

Grace Notes

February 2015

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor's NOTE...

This past week I had a conversation with a person who was frustrated with the church he was attending. He made the comment, "They really don't care if people are going to hell." I thought for a moment then said to him, "I don't think it is that they don't care, but their fear outweighs their caring."

Being a follower of Christ is not a fearless lifestyle. As I follow Christ the fear of being laughed at, labeled a religious fanatic, or being shunned for my beliefs is always with me. However, I once heard a courageous act is not done without fear, it is done in spite of fear.

At the Tuesday night Bible study we were examining Saul's Damascus road conversion. After He appeared to Saul, Jesus also appeared to Ananias, one of his disciples in Damascus, in a vision. Jesus told Ananias to go and lay hands on Saul and heal him from his blindness. This doesn't sound too difficult. However, you must remember, Saul was the biggest persecutor of the early church, devastating it. As Ananias put it, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." (Acts 9:13f)

Ananias was afraid of who Saul was and what he might do to him. However, in spite of that fear, Ananias did what the Lord asked of him. Imagine how different things may have turned out if Ananias had refused to do what Jesus asked of him and had not healed Saul. (Yes I know God probably would have found someone else.) The point is Ananias acted courageously and did what was asked of him in spite of being fearful.

As you are seeking out your passion in relation to God, there is no doubt in my mind at some point fear will enter your thoughts. Fear of what people may say about your passion. Fear of where your passion might take you. Fear of failure in exercise of your passion.

The question is not whether or not you will be afraid, because that is almost a certainty. The question is whether or not you will still act out of your passion in spite of your fear. Will you, like Ananias, be courageous, or will you run away because of your fear.

I think Chris Tomlin said it best when he wrote the song *Whom Shall I Fear* based on 2 Kings 6:

Whom shall I fear
 You crush the enemy
 Underneath my feet
 You are my Sword and Shield
 Though trouble lingers still
 Whom shall I fear

I know Who goes before me
 I know Who stands behind
 The God of angel armies
 Is always on my side
 The One who reigns forever
 He is a Friend of mine
 The God of angel armies
 Is always by my side

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**FEBRUARY
 COMMUNION
 SERVERS:**
 Carol Martin
 Larry Martin
 Molly Tompkins
 Terri Becker



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

On Saturday, January 17, the Board got together with the original intent of discussing God's vision for Grace and setting goals for 2015. The purpose of a vision statement is to provide the framework to answer the why, what, and how of what we do. Our vision statement is, **"Making disciples of Christ, in a relational environment, to share in God's mission to the world."** As the day progressed, it became clear before we could set goals the Board and the congregation needed to spend time thinking about and understanding the vision statement. In particular, we all need to see how the vision statement applies to us as individuals, us as a church, and how we can support the vision individually and corporately. Pastor Randy will be preaching a series of sermons to help us with this understanding.

It is still our intent to establish goals at a ministry level and at a church wide level. In doing so we can plan things which will support the vision, and we can be accountable for accomplishing them.

I encourage you to plan to come together on Sunday, February 8, to have lunch and share in our annual reports meeting. This will give you the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback on what we did in 2014. It will also be a time for us to talk together about the vision.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Our Board Workshop on Saturday, January 17, was a very good time to wrestle with setting direction for the church in 2015. I was challenged to discover my passion and to ask myself if I am using it here at Grace. I had to stop and think about what my passion was. All of us should ask ourselves the same question. Pastor Randy has had sermons about passion to help us see biblical examples and understand passion. Do you know your passion? Can you say, "My passion is _____. (fill in the blank)? The point is God gives us gifts to be used for His glory. Passion is also God given and drives us to use our gifts. As the body of Christ, we are gifted for service to God. What direction is He leading you and us? Please pray for clear direction! I would love to talk with anyone about this, just let me know and we will talk.

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

What's Your
PASSION?

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

Today I looked up the definition of passion. What I read blew me away!

pas-sion

1. orig., suffering or agony, as of a martyr
2. a) the agony and sufferings of Jesus during the crucifixion or during the period following the Last Supper
 - b) any of the Gospel descriptions of this
 - c) an artistic or musical work based on this
3. any one of the emotions, as hate, grief, love, fear, joy, etc.
4. a) extreme compelling emotion; intense emotional drive or excitement
 - b) enthusiasm or fondness [passion for music]
 - c) strong love or affection
5. the object of any strong desire or fondness.



