

Grace Notes

September 2013

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

THE SOLUTION TO A CRISIS OF RELATIONSHIP

Two Sundays ago I preached a sermon entitled “A Crisis of Relationship.” I want to share with you a solution to the crisis of relationship which exists in the church— our church. The following is a quote from Real Discipleship by Jim Putman:

Have you ever noticed how often these early Christians spent time together? In the book of Acts, we see that they met together on the first day of the week and daily in their homes. They also met together in the temple courts in large numbers. Like people today, the early Christians were busy. They had character flaws, bad attitudes, and bad breath. They came from different backgrounds and had different preferences. They had kids, work, and chores, yet their hearts were for their brothers and sisters in Christ. At times they were annoyed with each other, but they still were committed to meeting together. They felt that being together was better than being alone in the faith. They had a desire to be with people of the kingdom. Something had happened to them that changed the way they saw life and its priorities. They had something that bound them together, something in common. The members of the early church shared what they had with each other and even with people they didn't know. Conflicts arose, and they dealt with them and moved on.

In today's world of conditional relationships, the early church model seems wonderfully different. The early church was not without problems, but in spite of them, God was working and being glorified and the church was storming the gates of hell. These Christians were committed to each other and to a cause bigger than themselves. Their mutual faith in Jesus gave them purpose and stability-and peace. As a result, the early church found favor with all the people. It was hard to hate a group of people who had that kind of love.

As the early Christians, we need to share our lives with each other...to enjoy the connectedness they experienced; not isolation, disconnectedness, or “being alone in the faith” as some church members may be feeling.

Over the course of the next few weeks, I am going to be contacting folks about being a part of home groups consisting of individuals who are wanting to connect with other folks as we move through our spiritual journeys together. These groups will give interested people the opportunity to be “committed to each other and to a cause bigger than themselves.”

If you would be interested in being part of such a group please let me know!

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| Moderator's Muse Montavilla United Methodist Food Bank | 2 |
| Notes From Your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister of Church Life | 3 |
| Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries | 4 |
| Grace Family Finances Spiritual Life Bible Study Groups Combined | 5 |
| Education | 6 |
| “Got Style?” Personality- Based Evangelism Workshop | 7 |

SEPTEMBER
COMMUNION
SERVERS:
Theresa Benson
Terri Becker
Dan Jones
Beth Jones



MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

Well, now it is September and we all have to “get serious” again. It is interesting in our non-agrarian society we still think of the harvest season as the start of the year. I’ve never been able to get my head around that, so I won’t try now. We continue to plan an informational meeting for Sunday, September 15, after church—with a potluck lunch so we can hold up to all that brain work. If you think of something ahead of time you would like the board to address that day, please let me know.

I hope you have been hearing the pastor’s sermons on “relationship” because that is the foundational concept of our focus on becoming a church of “disciplers”—that is, people who disciple: mentor, encourage, support, teach, etc. Pastor Randy, Shawn Brannan, and Paul Young have returned from the training at Real Life Ministries in Idaho. They are excited to be sharing what they learned and how the Lord has spoken, and continues to speak, to them so He can speak through them to all of us.

I sincerely hope the summer has been refreshing for you, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

With you in His work,
Sharon Owen, Moderator

MONTAVILLA UNITED METHODIST OPEN HEARTS FOOD PANTRY

Like many other things, fall will see a change in the Open Hearts Food Pantry procedures. The plan at this time is to try out a “shopping” system that will allow families to actually pick out the items they want, rather than receiving pre-filled grocery bags. This will change the number of people needed to volunteer, as well as the volunteer times and duties. More on this later!

Food Collection: Bring non perishable food at any time and place it in the barrel in the entryway. Bring whatever amount you are able—1 or 2 cans of food is fine. The special need for September is **canned fruit**, such as canned peaches, pears, pineapple, mixed fruit etc.; however any packaged or canned food is welcome.

If it is easier for you, you are also welcome to give money to MUM through Grace and the funds will be forwarded to the pantry. Just be sure to note on the check or envelope that it is for “MUM” or “Open Hearts” or just “food pantry”.

Shannon Hastings



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

by Judy Young



Really?? How is it possible that September is already here? The summer has been full of wonderful celebrations at Grace; an anniversary, a 90th birthday, and a wedding. Children and youth attended camps at Arrah Wanna and many of our adults helped. It has been a time for our faithful Sunday School teachers to have a rest; and meaningful, positive worship services. God has been present throughout our busy summer!

