

Grace Notes

October 2014

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PASTOR RANDY'S NOTE...

I have been thinking a lot lately about the time I/we have spent in Matthew this year. It has been a real time of learning, growing, and understanding for me. It has helped me to spend some time each day reflecting on God's word.

I have a friend who teaches a Bible class. He has a group of folks who are very sports minded. In fact one of his students plays a lot of handball tournaments. He once asked this guy, "Russell, when you have a handball tournament, how much time do you spend practicing the week before?" Russell thought a bit and replied, "About 7-8 hours." My friend then asked Russell, "That same week, how much time do you spend in your Bible?" Russell had no reply.

Often we complain about not having time to spend in God's word. I think I mentioned once before about asking a church member about their participation in the Matthew reading and blogging. That person's response was they didn't have the time.

It is not that we don't have the time to spend in God's word, it is that we have failed to make it a priority. There are always things in our lives which compete for our attention and our time. Because there are so many things, we all use filters to sort out those things worthy or not worthy of our time. The question is, "What filter do we use to do the sorting?"

Too often we use our own filters, society's filters, or other filters, but not God's filter. If we were using God's filter, we would each find ourselves spending more time in His word, more time in prayer, and more time focused on the things of the Kingdom of Heaven, rather than the kingdom of this world.

Which brings me back to the Matthew readings and blogs. I have started keeping a daily log book (actually it is a document on my computer) of new understandings I have of the book of Matthew. Some of those entries are only a few words, others are longer. But the thing is, each day has at least one new insight or understanding. This is a new endeavor for me, but it is something that I am finding exciting. It shows some kind of daily growth in my understanding of scripture.

Let me encourage each of you to find something that works for you, to show that you are growing daily in your faith. A log book like I described above, a daily journal, a prayer log, anything you can refer back to show how God is consistently working in your life to change you into the image of His son.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Inside This Issue:

Notes From The Board Spiritual Life	2
Notes From Your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister Of Church Life The Power Of Prayer	3
Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries	4
A Word From Our Children/Youth Minister Grace Family Finances Counting Blessings	5
Education MUM Open Heart Pantry	6
Women's Beach Retreat Men's Beach Retreat	7

OCTOBER COMMUNION SERVERS:
Diana Hiatt
Steve Hiatt
Johnnie Beth Jones
Leon Jones



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

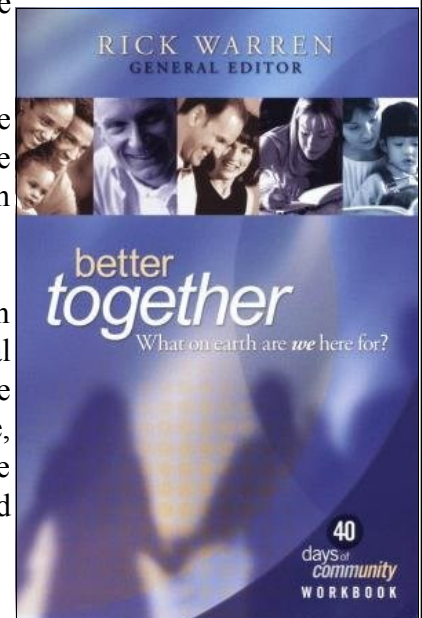
On September 6 we came together as a church family to host our annual Community BBQ. I counted the day as a success. We shared a meal and our time with 52 children and 66 high schoolers and adults. Every one seemed to have a good time and our gifts of school supplies were greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard and shared your time and energy and love.

That day, as every day, we were ambassadors of Christ . Let me share some words from Rick Warren’s workbook, Better Together, pages 64-65.

“We reach nonbelievers by living in such a way that they ask us about the King we represent. As ambassadors of Christ, we work hard to understand the culture in order to translate our King’s message in such a way that those alien to his kingdom will understand his commandments and his policy of grace.”

“Our ambassadorship is more than a mere job; it is our highest calling. But in order to be faithful ambassadors, we have to make a very simple, yet critical decision: do we want to impress nonbelievers, or do we want to influence them? If our objective is to impress them, then we can do that at a distance, but that also leaves the Kingdom of God at a distance. If we want to influence nonbelievers, we have to get close enough for them to see our faults and frailties, but that’s also where they will see our faith as real and necessary.”

Barbara Furman, Moderator

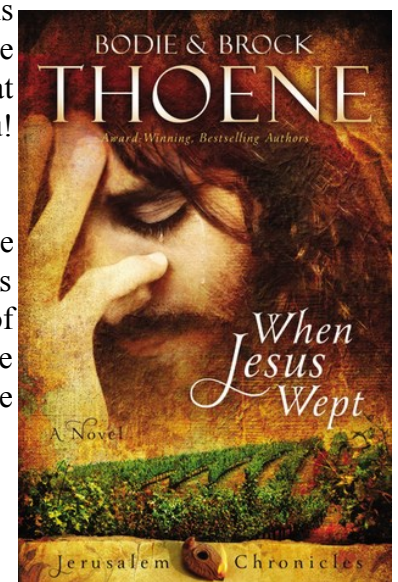


SPIRITUAL LIFE

Wow, God is so good! We are spending time with our daughter Sarah, and family, in Hawaii due to unexpected complications with her pregnancy. Many prayers and emotions flew to heaven during the emergency surgery and delivery of our premature granddaughter and further surgery on Sarah to stop previous bleeding that caused this extremely perilous chain of events. Thank you, God! Praise you! Both, Madilyn Grace and Sarah, are doing very well.

