

Grace Notes

January 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

THE NEW YEAR APPROACHES

As 2013 approaches, what are your thoughts on what you would like to accomplish in the new year. I was recently reading in Philippians 3 and came across these verses of Paul's:

I want to know Christ...Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

As I sit here and ponder these words, I can think of nothing better for 2013 than to know Christ better.

Paul gives us a tip on how we might accomplish this. First, we need to forget. We need to forget all those times we failed Christ in 2012. Those times we were prompted by the Holy Spirit to say something and we stayed quiet, or those times we were prompted to stay quiet and chose not to (this is where I fall).

The failures of 2012 can't be undone, even though we wish they could. Those failures, however, can be, and have been forgiven. Jesus, in his grace and mercy, has wiped them out. What we now need to do is learn from them, and then forget about them. We need to put them aside so we can do the next part of what Paul says, "straining toward what is ahead."

I want you to take note of what we are straining for—to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. If we are so busy focusing on the past and its failures, we miss the prize God has for us.

As we move into the new year, let me encourage you not to look back, but to look ahead. Look ahead to the wonderful things God has in store for you in 2013. Look ahead to know Christ better and to press on toward the goal for which God has called you. I can think of nothing better to accomplish in 2013 than this, both as individuals and as a church.

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**JANUARY
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Theresa Benson
Terri Benson
Dan Jones
Beth Jones



MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

January always seems like the time to reflect on the previous year. 2012 was a very good year for Grace Church from my perspective. We continued to reach out to our local community in several ways: summer Bar-B-Q; Santa Breakfast; Bridger School volunteering, especially Meals for Minds; and clothing gifts for children at Vestal School. In March we added the Open Heart Food Pantry at Montavilla United Methodist for which we are collecting food and helping with the sorting, packing, and distribution for 50+ local families each month.

In worship, prayer, and study we have expanded our music program and tried out an all-prayer Wednesday Night program. After nine months of searching, God's timing gave us Shawn Brannan as Youth Minister in October. The ministry to youth is growing and deepening with well-planned programs, mentoring, and a monthly open house.

2012 saw the arrival of some new folks who have added their own unique contribution to our diversity, and I believe Grace is "on a roll" with mutual caring, prayer, and mission. Just think what might await us in 2013!! Of course, as we know, WE probably can't THINK far enough "outside the box" to even imagine what God has in store for us if we keep up the prayer and the doing.

Once more I would like to mention the board, with four new members, will be retreating for about 24 hours on January 4 and 5 at Arrah Wanna. Our facilitator will be Pastor Carren Woods from Rivergate Church in North Portland. We will be preparing ourselves to work as a leadership "community" on behalf of our church. Please support us with your prayers for the retreat and for 2013's work.

With you in His work,
Sharon Owen, Church Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

So much has happened this last year, good and bad, fun and sad. But whatever comes our way God is still in charge. We have to let Him take the lead. On my heart is a scripture I would like us to put on our prayer lists:

If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14

Let's work together with each other and Jesus to make this a year of joy and peace

Blessings to you and your family,
Theresa Benson, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

YOUTH NEWS FROM SHAWN

Wow, there went 2012 and look the world is still here. I guess the Mayans forgot a day or two on their calendar. I hope and pray that all of my church family had a great and safe holiday with family and friends these last couple of weeks, and that this new year only brings prosperity and happiness to each and every one of you. I would like to take this time to remind everyone with this New Year comes new challenges for each of us. What I mean is everyone (young and old) should take a few moments and evaluate how the last year went for them on a spiritual level. I challenge everyone to evaluate the last year and pick at least three things you either want to improve on or maybe start in your spiritual journey/life. I know for me my last year was definitely slow in the beginning but really ramped up these last few months and makes me even more excited to think about what is in store for me in the next year. I have to say I have truly felt a new spiritual life in myself since joining the team here at Portland Grace Baptist Church and I am looking forward to my future here. Some of the areas I want to work on with the youth will be continuing our journey through "Christianity 101" as a group to help answer questions and hopefully get them excited for GOD more than in the past. I am also planning for a youth ministry mission trip next summer, so continued prayer for that would be greatly appreciated.

As I think about this next year and pray for GOD's continued direction and guidance, I love to think about the passage found in Matthew 28:18-20, "The Great Commission".

