

# Grace Notes

## November 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



### PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

As I sit here and write my November article, I am still recovering from an automobile accident I had yesterday morning. Though physically, apart from bumps and bruises, I was not harmed, I am still recovering emotionally from the experience. I had not been in an accident since I was a teenager, and one never as violent as I experienced yesterday.

In the last 24 hours I have had time to pray, reflect, and talk with Helen. Through it all I need to keep reminding myself God is in control. Even more than that though, the words of Paul have come to mind several times- "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1Thess. 5:16-18

At first I was thinking...Really, God? You want me to give thanks for the car accident? Then I realized that is not what Paul was saying. He said "give thanks IN all circumstances," not "give thanks FOR all circumstances." That is a big difference.

I don't have to rejoice and be thankful my body was bumped and bruised, or I have had my nerves frazzled, or my truck was mangled, but I am in the will of Jesus when I can rejoice and give thanks in the midst of chaos like what happened yesterday.

I am not sure why God had me go through what I have just gone through, but I can still rejoice that He is my Savior. I can give thanks that He is in control and He knows why things happen, even when I don't.

Maybe with the holiday season fast approaching, and Thanksgiving right around the corner, all of this happened so I could remind myself, and remind all of you, that we are told to "give thanks in all circumstances."

Maybe it was not a good year for you and your family financially. Maybe this year your health has not been good. Maybe you have lost a loved one. The list could go on and on. You name your stressor. But in the midst of those we are still to rejoice and give thanks.

No matter how bad things get, no matter how stressed out we are, no matter how chaotic life gets, as followers of Christ we can, and should, find things in which to rejoice and give thanks.

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son  
- "Give Thanks" by Don Moen

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**NOVEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS:**  
Terri Becker  
Theresa Benson  
Beth Jones  
Dan Jones



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Here we are in November when we as a country take time to celebrate Thanksgiving and hopefully take the time to count the blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

We as a church family are also getting ready for the new year. As part of those preparations we will have our Budget and Election meeting on Sunday, November 16 after the worship service. At this meeting we will elect leaders and discuss and adopt a budget for 2015. Please be in prayer for the decisions which will be made that day; come and be a part of this very important process.



Budget &  
Congregational  
Meeting

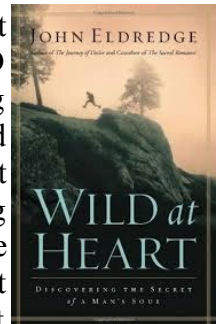
The Board will also be planning a Board workshop in January where we will evaluate the ministries we have been engaged in and make decisions and set goals for ministry in 2015.

One opportunity which has presented itself and on which a decision needs to be made soon is whether we at Grace should host the Annual Gathering next October. Please be in prayer about this. Opportunity will be provided at the Budget and Election meeting to share your thoughts and ideas.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

Ten men attended the Grace Men's retreat at the beach. Material from Wild at Heart and the movie Courageous were viewed and discussed openly. Viewing Courageous was not planned for the weekend, but we had technical difficulty with the DVD player watching "Wild at Heart" (God's intervention) causing us to watch Courageous while getting a new DVD player. Without telling the story, I'll summarize Courageous as a policeman being challenged spiritually as a father to make a resolution to become a better father and husband that honors God in all relationships, how others joined him, and the difference/challenge it made in their lives. POWERFUL! If you haven't seen the movie, it is well worth viewing by everyone. Men shared about themselves and discussed issues that interfere or influence their relationships with others and God. The group desires to continue meeting together, at least monthly, to share with one another and view each remaining segments of Wild at Heart. **Other men** are encouraged to participate in the future meetings; next one being the morning of Saturday, November 8, at the church. Our intent is to help bring the men of Grace together in closer fellowship with each other, provide tools to help men become more like God's calling for them, and more importantly, a closer relationship with God. Watch for more information regarding the meeting, or talk to Pastor Randy or me about the details. See what God does next!



The new connection cards are being considered as an opportunity for follow-up with visitors, and for our congregation as a possible PACE replacement. I will be working with Pastor Randy on this and anyone wanting to help. All help is appreciated. Just let me know you are interested. Thanks!

Also, if you have an interest in a specific weekly study, please let me know. We're getting ready to start new Bible studies and are wanting to hear if there are specific interests.