I was amazed the first two meanings were about suffering and death. But God's passion was no one would be eternally separated from Him. His passion was so great for us that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die so we might live. Talk about a passion! It was not easy or pleasant! As we pray to God to reveal our passion to us, it may make us squirm a bit and may seem like a task too overwhelming for us. But God is faithful. As Christ sweat drops of blood because of His agony over being crucified, He still prayed, "...yet not my will, but yours be done." In God's strength Jesus bore the cross and died for us. Even if it seems too difficult, with God's help and guidance, we can embrace the passion God gives. I'm praying for you to accept His direction.

On Sunday, February 8, after our morning worship, we will be gathering for an all-church potluck. Please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert. It has been a while since we gathered together over a meal. It will be fun to fellowship together. Then we will have a chance to review 2014 and look ahead to goals and ideas for 2015. Please pray for your church board as we seek God's direction for Grace.

Your new Church Life Committee will be meeting within the next month. I am looking forward to working with Theresa Benson, Dan Jones, and Amanda Sandoval.

MUM OPEN HEART PANTRY

There have been new families coming to the Open Heart food distribution, increasing the need of food donation. A particular need is Peanut Butter and Jelly and canned soups. There is also a need for staples such as flour and sugar. Let this be part of our passion to help those less fortunate. Remember even small contributions are a help. God Bless you for your contributions.

Shannon Hastings

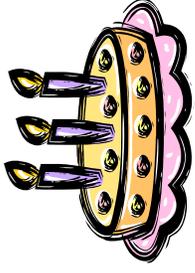


FEBRUARY 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMA/NOV 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration	2	3 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club 7:00 PM Youth Meeting	4	5	6 7:30 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	7 9:00 am Men's Breakfast And Sportsman's Show 6:00 pm IVN Sisters Bible Study
8 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration 12:15 pm Potluck and Annual Report Meeting	9	10 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting	11	12 7:00 pm Walleye Club	13 7:30 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	14 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Gateway Applebee's 
15 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration	16 6:30 pm Board Meeting	17 11:00 am Roberta Stephens Circle 6:30 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting	18 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19	20 11:30 pm Stocking Shelves @ MUM 1:00 pm Bridger's Food For Families 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution	21 8:00 am Bridger's Oregon Trail Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution
22 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Celebration	23 MARCH GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	24 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids' Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting	25	26	27 7:30 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study	28 9:00 am Outreach Meeting Bridger's Auction @ The Madeleine Center 6:00 pm IVN Sisters Bible Study

February Birthdays
9 Beth Jones
24 Sandy Danielson
25 Betsy Vulgan



February Anniversaries
28 John & Shannon Hastings



“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

A WORD FROM OUR CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTER, TAMMY BROWN

Love And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5 (NLT)

Peace May the Lord show favor toward you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:26 (NLT)

Faithfulness Great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:23b (NASB)

My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song. Psalm 28:7 (NIV)

Goodness Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6 (KJV)

Gentleness Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. 1 Timothy 6:11b (NLT)

Meanwhile, the saints stand passionately patient, keeping God's commands, staying faithful to Jesus. Revelation 14:12 (The Message)

Self-Control A person without self-control is like a house with its doors and windows knocked out. Proverbs 25:28 (The Message)

Kindness But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a (NIV)

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Take a moment to dwell on these verses. February often brings many to think of love. This February I want to dwell on the love of God, how much He loves and longs to love us all the more. The children and youth are so loved by God. Pray they will sense His love surrounding them everyday. I also pray we as adults feel God's precious love surrounding us daily; His love is perfect. Praise God for His love and take the time to notice how many times a day He shows you just how much He loves you!!!

We are in need of snacks. If anyone feels led we could use: Goldfish, microwave popcorn, or any other goodies.

Thank you for your love and kindness to our young people!!

Blessings,
Tammy

OUTREACH

I am excited to begin 2015 as your Lay Minister of Outreach and seek to follow where God leads us.

