

Grace Notes

October 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

As I sit at my desk, writing this column, a significant change has taken place in the last couple of days. On Sunday, September 22, at 1:44 pm, it officially became fall. I have to admit fall and winter are not my most favorite seasons of the year. I much prefer a warm, sunny day.

That being said, without this annual seasonal change taking place, the Northwest would not be the beautiful, lush green place that it is. For me, this change each year is difficult, but I also realize that it is necessary.

Being a disciple of Christ is much like the changing of the seasons. Remember true disciples of Jesus are:

- Committed to following Jesus
- Committed to being changed by Jesus
- Committed to sharing in the mission of Jesus

For me, the toughest of those commitments is the change part. Change is at best difficult, and at worst it can be painful and unpleasant. Just like the Northwest, without change taking place in our lives— Jesus's change- we would not be the loving, caring people God wants us to be.

As the change to fall kills off the old vegetation of this last spring and summer, so Christ bringing change in our lives, kills off our old destructive attitudes, actions, and habits. Unfortunately, because of our stubbornness and our unwillingness to accept God's changes in our lives, those old attributes sometimes die a slow, stubborn, and sometimes agonizing death.

But here is the thing that is so cool about fall and winter, and the change Christ brings in our lives— on the other side, there is always something new, fresh, and beautiful. In the spring we see colorful flowers, new green vegetation, and growing fruit. All made possible by the previous fall and winter.

On the other side of Jesus bringing his change into our lives, we see the beautiful attitudes of Christ in our lives, we feel a new empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and we experience the growing of the Spirit's fruit in our thinking and behavior. All of this becomes reality only when we accept and welcome the change Christ brings in our lives.

Like the children of Israel, God calls us to change and tells us to lay aside the old, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

Inside This Issue:

Moderator's Muse Notes From Your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister of Church Life	2
Education Mum Open Heart Food Pantry	3
Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries	4
"Got Style?" Personality-Based Evangelism Workshop	5
Outreach	6
Grace Family Finances Counting Our Blessings Fund Drive For Boiler Loan Repayment	7

OCTOBER COMMUNION SERVERS:
Paul Young
Kaleen Stepnioski
Ed Vulgan
Betsy Vulgan



MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

I'm writing shortly after the informational meeting we had on September 15. Your board members would like to hear from you about whether this method of communication is helpful or if you have other suggestions.

Once again I've had the luxury of attending the monthly September Board meeting prior to writing this October article (blog?). I would like to reiterate what a great Board you have! This group is very serious about praying for Grace and for each other, as well as holding in-depth discussions around major issues that arise. At our last meeting we addressed what to do about our summer income shortfall and negative balance in the General Fund. The comments were thoughtful and thought-provoking. See Lay Minister of Finance, Barbara Furman's article about what was decided.

As a Board, we have been reading, Church As A Team Sport, a book written by the founder of Real Life Ministries in Post Falls ID, Jim Putman. Using sports analogies (well, it was written for men, he said), he lays out the rationale and Biblical basis for the discipleship focus on which they have based their church (the Great Commission). If you have an interest in reading the book, discussing discipleship at Grace or joining a small relational group (or even want to know what that means), please contact Pastor Randy or any member of the Board and we'll get you answers...or a book!

As you know, the two Bible Study groups that meet on Sunday night have started meeting together to form a small relational group. It is open to anyone who is interested and Paul Young is leading it. Our study for the next few months will be The Shack which many have read and/or studied previously. The study will include discussion of the book, supplemented by contributions from a second book written by C. Baxter Kruger called The Shack Revisited. This resource will provide scriptural references and give us interpretive insight.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Doug Thompson, began meeting in August and has been working diligently, while seeking God's guidance, to provide a nominee for each position that is vacant. Pray for their work and what role (elected or otherwise) you should be playing in our body.

With you in His work,
Sharon Owen, Moderator

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

by Judy Young

Autumn has blown into the area with refreshing rain and blustery winds; and with that my thoughts are beginning to look forward to hot spiced cider and cozy sweaters. But first, I'd like to share a few last words about summer! We had a glorious summer filled with many activities at church. I'd like to thank several special people who helped me throughout the summer months with tasks that, so often, go unnoticed. Thank you to Marian Wise and Georgia Young for providing beautiful flowers from their gardens each Sunday. Thank you to Helen Pearson, Sharon Owen, Shannon Hastings and others for making coffee and setting out cookies for Fellowship Time each Sunday. A **HUGE** thank you to Dan Jones for faithfully coming to praise team rehearsals and worship every Sunday to man the sound booth and make sure our microphones and battery packs were ready to roll!! To all of the singers and musicians, and Easy Worship folks, thank you for using your talents to help lead the church family in meaningful worship. Thank you, Kaleen Stepnioski, for helping choose and prepare music for worship. And last, but certainly not least, thank you Pastor Randy for bringing God's Word to us each Sunday.

It takes many people to see that things are ready for Sunday Worship and Fellowship Time. I am especially in need of people who are willing to come and start coffee and set out refreshments for Fellowship Time each Sunday. I will be happy to give instruction for using the coffee maker. Please prayerfully consider where you can help.

