

Grace Notes

FEBRUARY 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:13

Hope is something which set Christians apart from much of the rest of the world. We are called to hope in the face of disappointment, heartache, insurmountable odds, and chaos. As I mentioned last Sunday, hope is sometimes difficult for me.

However, hopeful is what I felt this past Saturday as our leadership met with the leadership of Iglesia Visión Nueva. As we talked together, planned together, and prayed together I could sense God's presence and the excitement of what would be possible with our two congregations working together in ministry.

I want to share with you a few things which came out of our time together:

First, we are planning a fellowship event called "Friendship Fiesta." This is an event designed to bring our two congregations together in order to get to know each other better. It will combine elements of both fun and sharing. It will be on Saturday, February 10, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Please make plans to attend and get to know the brothers and sisters in Christ we share our building with.

Second, Iglesia Visión Nueva is willing to come along side Grace Baptist and Montavilla United Methodist Church as we seek to open Open Heart Pantry for another day of distribution each month.

Third, will be a joint worship service with Iglesia Visión Nueva on Sunday, April 29.

And finally, and maybe most importantly, Grace and Iglesia Visión Nueva have agreed to work toward putting together a Vacation Bible School this summer, and follow it up with a weekly kids program such as AWANA or something similar. In order to pull this off, it is going to take a lot of prayer, planning, prayer, a willingness to go out into the community and talk with people, and more prayer. Did I mention prayer? Please put this on your personal prayer list!

God has given us a great opportunity, and I am hopeful with his help we can use it to his glory!

Inside This Issue:

Spiritual Life Notes from your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister of Church Life	2
Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries	3
America For Christ Friendship Fiesta Bring A Friend	4
Grace-Full Grace Family Finances Mum's Open Heart Pantry	5

**FEBRUARY
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Gerald Coulsey
Sally Coulsey



SPIRITUAL LIFE

For my daily devotional reading, I have been using a 5-day reading plan based on *All Things New* by Kelly Minter. Day 1, I read about contrasts. In 2 Corinthians 1:1-2, the Apostle Paul drew a contrast between the city of Corinth and the church in Corinth. Paul, from experience, knew the city of Corinth was steeped in chaos and darkness. The church of Corinth, through Jesus' redemption in their life, experienced grace and peace.

Kelly Minter made two points:

1. If God transformed sinners in Corinth, can't He do it where we live?
2. Corinth reminds us that God's church shines most brightly in the darkness rather than in already-lit sanctuaries.

As you consider the striking differences between the things of God and the things of the world, never forget you've been empowered to live beautifully and blatantly set apart because, through Jesus' death and resurrection, the old has gone and the new has come.

Thank you Pastor for your word study, and specifically on the Jan. 21st sermon words: Holy, Sanctify and Sanctuary.

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

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

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you." Colossians 1:3-6

January 2018 was a very different type of month for me than it normally is. I have had to rest more and let people do things for me. I am very grateful for all who have stepped up to the plate and taken over my responsibilities at church. Thank you Pastor Randy, Barb Furman, Betsy Vulgan, and all who have planned the music, prepared the Order of Service and Easy Worship slides. I have truly enjoyed worshiping during this time. Thank you, also, to all of the Grace board members who took on extra responsibilities for me, and to Georgia Young and helpers who hosted the farewell potluck for Theresa Benson. I am looking forward to getting back to my usual routine soon.




We are so blessed to be a part of this loving and caring church family. When a need is expressed, the church family is at the ready to pray, help, and minister to one another.

On Sunday, January 21, many needs and concerns were expressed during our prayer time. As I reflect on and pray for so many who are ill or have physical pain, who are in an oppressive work situation, or are concerned because of the lack of peace in our country and community, I am thankful we have a God to whom we can take all of our needs and pain and sorrow. God is always near to us and hears our prayers. Psalm after Psalm, the Psalmists cry out to God wondering if He is listening, but by the end of the Psalm, the writer knows his trust is in the Holy One, who will deliver.

Prayer is a powerful tool. I would challenge you to spend more time praying to our great and awesome God. Whether it be a longer prayer time each day or just stopping and praying when someone is brought to your mind. God is always listening!