Now it is time to reboot and think about school, cooler days, and the majestic autumn colors. Our summer schedule will continue through Sunday, September 15. Please plan to stay for an all-church potluck and informational meeting after our 10:00 a.m. worship service that Sunday. Please bring a main dish and salad or dessert. **Our schedule will change on Sunday, September 22, with Sunday School at 9:30 am and Worship/Celebration Service at 11:00 am.** If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument with us or have a song you would like us to sing, please contact me.

It has been a very long time since anyone has played the 40 year-old organ in the sanctuary because of needed repairs. At this time, the parts to repair it are not readily available. It is a technical instrument that few people can play and generally is used in formal worship settings; as Grace worshipped in the 70's, 80's and early 90's. We are grateful for the times Mary Milbrath shared her organ skills with us. Our worship style for many years has been piano-led praise songs and hymns. Because of this, the decision has been made to give the organ to a company that will be able to use it for spare parts. I know, for some of you, this is difficult to hear, but with God's grace, we will keep moving forward in our worship and praise.

Psalm 92 reminds us:

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. For You make me glad by Your deeds, O Lord; I sing for joy at the works of Your hands. How great are Your works, O Lord, how profound Your thoughts! The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed. But You, O Lord, are exalted forever!

SEPTEMBER 2013

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|-----|--|--|---|
| 1 Adult/Family Camp 10:30 am Service @ Camp Arrah Wanna NO WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH | 2 Adult/Family Camp | 3 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting | 4 | 5 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal 7:00 pm Walleye Club | 6 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Meeting | 7 |
| 8 <i>COMMUNION</i> 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration | 9 6:00 pm Girlfriends' Beach Retreat Planning Meeting | 10 6:30 pm CE Meeting | 11 | 12 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal | 13 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Meeting ABW Women's Retreat in Medford, OR | 14 9:30 am Outreach Meeting 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Olive Garden ABW Women's Retreat in Medford, OR |
| 15 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Celebration 11:30 am Podluck & Informational Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Study ABW Women's Retreat | 16 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Celebration 11:30 am Podluck & Informational Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Study ABW Women's Retreat | 17 11:30 am Roberta Stephens Circle Meeting 6:30 pm Board Meeting | 18 | 19 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal | 20 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Meeting | 21 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution |
| 22 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church | 23 OCTOBER GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE | 24 | 25 | 26 6:30 pm Grace Singers' Rehearsal Girlfriends' Beach Retreat | 27 6:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Church Bible Study 6:30 pm Youth Meeting Girlfriends' Beach Retreat | 28 Girlfriends' Beach Retreat |
| 29 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church Girlfriends' Beach Retreat | 30 | <p>“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV</p> | | | | |

September Birthdays
 4 Marieta O'Neal
 8 Cameron Andrews
 24 Steve Hiatt
 26 Marian Wise
 27 Terri Becker
 30 Alan Martin



September Anniversaries
 7 Paul & Judy Young
 18 Gerald & Sally Coulsey



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JULY 2013

JANUARY-JULY 2013

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget \$ 10607.92
 Income Received \$ 8623.08
 Expenses \$ 9776.29
 Net Balance for Month \$ (1153.21)

General Fund Balance 7/31/13 \$ 3172.75

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 991.67

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan \$ 1173.77
 Specified gifts/offerings \$ 135.00

AVERAGE MONTHLY BUDGET: \$10607.92
 AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME: \$ 9412.48
 AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSES: \$ 9855.02
 DIFEERENCE: \$ (442.54)

MISSION GIVING PLAN TD \$ 8816.11
 SPECIFIED GIFTS.OFFERINGS TD \$ 3173.96

Liabilities

Payroll Tax Liabilities \$ 549.52
 Loan from Building Fund to GF Loan \$ 8051.46
 Boiler Loan \$10243.45

SPIRITUAL LIFE

SEASONS:

Ecclesiastes 3:1: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..."

There is a time for everything. We are closing in on the end of summer and our church family has been busy. Our kids have gone to camp and returned with new things learned and new friends. There has been travel time for family vacations to revitalize. We have met milestones for birthdays and marriage anniversaries. We have even had a wedding. Yep, this has been an exciting summer.

Our walk with Christ goes through seasons as well. Spring-for planting; summer-so full of activities; fall-the harvest; and then winter-our contemplative time. Then we begin again...a time for everything.

God bless and have a blessed rest of your summer.

