

Grace Notes

August 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

As I sit down to write my Grace Notes column this month, there are three upcoming events which are foremost in my thoughts. First, our upcoming Community BBQ on August 24. This is the third year of this event, and I know from last year, members of our community look forward to it. Be in prayer for our church family who will be working and planning the BBQ, the members of the community who will be attending it, and for opportunities to share the message of Christ's love through the event.

The second event on my mind is a Discipleship conference Paul Young, Shawn Brannan, and I will be attending in Post Falls, Idaho on August 8 and 9. The purpose of this conference is to help churches to become more intentional about discipling church members. The idea of discipleship is one that permeates the pages of the New Testament, but we, as Christ's body, are not always as proficient at it as we should be. I am praying, and am asking you to pray with me, that 2014 will be the year we at Grace begin to become more intentional about leading our church in growing into mature Christ disciples.

The third, and last event, in my thoughts is our upcoming Evangelism Conference on the weekend of October 11-13. Dr. Jeff Johnson, director of Evangelism for ABC Home Mission Societies, will be here to teach us about what it means to evangelize people out of who God has created us to be. The workshop will be based on his book, Got Style, and will show us how to overcome our fear of evangelism. I know he will inspire and challenge us. I have had the experience of hearing Dr. Johnson, and know you will not want to miss hearing what he has to say to us. Please be in prayer for Dr. Johnson, our congregation, and other congregations who may join us, that God will use this opportunity to help us better spread His Good News.

God is doing some amazing things at Grace Baptist Church. We need to continue to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and be ready to respond as He directs and leads us.

I hope each and every one of you will pray for these upcoming events, your part in them, and how God will use them to help make us the people and the church He wants us to be.

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**AUGUST
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Steve Hiatt
Diana Hiatt
Leon Jones
Johnni Beth Jones



MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

This article is the first of the last five articles I will be writing as your Moderator. Time does fly when you are having fun. And speaking of time flying by, at the November Annual Budget & Election meeting, we will be electing board members and other leaders for 2014, as well as approving our 2014 budget. Further, that means in August I will be convening the Nominating Committee. AUGUST?!!!! Yes, we try to give the committee about two and a half months to get oriented to the duties of the positions they have to fill and begin to think about the characteristics of good candidates for those duties; and then, of course, to think of people who have those characteristics and skills. However, this is not only a heads-up to the committee members (Loretta Mason, Doug Thompson, Molly Tompkins and Nancy Uhlinger, plus one vacancy), it is a siren song for each of you to think and pray seriously about what God is calling you to do.

Your board has been operating differently this year from previous years. It is: doing more praying, including for each other; updating and sharing ministry work; leaving the ministry work to the ministries—not voting on operational issues that can be decided by the functioning work groups. The meetings tend to be shorter, but with more information being shared and discussed.

In the July meeting your Board agreed to hold a congregational information meeting/potluck on Sunday, September 15, after the worship service. The intent is to present our long-range thinking for equipping us in areas of discipleship, evangelism and outreach, as well as talking about other current or important topics. Bring your questions and your comments.

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer season!

With you in His work,
Sharon Owen, Moderator

MONTAVILLA UNITED METHODIST FOOD PANTRY

The list of food MUM would like to have provided is: canned fruit, canned corn, canned green beans, chili, soup, canned meats, tuna fish, peanut butter, jam/jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, box meals, macaroni and cheese, pasta/noodles, cereal (hot and cold), Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, egg cartons, plastic vegetable bags, and paper grocery bags.

As you shop for food it is better to buy in bulk (6-20 identical items), rather than one can of this and one box of that.

We will be emphasizing food collection on **Sunday, August 11** Come and give a gift to those in need.

Thanks again for your willingness to help with this ministry.



