

Grace Notes

March 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



NOTES from Pastor Randy...

Kurt Vaters is a small church pastor who writes a blog for Christianity Today. Kurt posted a blog this summer entitled, "The Essential First Step to Having a Healthy Small Church." I found the blog interesting and helpful. Here is part of that blog:

If we're going to have any hope of leading a small, struggling church into becoming a small, healthy church, there is an essential first step we cannot avoid. Don't worry, you can do it.

Step #1: Stop Assuming that Smallness is a Problem to Be Fixed

Yep, that's it.

Obvious, right?

Simple? For sure.

Easy? Not so much.

This requires a change of mindset which may be harder than many of us realize. Especially since a lot of us may not consciously be aware we've been holding on to this assumption all along.

The biggest problem with small churches is not that they're small. It's that we think being small is a problem.

As I outlined in [The Grasshopper Myth](#), the toxic 'small is bad' thought process took root in me as a result of 30 years of being told we needed to fix small churches by getting them to grow.

A lot of great things have come from the church growth movement. I'll write about those soon. But since you don't fix something that isn't broken, one of the unintended consequences of the church growth movement is that it leaves a lot of people feeling that small equals broken.

But small is not the same as broken because small is not a problem. The idea that small churches are a problem – is a big problem!

When we start with the assumption that smallness is a problem, it:

- Causes resources to be mis-assigned
- Stifles creativity
- Undermines leaders who function best in smaller settings
- Overvalues management gifts, while undervaluing shepherding gifts

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**MARCH
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Gerald Coulsey
Sally Coulsey



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

There are two major issues before the Board at this time are:

The biggest project is the development of plans to make Grace more “user friendly.” The possibility of the addition of classrooms and expansion of the Fellowship Hall at the back of the sanctuary has become our focus at this time. In March, John Rosecrans, our architect, will meet with engineers at Grace to see if our concept of this project is feasible. Later he will meet with the Building Accessibility & Functionality committee (Shannon, Barbara, Pastor Randy, Paul, and Ken) who were assigned this project. Hopefully, a greater understanding of the structural implications will be revealed and a better idea of costs.

The other high priority for the Board is the charge given to us of discerning how Church Life, Outreach & Administration will use the funds from the Jean Atkinson gift. These three Ministries are developing and researching plans on how this fund will be used.

Please join the Board in prayer for God’s guidance for both of these important issues.

Ken Danielson, Acting Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Thank you Pastor for your sermon recently on 1 John 1: 1-4; I needed that shot in the arm. The author says he proclaims the things he has seen and heard so we also may have fellowship with him (and one another) which is with the Father and his Son! He shares this with us to make our joy complete. Pastor’s points of listening to God, “see” it with our own eyes, and verify it with our own hands (becoming convinced as Peter did) causes my attitude to change as it did the author of 1 John.

This parallels my readings in Outreach Magazine. Are we telling people about Christ in our lives so they can have fellowship with the Father, and us? Do we examine what is happening in our own lives so we can “see” how Christ is working in us? Mark Teasdale wrote an article in the magazine titled, “The Evangelism Equation”, which raises questions to help us with a starting point to share about Jesus. He asks us to answer these questions: What is so good about Jesus Christ that I remain publicly committed to him? and, What is the good thing Jesus Christ provides that I would not be able to live without if I renounced my faith? Similarly, as we have discussed in the Men’s class on Sundays, the answers to these questions help us individually to create a beginning point when we are asked to explain or share “the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15). Be salt and light in an attractive way! Thank you Ruth, Seth, and Larry for your recent inspiration!

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

OUTREACH

“Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities” is the theme for the America for Christ Offering. 29 % of this offering supports Regional Ministries; 20% supports Neighborhood Action Program Christian Centers, and other portions support trainings for ministers and local congregations. The offering is being taken through March. Our Goal is \$1500.

Currently the Outreach Committee is evaluating how we can continue to support Bridger School, Bridger Harvest Share and MUM’s Food Distribution. In addition we are beginning to explore finding a new community ministry we can support both with time and finances. Please pray for Grace and how God can use us to be his servants in our local community.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

2017 MINISTRY COMMITTEES

Administration

Ken Danielson-Lay Minister
 Dave Becker
 Barb Furman
 Larry Martin
 Toni Masters
 Paul Young

Church Life

Judy Young-Lay Minister
 Theresa Benson
 Dan Jones

Christian Education

Beth Jones-Lay Minister
 Georgia Young
 Open Positions

Finance

Sharon Owen-Lay Minister
 Sally Coulsey-At Large

Larry Martin-Treasurer
 Nancy Uhlinger-Financial Secretary
 Seth Young-Endowment

Outreach

Carol Martin-Lay Minister
 Barbara Furman
 Shannon Hastings
 Diana Hiatt
 Betsy Vulgan

Spiritual Life

Paul Young-Lay Minister
 Barbary Furman
 Shannon Hastings
 Toni Masters
 Betsy Vulgan
 Seth Young

Rest Stop

Helen Pearson

(continued from Page 1– Small Healthy Churches)

- Under-utilizes the resources of 80-90 percent of the churches on earth
- Causes us to seek false success
- Blinds us to real success
- and more

On the other hand, what would happen if we all took this first step together and stopped thinking of smallness as a problem?

