

# Grace Notes

## May 2015

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



### Pastor's NOTE...

Every year in May we celebrate Mother's Day. Normally we think of Mother's Day as being a joyous celebration. But that is not always the case.

It has been over seven years since my mother passed away. Yet every time May rolls around and we get ready to celebrate Mother's Day all of the sadness and grief of not having my mom here to celebrate comes back to me.

I know not every person has or had that kind of relationship with their mother. Some, at best, have had rocky relationships with their mom, and at worse, she is downright despised. Others may not even know who their real mom is or was. People like this have a sadness on Mother's Day for a very different reason. That sadness comes from not having a mom, or a bad relationship with their mom.

There are still others who are sad on Mother's Day for a different reason. Women who wished they were moms, and for whatever reason are not. This is a sadness of deep desire that as of now goes unfulfilled.

All of this makes Mother's Day a day of a myriad of emotions- joy, happiness, sadness, grief, celebration, anger, pain. These emotions do not always make Mother's Day an easy day to celebrate.

Let me suggest that this year, as we celebrate Mother's Day, we take time to pray for those who have a difficult time on this day. Pray that God will fill their lives with comfort. That He will help them by shouldering some of the pain and sadness.

*Isaiah 66:13 say, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I [God] comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."* My prayer is that this Mother's Day all those who have sadness or pain because of motherhood, will feel the love of God in a way that will provide comfort as a mother can give.



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**MAY  
COMMUNION  
SERVERS:**  
Shannon Hastings  
Molly Tompkins  
Lance Giancone  
Seth Young



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Recently we have been thinking and talking about our church vision and what it means to be a community of believers. The key to our journey of faith is becoming more the people God wants us to be, more like Jesus. Simply put to be transformed. It was quite appropriate then at the state ABW meeting, Tonia Hunt talked about being Transformed by the Spirit using Romans 12:2 as her basis. In that verse we read, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Many of you will remember Tonia and one of her gifts was to be able to give children’s sermons with relevant object lessons. She was able to do the same thing as she talked about being transformed. Her words blessed me and I would like to share some of what I took away from what she said.

Often as Christians we don’t conform to the world in blatant ways, but rather in ways which are more subtle. Tonia mentioned two such ways. Our culture tells us we can do anything and to just do it. We then can fall into the trap of believing (and acting on that belief) that we can and must fix things, take care of things, deal with things on our own. Our culture also stresses the importance of self. So then our thoughts and actions can revolve around how something will affect me or what people will think about me. As we continue on our journey of faith, we are encouraged to be aware of the little ways we may be conforming to the world around us.

Tonia mentioned 3 facets to being transformed by the renewing of our mind. First, it takes time just like it takes time to steep a good cup of tea. Second, we need to drink from the living water Jesus provides just as the plants around us need water to thrive. And finally, we need to spend time in the Bible as our pattern just as a quilter uses a pattern to create the finished work.

May God bless us and guide us as we seek daily to be more the people He wants us to be.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

A hand full of people have mentioned they feel God is going to use Grace Church in a way which hasn’t been revealed yet. Because I know prayer is a great key to communication and connection of the body to the vine, the Spiritual Life Committee will be discussing and exploring ways to increase corporate prayer opportunities. I’m not sure what form(s) that may take. I have a few ideas, but I would like to hear from others in the body if they would like to help or participate in prayer events, whether by phone or physically attending prayer times. Someone has already anonymously written on the connection card the desire to have a prayer time immediately after the worship service. These are all options and it would be great if more than a few people helped with this. Please pray about it, and call or talk to me the next time you see me.

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

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



*People were also bringing babies to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18: 15-17*

In my Bible devotions of late, I am reading through the books of Deuteronomy and Luke. This morning's passage included the verses above. In the devotional thoughts the writer, Nicky Grumbel, speaks of several ways to live a Christ-centered life. One way is to "Be childlike." He writes, "Jesus calls us to become like children. He never tells us to be childish (in the sense of being simplistic), but He does tell us to be childlike. To be childlike is the opposite of being independent and 'grown up.' Children tend to be open, receptive, trusting, humble, loving and forgiving. The God-centered life is a life of childlike dependence on Him. We become like children again when we show and share our honest feelings, acknowledge how fragile and vulnerable we are and how much we need God and one another."

