

Grace Notes

October 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

(The following article is an excerpt from *Lies We Believe About God* by William Paul Young)

Let us be unequivocally clear: there is nothing good about a cross. It was devised as a torture machine to implement the most profound humiliation and abuse. Its purpose was solely to keep a human being alive as long as possible and in as much pain as possible until his very breath (spirit) was violently ripped from his body through excruciating suffocation. The point of eventually breaking the legs was to speed the process so the executioners could go home to waiting meals and families.

Who originated the Cross?

If God did, then we worship a cosmic abuser, who in Divine Wisdom created a means to torture human beings in the most painful and abhorrent manner. Frankly, it is often this very cruel and monstrous god that the atheist refuses to acknowledge or grant credibility in any sense. And rightly so. Better no god at all, than this one.

The alternative is the Cross originated with us human beings. This deviant device is the iconic manifestation of our blind commitment to darkness. It is our ultimate desecration of the goodness and loving intent of God to create, an intent that is focused on the human creation. It is the ultimate fist raised against God.

And how did God respond to this profound brokenness?

God submitted to it. God climbed willingly onto our torture device and met us at the deepest and darkest place of our diabolical imprisonment to our own lies, and by submitting once and for all, God destroyed its power. Jesus is God's best, given willingly and in opposition to our worst, the Cross.

When did God submit? Not only in Jesus incarnate but before the creation of the world, according to Scriptures (Revelation 13:8). God knew going into the activity of creation what the cost would be. That God's own children, this highest order of creation, would one day make the final attempt to kill Life...

And while evil is never justified, it is redeemed and rescued from its intent, thus becoming a statement of true justice.

This is Jesus. God submitting to our torture machine and transforming it into an icon and monument of grace, so precious to us that we wear it on our rings or around our necks. This torture device declares that there is nothing I can bring to the table that is so evil or broken that God won't climb into it with me. There is nothing so dead that God is incapable of growing in it something living. The Cross, once our greatest attempt at destroying Life, has become our most precious symbol of the God who is hope for us all.

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**OCTOBER
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Diana Hiatt
Steve Hiatt



SPIRITUAL LIFE

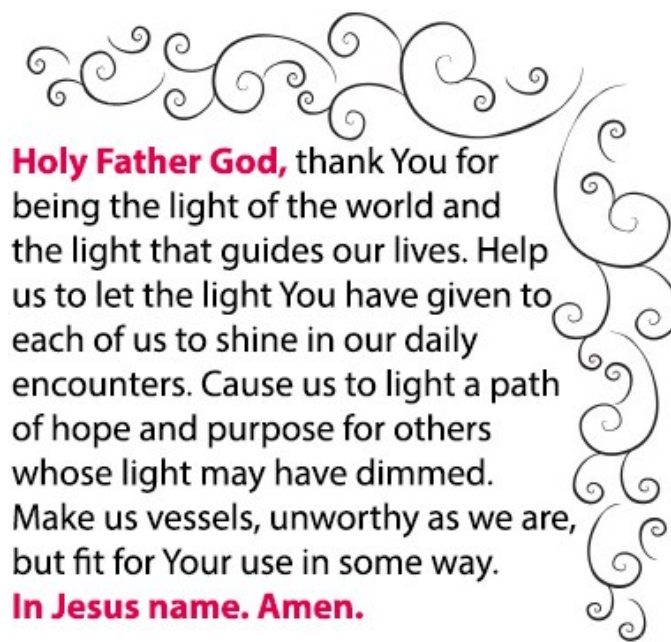
As I wrote in my September article, it seems our business is the Father's business— the business of producing fruit for the kingdom of God.

In my devotional reading, *40 Days with Jesus*, which follows the gospel of Luke, my attention was caught by Chapter 8's Parable of the Sower. After telling the parable, Jesus called out, *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* The disciples evidently didn't understand so they asked him what it meant. Verse 11 begins with, *"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God."* In verse 15 he ends his parable explanation with, *"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce fruit."*

Now read and compare John 1:8&9 to Luke 8:16 where Jesus continues, *"No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light."* It appears Jesus wants us to be seen (for the right reasons) so people can see the light in the dark. After Jesus physically left this world we became his light in the world because he lives within us. Persevering is a key element to producing fruit and we have to keep going! Praise God in all things!