Theresa Benson, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS COMBINED

A Sunday night Bible study will meet at the church from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm beginning Sunday, September 15. Anyone interested in reading and studying the book, The Shack, is welcome to attend. We will be looking at the Bible references the book touches on as we go through each chapter. This will be very interesting and challenging as we correlate scriptures to concepts presented in the book. Everyone is welcome. I will lead the discussions, depend on the group to participate in the discussions, and ask others to help with the leading also. Snacks/refreshments will be provided by the group. Any questions, please ask. If you want to order a book, please let me know by Thursday, September 5, so I can order in bulk (approximately \$10).

Paul Young

EDUCATION

Wow! Summer has flown and school is about to start for many of our young people. Doesn't seem possible, but it has. So now we need to start planning for fall. As Judy has already pointed out, Sunday School and Sunday Worship time will change on Sunday, September 22. Sunday School will start at 9:30 am, Fellowship will be at 10:30 am, and Worship Service will start at 11:00 am.

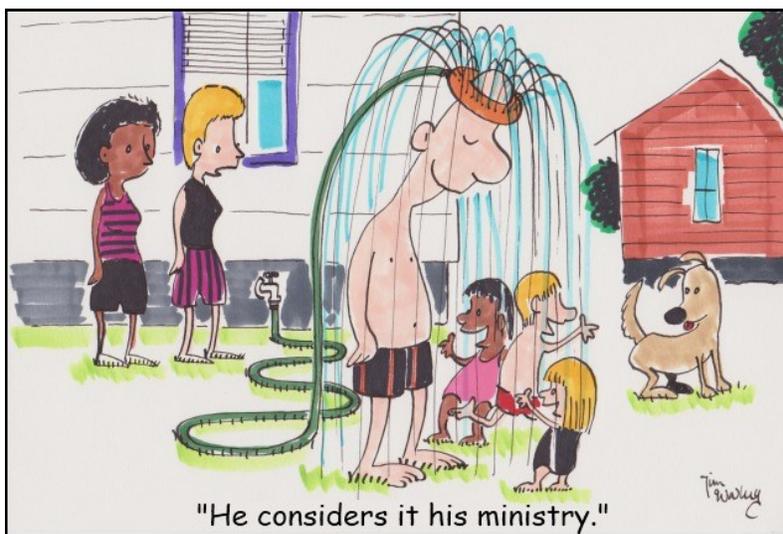
Thank you to those who have agreed to help out in the children's ministry area. As usual, the work is plenty, but there are few workers. If you would like to help out as a Sunday School teacher, please let me know so I can put you in the monthly rotation. Because we have very few people who are called to minister to our children, we will continue to have Kids' Corner during the service instead of Children's Church. If you want your kids involved in a structured class to learn about God, let me encourage you to get up early and bring them (and yourself) to Sunday School.

Please let me encourage you to plan on coming to the "Got Style?" workshop on Friday, October 11-13. The author of the book, Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, will be coming to our church to teach us how to share our faith with others through personality-based evangelism. His purpose is to take the words scary and intimidating out of evangelism and replace those words with exciting, energizing, and enthusiastic. If you have other friends and family members who would like to join this workshop, please invite them to come. We will also be inviting other churches to join us this weekend. Please look on page 7 of the newsletter to see what he has to say about the workshop. I believe he does a better job in describing the workshop than I can.

You are probably asking, "What time should we plan in our schedule for this workshop?" The times will be Friday, October 11, 7:00-9:00 pm, Saturday, October 12, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and Sunday morning. We will combine our youth and adult Sunday School classes together for another session, and then close out the workshop with Dr. Johnson preaching the sermon at our Sunday Service.

More info about the workshop will be coming soon. In the meantime, please plan on coming and bring as many people with you as you can. I believe it will be very beneficial for us in our church's mission to share God's mission to the world.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education





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 ABCOPAD Regional Pastor with Congregations.

EQUIPPING EVENT:

Got Style?[®]

NATURAL AND

RELATIONAL EVANGELISM,

THAT IS BOTH PERSONAL AND CONGREGATIONAL

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.



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 SEPTEMBER

Aug.30-Sept. 2 Adult/Family Camp

9 Girlfriends' Beach Retreat Planning Meeting

13-15 ABW Women's Retreat In Medford, OR

14 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Olive Garden

15 Potluck & Informational Meeting

15 Bible Study Groups Begin

22 Sunday School Begins Again

26-29 Girlfriends' Beach Retreat

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.