I so appreciate God's timing in all things. In light of Pastor Randy's sermon on April 19 about the "Ministry of Helpfulness", I see these two topics combined; especially Pastor's words about "admitting we need help". Some of us (and I mean me) tend to be far too independent, thinking and telling others we don't need any help and everything is fine. As Pastor Randy said, "Admitting you need help is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness. Jesus was not afraid to ask for help. He had 12 disciples to help Him." To be childlike is to be eager to ask for help. Children are open to asking for help to solve a problem, asking, "how" and "why" many times. Their curiosity about new things and their need to explore something they have never seen or done before moves them forward in life, and sometimes help is needed to help them grow. Another writer, Frances Young, asks, "Could it not be the quality Jesus saw in children was the freedom to respond naturally, to feel and express wonder and love and joy, to gaze wide-eyed with open mouth, and then to rush in and explore, probe, take to pieces, and find out for themselves...?" As we grow as Christians in our faith, shouldn't we be gazing at Jesus "wide-eyed with open mouth", and then rushing in to learn more and more of His grace and love? That always requires help from the Holy Spirit and sometimes it requires us to ask for help from others. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

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**Here are some important upcoming events that you won't want to miss:**

**Mother's Day Luncheon** – Saturday, May 2, 12:30 p.m.

**Girlfriends Sleepover** – Friday, May 29, 6:00 p.m.

**June 7, 10:00 a.m.** – Our Sunday morning worship service will move to the 10 o'clock hour for the months of June, July, and August -No Sunday School. Fellowship time will begin at 9:30 for you Early Birds!!

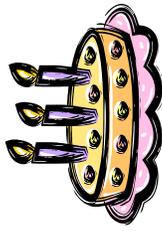
# MAY 2015

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>“A bond between mothers and their children is one defined by love. As a mother’s prayers for her children are unending, so are the wisdom, grace and strength they provide for their children. —President George W. Bush</b></p>						
<p><b>3</b> 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</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout</p>	<p><b>5</b> 11:00 am Deaconesses’ Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids’ Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout 7:00 pm Walleye Club</p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:30 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible Study</p>	<p><b>9</b> 12:30 pm “You Are A Star! A Night At The Oscars” Mother’s Day Luncheon 6:00 pm IVN Sisters Bible Study</p>
<p><b>10</b> 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 <b>HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 6:30 pm Board Meeting 7:00 pm Worship Workout</p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids’ Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout</p>	<p><b>15</b> 1:00 pm Bridger’s Food For Families</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10:00 am Girlfriends’ Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn</p>
<p><b>17</b> 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</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout</p>	<p><b>19</b> 11:00 am Roberta Stephens Circle 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Kids’ Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout</p>	<p><b>22</b> 11:30 pm Stocking Shelves @ MUM 3:00 pm-6:00 pm MUM’s Food Distribution 7:30 pm Iglesia Vision Nueva Church Bible</p>	<p><b>23</b> 9:00 am-12:00 pm MUM’s Food Distribution</p>
<p><b>24/31</b> 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</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout <b>NOTE: GRACE ARTICLES DUE</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study @ Church 6:30 pm Kids’ Club 7:00 pm Youth Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b> 5:00-8:00 pm Burgerville Partnership Night</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 pm Worship Workout</p>	<p><b>29</b> 6:00 pm Girlfriends’ Overnighter</p>	<p><b>30</b> 10:00 am Girlfriends’ Overnighter Ends</p>

**May Birthdays**

14 Shannon Short  
15 Gerald Coulesey  
19 Clara Brown  
23 Diana Hiatt  
23 Jenny Johnson  
28 Vern Dunn  
29 Bob Fox



**May Anniversaries**

5 Dan & Beth Jones  
20 Doug & Kim Thompson



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

*“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47*

This past month I have my share of setbacks with my health. I am reminded of the importance of people praying for one another. Oh how I appreciate the prayers of God’s people!

This brings me to my next thought. Please ponder the scripture above. I know how important the body of Christ is and how vital we can be when we work together to further God’s kingdom. Let the month of May be a time we hold fast to the relationships in Christ we have been blessed with. Let us continue to join in prayer for one another. I pray God will make us like the church in Acts where He is adding daily to our number with those saved!

Blessings,  
Tammy

## OUTREACH

On Tuesday, April 21, our Village Support Network team and support members attended the 1st Training Session to prepare for our new family which we should meet sometime in May. Over the course of the next month, we are collecting a special offering for the work of helping a family through Village Support Network as we need to raise at least \$500. Please pray for your contribution to this offering.

Your Village Support Network Team members are Pastor Randy, Kaleen Stepnioski, Paul Young, Sharon Owen, and Toni Masters. Our Support Team members are David Laughlin and Diana & Steve Hiatt. Please continue to pray with us as God prepares our hearts for this ministry and the family God has prepared for us to minister with. We will continue to share with you as we journey through this ministry.

On Sunday, May 17, we will be having a “Sock it to Me Sunday” event for Rahab’s Sisters at St. Peter and Paul Episcopal Church. Their most significant need is for socks and underwear. The socks do not need to be new, but used and in good shape will do fine. Please join us and bring a pair of socks or two to support this ministry.

In His service,  
Kaleen Stepnioski, Lay Minister of Outreach

## ROBERTA STEPHEN CIRCLE

I find I am unable to continue to be the leader of this group. At the April’s meeting we discussed disbanding, however, there were only two members and one guest present. We do have funds (for Mission support) and need to decide how they should be disbursed.

If no one is willing to step up as leader of this circle, our last meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, at 11:am. If you ever have been a part of this group, please attend this meeting to help us with these important decisions. I have enjoyed being a part of this ministry, but I believe it is time for me to cut back and free myself to be available to the Lord’s leading in my life.