OUTREACH



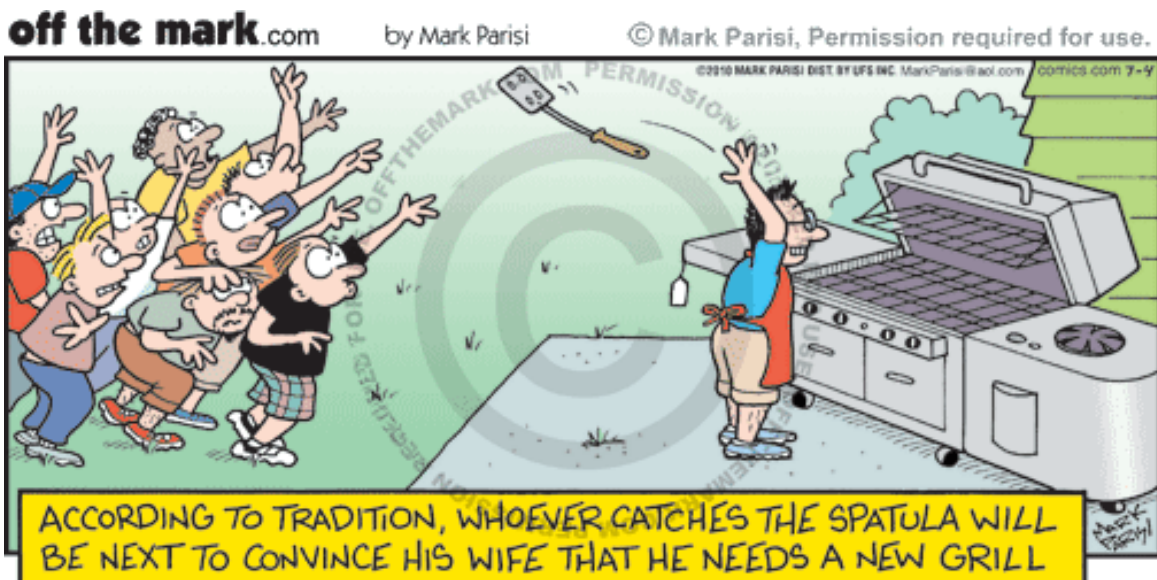
The date for our **Third Annual Community BBQ** is less than a month away (**August 24th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**). Many thanks to all of you who have signed up to help at the event. Here's what we need in the days ahead:

1. If you haven't signed up to help yet, there are sign up forms available at in the church entryway or let me know you would like to help (hbilynskyj@hotmail.com or 503-384-2595).
2. One area where we could use some help is handing out posters to nearby businesses—that will happen early in August.
3. We need to borrow large ice chests and canopies. If you have any that you can loan us, please let me know and then have them at the church by Friday morning, August 23.
4. Consider donating a gift card for our door prize drawings.
5. Begin now to invite your family, friends, and neighbors and make sure it's on your calendar too!!
6. Finally, last but not least, PRAY for all those who will be attending the BBQ and for everyone working to make it a great day. A few prayers for cooler weather might not hurt. 😊



Looking forward to a very special day with all of you.

In His Love and Service,
Helen Pearson, Lay Minister of Outreach



AUGUST 2013

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

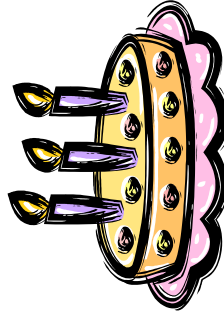
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I should do, and with the help of God, I will do!”
-Everett Hale

4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3
COMMUNION 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration		11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Meeting		6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study	9:30 am Outreach Meeting 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch Possibly @ Olive Garden	Elementary/High School Camp Ends 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	17
9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration	Middle School/Primary Camp	No Youth Meeting 6:30 pm CE Meeting Middle School/Primary Camp	Middle School Camp Primary Camp Ends	6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal Middle School Camp	Middle School Camp Ends 12:00 pm Food Sorting @ MUM 7:00 pm Packing Food @ MUM	9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 9:00 am Community Care Day @ Bridger 1:30 pm Tim Benson & Jennifer Rodriguez's Wedding	9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 9:00 am Community Care Day @ Bridger
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24
9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration		6:30 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm Youth Meeting		6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study	11:00 am-2:00 pm Community BBQ	11:00 am-2:00 pm Community BBQ
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	31
9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration	SEPTEMBER GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	6:30 pm Youth Meeting			Adult/Family Camp	Adult/Family Camp	Adult/Family Camp

August Birthdays

- 2 Sybil Hart
- 4 Shawn Brannan
- 10 Kaleb Thompson
- 18 Ruth Hendrickson
- 19 Shannon Hastings
- 19 Amy Danielson
- 24 Georgia Young
- 24 Leon Jones
- 26 David Becker
- 28 Cathy Christianson
- 29 Theresa Benson



