know we are involved with their school. In another conversation with Bridger staff, I was told of a family who was having some personal issues, and the mom had told the staff member she was thinking of contacting Grace Baptist to see if they might be able to help.

God is at work in the Bridger community through our efforts. May He continue to use us as we continue to make the decision to be His hand and His feet to the community.

Inside This Issue:

An Easter Poem Written By Terri Becker	2
Notes From The Board Spiritual Life Roberta Stephens Circle	3
Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries	4
Notes From Your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister Of Church Life Easter Morning Breakfast	5
Education	6
Grace Family Finances Counting Our Blessings MUM's Open Heart Food Pantry	7

**APRIL
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Kaleen Stepnioski
Paul Young
Betsy Vulgan
Ed Vulgan



AN EASTER POEM

A joyous parade awaited Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem, seated on a donkey.

Young and old shouted their Hosannas and praises to King Jesus.

The disciples were pleased to see how the people loved Him;

Their teacher, their friend, their deliverer.

Jesus and his disciples climbed the stairs to an upper room

Where the Passover supper had been prepared.

The scent of roasted lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs filled the air.

Shadows danced along the walls of the dimly lit room

As clay lamps filled with olive oil created a dim light.

Jesus and his disciples reclined at the table as they ate the Passover Supper.

They thought of the first Passover meal prepared and eaten in haste.

The Hebrew people, waiting for their deliverance

Sat silently as the Lord passed over their homes;

The doorposts painted with the blood of lambs.

The disciples were puzzled as Jesus broke the bread and took the cup saying,

"This is my body broken for you, and my blood poured out for you.

How could they know that this very night, their Jesus, the Lamb of God

Would begin his journey to the cross, where his blood would be shed

For their deliverance?

They sang hymns and left for Gethsemane,

A garden nestled at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

That night, his followers, who were so pleased to be a part of Jesus' plan to establish his kingdom,

Would betray, deny and abandon him, scattered like frightened sheep.

Within hours, the same crowds which had welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem

Screamed their demands for his death.

And He was crucified.

In our place.

Those who loved him mourned.

How could this happen?

There was no purpose to his senseless death.

How could it have gone so wrong?

He promised them he would set up his kingdom and deliver them.

Their friend and Savior was dead, and so were their dreams.

Before the sun set, Jesus was taken down from the cross.

Gently, he was wrapped in linen and placed in a tomb.

They rolled the stone to seal the doorway.

As they walked away, their hearts were as heavy

As the stone which sealed Jesus in the grave.

Satan and his demons celebrated victory;

Their laughter resounding like thunder in the underworld.

Three days later, Satan and his minions cowered

As the stone rolled away in power and brilliant light.

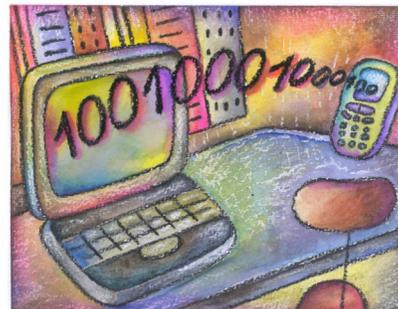
Death was defeated.

Jesus was alive, just as he said.

Terri Becker

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

One of the key components in the smooth functioning of any organization, including the church, is communication. One of the things your Board of Ministries is and will be working on is improving the communication within our church family. We currently have multiple formats which we use to disseminate information. There is the bulletin, the newsletter, email, verbal announcements, the announcements slide show, and phone calls. The fact of the matter is the communication is a two way street and is not complete until it is received. That's where we as members of the church family come in. We need to read our bulletins and the newsletter and pay attention to the announcements in order for the attempts to communicate to succeed.

