

Grace Notes

July 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

In the month of July when we celebrate our nation's freedom and liberty, I would like for us to reflect on one of the greatest speeches ever given about freedom. Below are excerpts from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech:

...I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood...

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!...

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,

From every mountainside, let freedom ring!

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that: Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!

During this time of such divisiveness in our country, it would serve all of us well to keep Dr. King's words in mind.

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**JULY
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Betsy Vulgan
Ed Vulgan



SPIRITUAL LIFE

In May I cited an article by Rev. Kevin Harney where he talks about sharing the Gospel and calls it “scattering seed.” Let me remind you again of what he said: “As you go throughout your day, here are 10 prayers that will position your heart, mind and soul for scattering and watering:

1. This is yours... your will be done in and through me.
2. My mouth is yours. Let me speak words that will glorify you and point people to Jesus.
3. Equip me for the battles I will face today.
4. Open my eyes to see the people around me the way you do.
5. Let me know your peace and patience.
6. Lord, draw near this person and show them your face and your grace.
7. Heavenly Father, thank you for your good gifts.
8. Open my mouth to ask good questions and my ears to listen attentively.
9. Let the joy of your presence shine through me.
10. Let the seed that has been scattered take root and grow for your glory.”

My challenge is to continue praying these prayers and ask God to lead me/us to be doing this. I am meeting with limited success. Let me know if you want to be doing this also so we can hold each other accountable.

For my quiet time devotions I have been reading, “Disciples Making Disciples with Francis Chan” along with “His Great Sacrifice, Our Great Commission” and both motivate me to keep the above 10 prayers active as I go through the day.

It is challenging! For that reason I constantly pray, “Lord, help me; I can’t do this on my own. Amen. “

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

MAY 2017

General Operating Fund

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly Budget | \$ 9,840.34 |
| Income Received | \$ 8,123.92 |
| Expenses | \$ 8,114.35 |
| Net Received for Month | \$ 9.57 |

Mission Fund

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Mission Giving Plan | \$ 1,064.74 |
| Specified gifts/offerings | \$ 519.95 |
| Total Mission Giving | \$ 1,584.69 |

Liabilities

| | |
|---|--------------|
| General Fund Balance 05/31/17 | \$ 14,614.17 |
| Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable | \$ 1,216.53 |
| GF Less P/R Liabilities | \$ 13,397.64 |

Building Fund

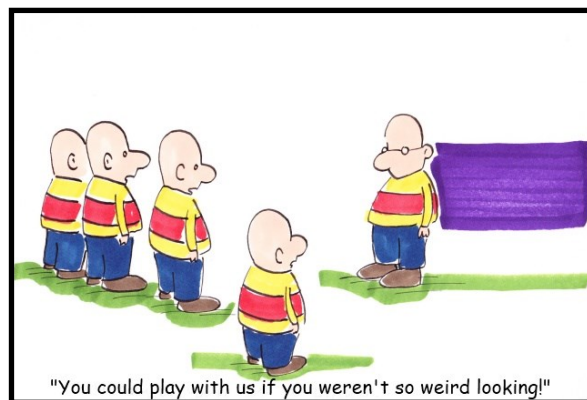
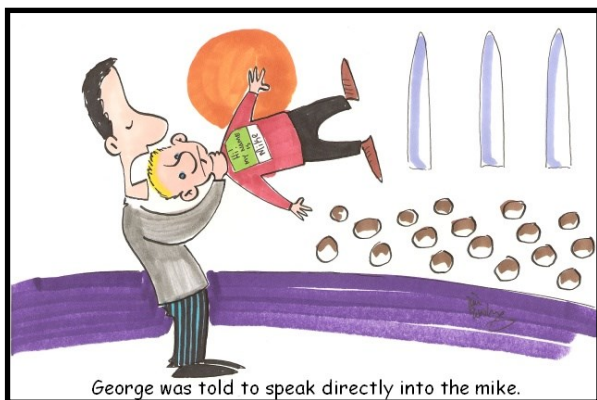
| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Building Fund Balance 05/31/17 | \$ 12,033.90 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|

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



As you receive and read this July newsletter, the 2017 Biennial Mission Summit will be upon us in a few short days (June 30-July 2). I truly hope many of you will be able to participate in some of the events. Thank you for your prayers and support as I worked as a Co-chair on the Local Arrangements Committee. And a big thank you to members of our own congregation who stepped up to help as sub-committee chairs: Barb Furman, Nancy Uhlinger, Georgia Young, and Paul Young. Thank you to others from Grace who volunteered in various areas.

