

# Grace Notes

## February 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



### NOTES from Pastor Randy...

During my recent D.Min class at American Seminary, I had the privilege to meet and interact with Rev. Dr. Larron Jackson.

Dr. Jackson has a very interesting and exciting story which he recalls in his autobiography, The Ghetto, the Gridiron and the Gospel. Larron grew up in the intercity of St. Louis (the Ghetto), he became a successful high school, college, and professional player (the Gridiron), and then became a minister and pastor when God led him into pastoral ministry (the Gospel).

In recounting his life, Larron did not have it easy. He grew up in a home filled with alcohol and domestic violence. He suffered through racial discrimination as a black man in the 1950's and 60's.

In spite of all he has been through, he is able to conclude, "My life has been a journey in God's grace. While I was not always aware of it, that phrase points to the many ways in which God made real His power and presence throughout my life...As I talked about the circumstances of my birth, the pain and chaos of growing up in the midst of alcoholism, domestic violence, and physical and mental abuse, it has been my hope that the reader would see God's presence despite the circumstances of my life."

I wonder how many of us would have that same kind of attitude if we had experienced Larron's life.

God's grace is at work in our lives in ways we may never understand this side of heaven. When it doesn't seem like I am experiencing grace, that is probably the time I am experiencing grace the most.

Larron concludes his book by writing, "I trust and believe that wherever God is leading me, He will continue to make real His power, presence and grace in my life to do what He would have me to do. I further trust and believe God will be with me every step of the way. Through my faith in the sufficiency of God's grace, I am convinced God has equipped me with what I need to finish strong as I run this race to His honor and glory."

All I can say is "Amen, Dr. Jackson. Amen!"

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**FEBRUARY  
COMMUNION  
SERVERS:**  
Barb Furman  
Shannon Hastings



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

This month begins the year without an individual filling the position of Moderator. The past moderator has fulfilled her term limitations set forth by our church bylaws. She has earned a rest from these leadership duties. Barbara Furman has held this position with a great deal of composure and grace. The current members of the Board and the family of Grace thank you, Barbara, for your service to Grace and to Christ.

Barb outlined in her last article how the board is going to handle her loss. Here is a quote from that report: "As the year progresses, the Board will assign persons to facilitate all congregational meetings that arise. With that in mind, we do have our Annual Reports meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 5, after the worship service. I (Barb) will facilitate this meeting as we provide the opportunity for you to ask questions and give feedback on the information contained in the Annual Report document."

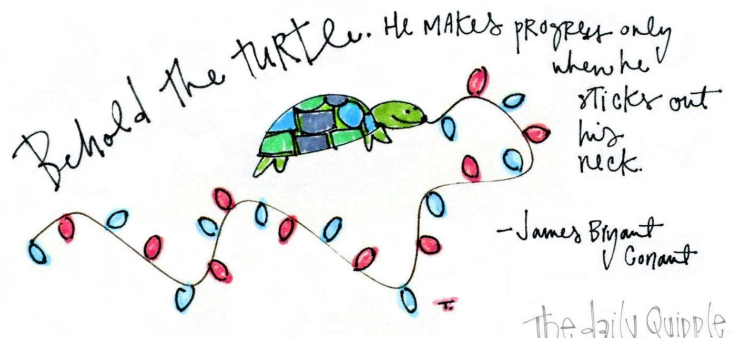
Please note the date for the Annual Reports meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 5 after the service.

Ken Danielson, Acting Moderator



## SPIRITUAL LIFE

Last month I quoted an article from Outreach Magazine and finished my article with a question, "How can you/I do the same at Grace?" Do WHAT? Be a neighbor by showing God's love and mercy as in Matthew 10:25-37. We can develop relationships with people so we get to know them, and they get to know us, so they can see we are living proof of God's Love. At some point, relationship will allow us to share with them how they can experience the same love they have seen at work in our lives! We are salt and light. *Matthew 5:16* records Jesus saying, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." You and I have God in us and the GOOD NEWS that should be proclaimed and demonstrated by us, His children, just as the angels announced it to the shepherds. Evangelism, sharing the GOOD NEWS, seems to have been replaced by Conversionism, "focusing on the atonement component available through Christ" (are you saved?)...The difference in Conversionism and Evangelism is summed up well in something Dallas Willard said: 'I'm not trying to get people to heaven after they die. I'm trying to get them there while they're still alive.'" (Outreach Magazine) The point is the purpose of demonstrating and proclaiming the GOOD NEWS of Jesus is to bring life to others NOW, not just so they can be "saved and go to heaven." Focusing on Conversionism warps our sense of Evangelism as Christians. Be salt and light in an attractive way!



Encouragement Partners is how you can share weekly outside of church with another person attending Grace Church! A sign-up sheet for the next six months is on the table in the entryway, as in the past, to begin a new Encouragement opportunity that is open to everyone.

