

Grace Notes

July 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

THOUGHTS FROM THE ABCUSA BIENNIAL MISSION SUMMIT

Last week I attended the ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit meeting in Kansas City, MO. It was a great experience. There were many “old timers” there who said this was the best Biennial they had been to in their 40 years of being an American Baptists. The Spirit was truly at work in the meetings and worship services, and I believe it renewed hope in many of us for the future of our denomination.

Here are some of the highlights and my thoughts from the Summit:

I continue to be amazed at the diversity and plurality represented in the ABC when we come together as a larger family. We heard prayers spoken in Native American, English, Spanish, and Karen (a language of Burma). We got to see a sign language interpretation of the Lord’s Prayer done by a troupe young woman dressed in Native American traditional dress. We got to hear choirs of Karen and Chin young people, immigrants from Burma (In Burma itself, Karen and Chin are often at odds and fighting because of cultural differences. At the Biennial, they worshipped together!). We got to hear sermons and speeches from African Americans, Burmese visitors, older individuals, and younger individuals. You name the culture, the color, the age, or the language, and it was at the Summit. We, as a denomination, are truly blessed in our diversity.

We were reminded of the significant history we have as American Baptists. We celebrated the sesquicentennial (150 years) of the Emancipation Proclamation. American Baptists played a significant role in ending slavery in the United States, and in urging President Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. We also celebrated the 375th anniversary of the First Baptist Church in America; a church begun in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638 by Roger Williams. Because of Williams’ leadership, Rhode Island became the first colony to offer religious toleration to all, and to practice a total separation of church and state (a principal Baptists hold till this day).

We were reminded of the church’s need to seek justice, to do mission, and to seek guidance of the Holy Spirit. Michelle Alexander, author and Civil Rights attorney, talked to us about how significant numbers of people of color are unfairly incarcerated, and how after they are released from prison they are

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**JULY
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Larry Martin
Molly Tompkins
Georgia Young
Sharon Owen



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MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

At the June meeting, your Board discussed steps to fostering personal spiritual growth for each person in the Grace family. The proposal on the table was to send three to five people to Post Falls, ID (yes, Idaho!) to a training on discipleship and how to turn our church into a discipling church. Real Life Ministries in Post Falls has developed a model and curriculum called Disciple Shift which is focused on helping churches become a “disciple making” church.

Our church vision speaks of “equipping” ourselves for ministry and your Board feels that discipling is a vital part of that equipping. Another aspect of that equipping will be the weekend with Jeff Johnson on October 11 -13. Please pray and meditate on what God wants you to do and be in relationship to His work. If you feel God’s desire for you to be part of the discipleship leadership, contact Pastor Randy. The Board determined to send Pastor Randy and Shawn Brannan to the Idaho training conference, but the other slots are open. Since the Board feels that this is a vital step in God’s path for Grace, they voted funds to pay the training and travel expenses for each participant.

The latest newsletter from ABCCPC (American Baptist Churches of the Central Pacific Coast—formerly ABCO) has an article written by Carren Woods of Rivergate Community Church. In it she describes how her board and congregation have made a MAJOR change in their approach to the Sunday worship service. I was very inspired by the article since they have obviously taken the reality of our current culture and decided to work within it instead of railing ineffectively against it. It isn’t necessarily the direction Grace should go, but it points out the fact we cannot continue in our comfortable ways and expect to be participating in what God’s doing.

The point of all the above is we each have to take responsibility to support our church’s seeking of God and His direction. We must pray and face God individually for the health and ministry of the body of Christ that is the family at Grace.

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, July 14**. Come and give a gift to those in need.

Thanks again for your willingness to help with this ministry.



OUTREACH

Please join us on Saturday, July 13, to hear Nashville, TN's own gospel group, Ernie Couch & Revival. The concert will begin at 6:30 pm at Grace Baptist Church. Be sure to invite family, friends, and neighbors!!



Ernie Couch & Revival will be bringing an exciting mixture of 20th Century gospel classics to town. This group is known across the United States and Canada for its live music, good humor, and genuine spirit. Many describe the group as refreshingly different, and a lot of fun. Jason Couch, with the group stated, "We want to reach everyone, from all age groups and backgrounds, with the message of our music. We enjoy what we do and want the people to enjoy it as well. We certainly will give it all we got, in the time that we have."

This band has traveled the road for almost two decades, presenting a professional evening of music. Besides a Grammy nomination, and having a number of their own songs in the gospel charts here and abroad, Ernie Couch & Revival has recorded with such greats as: George Beverly Shea, Jake Hess, George Jones,

Petra, and Patti Page, just to name a few. If you want to enjoy a great evening of music, don't miss seeing Ernie Couch and Revival in concert.

**ERNIE COUCH &
REVIVAL**

A large, stylized black fish symbol, resembling a carp or a similar fish, positioned below the text. The fish is oriented horizontally with its head to the right. The text "ERNIE COUCH & REVIVAL" is in a bold, serif font, with "REVIVAL" being significantly larger than the other words.