August Anniversaries

25 Ken & Jessica Andrews



YOUTH

by Shawn Brannan, Youth Minister

I can't believe that the summer vacation for our youth is rapidly coming to an end (even though I imagine some of you parents can't wait for school to start back up). I hope that this summer is finding you and your families being able to spend time together, grow in relationship with one another, and are allowing GOD to enjoy summer vacation with all of you. Summer vacation reminds me of camping, fishing, hiking in the woods and spending time with the family. I think to myself, "Why do this just during summer vacation? We could do this every week." We as a church family have the ability to do this not just on Sunday mornings but daily with other family members of the body of Christ. I have been reading lately the book, "Church Is A Team Sport" by Jim Putman, and so far I have been so motivated to learn more and experience more about the power of the body and the importance of making disciples and not just church goers. What do I mean by this? Well what I mean is this, if we just go through the motions of going to church, checking that box for the week, if you will, and not making disciples or becoming disciples that can go out into the world and spread the good news of our LORD Jesus Christ, then what is the point? We all know what was laid out in the Great Commission, to go out and make disciples in the world; and I am excited about this next upcoming school year and seeing what our youth can do. With the change in the youth group date, I feel we will open the doors to those kids out in our neighborhood who may be attend another youth group, but now can attend when we have it, increase the amount of youth attendees, yes, but most importantly, increase their exposure and the opportunity for me to speak to these young people and help them grow in relationship with GOD as well as the body of Christ.

During our time with the youth group, we have been discussing the importance of attending church and being an active member of the body of Christ and what that entails. I believe the youth have a lot of knowledge about GOD, but because of the outside world's influence, they are focused on believing what they want or having an active relationship with GOD (on their own terms), but not attending church either at all or just every once in a while. We have been discussing why it is crucial in their walk with GOD to be an active member of the church, to be plugged into the house of GOD with other believers. It will make them even stronger in their faith and help teach them to walk as disciples in the world. Our kids continue to be surrounded by negative influence and ignorant people and have to learn some of the hard lessons life has to offer on their own, and as a parent this is what scares me the most, but we as parents, guardians, and teachers of these future adults need to continue to support and nurture them (even if that means nurture from afar). I imagine we all at one point or another have had times of struggle in which it started out with you telling yourself, "I can do this, I don't need any help." Then when the pressure and weight of it all comes crashing down we had that person(s) who walked with us during the process from the beginning to that moment, and during that process they encouraged, gave advice and mentored us to help us to prevent the inevitable crashing down, but we wanted to drive on and do it ourselves. At that time of despair those lessons that were taught, and the advice that was given back then, would have echoed through our brains and helped us to get out of the rubble and back on track.

This is the same idea for disciplining our youth. It is frustrating giving a lesson to the youth on something I feel is important and feeling like they have not heard me, or take it as seriously as I do. But then in their time of need or when a life experience of their own comes around, those lessons we teach and the examples we make for them, I believe, will come back to them like a light bulb turning on in their brain. The lessons they hear or the examples they see in us may not take shape or be relevant for them at that time, but down the line they may just make the difference between them choosing to be a man/women of GOD or of the world. So let's continue to pray for our youth, through their struggles and temptations that the enemy continues to bombard them with, to give them strength and wisdom and always remember GOD is with them and they are a part of the whole body of Christ no matter their age or home situation. Here at church they are our future, our children; they are safe here and loved and as their elders we need to continue to disciple them and help mold them in the image of GOD and to have a Godly heart. Whether they take our lessons to heart now or in 30 years, the important thing is those lessons are being taught and examples are being shown, GOD will do the rest.

Mark 9:37

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, does not welcome me but the one who sent me" (NIV).