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



MUM'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Hello Grace Family. Some have been most faithful in supporting the "Open Heart Pantry," however, we could step it up some on donations.

Remember to pick up a few extra cans of fruit and/or vegetables and any non-perishable items such as detergents and cleaning items when you shop. All donations are appreciated

Montavilla United Methodist Open Heart Pantry meets the needs of 30 plus families each month. These are mostly people in the area. Items can be left in the white barrel in the entryway any time.

The next food distribution days are Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21. Next shelving day will be Friday October 20 at 10:00am

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Hearts Pantry



GLEN AND RITA CHAPMAN

Come have dinner with Glen and Rita Chapman in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, October 19, 2017, at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.

Glen and Rita Chapman are American Baptist Missionaries working in the Republic of the Congo. They have a four prong ministry- Theological Education, Discipleship, Education and Economic Development. They have been instrumental in upgrading the Kikongo pastoral training school to a university level with three majors: Theology, Agriculture and Teacher Training. Glen is the Academic Dean and teaches: Old Testament, Hebrew, and Baptist Distinctives. Rita maintains the library, teaches English, and works with the wives of the theology students.



Glen uses a Powered parachute for transporting audiovisual equipment to remote villages where he presents evangelism, conservation, and health seminars. They have been involved in raising animals and introducing beekeeping to agricultural training.

Glen writes “Our vision here is to train men and women of integrity who will be able to build the nation in a rural environment. So much land is falling into chaos and deeper poverty because of ignorance and sorcery. We see excitement in our new students and a thirst for knowledge. They are hungry for a firm Biblical foundation. They seek skills that lead to employment and values that are foundational for good management of the community, environment, and managing land in a responsible and sustainable way.”

OUTREACH

World Mission Offering

During the month of October and November, we will be taking the World Mission Offering. This year’s theme is “Come Follow Me” in peace and justice, abolishing global slavery and economic and community development. Currently we have 120 global servants, 1300+ volunteers and 240+global Christian Partners. Grace’s goal is \$1,500. Your gifts powerfully connect us to all of the challenging, life-changing work of the Lord through International Ministries.

Community Christmas Event

On Saturday, December 2, 5:00-7:00 pm, we will be sharing “lighting of the tree” with our community. We will be singing Christmas Carols, enjoying treats such as hot cocoa, and Santa will be available for pictures. Please invite friends to this event starting of the advent season. Sign up for volunteers will be following.

Rest Stop

The rest stop continues to be in use as proved by full waste bins. We are currently taking donations toward putting in a thermostat controlled heater in the bathroom. The cost is up to \$1200 which includes 220 wiring. We also need to replace the carpet in both of the rooms.

Special Missionary Speaker

On Sunday, October 29, we will be having a missionary speaker in our worship service– Sarah Nash. Sarah was recently commissioned as a missionary to Bolivia, and will be working to provide medical and dental services to children with disabilities. Outreach is working on a way to directly support Sarah in her ministry for at least four years. You will be hearing more about this.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

OCTOBER 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 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	2	3 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	4	5 7:00 pm Walleye Club	6 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	7 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal 6:00 pm IVN Sisters Bible Study
8 COMMITMENT SUNDAY 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 2:00 pm Finance Meeting	10	11	12	13 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	14 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
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 1:00 pm Board Meeting	17	18	19 6:30 pm Dinner With The Chapmans	20 10:00 am Stocking and 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 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
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 November Articles Due In Office	24	25	26	27 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	28 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
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	30	31	“Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go.” -Unknown			





October Birthdays
 9 Cheryl Mockford
 10 Molly Tompkins
 27 Larry Martin

Happy Birthday!