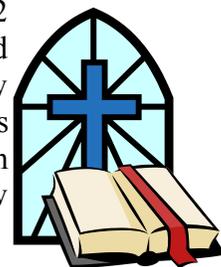


Last month I mentioned that each member of the board is a liaison with the congregation. If you have any suggestions for ways we can improve communication, please talk to or email any one of us. Let's keep the communication lines **open**.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Romans 11:33 exclaims the depth of God's riches, wisdom and knowledge. Who can comprehend Him, His judgments and ways? None of us can, but we have a glimpse. Romans 11:36 continues, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen." And chapter 12 continues the thought that because of this fact about God, we should daily present our mind and body in worship to God! The challenge is how to be doing that. There are some "How To's" in the following verses and chapters leading into chapter 15 to follow Christ's example. God may be speaking to you about how He wants you to show your worship in your daily life. He keeps working on me. Continue to pray for others, and for God to show you how to present your worship of God.



Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

ROBERTA STEPHENS CIRCLE

Roberta Stephens Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month. Bea Watson, a faithful member of Grace, will be giving a presentation on "Salt" on April 15. This should be an interesting presentation. We would like to make this open to all ladies at Grace and guests who would be able to attend a weekday meeting. We meet at 11:00 am. Bring a sandwich, other refreshments will be provided. If you have never been part of a circle, I believe you would find this meeting worth your time. You will be hearing more about this in the weeks ahead.



Shannon Hastings

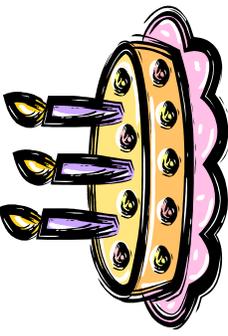
APRIL 2014

Fellowship Fund offering is received the first Sunday of the month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 COMMUNION 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	7	8 6:30 pm CE/Outreach Meeting	9 6:00-8:00 pm Soup/Bread Dinner & Bible Study: "Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial" (Luke 22: 31-62)	10	11 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	12 8:30 am-Noon Oregon Trail Pancake Breakfast (Bridger) 9:30 am Spring Fling For ABW @ Carlton First Baptist 6:00-8:00 pm IVN Women's Bible Study
13 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	14	15 11:00 am Roberta Stephens Circle Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting	16	17	18 12:00 pm Stocking Shelves @ MUM 1:00 Meals For Minds @ Bridger 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 6:00 pm Good Friday Service	19 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 10:00 am Girlfriends* Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn 6:00-8:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva's Women's Bible Study
20 EASTER 8:45 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Easter Potluck Breakfast 11:00 am Worship Celebration	21 MAY GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	22	23 6:30 Bible Study @ Church	24	25 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	26 9:30 pm Outreach Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva's Women's Bible Study
27 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	28	29	30 6:30 Bible Study @ Church	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>“Easter Math: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given -Unknown</p> </div>		

April Birthdays

9 Laura Young
19 Jessica Andrews
22 Greg Jones



**April
 Anniversaries**

12 Leon & Johnni Beth Jones



NOTES FROM YOUR WORSHIP/MUSIC LEADER & LAY MINISTER OF CHURCH LIFE, JUDY YOUNG



“O Lord, you have searched me and You know me. . . . You hem me in—behind and before; You have laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.” Psalm 139: 1, 5-6

As we look forward and prepare for Easter, I am reminded of God’s great, over-the-top love for us. He willingly gave us His precious and only Son to take on all the sins of the world (my sins), to die an awful and gruesome death on our behalf. No one else in the history of the world has ever done that. God created us to be in a real, lasting, loving relationship with Him. As Psalm 139 states, “. . . You created my inmost being; You knit

me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Vs. 13-14

God knows us inside and out; all of the good, the bad, and the ugly, and yet He loves us with a love that we cannot fully comprehend! This is the lesson He is teaching me as I slowly grow in my spiritual walk and faith. Since God loves us so much, we can rest confidently in Him as we go through struggles and trials, losses and heartaches. It doesn’t mean we won’t go through them, but He is with us each step of the way! We are able to stand secure in Him and boldly step out to share His love with others. We must live our life, loved!! Knowing His promises and working on having that intimate, loving relationship with Him through Christ.

While you reflect on Jesus’ sacrifice this month, stop and ask God to help you know His full and complete love for you. He will show you!

Easter Blessings!