As we enter the last months of 2013, Pastor Randy and I are beginning to plan for Thanksgiving and Advent. It is possible that we will have a joint service on November 24 with Vision Nueva. Pray that all that we do will be pleasing and glorifying to the Lord.

EDUCATION

Please let me encourage you to come to the Got Style? workshop on Friday, October 11-Sunday, October 13. You can read about the workshop, including the times of the sessions, on page 5 of this newsletter. We will combine our youth and adult Sunday School classes together for the Sunday session, and then close out the workshop with Dr. Johnson preaching the sermon at our Sunday Service. There will be refreshments served at the sessions.

Why should you come and take this workshop? Well according to the Great Commission, we, as followers of Christ, are **all** called to share the gospel with others (Matthew 28:16-20). How are you doing on the Great Commission? Are you struggling to share your faith with others? Is going up to someone you know or don't know to talk about God a stressful, scary situation for you? Do you want to say something, but you are not sure how to do it without offending them and making them feel like you are judging them? Is the whole idea of evangelizing to your neighbors, co-workers, loved ones, friends, and beyond make you quake?

If we are honest, I believe most of us would have to say that we are fearful about sharing our faith with others because we don't know how to. It is just easier to say that we are not called to evangelize and let others who are called do the work. Let me challenge you to go back to Matthew 28:16-20 and read it again. *"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given unto 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.'"* The command is for **all** of us to share the gospel with others. How? Knowing your style of sharing helps. Dr. Johnson will walk us through the different styles of sharing the gospel with others and give insights into how to approach others with the gospel within your comfort zone- your personality style. We believe this workshop will help us all be better disciples for Christ. There is no charge for the workshop (we will be taking an offering to help with costs).

Will you join us? Are you ready to obey Jesus' command and go out to the lost souls in your own backyard? Please come to the workshop and learn how to evangelize and be a Missional person.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education

MUM OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY

The Open Heart food program and Montavilla United Methodist Church completed the first "Shopping" food days on Friday and Saturday, September 21 & 22. It proved to be very successful. 30+ families were able to shop for food items their families would use. The next food giving will be Friday October 18, 3:00-6:00pm & Saturday, October 19, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Set up is on Friday, October 18, 12:00 pm till about 1:00 or 1:30 pm. If you are interested in being a volunteer, or substitute in this area see Shannon Hastings.

The Methodist Church is in need of shelving for their food pantry. If you have skills in this area, you may contact Jorja at MUM or see Shannon, who will put you in touch with the persons in charge to find out the specifications.

MUM also has a "free day." This is like a rummage sale but items are free. They will accept clothing in good condition. Only winter clothing accepted at this time. The clothes must be clean and in good repair. Infants through adults sizes are needed. In addition, they will take clean linens, sheets, and towels only. No household items please. If you would like to donate to this event please bring items to church by Sunday, October 27. The "free day" is Saturday, November 2.

Shannon Hastings

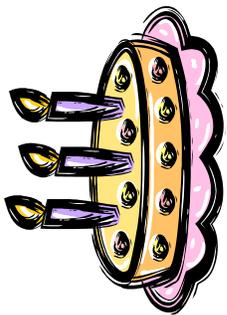
OCTOBER 2013

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 COMMUNION 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	7	8 6:30 pm CE Meeting	9	10 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	11 7:00-9:00 pm Got Style? Personality-Based Evangelism Workshop	12 9:00 am-12:00 pm Got Style? Personality-Based Evangelism Workshop
13 9:30 am Got Style? Personality-Based Evangelism Workshop 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	14	15 11:30 am Roberta Stephens Circle Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting	16	17 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	18 12:00 pm Stocking Shelves @ MUM 2:00 Meals For Minds @ Bridger 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Meeting	19 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 9:30 am Outreach Meeting 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Gateway Applebee's
20 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	21 NOVEMBER GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	22	23	24 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal	25 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Meeting	26
27 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	28	29	30	31 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal 		

October Birthdays

5 David Jones
9 Cheryl Mockford
10 Molly Tompkins
20 Winnie Dawes
21 Kim Thompson
27 Larry Martin
27 Sally Schaefer



October Anniversaries

5 Thai & Maribel Kamsard





EQUIPPING EVENT:
Got Style?[®]
**NATURAL AND
RELATIONAL EVANGELISM,
THAT IS BOTH PERSONAL
AND CONGREGATIONAL**

Dr. Jeffrey A. Johnson serves as our National Director of Evangelism for the American Baptist Churches USA under the auspices of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies as well as serves as the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware Regional Pastor with Congregations. He will be in our area on:

Friday, October 11, 7 to 9pm
Saturday, October 12, 9am to Noon
Sunday, October 13, 9:30 pm to Noon
at Grace Baptist Church
200 SE 76th Ave., Portland, Oregon

If going door to door, preaching on the street, distributing tracts, and standing up before a large crowd is what you think of when you think of evangelism and such thoughts make you feel BAD about sharing the GOOD news, and don't empower, but immobilize, then this training event is for you.