Advantages of a Positive Mindset about Small Churches

With the false ‘smallness is a problem to be fixed’ premise put to the graveyard where it belongs, church leaders of all styles, denominations and non-denominations could move on to solving other real problems together. And we could step forward into all kinds of God-honoring, life-affirming, people-loving ministry.


We could:

- Find, create and share new tools to help small churches be healthy
- Look for ways churches of all sizes can minister to people of all types
- Strategize about how to plant smaller under-the-radar churches into previously unchurched pockets
- Become more open to forms of church that can only work in a small setting
- Spend less money, time, and energy trying to grow churches that aren’t meant to be big
- Utilize the strengths of leaders who work best in smaller, more intimate settings

(This article first appeared in July 7, 2016 issue of *Christianity Today*. Used by permission of Christianity Today, Carol Stream, IL 60188.)

MARCH 2017

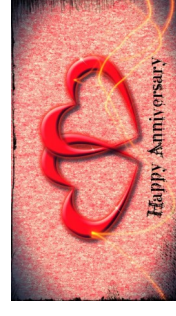
Fellowship Fund offering is received
the first Sunday of the month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	2 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 pm Walleye Club	3 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	4 6:00 pm IVN Sister's Bible Study
5 COMMUNION 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	6	7 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	8 NO 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 Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry Daylight Savings Time Begins	13	14	15 NO 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 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ King's Omelet @ 10711 NE Halsey
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 1:00 pm Board Meeting Spring Begins APRIL GRACE NOTES' ARTICLES DUE	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	29 6:30 pm Adult Bible Study	30 10:30 am Ladies' Bible Study	31 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	

March Birthdays
12 Mildred Rasmussen
29 April Johnson
30 Paul Young

Happy Birthday

March
Anniversaries
22 Steve & Diana Hiatt



GRACE-FULL

Nancy Uhlinger and I would like to thank Barbara Furman for pinch-hitting for Nancy while she was absent in January. Barb made bank deposits, accounted for weekly contributions and other income, and processed and distributed the 2016 giving statements. While all of us sometimes help out and “back each other up”, we are especially thankful for Barbara’s help because the Financial Secretary job requires special knowledge and confidential access. OK, she’s blushing now; I’ve said enough.

Expanding a little on how we “have each other’s backs”, I want to again point out Grace’s finances have remained healthy because of the faithful giving of the members of our congregation. We are also blessed to have two other congregations who share our space and costs, and I thought you would be interested to know how much that income is. For the past year Iglesia Vision Nueva (IVN) has been paying \$575 monthly rent, and since they began renting in May 2016, Light of the World Ministries (LOTWM) has been paying \$250 monthly rent. Beginning March 1 those monthly rents will increase to \$600 for IVN and \$275 monthly for LOTWM. If either church holds a special event or activity beyond their contract, they reimburse us for the extra electricity and water expense.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JANUARY 2017

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 9840.34
Income Received	\$ 9078.47
Expenses	\$ 9752.61
Net Received for Month	\$ (674.14)

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1178.50
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 130.00

Liabilities

General Fund Balance 01/31/17	\$ 10173.66
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 611.03
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 9562.63

Building Fund

Building Fund Balance 11/30/16	\$ 12033.90
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MUM OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

There has been an increase in families and individuals served during the cold months; and they offer thanks to all who have been donating.

The extra laundry detergent and house hold items have been especially appreciated. Please continue with donations of this kind. Sunshine continues to donate 500 to 700 pounds of food each month. If you are able to help with the unloading and stacking of these items on the first or second Tuesday of the month please let me or Seth know.

Time for shelving food on Friday is now at 10:00 am on the Friday of distribution. Next scheduled days are Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18



Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Heart Pantry



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH

7 Deaconesses' Meeting

12 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

17 Bridger's Harvest Share

17 & 18 MUM's Food Distribution

18 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Kings Omelet

20 Board Meeting

20 Articles For April Grace Notes Due In Office



STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

pastorrandy@graceportland.com

Minster of Worship and Music

Judy Young

judy@graceportland.com

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.