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

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



(As your Church Life Coordinator, I am putting on my Biennial Co-chair hat this month! Judy Young)

The 2017 Biennial Mission Summit of the American Baptist Churches is just five months away! As a co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee I would like to encourage you to attend. It will be held June 30-July 2 at the Oregon Convention Center. Grace is a sponsoring church, which means you are able to get a discount on your registration. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and share Christian fellowship, generosity, and the love of Christ. It is very encouraging to hear about what other ABC churches are doing in their regions and learn about our international ministries. As a church, we are encouraging everyone to plan to attend the Sunday morning session, which would NOT require registering.

The Local Arrangements Committee has many leadership teams and is responsible to provide volunteers to help in lots of areas. Several folks from Grace are heading up these teams which include: Registration, Ticket Sales, Ushers/Greeters, Hospitality, Finance, Transportation, Translation, Child Care, Youth Camp, and Prayer Support. We are praying for many volunteers to help as Portland hosts this wonderful event. Please prayerfully consider where you might be able to help. To learn more and submit your name to our growing list of volunteers, visit the ABCCPC website at [www.abccpc.org](http://www.abccpc.org). There you will find links to the ABCUSA Biennial Site and also a link to indicate where you'd like to volunteer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask myself or Pastor Randy.

## GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

### DECEMBER 2016

#### General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10589.75
Income Received	\$ 8584.15
Expenses	\$ 11990.67
Net Received for Month	\$ (3406.52)

#### Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1268.35
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 161.50

#### Liabilities

General Fund Balance 12/31/16	\$ 12198.16
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1961.39
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 10236.77


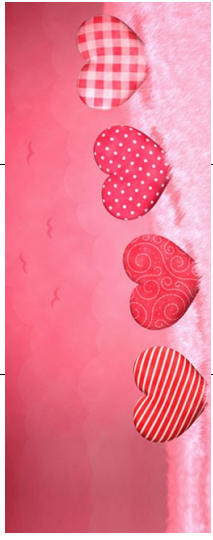
#### Building Fund

Building Fund Balance 11/30/16	\$ 12033.90
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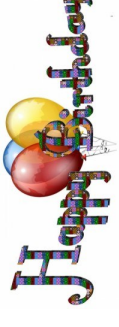
# FEBRUARY 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer	2 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study	3 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	4 6:00 pm IVN Sister's Bible Study
5 <i>COMMUNION</i> 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Annual Report Meeting 6:00 pm Bible Study	6	7 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	8 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer	9 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study	10 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	11
12 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study <b>Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry</b>	13 1:00 pm Board Meeting	14 	15 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer	16 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study	17 10:30 am Stocking Shelving Food @ MUM 1:30 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	18 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Applebee's
19 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	20 <b>MARCH GRACE NOTES/ARTICLES DUE</b>	21	22 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	23 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study	24 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	25
26 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	27	28 				

## February Birthdays

9 Beth Jones  
24 Sandy Danielson  
25 Betsy Vulgan



## February

## Anniversaries

28 John & Shannon Hastings





## MUM OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Montavilla Methodist Open Heart Pantry was kept busy during the freezing weather and ice in December. The usual families came as well as many homeless. Their need for food was met. Thank you to all who donate.

Seth Young is continuing to go to Sunshine division for 500 - 700 pounds of food for the pantry! In December they received a donation of Frozen Turkey Breasts for families right before Christmas; and this was most welcomed. The date for this particular pick up is either the first or second Tuesday of the month. If you are able to help with unloading and shelving the Tuesday pick-ups, please let Barbra Furman or Seth know. The time for pick up is around noon and would take less than an hour.

A donation from a member of Montavilla Methodist Church is enabling the pantry to purchase some newer shelving to replace older and less useful shelving units.

With donations through Sunshine Division, the shelves are well stocked. Still in need are the easily consumed food from a carton for the homeless; household and personal cleaning items, such as laundry soap, and general cleaning items; and personal items, such as bar soap, shampoo, and toothpaste. Food programs are not able to supply these important items.

Heads up as they want to schedule a cleaning day for the storage rooms. Time for this will be forthcoming.

Time for Friday shelving food is now at 10:30 am on the Friday of distribution. Next scheduled days are Friday, February 17 and Saturday, February 18

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Heart Pantry



## WHAT IS LOVE?

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-15





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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 FEBRUARY**

**5 Annual Report Meeting**

**7 Deaconesses' Meeting**

**12 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry**

**13 Board Meeting**

**14 Valentine's Day**

**17 Bridger's Harvest Share**

**17 & 18 MUM's Food Distribution**

**18 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Applebee's**

**20 Articles For March Grace Notes Due In Office**

**STAFF EMAILS**

**Pastor**

Randy Pearson

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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.