

Grace Notes

August 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

For the last few days, I have been reading the book of Nehemiah. God gave Nehemiah the mission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. As the people of Jerusalem are working to rebuild the broken down wall of the city they meet strong opposition from the people who are living near the city. In dealing with the opposition, Nehemiah does two important things.

First, Nehemiah prays. "Hear us, our God, for we are despised. Turn their insults back on their own heads. Give them over as plunder in a land of captivity. Do not cover up their guilt or blot out their sins from your sight, for they have thrown insults in the face of the builders." (Neh. 4:4-4) Granted, Nehemiah's prayer was kind of vindictive, but he was asking God to help them in the face of adversity.

Nehemiah's second action is to make sure the people have each others' backs. "Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows...From that day on, half of my men did the work, while the other half were equipped with spears, shields, bows and armor. The officers posted themselves behind all the people of Judah who were building the wall. Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and held a weapon in the other, and each of the builders wore his sword at his side as he worked." (Neh. 4:13, 16-18)

What Nehemiah did, serves as a good reminder to us as we are carrying out God's mission in the world. First, we need to pray. We need to pray for God's guidance and clarity of His mission for us. We need to pray for God's protection over us as we carry out that mission. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us and empower us to do the work (we were never meant to do God's work in our own power). We need to pray for wisdom, strength, endurance, and right attitudes as we move forward in the mission.

Second we need to have each others' backs as we go about the mission. As we commit ourselves to God's mission, we will meet opposition. Unlike the Jerusalemites who were rebuilding the wall, our opposition, with very rare exceptions, will not come in the form of physical violence. We don't need to be standing around with spears, shields, swords, and bows.

What we do need to be doing is supporting one another, encouraging one another, and helping one another. As the old camp song says, "We will work with each other, We will work side by side. We will work with each other, We will work side by side. And we'll guard each one's dignity. And save each one's pride."

And I know there are some in our church who are no longer physically capable of doing the work, but they can watch our backs through prayer. Continuously lifting those up who are doing the work, I can think of no better way to have a brother's or sister's back than to be praying for them constantly.

When Nehemiah did those two things in his day, God was able to do a miraculous thing— get the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt in 52 days. As we do what Nehemiah did, I can't wait to see what miracles God will do in our midst!

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**AUGUST
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Terri Becker
Helen Pearson



SPIRITUAL LIFE

For my quiet time devotions I have been reading, *Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples* by Francis Chan along with *His Great Sacrifice, Our Great Commission* and both motivate me to keep the 10 prayers active (see July's Spiritual Life article) as I go through the day. It is challenging and I have failed miserably recently!

I know I am forgiven for the failures, so I do as the apostle Paul writes, I press on toward the goal Jesus set before me! Francis Chan points to the fact love is what motivates us and can transform our hearts and other people to whom we are reaching out. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, I am a noisy gong or clanging cymbal if I don't have love. So I need to love people before I can even think of discipling them. Jesus told and showed them a better way without condemning them, which is our challenge also. Most of us have to work hard to keep love at the forefront. Are we willing to show love by walking with the other people while they go through their struggles in order to influence their heart? Often struggle is struggle of the heart (sin) as Jesus points out in Mark 7. Very often, we really do want to help, but we get focused on a quick solution to the external behavior and overlook the real problem, the heart, and we approach them with condemnation. Whatever help we can offer people who are struggling with sin has to be aimed at transforming hearts, not behavior.

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



1 Corinthians 13:1-3

- *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, **but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.***
- *2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.***
- *3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, **but have not love, it profits me nothing.***



PASSING THE TORCH

WHEN
August 18th-20th

WHERE
Camp Arrah Wanna
24075 E. Arrah Wanna Blvd. Welches, OR 97067

FEATURING · Great Food · Comradery · Softball Tourney · Awesome Music led by Charles Patton · Great Speakers · Hiking · Zip Line · Challenge to Mission · The Great Outdoors

PRICE
\$99 per guy
1 Pastor free for every 5 guys from your church!
\$10 off if you register and pay by July 30th!



MAIN SPEAKER
Bill Perkins is a nationally-renowned pastor, author, and leader. He addresses men's groups worldwide and has conducted chapels for major league baseball teams.

FOR ALL DUDES AGES 14-99

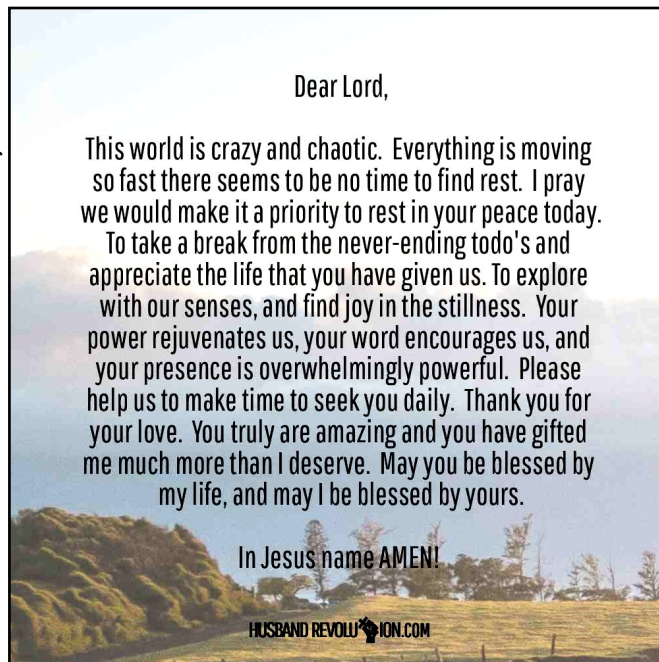
NOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER & LAY MINISTER OF CHURCH LIFE, JUDY YOUNG