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"

What an exciting passage to read. Jesus is with us always, to the very end of the age, doesn't get any better than that. We all have the power to save a life. It is in each of us to not only spend time in the word and grow closer to GOD ourselves, but to help plant the seed in the hearts of the unbelieving and allow GOD to help it grow in that person which will save that person from both a life and eternity that they don't need to experience. So go ahead, invite a friend to Sunday service, tell the neighbors about Wednesday Night Youth and Bible study. The words don't hurt to say but have the power to save.

May the LORD continue to grow within each of us more every day and shine so bright through all of us that those who are lost in the darkness will see the light through us and get back on the path of righteousness and develop or rekindle a relationship with the LORD.

CAMP DATES

Winter Camp is coming on us sooner than we think. Yikes! So for all you parents who need to plan ahead, here are the dates for the camps and how much they cost with scholarship money included which is available for each camper:

Elementary Winter Camp (3rd-5th grade): February 8-10, 2013

\$56.50 if you register by January 11
\$66.50 if you register between January 12-28

Middle School: February 8-10, 2013

\$60.00 if you register by January 11
\$70.00 if you register between January 12-28

High School: February 22-24, 2013

\$63.50 if you register by January 25
\$73.50 if you register between January 26-February 11



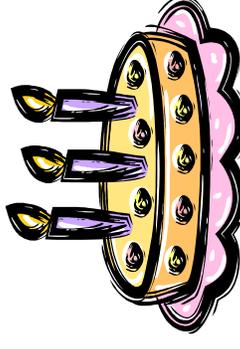
JANUARY 2013

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 <i>COMMUNION</i> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Young's Church 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church	7	8 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	9 6:30 pm Bible Study & Youth Meeting	10 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	11 6:00-9:00 pm Youth Open House 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study	12 9:30 am Outreach Meeting
13 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Young's Church 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church	14 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	15 11:00 am Roberta Stephens Circle Meeting	16 6:30 pm Bible Study & Youth Meeting	17 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	18 2:00 pm Meals For Minds @ Bridger School 2:00 pm Food Sorting @ MUM 7:00 pm Packing Food @ MUM 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study	19 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution
20 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Young's Church 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church	21 FEBRUARY GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	22 6:30 pm Calendar Scheduling	23 6:30 pm Bible Study & Youth Meeting	24 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	25 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study	26
27 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 12:30 pm Annual Mtg. 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Young's Church 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church	28	29	30 6:30 pm Bible Study & Youth Meeting	31 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal		

January Birthdays

5 Sara Jones
5 Dorothy Weir
9 Barb Furman
18 Dora Henning
18 Horace Brelsford
19 Ken Danielson
19 Sharon Owen
23 Carole Dickman
25 Seth Young
31 Jean Atkinson



January Anniversaries

1 Vernon & Dorothy Dunn
31 Earl & Marian Wise
31 John & Kaleen Stepnioski



NOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC/WORSHIP MINISTER (AND
NOW YOU LAY MINISTER OF CHURCH LIFE!!!),
JUDY YOUNG



As I write this article at the end of 2012 and begin to look to a new year, I am reminded of the praise song, "The Steadfast Love of the Lord."

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new ev'ry morning, new ev'ry morning,
Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,
Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord,
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!

God is, indeed, so faithful. He has brought us through 2012 and as I look to 2013, I know God is with me as I continue to serve as your Music/Worship Leader and now, on the Board as Lay Minister of Church Life.

A huge thank you to all the singers and musicians that helped make our Advent services so special. A special thank you to Betsy Vulgan, for her outstanding "*piano hands*" and her ability to play from the heart.

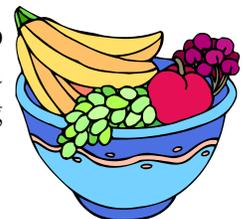
If you ever have any concerns or requests regarding our worship services, music, or church family social activities, please don't hesitate to talk to me.

My desire for 2013: "That you will come away from our Sunday morning worship services with the heart-felt knowledge that you have experienced God's presence as you worship Him, learn from His Word, and go out to Serve Him."

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

We are in need of volunteers to help provide snacks for Sunday morning fellowship time. We will need two people to bring snacks each Sunday. If no one signs up on a certain Sunday then we will not have snacks that day. If you are willing to bring snacks, the sign up sheet can be found on the refrigerator. Thanks!