October Anniversary
 5 Thai & Maribel Kamsard

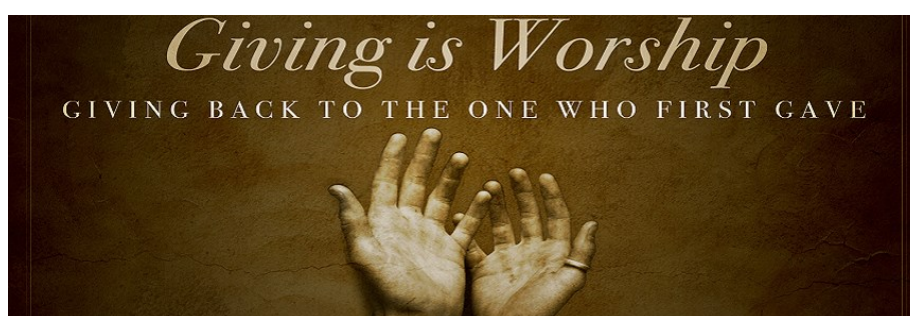
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

GRACE-FULL

As each of us looks to the Lord for our individual needs, I hope you are joining me in praying for Grace. Thanks to some generous special contributions, the General Fund (Operating) is currently in very good shape. It should not have any impact on our regular giving though, because, as I mentioned last month, it is part of our worship of God. The questions our Board is wrestling with are ways God would have us use our financial resources, as well as our time, effort, and prayer support in order to render our best ministry with Him.

I am pleased to relay to you the last portion of the Atkinson estate funds were received: \$60,258.97, which are not reflected in the August figures. Although no decisions have been made as to what will be funded with the bulk of the money, the Board has determined how Grace will tithe this portion of the funds: 10% will go to Camp Arrah Wanna and 10% will go to One Great Hour of Sharing for Hurricane Relief.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance



GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

AUGUST 2017

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 9,790.33
Income Received	\$ 7,906.56
Expenses	\$ 8,032.19
Net Received for Month	\$ (125.63)

Mission Fund

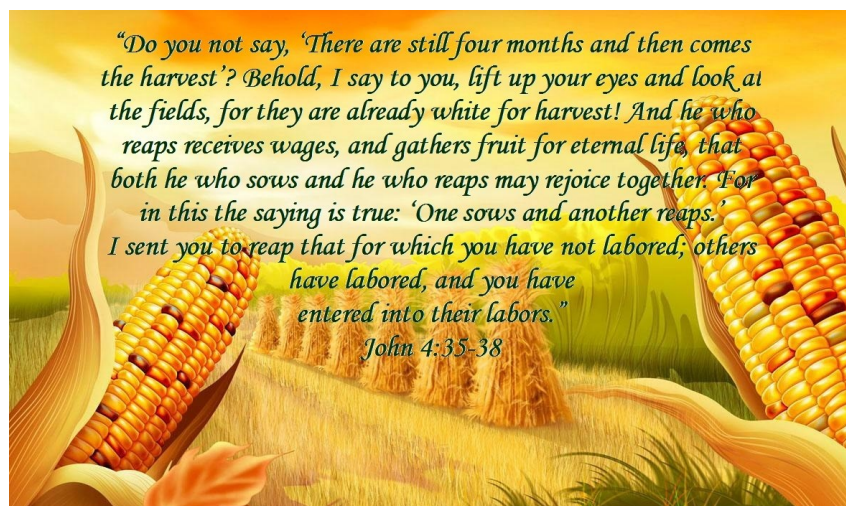
Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,114.85
Specified gifts/offering	\$ 124.95
Total Mission Giving	\$ 1,239.80

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 08/31/17	\$ 19,203.59
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1,230.70
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 17,972.89

Other Funds (08/31/17)

Atkinson Fund	\$105,993.72
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90





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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OCTOBER

3 Deaconesses' Meeting

8 Commitment Sunday

9 Finance Meeting

15 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

16 Board Meeting

19 Dinner With The Chapmans

20 & 21 MUM's Food Distribution

20 Bridger's Harvest Share

23 Articles For September Grace Notes Due In Office

29 Sarah Nash Speaking at Worship

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.