

Grace Notes

January 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

DOING MATTHEW TOGETHER

Over the last few weeks our church has been involved in praying together for God's will concerning our church's ministry. We have been praying at 7:58 in the morning and evening. We began by praying for those ministries God would want us to stop. We are currently praying for ministries God would want us to start. And in a couple of weeks we will begin praying for those ministries God would want us to strengthen.

This practice of corporate prayer has really begun to develop a sense of community within our congregation. Hearing what people are saying and experiencing has been a blessing to me and others.

Beginning in January we will do something more as a community. During 2014 I will be preaching through the Gospel of Matthew. During that time I am asking every member of Grace to read a chapter of Matthew each day. On January 1, I am hoping everyone will read chapter 1 of Matthew. On January 2, chapter 2, January 3, chapter 3, and so on. There are 28 chapters in Matthew, so we will finish the book on January 28. Then everyone will have off January 29, 30, and 31. Then on February 1, we will read chapter 1 again, and read through the book again in February. And then in March, April, and so on, so at the end of the year, we will have read the Gospel of Matthew 12 times in 2014.

Now you may think this is overkill, but I think not. The scripture is a living, breathing document, so each time you read Matthew, it will have something new to say to you.

One more thing. While we are doing this corporate reading of Matthew, I will be posting my thoughts about the readings each day on our website at www.graceportland.com. On the site there is a tab labeled "Matthew Posts." You can read my thoughts, comment on them, or post some thoughts of your own. I would be interested in hearing what God is saying to you as you are reading his word each day. It would be great to get some dialogue going.

David tells us in Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light to my path."

May God brighten your path with His light as we read and teach the word through the Gospel of Matthew together in 2014.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO THE ENTIRE GRACE BAPTIST FAMILY!

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JANUARY COMMUNION SERVERS:
Larry Martin
Molly Tompkins
Georgia Young
Sharon Owen



MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

I am finally writing my FINAL column for the *Grace Notes*. As I write we are in the middle of December, anticipating celebration of the coming of the Messiah into our world. As you read this, we are all looking to a “fresh” start in a new year: 2014. I want to tell you I have felt honored to serve as your Moderator these past five years and I have deeply appreciated the support and encouragement I have received from all of you. THANK YOU!!!!

I am leaving you in excellent hands with Barbara Furman serving as our new Moderator. The Board is once again planning a retreat the first part of January which will be led by Tom Mann. As you probably recall, Tom spoke one Sunday morning not long ago and has written a book on healing which many purchased. I am convinced the retreat and Tom's facilitation will go far to forge a dynamite leadership team for 2014. Please support that time with your prayers.

I have mentioned in previous articles in the past two years the Grace Board has made great strides to become a team rather than a group of individuals. As a rule it deals with policy and issues which relate to the whole church rather than delving into operational details which are the province of the ministries and committees. I am hoping these changes are evident to you as a member and give you confidence the Board is working for the greatest good and benefit of Grace. Again, please support the members and the group in your regular prayers.

I am certainly looking forward to 2014 for Grace as a body of Christ. Since early in November we have collectively been praying about what functions and activities we should cease and how we should look forward and step out in faith with new ministry. ***May the Holy Spirit be with Pastor Randy, our leadership, and each of us as we unite and work together in the year ahead!***

With you in His work,
Sharon Owen, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed New Year!
WITH GOD AROUND US, let us pray for a year full of new opportunities, an abundance of warm people among us, a life with God in our midst.

In Christ,
Theresa Benson, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



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

by Judy Young

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



As the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season comes to a close, I hope within all of it you found time to rejoice in the Savior's birth and truly thank God for the miraculous gift He gave us in Jesus Christ.

Now, as 2014 begins, we look ahead to what God will do at Grace Baptist Church. I have been so blessed to pray corporately at 7:58 AM and PM each day for His direction. It is wonderful to be with a group from church and hear several alarms go off to remind us it is time to pray; and then we stop and do exactly that! There is POWER in prayer, and I believe He will give us clear direction as we move forward in His will. *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for Him.'"* Lamentations 3:23-24

You will notice some changes in the praise teams in the following months. We are going to try a different scheduling pattern for each praise team and a different practice schedule. It's good to experiment and shake things up a little bit! We'll see how things go and evaluate it all in a few months. Our desire is to lead you in worship of our loving Lord; and we want to do a better job of helping you make that personal connection with Him during the singing.

If you desire to serve God in music, please speak to me.

MISSION WORK DAY

Heads up ladies, we will be having a work day for missions in February on a Saturday morning. We will be cutting and tearing sheets to make roller bandages for the Congo. It's not hard and we will show you how. By the way, we have plenty of sheets available so we don't need any more. We will need a couple of sewing machines. Also we have need to make a couple of baby blankets and baby gowns. Patterns are available. There will be no meeting that day, but Nancy Uhlinger will be there to talk about the White Cross missions and how her parents benefited from this project. We will enjoy the fun and fellowship. This project will take about two hours tops with enough hands. Coffee and tea will be provided. Shannon, Georgia Young, or Nancy can give your more information on this project and White Cross. If you have not participated in these projects before, I think you will enjoy this. If you are just curious, then come and watch and listen. We will not make you work!