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

NOVEMBER 2012

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10241.33
Income Received	\$ 9056.52
Expenses	\$ 11434.66
Net Balance for Month	\$ (2378.14)

General Fund Balance 11/30/12 \$ 5908.04

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 1741.31

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 2061.73
Specified gifts/offering	\$ 875.00

Loans

Balance of loan from Building Fund	
To General Fund 11/30/12	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	
Total Cumulative Interest Paid	\$ 793.66
Total Cumulative Principle Paid	\$ 7177.22
Balance on 11/30/12	\$ 12822.78

JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2012

AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET	\$ 10241.33
AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME	\$ 9871.09
AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$ 9135.84
DIFFERENCE	\$ 735.25

MISSION GIVING PLAN YTD	\$ 21823.64
SPECIFIED GIFTS/OFFERINGS YTD	\$ 6224.06

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

As you review the finance figures for November, you will note our income for the month was well below our expenses. As is to be expected, our expenses ebb and flow each month based on the financial requirements and ministry being done. November included a quarterly building insurance payment and preparations for the Santa Breakfast. God has blessed us financially in 2012 so the balance in our general fund was sufficient to absorb the net loss for the month of November.

We are now looking forward to 2013. Let us reaffirm our commitment to being the people God wants us to be and doing the work He wants done. As we are faithful in supporting the ministry here at Grace with our time and our money, God will continue to use us to bless this community.

Blessings,
Barbara Furman, Lay Minister of Finance

CHURCH LIFE

It has been a privilege to serve the Lord through leadership as Lay Minister of Church Life. I thank you for your support through these six very interesting years. Judy Young takes on the responsibility of Lay Minister of Church Life beginning in 2013.

Church un-decorating will begin January 5, at 9:00 am, by disassembling trees and other decorations and putting them away for next year. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

January 20 Randy will be gone for a week of classes and Helen will be preaching that Sunday. Missionary Kim Kushner-Dominguez, working with Cuban churches through American Baptist Churches USA, will be sharing with us about her ministry the evening of Sunday, January 27. Watch for details.

I mention as a reminder the church website has recordings of previous sermons to listen to. If you don't have access to a computer, ask Beth for a CD copy.

Blessings,
Paul Young, Lay Minister of Church Life

OUTREACH

Reaching our community,
Reaching our world...

THANK YOU for all of your support and help with the Breakfast with Santa! We believe we served over 200 children! Where there are children, there are adults....we touched many lives. I have many stories from the day, but one in particular stands out...

We had a line developing outside by 7:45am, so I grabbed coffee (thank you, chefs, for having it ready) and went out to hang with them. There were a couple of young couples who were there together. The daddies were in their twenties and looked like they could have been ruffians at one point in their lives. Their wives had gone in and the daddies said, "Thank you for this! Times have been rough lately, so this is just what we needed." Yes, my heart melted. These families experienced God's love through you in God's house. Everyone had a jolly grand time, and it couldn't have happened without all of you!

Again, it has been an honor to serve as Lay Minister of Outreach. Thank you.

With Love,
Johnni Beth Jones, Outgoing Lay Minister of Outreach

EDUCATION

Wow! Where did 2012 go? It went so fast and here we are in the year 2013! As in all the ministry areas, there is so much to do. The CE Committee will be looking at everything from improving curriculum to fundraisers, to the different events the youth will be involved in, to getting more adults involved in the lives of our children. If you have any input in these areas, I would love to hear from you. The more ideas we have flowing, the better.

God gave us the "The Great Commission" to go out into all the world and share the good news. In order for this to continue past our generation, we need to make sure our youth are secure in the faith their parents and grandparents have. So we need to ask ourselves what sacrifices are we willing to make in order for this to happen? Yes, our youth have great models in what a Christian is all about, but they need more. What will that entail? As a church family and committee we need to explore what our options are.

My prayer is our youth will grow strong in knowing who God is and have a relationship with Him despite what the world is telling them. Can I count on you to help where you can, from expressing ideas to actually being involved in our youths' lives? If so, let me know where you can help, please.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY

1 Happy New Year!

4 & 5 Board Retreat @ Camp Arrah Wanna

5 Un-decorating The Church

14 Annual Reports Due

22 Calendar Scheduling

27 Annual Reports' Meeting

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

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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.