I happened to take a book to read that is a novel based on the character in the Bible, Lazarus, titled When Jesus Wept. The book, along with what has happened with our daughter, powerfully showed me the Biblical accounts of Lazarus give us the main points, but leave out a lot of details which may be behind the events taking place at the moment. This vividly reminds me of the reality and reliance upon God and His Word back then and now! Praise God!!!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



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



"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus. . . let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us NOT give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:19-25

As I sit in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit watching the miracle of life, once again I marvel at God's amazing grace! Our family is extremely thankful and full of praise that the Lord brought Sarah and baby Madilyn Grace through a life threatening delivery.

God is GREAT! And the power of praying to Him is as well. On September 10, with just a few notifications, there were people praying for Sarah in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Texas, Colorado, and Hawaii. Our family sensed His presence throughout this time and God has been so faithful to see us through it. We also knew our church family was praying and holding us up, too. Thank you.

It is such a blessing to be part of the Grace Baptist family. We are a church who loves, encourages, and upholds one another; but, there is always room for improvement when it comes to caring for one another. I know there are some who are not attending regularly, or don't have a sense of belonging. Do we call on those we've not seen at worship and let them know they are missed? Do we send a word of encouragement in a note or card? Do we meet with individuals to pray for them? Let's ask God to help us be a church that spurs one another on to love and good deeds!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Prayer is our communion with God, whether it be a petition made to God, worship, repentance, praise, or thanksgiving. It doesn't have to be a laid-out patent prayer, but words from the heart. God wants all of us, he knows our minds and hearts, so why not talk to him as if he already knows the situation.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Powerful and effective prayer produces results. We have to believe what we pray, not just 'mouth' words. Sometimes we go blindly into our prayers, not knowing in which direction to go.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Desires of the heart should be those that will glorify God, not necessarily the human desires we have to make our life better.

Matthew 6:7-8 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

God knows each thought we have, so why not go to HIM and talk with him as you would if you were to meet him on the street. Prayers do not have to be long, drawn out affairs, but we need to be precise in what we are asking, and ask according to the Bible rather than asking blindly for what we want. If it glorifies the Lord, then it will be something good for us. If it does not, then we shouldn't be asking for it in our prayers.

-Adapted from Barbara's Entourage- <http://www.entourages.com/barbs/>

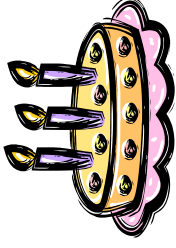
OCTOBER 2014

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 COMMUNION 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church Girlfriends' Beach Retreat	6 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club	7 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club	8	9 7:00 pm Youth Meeting Girlfriends' Beach Retreat	10 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study Girlfriends' Beach Retreat	11 6:00 pm Movie Night: "Heaven Is For Real"
12 8:45 am 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 6:30 pm Education Committee Meeting	14 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club	15	16 7:00 pm Youth Meeting	17 11:30 pm Stocking Shelves @ MUM 1:00 pm Food For Families @ Bridger School 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution ABCCP - Annual Gathering	18 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Original Taco House On 82nd Ave. ABCCP - Annual Gathering
19 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 12:30 pm Potato Bar Fundraiser 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church	20	21 11:00 am Roberta Stephens Circle 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club	22 6:30 pm Board Meeting	23 7:00 pm Youth Meeting	24 6:00-9:00 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study Men's Beach Retreat	25 Men's Beach Retreat
26 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 6:00 pm Bible Study @ Church Men's Beach Retreat	27 NOVEMBER GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	28 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club	29	30 7:00 pm Youth Meeting	31	

October Birthdays

5 David Jones
9 Cheryl Mockford
10 Molly Tompkins
19 Tammy Brown
21 Kim Thompson
27 Larry Martin
27 Sally Schaefer



October Anniversaries

5 Thai Maribel Kamsard



A WORD FROM OUR MINISTER OF CHILDREN/YOUTH, TAMMY BROWN

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin” (Zechariah 4:10, NLT).

Pondering on this verse, I am reminded of how God is working with the young people here at Grace. Each week I see new kids and new ways God is making Himself known to them and to me. Gladys, who helps me with youth and Toni, who helps me with children have inspired me with what God is showing them as well.

I challenge you as you pray to ask God how you personally would take a role with young people. Seek until He gives an answer. Is it prayer? Then pray. Is it bringing snacks? Bring a snack. Is it helping with outreach? Then ask God to show you what that means. Is it helping with the mid-week programs? Want to share your testimony? Is it discipling or mentoring one of the youth or children? These are just a few ideas as you seek. What is God’s idea for these young ones and what is your part in that?