The Outreach Committee met on Saturday, January 24, and discussed new possibilities and ways for Grace Baptist Church to remain an active participant in the community. There will many different ways you can serve. We look forward to our continuing work with the Montavilla United Methodist Food Panty and our growing relationship with Bridger. We are also evaluating the continuation of the Community BBQ and Santa Breakfast. Although numbers were down in 2014, we are working to step it up and incorporate different exciting activities this year.

The Outreach Committee is praying and seeking God's will, and you to join with us in prayer as we reach out to share God's mission.

Your Outreach Committee members for 2015 are: Lorretta Mason, Diana Hiatt, Shannon Hastings, Betsy Vulgan, and Mary Milbrath.

In His Service With You,
Kaleen Stepnioski, Lay Minister of Outreach

ROBERTA STEPHENS CIRCLE

We are a group of ladies who usually meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am during the fall, winter, and spring months. We bring a sandwich and members alternate being the hostess. If available, our Pastor and Beth will join us for lunch. We end our meeting with a devotion and group prayer. In 2014 we met six times, and we sent at least 10 greeting cards to members of our church family.

On March 18, eleven ladies met and cut, sewed, and rolled bandages for the Congo. This project has kept us busy for many years. It is a part of our White Cross quota.

On April 15, Bea Watson gave us a very interesting talk on "Salt" and quoted references to salt in the Bible. She displayed part of her salt container collection.

The offering we gave is broken down in 2 areas: (1) General: Roberta Stephens Circle-\$50.06 + American Baptist Women-\$48.11 =\$98.17 (2) Love Offering: \$57.50. The balance on hand is \$85.73.

Our members are: Shannon Hastings (Chairperson), Larlie Crawford, Mildred Rasmussen, Betsy Vulgan, Bea Watson, Dorothy Weir, and Marian Wise.

Marian Wise



**Roberta Stephens- Missionary for whom
our circle is named.**

DEACONESSES

The Deaconesses are a group of ladies committed to prayer and visiting shut-in members of our congregation. We meet the first Tuesday of the month. We spend time discussing needs and concerns of the congregation. We share a lunch, then divide into teams to do visitations. In addition to this, we send cards to those in need, bring small gifts to members hospitalized, and provide food for memorial services. We average five or more visitations each month.

In December, we prepare cookie boxes for our shut-ins and staff. Twelve boxes were prepared this past year. Five of our members were joined by Paul Young (Lay Minister of Spiritual Life) to make deliveries.

If you have a heart for prayer and ministry to our shut-ins, this may be the group for you. Please contact Sally Coulese (Chairperson), Larlie Crawford, Shannon Hastings, Mildred Rasmussen, Nancy Uhlinger, Dorothy Weir, Marian Wise, Georgia Young, or Judy Young for more information.

Shannon Hastings

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

DECEMBER 2014

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10140.67
Income Received	\$ 13244.92
Expenses	\$ 11077.65
Net Balance for Month	\$ 2167.27

General Fund Balance 12/31/14 \$ 2961.84

Boiler Fund Balance \$ 460.56

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1227.60
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 186.50

Liabilities

Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 2350.50
Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 4558.70

COUNTING BLESSINGS

As you can see in the December figures, we did indeed end 2014 in the black, even when the payroll tax liabilities (withholdings from employees and the Grace employer obligations) are taken into consideration. God was very good to Grace during 2014. Even though we never had a lot extra, we had the funds to pay our bills and that's all that really matters.

We continue to solidly support our children and youth activities and programs, which we have agreed are a priority. I am expecting in 2015 that we as a church will find God leading us in mission and we will find the money—as well as the time, energy and and sense of priority--to work alongside Him.



Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance and Treasurer



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

1 Distribute Annual Reports

7 Men's Breakfast & Sportsman's Show

8 Potluck & Annual Report Meeting

14 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Gateway Applebee's

18 Ash Wednesday Service

20 Shelving & Distributing Food @ MUM

20 Bridger's Food For Families

21 Bridger's Oregon Trail Pancake Breakfast

21 Distributing Food @ MUM

28 Bridger's Auction @ The Madeleine Center

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

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Secretary

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GOD'S VISION FOR GRACE BAPTIST

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