Shannon Hastings, Chair of Roberta Stephens Circle.

## PROGRESS OF PASTOR RANDY'S DOCTORAL WORK

Dear Church Family,

Many of you have been asking about the progress I am making toward my Doctoral of Ministry degree, so I figured I would put out a written update.

As of today (April 20, 2015), I am about a third of the way through my next to the last doctoral class. I will finish this class the third week of July. I will then have one more class to take which most likely will be in January of 2016, finishing in the summer.

After completion of my course work, I will need to write my doctoral project. That process should take nine months to a year. After my project is completed, it will need to be revised and defended in front of my advisory committee. If all goes well, all my work should be completed by the end of summer or early fall 2017.

I really want to thank you for your interest and support as I continue to work on my Doctoral of Ministry degree.

In His Service,  
Pastor Randy

\*\*\*A Note from the Pastoral Relations Committee: As a part of Pastor Randy's compensation package, we included a line item for continuing education. At our 2015 budget meeting, people noted the generosity of the church in the size of Pastor Randy's continuing education budgeted line item. We want to note the continuing education budget line item began at \$650, and in 2012 Pastor diverted \$2800 from his salary into continuing education. This raised the current continuing education line item to \$3450. When Pastor Randy finishes his doctoral work, \$2800 will be put back into his salary.

## EDUCATION

And so it begins again. With summer quickly approaching, we need to start thinking about summer camps. As you all know, sending your children/grandchildren to camp is no small task. It is getting very expensive to send the kids/youth to any type of camp these days. So we need to think about saving up our spare change (if you have any) to prepare for camp(s).

So we have two fundraisers coming up at Burgerville. The first partnership night will be **Wednesday, May 27**, and the second partnership night will be **Monday, June 29**. Both partnership nights will be from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Any camper who plans to go to camp with the help of camp scholarship money **HAS TO WORK** both partnership nights. No one can work those hours for them. Each camper has to earn his/her own scholarship money.

As for the rest of us, if you are willing to volunteer your time to help work in the lobby or supervise the kids/youth on the curb who are drumming up business with their posters, please let me know as soon as you can. If you don't want to volunteer, please plan to come to eat at Burgerville on the partnership nights to help support our kids/youth as they work to earn their scholarship money to go to camp. If you can't come to the partnership nights, but would like to help with the camp scholarship fund, please write a check to Grace Baptist and put on the memo line to put this certain amount of money towards camp scholarship.



Thanks so much for support in the past and in the coming months. We can't make this successful without your support.

Love in Christ,  
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Education

**2015 SUMMER CAMP DATES...**

**Summer Camps**  
 High School: July 6-10  
 Middle School: July 20-24  
 Elementary: July 27-31  
 Primary: July 24-26

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<p><b>Adult &amp; Family Camp</b>                  September 4-7, 2015                  Friday-Monday</p>	<p><b>Camp Reunion &amp; Open House</b>                  Sun, September 6, 2015</p>
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## MUM OPEN HEART PANTRY

Again the hard workers at MUM thank Grace members for the help and support we offer to the Open Heart ministry. They would especially appreciate donations of canned fruit as it is always in short supply, laundry detergent, and food staples.

They would like to be open one more day a month, but this would be dependent on members of Grace for staffing this extra day. It could be a week night instead of a weekend. If this is an area you feel you could serve, please let Shannon Hastings know.

Because of the annual meeting of Mental Health Issues at MUM on the third weekend of May (they are expecting 200-300 people in attendance on Saturday), the next distribution days will be one week later on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23.



Shannon Hastings

## GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

**MARCH 2014**

**General Operating Fund**

Monthly Budget	\$ 10833.34
Income Received	\$ 10366.50
Expenses	\$ 9576.59
Net Balance for Month	\$ 789.91

General Fund Balance 03/31/15                   \$ 3022.44

Boiler Fund Balance                                 \$ 303.07

**Mission Fund**

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1661.86
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 553.10

**Liabilities**

Payroll Tax Liabilities	\$ 2358.37
Building Fund to GF Loan	\$ 8051.46
Boiler Loan	\$ 3585.65



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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 MAY**

**2 "You Are A Star! A Night At The Oscar!" Mother's Day**

**Luncheon**

**10 Mother's Day**

**15 Bridger's Food For Families**

**16 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn**

**17 "Sock It To Me Sunday" For Rehab Sisters**

**17 Sweet Sunday**

**22 Shelving and Distributing Food @ MUM**

**23 Distributing Food @ MUM**

**25 Memorial Day**

**27 Burgerville Partnership Night**

**29 Girlfriends' Overnighter**

**STAFF EMAILS**

**Pastor**

Randy Pearson

[pastorrandy@graceportland.com](mailto:pastorrandy@graceportland.com)

**Minister of Children and Youth**

Tammy Brown

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**Minster of Worship and Music**

Judy Young

[judy@graceportland.com](mailto:judy@graceportland.com)

**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.