Blessings,
Helen Pearson, Lay Minister of Outreach

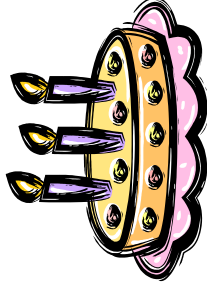
JULY 2013

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting | No Youth Meeting | 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal 7:00 pm Walleye Club | 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| COMMUNION 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration | | 6:30 pm CE Meeting | 6:30 pm Youth Meeting | 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal | 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study | 9:00 am Church Work Day 9:30 am Outreach Meeting 6:30 pm Ernie Couch & Revival Concert |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 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 | 12:00 pm Food Sorting @ MUM 7:00 pm Packing Food @ MUM 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study | 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 1:00 pm Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ The Original Taco House |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration | AUGUST GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE | 6:30 pm Youth Meeting | | 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal | 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study | 2:00 pm Bea Watson's 90th Birthday Reception |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | <p>“God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.” -Reinhold Niebuhr</p> | | |
| 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration | Elementary/High School Camp Begins | 6:30 pm Youth Meeting 7:00 pm Administration Meeting Elementary/High School Camp | Elementary/High School Camp | | | |

July Birthdays

2 Jesse Jones
5 Ed Vulgan
9 Brandon Benson
10 Jade Brannan
10 John Stepnioski
14 Jonathan Benson
16 Mary Milbrath
22 Kaleen Stepnioski
27 Madison Brannan
27 Jennifer Schaphorst
29 Lorretta Mason
29 Bea Watson
30 Ashley Covert



July
Anniversaries
20 Pastor Randy & Helen Pearson



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

MAY 2013

JANUARY-MAY 2013

General Operating Fund

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Monthly Budget | \$ 10607.92 |
| Income Received | \$ 10797.45 |
| Expenses | \$ 9934.50 |
| Net Balance for Month | \$ 862.95 |

General Fund Balance 5/31/13 \$ 3541.55

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 1464.33

Mission Fund

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Mission Giving Plan | \$ 1191.31 |
| Specified gifts/offerings | \$ 367.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET: | \$10607.92 |
| AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME: | \$ 9396.95 |
| AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES: | \$10029.70 |
| DIFFEERENCE: | \$ (632.75) |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| MISSION GIVING PLAN TD | \$ 6233.10 |
| SPECIFIED GIFTS.OFFERINGS TD | \$ 1908.00 |

Liabilities

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Payroll Tax Liabilities | \$ 1065.76 |
| Loan from Building Fund to GF Loan | \$ 8051.46 |
| Boiler Loan | \$10569.16 |

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

One of our old and beloved hymns tells us to “Count your many blessings, name them one by one.” How often do we take the time to count and name our blessings? As we become intentional about acknowledging how God has blessed us, it will change our perspective on giving from a chore to a joyful response to what God has already done. When we “want” to give rather than “have” to give, then we can do it cheerfully.

“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Barbara Furman, Lay Minister of Finance



SPIRITUAL LIFE



VACATION, VACATION, VACATION

Yes, it is that time of year when we will be putting on the sunscreen, packing up the kids, and going on a rejuvenating, fun-filled vacation time with family and friends. Here is a little something to take with you:

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

Let Your Light Shine!! Even when you are on vacation.

God bless you, have fun and be safe,
Theresa Benson, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

EDUCATION

I just want to take this time to thank each and everyone of you who came out to Burgerville on our partnership days to support our young people in their fundraising for camp scholarships. It was a success. Each youth who put their time and effort into working the Burgerville Partnership Days will get extra scholarship money to be put towards their camp fees. As you know, camp isn't cheap so every bit of spare change we can make is most helpful in sending our kids/youth to camp with as little cost to their parents/grandparents as possible. So again thank you.

I want to take this time to congratulate Greg Jones in graduating from LEP High School and Shawn Brannan in graduating from Multnomah University with a ministry degree. Greg is planning to continue his education at PCC, and Shawn is getting ready to start his seminary classes. If you haven't already, take time to congratulate them both in all the hard work they have done to get to the point they are now in their life's journey.

Let me echo what Theresa has already said. Please have a blessed, safe, fun-filled summer. Go out and make good memories with family and friends. But most importantly, remember to invite God to go with you wherever you go.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education



EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK

- One: Don't miss the boat.
 Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.
 Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
 Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
 Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
 Six: Build your future on high ground.
 Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
 Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
 Nine: When you are stressed, float a while.
 Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
 Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



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having their basic human rights limited. She challenged the church to reach out to those being released from prison and become a place of safety and acceptance for those who may not find that acceptance anywhere else. Roy Medley (ABCUSA General Secretary) talked about the 200th anniversary of Adoniram and Ann Judson's ministry in Burma. Roy challenged us to be as courageous in our mission today as the Judsons were in their mission 200 years ago. Rev. Matthew Sturtevant, pastor of FBC, Lawrence, KS, challenged us to give up our preconceived notions of where the wind of the Spirit of God might blow. Jesus tells Nicodemus in John 3:8, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." We need to let the Spirit lead as He will.

We were challenged to rethink our churches and their ministries as we move into the future. There were Mission Summit Conversations held around a number of subjects. Such topics as Generational Gaps, Discipleship, Small Church Ministry, Social Media, Cooperation and Associations, and Beloved Community were brainstormed and discussed around tables by a thousand church members from all across the country. They explored ways in which the Spirit might lead the church to be more effective in these areas. Each American Baptist church, each American Baptist individual needs to be transformed by the Spirit of God if we are going to have a ministry that will continue to be relevant and touch the lives of people in America today.

Being at the Biennial Mission Summit made me proud to be an American Baptist. But even more important, it made me excited to be among other people of God who are seeking to take seriously the call to be God's hands and feet in the world. It was a reminder that I, that we (meaning Grace Baptist Church), are not alone in God's call. We have brothers and sisters all across the country laboring together with us!



Grace Baptist Church

200 SE 76th Ave.

Portland, OR 97215

Phone: 503-254-5111

Fax: 503-254-4688

Email: grace@graceportland.com

Web: www.graceportland.com

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY

13 Church Workday

20 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ The Original

Taco House

27 Bea Watson's 90th Birthday Reception

29-August 2 Elementary & High School 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.