

Grace Notes

January 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



NOTES from Pastor Randy...

Klondike Bars, a type of ice cream bar, had an old commercial with the tagline, "What would you do for a Klondike Bar?"

As we move into 2017, I would like for all of us to think about where we would like to see Grace Baptist by the end of 2017. My hope is as this exercise is undertaken, it would be so in prayer and leading of the Holy Spirit.

As you contemplate this question, you may come up with things like: more people in attendance; more programs happening; a bigger impact on our community; the development of a particular type of ministry.

After coming up with your list, ask yourself, "What would I do to make these things happen?"

You see, too often we think a lot about things we would like to see happen at church, but we never stop to think what we would have to do to help bring those things about. There is usually an underlying assumption others can make it happen.

But that is not how God works. God doesn't use only "others," he uses all of us. In any church real change takes place, and things begin to happen when everyone takes responsibility to help make it happen.

I know as we move through 2017 we all have ideas of what we would like to see happen at Grace. There is nothing wrong about having dreams and visions for our church. But as we contemplate those dreams and visions, and get a sense of how God could move in our church, we need to ask ourselves, "What am I willing to do to make that vision or dream come true?"

OFFICE HOURS

With Beth's change in hours, she will be working only 2-3 hours a day Monday through Thursday.

To help with the shortened office hours, Pastor Randy will begin to have regular office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-11 am. If you want to drop in and say hi or chat about anything, feel free. As always, if you would like to talk with Pastor Randy at any time, you can call his cell at 503-250-3746.

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**JANUARY
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Diana Hiatt
Steve Hiatt



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Here we are at the beginning of a new year. And with the new year there will be changes. I will be leaving the Board and the Moderator position so I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board and the congregation for your encouragement and support during my time as Moderator.

There is also a change in the Lay Minister of Outreach. Thank you, Diana, for your faithfulness in serving in this position in 2016, and welcome to Carol Martin who assumes responsibility in 2017.

We did not elect a Moderator and so the Board members will be working together to ensure the tasks of the moderator are completed over the course of the year. The members of the Board will be rotating the responsibilities for facilitating board meetings. Sharon will continue to take minutes of the meetings and will work together with the acting moderators and Pastor Randy to develop agendas for the meetings which will help provide a measure of consistency through the year.

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 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 continue to pray for our leadership and for us as a church family as we continue our journey to becoming the people and the church God wants us to be. Regardless of our small numbers, God can use us to do great things. And in so doing we give Him the glory and further His kingdom.

Barbara Furman, Outgoing Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Happy New Year Encouragement Partners! Only four more weeks left for your current partnership (end of January). My, the time has flown by quickly. Continue praying with your partner, and each week share how this partnership has stretched, challenged, and encouraged you in your time together. Celebrate some way special during this month with your Encouragement Partner. Please write a note to me regarding your experience that may be shared as a testimonial in future articles. A sign-up sheet for the next six months will be on the table in the entryway, as in the past, to begin a new Encouragement opportunity that is open to everyone.

Happy New Year to everyone else! Regarding the articles I have been reading about evangelism, I see we are not alone in our situation and concern. "Things have changed, but the gospel - and its need for proclamation - remains unchanged." Sharing the Gospel has a different approach by age and interest groups more than ever. One size fits fewer people than it used to. God has GOOD NEWS that should be proclaimed and demonstrated by His children for all people, as the angels announced to the shepherds. "The how of evangelism is, in many ways, determined by the who, when and where in culture." Churches have tried a variety of ways and with some success, but not one way alone. Sharing conversation and making connection with people before you invite people to come "see" or "hear" with you, helps reduce the fear and gives them an acquaintance they know. One church focusses on partying once a week, another uses messages delivered by internet, another around skating, and others around food growing and/or distribution. All of them recognize the need for relationships to be established. How can you/I do the same at Grace? That is our challenge!



**GOD,
USE ME TO
REACH ONE!**

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



As we enter 2017, I am reflecting on the wonderful opportunity we have had to read through the Bible with “The Bible Project.” It has been insightful to see the cohesiveness from beginning to end in God’s Word. As the creators of The Bible Project say on their web site, “The Bible is a unified narrative that leads to Jesus and has profound wisdom for the modern world.” I have learned more in this year of reading and studying, and have really enjoyed sharing during our Wednesday night gatherings. I will be ready to start again at the end of February. If you didn’t start with the Bible Project in 2016, prayerfully consider doing it in 2017.