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

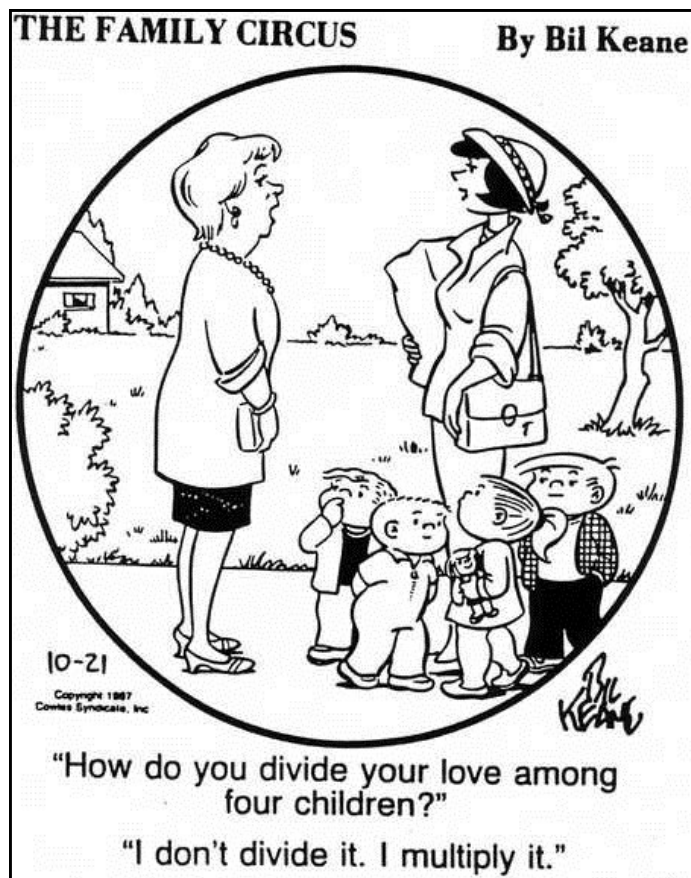
by Judy Young



As I return from a delightful vacation and wonderful time spent with family, I've had some time to reflect on what being part of a family means; the good, the bad and the ugly. It was such a joyous time to be able to spend many days with our oldest daughter and her family. Our granddaughter is a delight and so much fun! But while basking in the happy times, news of a gravely ill brother-in-law caused the walls to crash in. I am so grateful to be in a family that shares a strong faith in Christ. It certainly sustains us as a family in the good times and bad.

I am reminded that our Grace Baptist family is much the same. We have had joyful times, celebrating anniversary and birthday milestones, and sorrowful times as our brothers and sisters in Christ have lost loved ones, dealt with serious illness, or suffered a job loss. Yet, in all of these circumstances we have come together to support, pray, and uphold each other. We are a family because of Christ, and can share, pray, and love one another as brothers and sisters. I am so grateful for the encouragement and support we give each other.

As the Grace family comes together this month to help with the Community BBQ on August 24, let's encourage and support one another in this big effort to spread the love of Christ into our neighborhood. Pray for those who lead in this event, come and offer your time to help, and encourage each other in this opportunity.



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JUNE 2013

<u>General Operating Fund</u>	
Monthly Budget	\$ 10607.92
Income Received	\$ 10279.49
Expenses	\$ 9060.35
Net Balance for Month	\$ 1219.14
General Fund Balance 6/30/13	\$ 5348.12
Boiler Fund Balance	\$ 1255.50
<u>Mission Fund</u>	
Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1409.24
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 1130.96

JANUARY-JUNE 2013

AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET:	\$10607.92
AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME:	\$ 9544.04
AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES:	\$ 9868.14
DIFEERENCE:	\$ (324.10)
MISSION GIVING PLAN TD	\$ 7642.34
SPECIFIED GIFTS.OFFERINGS TD	\$ 3038.96
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 1571.68
Loan from Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$10569.16

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

We have recently been reflecting on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. One aspect of our discipleship is our role as stewards of what God has blessed us with. I'd like to share some thoughts from Rick Warren's workbook, Better Together, on the theme of us being created to worship together.

“Giving back to God is the heart of worship.”

“It may surprise you to learn that Jesus taught more about money and possessions than he did about heaven or hell. The word “give” is used over 1,500 times in the Bible, more than the words faith, hope, love or pray. Why? Obviously, God doesn't need our money. He's not poor. But God does want us to become like Him, and that will only happen if we learn to be generous. God is a giver – the most generous giver in the universe. Everything you have is a gift from God.

“First, my giving expresses my gratitude to God for the past. ‘Thanks’ and ‘giving’ go together. When we give back to God, we express our appreciation to Him for all the ways He has blessed us.”

“Second, my giving expresses my priorities in the present.”

“Third, my giving expresses my faith in God for the future.”

**Give, and it will be
given to you. A good
measure, pressed down,
shaken together and
running over, will be
poured into your lap.
For with the measure
you use, it will be
measured to you.**

-Jesus in Luke 6:38

Barbara Furman, Lay Minister of Finance



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

10 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch

12-14 Primary Camp

12-16 Middle School Camp

17 Tim Benson & Jennifer Rodriguez's Wedding

17 Community Care Day @ Bridger School

24 Community BBQ

30-September 2 Adult/Family Camp

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

pastorrandy@graceportland.com

Secretary

Beth Jones

grace@graceportland.com

Youth Minister

Shawn Brannan

shawn@graceportland.com

Worship/Music Minister

Judy Young

judy@graceportland.com

Vision Statement

God's vision for Grace Baptist Church is to engage in Christ-centered discipleship and worship to equip you for, and support you in, ministry in the Montavilla neighborhood and the communities where you work and live; while cultivating trusting, loving, accepting relationships.