Changes continue to be made in the sanctuary for our new digital sound board and large monitor screens for our worship and praise time. Our hope is to introduce our new equipment on Sunday, July 9, in our morning worship service. It will be wonderful to have the brown tower gone from the platform, and also be able to see the lighted cross every Sunday.



MONTAVILLA STREET FAIR

Again, this year Grace will be represented at the Montavilla Street Fair on Sunday, July 30, from 11:00am-5:00 pm. We will pass out bottled water and have a book mark size brochure that describes Grace's ministries. Volunteers are need to staff our booth. Please sign up for a time slot on the sheet in the narthex.

During the Biennial Mission Summit, June 30-July 2, there will opportunities to meet American Baptist Missionaries. Our global specialist on sex trafficking and human slavery, Lauren Bethel from The Netherlands, will be attending. Gregg Sneller will be available to introduce people. Please take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our mission work throughout the world.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

MUM OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

School is out. The need for food continues to be important. Remembering summer snacks and peanut butter and jelly and canned fruits are always in need.


The next shelving time will be Friday, July 14, at 10:00 am. The next food distribution will be Friday, July 14, 3:00-5:00 pm and Saturday, July 15, 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Heart Pantry



JULY 2017

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| No Church—Please attend the Biennial Mission Summit Conference @ Convention Center | |  | NO Adult Bible Study & Prayer For The Summer | 7:00 pm Walleye Club | 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study | 6:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal |
| 9 COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry | 10 High School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 11 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting High School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 12 NO Adult Bible Study & Prayer For The Summer High School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 13 High School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 14 10:00 am Stocking Shelving Food @ MUM 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study High School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 15 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn |
| 16 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study | 17 1:00 pm Board Meeting Middle School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 18 Middle School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 19 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 5:00-10:00 pm LOTWM Event NO Adult Bible Study & Prayer For The Summer Middle School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 20 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 5:00-10:00 pm LOTWM Event Middle School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 21 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 5:00-10:00 pm LOTWM Event 1:30 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study Middle School Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 22 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 5:00-10:00 pm LOTWM Event 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal |
| 23/30 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Worship Montavilla St. Fair (30) | 24/31 August Articles Due In Office (July 24) Elementary Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 25 Elementary Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 26 NO Adult Bible Study & Prayer For The Summer Elementary Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 27 Elementary Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 28 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study Elementary Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna | 29 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal |

**“For you have been called to live in freedom.
Use your freedom to serve one another.”
-Galatians 5:13**

July Birthdays
5 Ed Vulcan
7 Toni Masters
9 Brandon Benson
14 Jonathan Benson
27 Mary Lynn Carothers
29 Bea Watson



July Anniversary
20 Pastor Randy & Helen Pearson



BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Building Accessibility and Functionality Committee has received the feasibility study prepared by our architect, John Rosecrans. The purpose of the study was to evaluate options for adding classrooms under the balcony. After reviewing the report and the estimated costs of construction, the committee recommended to the Board we not move forward with construction at this time due to the anticipated expense of the project. In a continuing effort to address the concerns about limited classroom space on the main floor, the committee is looking into the possibility of using collapsible walls or dividers in the fellowship hall to create classroom spaces.

Barbara Furman, Chair

INDEPENDENCE DAY QUOTES

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. -The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

America is much more than a geographical fact. It is a political and moral fact - the first community in which men set out in principle to institutionalize freedom, responsible government, and human equality. -Adlai Stevenson

Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed - else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die. - Dwight D. Eisenhower

In the truest sense, freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved. -Franklin D. Roosevelt

And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me. -Lee Greenwood

Freedom is never free. -Author Unknown

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it. -Thomas Paine

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you. -Dick Cheney

And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me. -Lee Greenwood

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it. -George Bernard Shaw

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California, to the New York Island
From the redwood forest, to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me
-Woody Guthrie

Let freedom never perish in your hands. -Joseph Addison





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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JULY

1-2– Biennial Mission Summit

4 Independence Day—Office Closed

11 Deaconesses' Meeting

9 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

14 & 15 MUM's Food Distribution

15 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn

17 Board Meeting

21 Bridger's Harvest Share

24 Articles For August Grace Notes Due In Office

30 Outreach @ Montavilla Street Fair

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.