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Be sure to attend the Annual Easter Potluck Breakfast on Sunday, April 20, at 9:30 am. Please bring two breakfast items to share with your church family. Enjoy fellowship over breakfast and then we will begin our Easter Celebration service at 11:00 am. There will **NOT** be any Sunday School on Easter morning. If you have any questions, feel free to call Kaleen Stepnioski or Judy Young.



EDUCATION

In the coming months, you will be hearing a lot about the Children Fellowship Evangelism three Five Day Camps that Grace is going to be involved in on July 21-25. Our sister church, Iglesia Vision Nueva, will also be partnering with us. As with most outreaches, we are going to need people to volunteer to work those camps.

Let me remind you what I said in last month's newsletter. First of all, let me reassure you, regardless of your age, you can participate in this event. The organization, Child Evangelism Fellowship, will be doing the actual ministry, and we will help where needed. We will learn from the experts what a live, vital children's ministry looks like in today's world. Every volunteer will have the opportunity to go to a training session so we are all on the same page as the CEF ministry team.

What can you do right now? Pray about the upcoming event and how you can participate. Here are areas you can participate in: registering the children, encouraging the children, listening to memory verses, helping with games, face painting and sidewalk chalk, building relationships with parents, inviting more children to club, serving snacks, and handing out resources. Surely each one of you can do one of these tasks. You are never too old to minister to children. Even our youth can be involved. Every volunteer must submit to a Criminal Background Check. This is a routine check that protects the children who come to the 5 Day Camp.

Around April 13 we are going to be asking you to sign up to help. You can let us know if you want to work the morning shift, afternoon shift, or evening shift and what area of ministry you would like to do. If you work during the day, I would like to encourage you to try to do the evening shift. Yes, you will be tired, but you would have gone outside of yourself to minister to unchurched kids and their parents. Please be in prayer as to where God wants you in this ministry.

Continue to be in prayer as to who our next Children/Youth Minister will be. The prayer is that we have one by the time of the CEF Five Day Camps. We would like to have someone here who has the heart and the talent to work with our young people who are here now and those who may come into our church in the near future.

Another event that is being planned is our Burgerville Partnership Fundraiser. Our goal is to be able to help as many young people and adults be able to go camp that would like to go. We would like to help our kids go to summer and winter camp and the adults to be able to go Adult/Family Camp. That means anyone who wants help with a scholarship to go to camp must work a couple of shifts at the Burgerville Partnership. More info will come in next month's newsletter.



Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

FEBRUARY 2014

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10140.67
Income Received	\$ 11816.52
Expenses	\$ 8328.26
Net Balance for Month	\$ 3488.26

General Fund Balance 2/28/14 \$ 1963.19

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 1154.86

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1072.33
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 1003.50

Liabilities

Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 1049.06
Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 7936.70

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40: 28-31 (NIV)

Blessings

Barbara Furman, For the Finance Ministry

MUM'S OPEN HEART PANTRY

Approximately 20-23 families are being helped with food bags on Open Heart days. They say thank you to Grace for donations of food. Remember food can be brought in any time and left in the barrel. Cash donations are also welcome.



Currently they request we hold off on bags and egg cartons. They have ample supplies for a few months.

If you can donate a new can opener, Open Heart would like to include one for families in need of this. A simple hand-held can opener as pictured with plastic grips and plastic coated turn handle.

Shannon Hastings



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*All we do inside these
walls prepares us to do
God's work outside.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN APRIL

2 & 9 Soup/Bread Dinner & Bible Study

5 Oregon Trail Pancake Breakfast (Bridger)

18 Meals For Minds @ Bridger School

18 & 19 Distributing Food @ MUM

18 Good Friday Service

19 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn

20 Easter Breakfast

20 Family Easter Service

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

pastorrandy@graceportland.com

Secretary

Beth Jones

grace@graceportland.com

Worship/Music Minister

Judy Young

judy@graceportland.com

GOD'S VISION FOR GRACE BAPTIST

Making disciples of Christ, in a relational environment,
to share in God's mission to the world.