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

## A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER OF CHILDREN/YOUTH

*Isaiah 60:1-3 TLB, "Arise, My people! Let your light shine for all the nations to see! For the glory of the Lord is streaming from you. Darkness as black as night shall cover all the peoples of the earth, but the glory of the Lord will shine from you. All nations will come to your light; mighty kings will come to see the glory of the Lord upon you."*

As I read this, it just struck me....God calls us to be the LIGHT, are we SHINING? Or are our lights dimmed by the busyness of life or the struggle of the day to day?

Now is our time to be shining so the world might see!!! Every week I continue to see the growth that is happening with our precious children and youth. It is not just a program, hearts and lives are being molded by God.

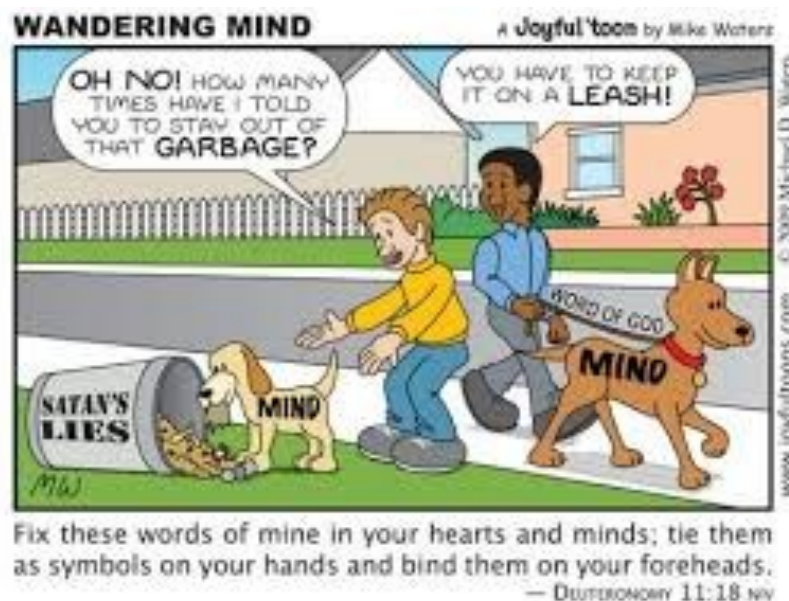
I believe God continues to speak to me about instilling the importance of the word to be alive for them. I continue to encourage them to want to dive deeper into what the scripture has to say to them and how that applies to their lives. God's word has began to take root. Did you know that our children are memorizing scripture each week? Do you know the very prayers you commit to everyday are really making a difference? We see it, Toni, Amanda, Gladys and I see it, right in the middle of all that we are doing it is happening. The Holy Spirit is moving and is changing our young people. We are excited and amazed!

Transportation is a real need!!! We have some kids who would be at youth group if they had a ride. Please see or ask me if this is something you feel led to help with. Snacks are another way you can help too.

**YOUR PRAYERS ARE MOVING AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!** I have stories to tell of these beautiful moments; please don't hesitate to ask. I would love to share!!

Thank you for all you do everyone, your faithfulness encourages us as we go about the work of the Savior.

Because of Jesus,  
Tammy Brown





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



*“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name. Make known among the nations what He has done. Sing to Him, sing praise to Him, and tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His Holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek His face always.” 1 Chronicles 16:6-11*

It seems that the stores are already bombarding us with Christmas decorations and all the trimmings, but I would like to take a moment to speak to the other fall holiday. On Thursday, November 27, we will celebrate Thanksgiving! I have so very much to be thankful for. God has carried our family through a difficult time and we are so grateful for His presence and healing. It was a privilege to be with children and grandchildren over the past six weeks. I am thankful for the many folks at Grace who carried out my responsibilities. Thank you, Kaleen Stepnioski, for preparing the worship music and working with the praise teams. Thank you, Betsy Vulgan, for playing the piano so beautifully each week. And to all of the singers and musicians, thank you for serving and leading the church family in worship. Hopefully, during this month of November, you will take time to count your blessings and thank our loving God for all of His benefits and share your thankfulness with others!