"For God is not a God of disorder but of peace." 1 Corinthians 14:33

As the summer is speeding by, with the sale of our home and purchase of another, the families coming to visit, and packing to move (I MUST start packing!!!), I am so blessed to be reminded God is a God of peace and order. I am, indeed, a person whose brain gets scattered in many directions and I find myself flitting from one task to another. But when I sit down and spend precious time in the Word and prayer, it calms me and brings my life into order. The Holy Spirit helps me to make a plan and see order in all of the details. Pastor Randy's message about the Holy Spirit always being with us and providing for us was a wonderful reminder. When life gets frantic, stop and take a deep breath, pray and allow His love and peace to invade your soul!

I hope you are enjoying our new screens in the sanctuary. It is great to have sharp, crisp images projected for our worship songs and scripture. The new digital sound board is installed, and Dan Jones is learning more about its functions each week. This month the task of moving the sound booth will begin. It will allow our sound techs to hear much better. We are thankful we have been able to fund this project with some of the Jean Atkinson gift.



MUM'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Remember hunger does not know seasons. The need for food continues throughout the summer.

Dollar Tree is a great place to purchase items at inexpensive prices. There you will find: smaller containers of condiments which are often overlooked at food banks, other food items and snacks, and soap and laundry items.

Thank you for all the donations from our Grace Family



Next Food days are Friday, August 18 and Saturday, August 19. The shelving time is now at 10:00am on Fridays.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Hearts Pantry



AUGUST 2017

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|------------------------------------|-----|---|---|--|
| |  | 1 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting | 2 | 3 7:00 pm Walleye Club | 4 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study | 5 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal 6:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study |
| 6 COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study | 12 |
| 13 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Men's Retreat at Arrah Wana through Sunday. 10:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUM 10:00 am Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study | 19 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution |
| 20 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship | 21 September Articles Due In Office | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study | 26 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Heidi's 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal |
| 27 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31  | | |

August Birthdays

2 Sybil Hart
18 Ruth Hendrickson
19 Amy Danielson
19 Shannon Hastings
24 Georgia Young
26 David Becker
29 Theresa Benson
30 Nancy Brazda



GRACE-FULL

Have you felt the “tug” of Pastor Randy’s sermons over the past weeks? They are helping us each realize how vital relationships are in our lives. In my own case, I’ve been trying to focus on my relationship with the persons of God: Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. As I’ve prayed and thought about it, I’ve discovered God is nudging me in the direction of others—just as Pastor has been telling us. When I’ve asked to have more relationship with God, He’s pointed out to me He wants me to use the gifts He’s given me in order to relate better with those I am touching. “And THAT will result in growing your relationship with Me.”

What’s all this got to do with Finance? Well, what IS Finance to the church? It is each of the members of the body expressing their love for God and the body of believers here—in other words “worship,” which results in teaching, preaching, and ministry which spreads our expression of love to the world and our community. We think of “Finance” as “meeting the budget.” However, it is way more than that: “Finance” is an aspect of our worship of and obedience to God, both individually and as a body in Christ.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JUNE 2017

General Operating Fund

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly Budget | \$ 9,790.33 |
| Income Received | \$ 8,008.25 |
| Expenses | \$ 10,237.16 |
| Net Received for Month | \$ -2,228.91 |

Mission Fund

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Mission Giving Plan | \$ 1,171.80 |
| Specified gifts/offering | \$ 431.95 |
| Total Mission Giving | \$ 1,603.75 |

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

| | |
|---|--------------|
| General Fund Balance 06/30/17 | \$ 12,982.01 |
| Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable | \$ 1,813.28 |
| GF Less P/R Liabilities | \$ 11,168.73 |

Building Fund

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Building Fund Balance 06/30/17 | \$ 12,033.90 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Can you believe we are already over half way through summer? The kids/youth have already finished their summer camps and are preparing to go back to school; BUT we have one more camp coming up in the near future. To be exact, the Family/Friends Camp will be September 1-4 (Labor Day Weekend).

Are you wanting to go to Family/Friends Camp, but you need financial help to be able to go? If so, please come and talk to Beth about getting a scholarship. We expect each person to use some of their own money to pay for camp— we realize this will vary from person to person. Let Beth know how much you can afford to pay, and she will see what she can do to help you pay off the rest of your balance with camp scholarship money.

Also remember, we won’t be having church service here at the church on Sunday, September 3, because we would like you to go to the Open House Service at Camp Arrah Wanna. We will set up a carpool schedule later this month if you need a ride. Lunch will be served after the service.



Camp is fun for all ages, and we hope you will take advantage of that weekend to go.

Love in Christ,
Beth Jones, Lay Minister of Christian Education



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

1 Deaconesses' Meeting

13 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

18-20 Men's Retreat at Arrah Wana

18 & 19 MUM's Food Distribution

18 Bridger's Harvest Share

21 Articles For September Grace Notes Due In Office

26 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Heidi's

1230 NE Cleveland Ave., Gresham, OR

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

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Minster of Worship and Music

Judy Young

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Secretary

Beth Jones

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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.