If you are trying to figure out why the church down the street does an evangelism program and gets great results, but your church tries it and it's a flop, then this training event is for you. If you are trying to figure out which evangelism training program you should use with your church since there are so many on the market, then this training event is for you.

Based on his well selling book, now in its second printing, Dr. Jeff will share what evangelism IS and what it ISN'T. You will discover the relational components of effective evangelism, as well as the various Biblical styles of evangelism, your own style and that of those present within your church. This event will be a resource of inspiration, information, and practical instruction. You will finish this event with a real knowledge of how to move your church from a Maintenance to Missional mentality, from stagnancy to spiritual vitality. You will learn how to assess and empower your church to do evangelism that builds meaningful relationships and flows naturally out of the way your church is wired to serve God in complement, not competition to the composition of personalities within your church.

OUTREACH

THANK YOU to everyone who helped out at our 3rd Annual Community BBQ on August 24. We had a great turnout with well over 200 people in attendance.

As we move into fall our outreach to Bridger School continues with the **Backpack Program** and **Meals for Minds**. Bridger has already had 69 families sign up requesting backpacks this year – that's a significant increase over last year. Our first distribution will be on **Friday, October 4**. Backpacks will be distributed the 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. We need volunteers to help with the following:

- 1 person (plus substitute)- Pick up the empty backpacks from Bridger School on Wednesdays and bring them to the church
- 2-4 people- Set-up, pack the backpacks and clean-up on Thursday at the church
- 1 person (plus substitute)- Deliver the filled backpacks to Bridger School on Thursday
- 1 substitute person- Pick up bread from Panera on Friday mornings and take to Bridger (Ken D. is has already volunteered to be the main person on this)
- 2-3 people – Pick up food from WinCo once a month and bring to the church

Meals for Minds will take place the 3rd Friday of each month. The first distribution will be on **October 18**. 10-12 volunteers are needed to help with this distribution around 1:00 or 2:00 pm at Bridger School. If you are interested in helping with either of these programs **please contact Pastor Randy** and let him know where you would like to serve.

Shannon Hastings has volunteered to be our liaison with MUM Open Heart Food Pantry please see her article about how you can help with this program. Thank you Shannon!

It may seem early but please make a note on your calendars that our **Santa Breakfast** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 7 at 8:00 am**. Please be thinking about how you would like to help with this special event. Sign-up sheets will be out sometime in October.

“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.” -Mark 9:37

In His Service,
Helen Pearson, Lay Minister of Outreach

Activities at our 2013
Community BBQ



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

AUGUST 2013

<u>General Operating Fund</u>	
Monthly Budget	\$ 10607.92
Income Received	\$ 8467.15
Expenses	\$ 12708.10
Net Balance for Month	\$ (4240.95)
General Fund Balance 8/31/13	\$ 444.06
Boiler Fund Balance	\$ 767.84
<u>Mission Fund</u>	
Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1145.91
Specified gifts/offering	\$ 30.00

JANUARY-AUGUST 2013

AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET:	\$10607.92
AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME:	\$ 9294.31
AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES:	\$10211.65
DIFERENCE:	\$ (917.34)
MISSION GIVING PLAN TD	\$ 9962.02
SPECIFIED GIFTS.OFFERINGS TD	\$ 3203.96
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 1173.66
Loan from Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 9916.78

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

In September you received a letter telling you what the above figures show. Namely that because of the discrepancy between our income and expenses in August, the balance in the general fund went into a negative status. The Board met on Sept. 17 and how to address this situation was on the agenda.

The financial policies of Grace Baptist Church require that the Board review all designated funds annually. If a fund has been in existence for 2 years or more, the Board is charged with evaluating whether the purpose of the designated fund continues to be relevant. If the purpose is no longer relevant, the board is authorized to determine the best use of money remaining in the fund.

The Board identified 3 funds (Room Divider Fund, Tutoring Fund, Youth Mission Fund) that met the criteria for reallocating funds and voted to move a total of \$5,089.94 to the general fund. The Youth Mission fund was not totally redistributed and continues to have funds available.

We can count our blessings that we could take this bookkeeping action to shore up the general fund. It is also a blessing that we can come together as a church family to show our commitment to and support of the Lord's mission through Grace with our consistent and regular financial gifts.

Barb Furman, Lay Minister of Finance/Treasurer

FUND DRIVE FOR BOILER LOAN REPAYMENT

We are collecting jewelry donations to be submitted for its silver or gold value for the repayment of the Boiler Loan. Collections can be given to Paul or Judy Young or Larry Martin at fellowship time or after worship service on Sundays. Be sure to get a receipt for the donation so you can make the donation tax deductible.



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 OCTOBER

11-13 Got Style? Personality-Based Evangelism

Workshop

18 Meals For Minds @ Bridger School

18 & 19 Distribution Of Food @ MUM

19 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Gateway

Applebee's

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

GOD'S VISION FOR GRACE BAPTIST

Making disciples, in a relational environment, to share in God's mission to the world.