As the days quickly pass by, here is a reminder of all the upcoming events in November:

**11/16 – Budget and Election meeting** following the morning service

*A soup, bread, and pie lunch will be served*

**11/21 – 9:00 a.m.** – Christmas decorations will be brought out in preparation for “Hanging of the Greens”

**11/22 – 9:00 a.m. – Hanging of the Greens:** all are welcome to come and help decorate the church for Christmas

**11/30 – First Sunday of Advent**

Our Advent devotion book for this year is, Waiting Here for You, An Advent Journey of Hope, by Louie Giglio. I’m looking forward to sharing it with you.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



## PASTORAL RELATIONS

This article is to provide an update and progress report of the committee's efforts year-to-date. We were very busy working with Pastor Randy during the winter developing a Job Description for him which previously had not been done. This came to light last year at the time we sat down to do an evaluation for him. There lacked a structured framework to base that review. Multiple meetings took place researching and developing a Job Description. It was completed and presented to the Board for approval in the spring, and implemented immediately. That Job Description is available, if you would like to read it, on the entryway table. If you have any comments, please share them with Pastor Randy or any of the Relations Committee.

The Job Description became the basis for the evaluation we just completed for Randy. In this year's evaluation we also considered goals he created for his ministry, with our input for 2014, and his progress made on them year-to-date. We also took into consideration opinions and input from the congregation that were brought to the committee throughout this year, and feel Randy is doing well. There are areas identified that together we will be working to improve going forward. We are now in the process of creating an evaluation form to be used in the future for consistent evaluation.

Thank you for your efforts to keep communicating your thoughts to us. We appreciate the input, and will continue to work with Pastor to address concerns brought to us, in efforts to support Randy's continued growth and his leadership through God to Grace.

Pastoral Relations Committee: Barbara Furman, Ken Danielson and Paul Young

## GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

SEPTEMBER 2014

### General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10140.67
Income Received	\$ 9730.37
Expenses	\$ 9174.44
Net Balance for Month	\$ 555.93

General Fund Balance 9/30/14 \$ 3986.44

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 825.55

### Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1196.53
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 902.00

### Liabilities

Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 2390.69
Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 5582.45



## EDUCATION

I would like to thank each and everyone of you who came to the Potato Bar Fundraiser to help sponsor our kids and youth to go to winter camp. What we raised at that fundraiser will give our kids/youth a small scholarship to go to winter camp. All three camps (Elementary, Middle School and High School) are scheduled for Friday, January 16-Monday, January 19 (Martin Luther King weekend). To give you an idea in what it will cost our campers to go to winter camp, I will quote what Laura Burch said in her email last week:

“Since we are making Winter Camp into a 4-day event this next year, it is a little more expensive. It will be **\$160 for High School & Middle School campers and \$140 for Elementary**. If registration forms are in the CAW office on or before December 8th, then it is \$10 less (\$150 / \$130).”

“This year we will also be giving campers an opportunity to go skiing or snow tubing again on Sunday, and that will be an additional cost, but I don't know how much yet.”

Many of our families can not afford to send their campers to winter camp this year. If you would like to donate some more money to the winter camp fund, please mark your checks or envelopes as a donation to camp scholarships. In the meantime, the Education Committee will be trying to figure out another fundraiser for the campers to do so they can go to winter camp.

Thanks so much for your financial and prayer support that you give to our kids/youth.

Love in Christ,  
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education



## MUM OPEN HEART FOOD PANTRY

As the weather turns colder, the needs of the hungry increase. Please note that due to the third Saturday policy the Distributions will be Friday, November 14 and Saturday, November 15.

They will have frozen Turkeys available to pass out. The wish list for November is for food items to round out a Thanksgiving dinner, such as: canned pumpkin, canned evaporated milk, stuffing mix, cranberries, etc. The usual items are also in need as always.

Please bring the food to the church any time to be placed in the white barrel in the church entryway. Money donations are always welcomed as well.

God bless all of you and thank you for the contributions.

God bless you for your help,  
Shannon Hastings





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

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER**

**1 ABCCPC Event**

**2 Financial Commitment Sunday**

**2 Daylight Saving Time Ends**

**8 Men's Breakfast**

**14 Shelving & Distributing Food @ MUM**

**15 Distributing Food @ MUM**

**15 Girlfriends' November/December Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn**

**16 Budget/Election Meeting**

**21 Food For Families @ Bridger**

**21 Pull Out & Assemble Christmas Decorations**

**22 Christmas Decorating The Church**

**27 Happy Thanksgiving Day!**

**30 First Day Of Advent**

**STAFF EMAILS**

**Pastor**

Randy Pearson

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**Minister of Children and Youth**

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**Minster of Worship and Music**

Judy Young

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**Secretary**

Beth Jones

[grace@graceportland.com](mailto:grace@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.