I am praising God for our beginning of what he has in store for young people at Grace. He is at work. I pray for wisdom strength and vision for how he will use me as well as the entire community of Grace!!!



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

AUGUST 2014

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10140.67
Income Received	\$ 8618.57
Expenses	\$ 9762.53
Net Balance for Month	\$ -1133.53

General Fund Balance 8/31/14 \$ 2641.49

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 1002.38

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1144.35
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 75.00

Liabilities

Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 1601.67
Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 5921.71

COUNTING 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

EDUCATION

Sunday School, Kids Club and Youth meetings are up and running. Now it is time to set our sights on making our downstairs classrooms more inviting. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be a few days from starting our little renovation on the first room. We will be making some repairs, moving unused furniture, and eventually we will start to paint. If you are available to help with this ministry, please watch for announcements in the bulletin, Grace Notes, power point, and oral announcements in church. This will be an on-going renovation for the next few months. Please excuse the mess as work will be in progress.

We will also be having a Potato Bar Winter Camp Fundraiser on Sunday, October 19, after church. Those kids/youth who plan to ask for a scholarship to go to camp **must** plan to work at the Potato Bar by setting up, placing the toppings on the counter, busing tables, and cleaning up at the end of the fundraiser. The Education Committee has decided that parents/grandparents can not work the fundraiser on the behalf of their camper. The kids/youth must earn the scholarship themselves.

Now we are asking for the help of the congregation. We are looking for people who would like to donate baked potatoes, toppings for the potatoes, salad, and dessert. If you are willing to help, please talk to Beth, Theresa, Terri, or Georgia. Beth will also be calling people to see if you could help with any of the food items.

If you can't make it to the fundraiser for one reason or another, we ask that you donate money to the camp scholarship fund. We want to make sure no camper is left behind because of money issues.

Thanks for supporting our kids/youth.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education



MUM OPEN HEART FOOD PANTRY

There is a new look at the Open Heart Pantry. They have a second room now available to them so this allows for increased space. There is now a sign-in room and second room where food is picked up, exit a different door then pick up produce meat and eggs. They are pretty excited about having the increased space and improved traffic flow.

They continue to receive some canned goods from the Sunshine Division, but it is somewhat limited. Donations of both food and cash continue to be a need. Please continue to hold off on paper bags. They are beginning to now except your empty egg cartons. Dozen size only please. Remember you may bring donations any time during the month to be placed in the white barrel. The next food distribution will be on October 17 and 18.

God bless you for your help,
Shannon Hastings

WOMEN'S BEACH RETREAT

Theme: "Love Beyond Measure" Ephesians 3:17-18.

When: October 2-5

Where: Lincoln City, OR

For those who can leave on Thursday, October 2, please meet at the church at 12:30 pm. We will be carpooling to the beach. Bring \$10.00 to help pay for gas. Our goal is to leave by 1:00 pm. We will have lunch at Sonic.

Please bring clothes, toiletries, personal towels and wash cloths, swimsuits (if you plan to go into the hot tub), Bible, food for the designated meal you will be in charge of making, money for shopping if you want to go shopping and a couple of meals out in town, movies/games, and anything else you think you can't live without for the weekend.



Most of all, come for a fun, relaxing time.

MEN'S BEACH RETREAT

Not to be outdone by the ladies, the men of Grace Baptist will be having a beach retreat this year. This will be a time of bonding for the men of our church, and any friends that you might want to invite to come. There will be opportunities for fishing, walking on the beach, or just sitting and relaxing. All of the information you need can be found below:

Theme: Band of Brothers

When: October 24-26

(beginning officially at 7:00 pm on Friday)

Where: Young's Beach House in Rockaway

Cost: \$20/person (this includes food)

What to Bring: Sleep bag, clothes toiletries, fishing gear, if you want to fish, anything you want to bring to do during free time, a heart that is open and transparent

In the mornings, a group of us will be going fishing. If you don't want to fish, you can hangout at the house, walk on the beach, read, whatever. Those who go fishing will return around noon, and we will have lunch together. Then on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, and Friday and Saturday evenings, we will have a time of study and sharing of our faith journeys.

If you are interested in going, please talk with Paul or Pastor Randy. If you would like to go, but money is an issue, please talk to either Paul or Pastor, we don't want anyone not to go because of lack of funds.





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

2-5 Girlfriends' Beach Retreat

11 Movie Night

18 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Original Taco House

On 82nd Ave.

17-19 ABCCPC Annual Meeting

19 Potato Bar Winter Camp Fundraiser

24-26 Men's Beach Retreat

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

pastorrandy@graceportland.com

Minister of Children and Youth

Tammy Brown

tammy@graceportland.com

Minster of Worship and Music

Judy Young

judy@graceportland.com

Secretary

Beth Jones

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.