FEBRUARY 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	5 6:30 pm Outreach Meeting	6 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	7	8	9 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	10 1:00 Friendship Fiesta With IVN 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
11 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry	12	13	14 	15	16 10:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUM 1:30 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study Winter Camp @ CAW	17 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ McCrae's 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal Winter Camp @ CAW
18 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study Winter Camp @ CAW	19 1:00 pm Board Meeting March Articles Due In Office Winter Camp Ends	20	21 10:30 am White Cross Work Day	22	23 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	24 9:00 am Church Work Day 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
25 8:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	26	27	28			

February Birthdays

9 Beth Jones
11 Mykall Stensland
24 Sandy Danielson
25 Betsy Vulgan



February Anniversary

28 John & Shannon Hastings



AMERICA FOR CHRIST

During February and March, Grace will collect for the 2018 America for Christ Offering. 29% of this goes to our Regional Ministries and 58% goes to American Baptist Home Mission Society to support programs in cultivating leaders, equipping disciples, and healing communities. Our goal is \$1500.

Through the American for Christ offering, we support 15 neighborhood centers throughout the US and Puerto Rico, from Billings, Montana to West Virginia to Norwich, New York. These centers provide practical assistance to help people overcome barriers that prevent them from becoming all that God intended them to be. This assistance may be as simple as offering friendship or meeting needs for food, shelter, clothing, health care, job training or counseling.

Each center develops ministries to respond to specific needs in their specific communities. Immigration and Refugee Ministries provides resources to congregations who are opening their doors to refugees. During the past five decades, ABC churches have sponsored more than 93,000 refugees, providing families a safe haven and a new home.

In addition, this offering supports local congregations with programs on poverty and ministries dealing with disabilities, disaster response, prisoner re-entry, and after school care for children in poverty.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach



BRING A FRIEND

Starting in February, each 3rd Sunday of the month, we will sponsor an at cost dinner immediately after church.

The purpose of these dinners are to encourage members of Grace to invite friends to come share a meal with them at church. These friends do not need to attend Sunday worship. We want to provide your non-churched friends a friendly and welcoming environment in which to get to know your church friends.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach



GRACE-FULL

As I write, there are events coming up which will feed into Grace's ministry for 2018, and perhaps long after this year. One event is the February Board meeting which will be devoted to financial discussions. First, we will discuss and pray about how to best use the additional \$40,000 from the Atkinson estate we received last September. In that conversation we will be considering actual and potential Grace ministry opportunities. Second, we will continue to monitor the 2018 church budget. Our budget versus income will be very, very tight this year, but with God's blessings and guidance, we will make budget. However, the board will continue to monitor both income and expenses on a monthly basis.

The leadership of Grace continues to meet with the leadership of Iglesia Vision Nueva to collaborate together in ministry. On January 27 we met to plan for a fellowship activity which is happening on Saturday, February 10, and a work day on Saturday, February 24. These happenings are anticipated to bring our congregations together in ways that will help all of us begin to put faces, personalities, and names together in a way that will facilitate our working together in ministry with God. All of these events and activities are opportunities to move forward in ministry, in concert with fellow Christians, and, most importantly, in concert with God.

I hope you have recognized finances, fellowship, planning, and worshiping are all aspects of our believer community that come together to allow us to do God's ministry, which is why we exist as a church. LET US PRAY!!!

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

DECEMBER 2017

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 9,790.33
Income Received	\$ 9,049.10
Expenses	\$ 10,674.42
Net Received for Month	\$ (2,220.01)

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,298.90
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 940.00
Total Mission Giving	\$ 2,238.90

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 12/31/17	\$ 12,116.08
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1,799.65
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 10,316.43

Other Funds (12/31/17)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 149,204.13
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90

MUM'S OPEN HEART PANTRY

February is Love month; Heart month. Can you find it in your heart to show some love and donate to the Open Heart barrel for the Open Heart Pantry? All food items are needed and welcomed. Also needed are nonfood items for personal hygiene and cleaning household items.

The next food distribution days are Friday and Saturday, February 16-17.

Open Heart Pantry is considering opening a third day each month staffed by members of Grace Baptist and Iglesia Vision Nueva. It could possibly be a week day as opposed to a weekend. 3-4 individuals are required to run a distribution day. If this is something you would like to be involved with, please let myself or Carol Martin know. It is not difficult and training would be provided.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Open Heart Pantry.



Grace Baptist Church

200 SE 76th Ave.

Portland, OR 97215

Phone: 503-254-5111

Fax: 503-254-4688

Email: grace@graceportland.com

Web: www.graceportland.com

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY

10 Friendship Fiesta With IVN

11 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

16 & 17 MUM's Food Distribution

16 Bridger's Harvest Share

17 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ McCrae's

401 E. Powell Blvd., Gresham

16-19 Youth Winter Camp @ CAW

19 Articles For February Grace Notes Due In Office

21 White Cross Work Day

24 Church Work Day

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.**