As your Music/Worship Leader, I hope to bring some new music to our worship times this year. There are many great, new worship and praise songs ready to be introduced to everyone.

If you are interested in helping with the music by singing, playing an instrument, or helping with the sound or projecting the words from the computer, please contact me.

CHRISTMAS GIFT OUTREACH THANK YOU

As our Christmas Gift Outreach, we came together to provide gifts to families from Bridger and Vestal Schools. The 3 families from Bridger contained 5 adults and 13 children. There were 9 families from Vestal made up of 16 children and 9 adults. Gifts or gift cards were provided to 43 individuals with the church covering out of the Outreach budget those gifts not provided by members of the congregation.

Thank you to all who provided gifts and to those who delivered gifts to the families. Your generosity enabled us to bless these families.



AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN’S MINISTRIES



A special thank you to all who donated to the White Cross Special Christmas Gift cards for the Rainbow Acres and The Indian Mission. We collected \$200.00. We were able to send each Mission \$100.0 in Wal-Mart Gift cards. Another \$50.00 came in later. This will be used for the ongoing needs for these missions.

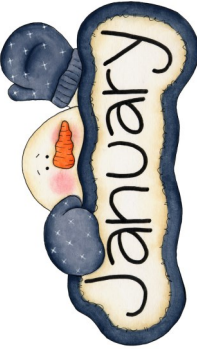


In the spring I will be scheduling another "Mission Work Day," possibly March or April. I hope to see a good turn out for this. It has been a fun and productive day in years past.

Shannon Hastings, White Cross Chair person for Grace.

JANUARY 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>COMMUNION</i> 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship NO Bible Study	2	3 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	4 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer	5 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study	6 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	7 6:00 pm IVN Sister's Bible Study
8 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	9	10	11 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer	12 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study	13 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	14
15 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 Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry	16 6:30 pm Board Meeting	17	18 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study & Prayer	19 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study	20 11:00 am Stocking Shelving Food @ MUM 1:00 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	21 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn 12:00 pm Girlfriends' Santa Exchange in Fellowship Hall
22 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	23 FEBRUARY GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	24	25 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	26 10:00 am Ladies' Bible Study	27 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	28
29 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 Annual Reports Available	30	31	6:30 pm Adult Bible Study			

January Birthdays

2 John Hastings
2 Amanda Sandoval
6 Jenny Sampson
9 Barbara Furman
18 Horace Brelford
19 Ken Danielson
19 Sharon Owen
25 Seth Young



January Anniversaries

30 Earl & Marian Wise
31 John & Kaleen Stepnioski



MUM OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

The weather is cold and the needs continue. Thank you to all who have helped to meet the needs of families at the Open Heart Food Pantry.

The usual needs are non perishable food as well as easy to serve food for the homeless individuals who come in for help. Toiletries and laundry soap are also needed.

Next dates for the food distribution will be Friday, January 20, at 3:00-5:00 pm and Saturday, January 21, at 9:00-11:00 am.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Heart Pantry



GRACE-FULL

We are a most-blessed body of Christ! I sometimes do remember to thank God for all the blessings he has bestowed on both Grace Church and yours truly. As we begin 2017, let us each pledge in our hearts to remain prayerful, thankful, and joyful for our riches in Christ.

Financially, we will start 2017 with a better “padding” of money in the General Fund than usual. In other good news, we have been faithful stewards of our largesse and have given Christmas gifts to needy families and stocked up the Rest Stop with goodies, as well as our prayers and wishes for the officers who use it. Looking forward to the adventure God has planned for 2017!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sharon Owen, Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

NOVEMBER 2016

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10589.75
Income Received	\$ 11352.81
Expenses	\$ 8755.80
Net Received for Month	\$ 2597.01

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1117.55
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 306.66

Liabilities

General Fund Balance 11/30/16	\$ 14962.60
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1319.31
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 13643.29

Building Fund

Building Fund Balance 11/30/16	\$ 12033.90
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*All we do inside these
walls prepares us to do
God's work outside.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY

1 New Year's Day

2 Office Closed

15 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

20 Bridger's Harvest Share

19 Annual Reports Due In Office

20 & 21 MUM's Food Distribution

21 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn

21 Girlfriends' Santa Exchange In Fellowship Hall

Annual Reports Available To Congregation

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

pastorrandy@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.