Shannon Hastings, White Cross Chairperson

JANUARY 2014

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

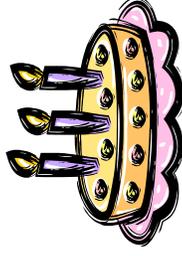
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

“Be assured, if you walk with Him, and look to Him, and expect help from Him, He will never fail you.”
-George Muller

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 <i>COMMUNION</i> 8:45 Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	6	7 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	1 HAPPY NEW YEARS!!	2	3 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	4 9:00 am Un-decorate The Church Day
12 8:45 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	13	14 6:30 pm CE Meeting	15	16	17 12:00 pm Stocking Shelves @ MUM 1:00 pm Meals For Minds 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	18 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn 12:00 pm Girlfriends' Secret Santa @ Church
19 8:45 Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 Bible Study @ Church	20	21 11:00 am Roberta Stephens Circle Meeting 6:30 Board Meeting	22	23 7:00 CEF Meeting With John Luck	24 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	25
26 8:45 Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration Annual Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	27 FEBRUARY GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	28	29	30	31 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	

January Birthdays

- 2 John Hastings
- 5 Sara Jones
- 5 Dorothy Weir
- 9 Barbara Furman
- 18 Horace Brelsford
- 18 Dora Henning
- 19 Ken Danielson
- 19 Sharon Owen
- 23 Carol Dickman
- 25 Seth Young
- 31 Jean Atkinson



January Anniversaries

- 31 John & Kaleen Stepnoski
- 31 Earl & Marian Wise



EDUCATION

HAPPY NEW YEARS!! I trust your Christmas holiday went well; and you enjoyed your time with family and friends. Now it is time to get back to our regular schedule, whatever that may be in your case.

One thing CE will be dealing with when we get back into the swing of our regular schedule in January is camp scholarships. Because of our budget cut, our camp scholarship fund has been cut back. What does that mean for our campers? Fundraisers of course!! The CE Committee will be throwing around some ideas as to what our kids/youth may do to earn their scholarship money. If you have any ideas for a good fundraiser, please talk to me or anyone else on the committee. The CE Committee consists of Theresa Benson, Terri Becker, Georgia Young, and of course, me. We would love to hear from you. As soon as we have our plans cemented, we will let you know.

Also be in prayer about God leading to us the right staff person to work with children, youth and families. Remember we are trying to rebuild our children/youth department. We have done everything we can think of to bring in young families, but to no avail. We need someone who has fresh ideas to minister to all ages from birth to the young at heart. We need someone who can lead us to build a bridge between the young to the oldest person in our church. My prayer is we will become a strong multi-generational church again. May we begin to see changes in the growth of Grace Baptist Church, in more than one way, in the year 2014. May we look like the church God intends us to look like to minister to all we meet, crossing all generations and race gaps.

God Bless each one of you! You have all been a blessing to me and to each other.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education



High School Winter Camp

February 7 - 9, 2014

For Campers currently in grades 9 - 12
\$100 if registered on or before January 6
\$110 if registered between January 7 - 27

Middle School Winter Camp

February 21 - 23, 2014

For Campers currently in grades 6 - 8
\$95 if registered on or before January 20
\$105 if registered between January 21 - February 10

Elementary Winter Camp

February 21 - 23, 2014

For Campers currently in grades 3 - 5
\$90 if registered on or before January 20
\$100 if registered between January 21 - February 10



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

NOVEMBER 2013

JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2013

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10607.92
Income Received	\$ 7726.42
Expenses	\$ 9546.35
Net Balance for Month	\$ (1819.93)

General Fund Balance 11/30/13 \$ 4461.03

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 1351.35

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1193.19
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 282.00

AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET:	\$10607.92
AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME:	\$ 9405.23
AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES:	\$10058.30
DIFEERENCE:	\$ (653.07)

MISSION GIVING PLAN TD	\$13621.90
SPECIFIED GIFTS.OFFERINGS TD	\$ 4897.96

Liabilities

Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 833.81
Loan from Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 8931.07

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

We are now looking forward to 2014. 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.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

Blessings,
Barb Furman, Lay Minister of Finance/Treasurer

MUM’S OPEN HEART PANTRY

Lord when did we see you hungry or thirsty and take care of you? The Lord replied “When you did for one of the least of these you did also for Me!” - Mathew 25:37

The need continues for donations throughout the winter months. Open Heart provides for the needs of families and individuals in our neighborhood. Food may be left in the barrel at any time, not just the week before packing. Monetary donations are always welcome.

Shannon Hastings



UNDECORATE CHURCH DAY

Come one, come all to help UN-decorate the church on Saturday, January 4, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. Many hands will help us get this job done quickly!! Coffee, juice and donuts provided.



Cherry Blossom Meals on Wheels People
 740 SE 106th Ave Portland OR 97216
 503-953-8104
Robin.gao@mealsonwheelspeople.org

Can you help out once a week?

Meals on Wheels People provide hot meals to seniors at Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization every Tuesday. We need a group of 4 or 5 volunteers to help with food preparation, dishwashing, and meal service.

Time: Every Tuesday between 9am to 2pm
 Place: 10301 NE Glisan St Portland, OR 97220

Please call or email to sign up if you can help out. It will be much appreciated!!!





Grace Baptist Church

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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 Years!

4 Un-Decorate The Church

10-11 Board Retreat

18 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn

18 Girlfriends' Secret Santa @ Church

23 CEF Meeting With John Luck

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.