

Grace Notes

September 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

Over the last several days, I have been watching the news about Hurricane Harvey and the devastation it has wreaked on Houston. In the midst of all the chaos and confusion, several stories of heroism and compassion have emerged.

I heard this morning of a family who took 16 people they did not know into their home, and this included 3 dogs plus a litter of puppies. There was another report of a man who drove up to Dallas to buy a boat so he could come back home and help rescue people from the flood waters. And there are many more such stories.

So here is my question, "Why do we have to wait until disaster strikes to reach out to our neighbors?" There used to be a time in our country where neighbors knew each other by name, the names of their kids, and maybe even their birthdays. But it seems those days are long gone, and I think we are worse off for it.

These days most people live disconnected from their neighbors. We might wave at them as we see each other taking out the garbage, but we don't spend much time with them. And again that is sad.

Just recently, as many of you know, we had an issue with a RV illegally parked in our neighborhood. The vehicle became a real eyesore to all the neighbors. The good thing about that situation was the neighborhood came together in its commitment to get the vehicle removed. After over two months of wrestling with the city of Portland, we finally were able to get it towed away. During our efforts to get action, all of the neighbors spoke more with each other in that two month period than we had in two years. When you think about it, that is very sad.

Why is it we wait for disasters or difficult situations before we are willing to intertwine our lives with others? I think it is the sense we are going through this thing together. It is the common shared experience that brings people together in times of disaster and trials.

But here's the thing, we are ALWAYS sharing a common experience, even when there is no disaster, and we don't even recognize it. It's the common experience of life.

I think that is what made Jesus' ministry so successful. He recognized the common thread of life experience in everyone he met, and drew on it to connect with people in a way that changed them. But in order to do that, he took time to talk with people and get to know them.

Lloyd Ogilvie, pastor, writer, and former chaplain of the US Senate, talks about always trying to find the common thread as you talk with people. He tells of being at a social event and talking with a lady who was into yoga and was trying to find her "mantra." In yoga, finding your mantra means determining a name or phrase when repeated brings you good things in life. Ogilvie told the woman he had found a mantra that had always worked for him. Of course she inquired what Ogilvie's mantra was, to which he replied, "Jesus is Lord." Ogilvie says that open the door for more conversation about what it meant to be a follower of Christ.

Let me encourage each of us to not wait for a flood or windstorm or earthquake or any other disaster to share with our neighbors. Take the opportunity to share because we all share life. And maybe, just maybe God will use us, like He used Jesus, to change people's lives.

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**SEPTEMBER
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Theresa Benson
Molly Tompkins



SPIRITUAL LIFE

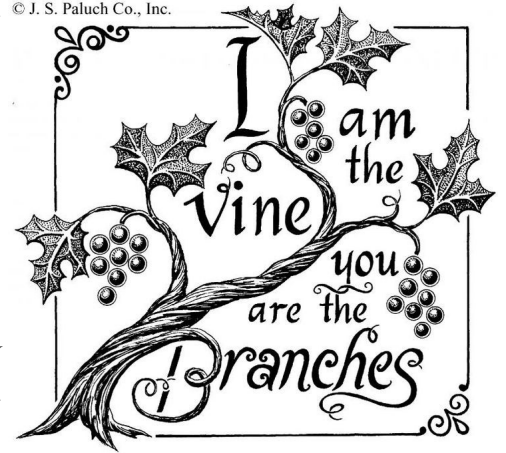
We have been reading the Gospel of John in our Sunday night Bible Study. Recently we read chapter 15. Jesus states he is the “true vine” of Israel and if the disciples remain or abide in him, stay connected, he will abide in them and they will bear fruit. This is to the Father’s glory to bear fruit. Pruning by the Father is done to bear even more fruit. They are to remain in his love.

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Verse 10 says, *“If you (disciples) obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”* Jesus seems to be saying obedience is remaining in his love. If this is true for the disciples, it makes sense we are to remain in his love also.

He then says in verse 12, *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”* My question is, do I love others as Jesus has loved me, and does this mean my enemies also? It seems our business is the business of fruit for the kingdom of God which is the Father’s business.

It also seems God created the heavens and earth to glorify Himself, so we, maybe, were created to glorify Him also and one of those ways is to bear fruit. Hmm... Interesting!



Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

MUM'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

School is starting, but hunger has no end. "The poor will be with you always."

Open Hearts Pantry at Montavilla United Methodist is meeting some of these needs. Needed items for the pantry are: peanut butter, jams or jelly, cereal, canned fruit, and healthy snack items. Remember, we need some canned food that is easily opened and consumed for homeless individuals who come to the pantry. Non-food items which cannot be purchased with food stamps, such as cleaning supplies and laundry soap are needed as well. Remember, Dollar Tree is a good place to buy some of these items.

Next shelving day is Friday September 15 at 10:00am. Next food distribution days are Friday, September 15 at 3:00pm and Saturday September 16 at 9:00am.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Hearts Pantry



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



"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

The Peace of Jesus

"The peace Jesus came to bring was not a peace of appeasement, or the peace of compromise and conformity. It was a spiritual peace. The world doesn't give peace, for it doesn't have any peace to give. It fights for peace, it negotiates for peace, it maneuvers for peace, but there is no ultimate peace in the world. But Jesus gives peace to those who put their trust in Him. If you have received His peace, then you are in His camp. But if you have rejected it, then you are against Him. His peace is available to everyone who will receive it." From *Day By Day* with Billy Graham

As the media reports yet another riot, a terrorist attack, and the general chaos of the world, I'm sure you get discouraged, as I do. Is there anything in my little corner of the world to help bring God's peace? The answer, of course, is "Yes!" We are God's hands and feet. Show God's love by being kind to your neighbors, smiling at the clerk in the grocery or hardware store, helping in a homeless shelter, or donating time to a reading program at a local school. Let God shine through you, as you minister with His love and peace. If Christians all over the world will begin to share God's love and peace with those around them, it will begin to make a difference.

It is exciting to see our new sound and tech booth finished. To be out from under the balcony is a huge help to those running the sound board. Thank you to Pastor Randy and Ken for putting the finishing touches on the booth.

OUTREACH

Meet Rovaughna Richardson who is a new ABC missionary in Ghana (West Africa). Rovaughna is a trained social worker who has been asked to come alongside the Ghana Baptist convention to work with the female slaves from the Trokosi Shrine. These young girls are given to the gods as atonement for some offense committed by a relative. Trokosi literally means "slave wives of the gods." The term of service for these "slaves" is three to five years. However, most families of Trokosi cannot afford the price required to buy their daughters back. The slaves live in inhuman conditions. They are frequently raped and beaten, forced to beg for food, and receive no education or medical attention. Babies born to the girls must also become slaves to the priest.

Girls who have been rescued attend the Baptist Vocational Training Center. Rovaughna is providing psychological and counseling services to the girls. There are currently 70 students, many of whom have never been to a doctor, and voice many physical problems. Rovaughna reports when one girl didn't know her birthday, she helped the girl to choose one.



Rovaughna asks for prayer for the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health of the girls and boys of BVTC as well as for Rovaughna herself. Pray she will become fluent in the EWE language to better support the students who aren't fluent in English, and to better navigate the West African Culture.

SEPTEMBER 2017

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 No Service at Grace 11:00 am Worship at Ararah Wana Friends & Family Camp	4 Friends & Family Camp Ends	5 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	6	7 7:00 pm Walleye Club	8 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	9 6:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study
10 COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:30 Pizza Luncheon 6:00 pm Bible Study Collect Food For Open	11	12	13	14	15 10:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUM Share 1:00 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	16 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution
17 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	18 1:00 pm Board Meeting	19	20	21	22 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	23 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
24 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study Girlfriends' Beach Retreat	25 October Articles Due In Office	26	27	28 Girlfriends' Beach Retreat	29 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study Girlfriends' Beach Retreat	30 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal Girlfriends' Beach Retreat



September Birthdays
 4 Marieta O'Neal
 8 Dick Laughman
 24 Steve Hiatt
 26 Marian Wise
 27 Terri Becker



September Anniversaries
 6 Paul & Judy Young
 17 Gerald & Sally Coulsey



GRACE-FULL

2017 continues to hold financial blessings for Grace. Our General Fund is currently well into the black and we are expecting more proceeds from the Jean Atkinson Estate in the next week. It is good to see faithful giving as a part of our worship of the Lord and responsibility to His body of believers here at Grace. It may be the bounty we have that will initiate a new ministry or build up a current one. God is on the move and let us all pray constantly that we are with Him in obedience and faith!

Turning to the more mundane aspect of our finances, you will be receiving a letter from me in September to consider your level of giving for 2018. Yes, it's already that time of year. Again, prayer will make these decisions congruent with God's purpose for you and for Grace.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JULY 2017

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 9,790.33
Income Received	\$ 15,352.41
Expenses	\$ 8,422.62
Net Received for Month	\$ 10,235.90

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,119.89
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 624.95
Total Mission Giving	\$ 1,744.84

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 07/31/17	\$ 18,715.49
Payroll Tax Liabilities	
& Accounts Payable	\$ 616.97
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 18,098.52

Building Fund

Building Fund Balance 07/31/17	\$ 12,033.90
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HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF FUND

If you have a desire to financially help with hurricane relief in Texas, you can donate to the One Great Hour of Sharing. Make your check out to Grace Baptist, and in the memo line put "OGHS- Hurricane Harvey." OGHS is a great way to support relief from these kinds of catastrophic disasters.

OUTREACH EVENTS

There are upcoming events to put on your calendar to remind you to attend:

- **Sunday September 10:** Bring a friend to church and pizza lunch.
- **Thursday October 16, 6:30pm:** Dinner with Glen and Rita Chapman, ABC Missionary, Republic of Congo.
- **Saturday December 2, 5:00 pm:** Community Christmas Tree Lightening and Carol Sing.

More info will be coming as we get near to the dates of these events.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

1-4 Friends & Family Camp @ Camp Arrah Wanna

5 Deaconesses' Meeting

10 Sunday School Begins

10 Invite A Friend To Church Day

10 Pizza Lunch

10 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

15 & 16 MUM's Food Distribution

15 Bridger's Harvest Share

25 Articles For September Grace Notes Due In Office

28-October 1 Girlfriends' Beach Retreat

STAFF EMAILS

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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.