

# Grace Notes

## JANUARY 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



### Pastor Randy's Notes

The month of January is named after the Roman God Janus. In Roman mythology, Janus is the god of beginnings and transitions, and of gates, doors, doorways, endings and time. Janus is most often depicted as having two faces—one face looking in and the other out, in the case of gates or doorways, or one looking to the past and one to the future in the case of time.



The image of Janus is an apt symbol as we move into a new year. This time of year tends to be a time of reflection on the events of the past year, and a time of anticipation of what the new year will bring.

One thing we need to be aware of is the danger of spending too much time dwelling on the past. What's done is done, and there is nothing we can do to change things. If we are always looking to the past, we can miss what God has in store for us in the future.

In Philippians 3 the Apostle Paul reflects on his past life and refers to it as "garbage" (this is an acceptable euphemism for what the Greek word really means). Paul could have spent time wallowing around in all of his failures in his life before he came to know Christ. Instead he makes this resolve, *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."* (vv. 13b-14)

These are words that are very helpful to me, personally. If I chose, I could spend a lot of time reflecting back on 2017 and rue much of what took place. 2017 was definitely not the year that I had hoped for!

However, in v. 15 Paul entreats me, entreats all of us, to not feel sorry for ourselves and to share his view—*"All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things."* What view is that? To forget and press on.

So, as I enter 2018 I will choose to forget much of 2017 and press on in the things which God has for me.

What will you choose for 2018?

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JANUARY  
COMMUNION  
SERVERS:  
Barb Furman  
Shannon Hastings



## SPIRITUAL LIFE

This Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day was not what Judy and I expected! But we pressed on with the positive and looked forward to the expectation of HOPE in Christ Jesus that tomorrow will be different, and He has overcome the world. Praise God.

Judy is slowly recovering from the effects of her viral attack on her heart muscles that caused her heart stress. A lot of our plans and accomplishments changed during this time, but we continued to seek God in all of it and give the situations over to Him. Prayers were pretty constant, by us and you, and we couldn't have come through it without them. Thank you, thank you! We continue to thank God for healing through this. Isn't it amazing how wondrously our bodies are made!

Thank you, Pastor Carren, for your message about Biblical Characters (the shepherds, Apostles, and others) who acted on the Word given to them and then went into their world to share the Good News with others. What a wonderful reminder we, too, have that responsibility in our life.

Continue to be light and salt in the world around us so others can see and believe also!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Blessings!  
Paul Young,  
Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



## MUM'S OPEN HEART PANTRY

A new year and new beginnings have begun. Yet, some things never change. Hunger has no ending and the needs of those less fortunate continue. Open Heart pantry continues to help about 30 families in the neighborhood each month.

Usual food items are needed, as well as non-food items such as laundry products and personal hygiene items. Remember to pick up extra food items when you shop. Take advantage of coupons and Dollar Tree for some non-food items. The white barrel in the entry is always there and you can bring in items any time.


Next shelving day is Friday, January 19. Food distribution days are Friday January 19 at 3:00 pm and Saturday, January 20 at 10:00 am

Shannon Hastings,  
Liaison for Open Heart Pantry.



# JANUARY 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn 12:00 pm Girlfriends' White Elephant Gift Exchange 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
7 COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Farewell To Theresa Potluck 6:00 pm Bible Study	8 3:00 pm Board Meeting 6:30 Outreach Meeting	9 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	10	11	12 Annual Reports Due In Office 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	13 9:00 am Undecorate church 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
14 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	15	16	17	18	19 10:00 am Stocking and Shelves Food @ MUM 1:00 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	20 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
21 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	22 7:00 pm Joint Meeting With IVN February Articles Due In Office	23	24	25	26 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	27 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
28 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 am Annual Meeting	29	30	31			

## January Birthdays

2 John Hastings  
9 Barb Furman  
19 Sharon Owen  
19 Ken Danielson  
25 Seth Young



## January Anniversary

31 Earl & Marian Wise





## OUTREACH

Thank you to all who helped with Grace's two outreach events in December. Even though the weather was cold and rainy at the Christmas Tree Lighting, and we had to move it into the fellowship hall, it was an evening of fellowship and community. We had neighbors, Iglesia Vison Nueva, and Grace altogether to begin the Christmas season together. Both Santa and Lance's balloon animals were a hit with the children. Together with Iglesia Vision Nueva, we provided gifts for eight families, 39 individuals from Bridger and Vestal School.

Last October we met with Sarah Nash. Sarah is a newly appointed ABC Missionary to Bolivia. She will serve through the new extension of House of Hope in Santa Cruz in partnership with Union Bautista Bolivia, working in urban ministries to families, women, and children at risk in the Department of Cochabamba. The House of Hope offers tutoring and after school programs for children, works with youth with addictions, serves the homeless, and provides medical and dental clinics for at-risk children. Her goal is to be in Bolivia by October 2018.



Sarah is currently in the support development phase of her journey to Bolivia. Grace has committed to come alongside of her. We have set aside \$2000 a year for four years from the Atkinson fund to match any designated giving for Sarah. Please consider giving to Sarah's support. Any giving through Grace will be matched.

Carol Martin,  
Lay Minister of Outreach

## NOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER & LAY MINISTER OF CHURCH LIFE

Saying "thank you" hardly seems adequate to express my gratitude for all of the prayers, cards, and visits during my "heart" episode! I certainly know God has carried me through this and all of your prayers have been a big part of that. We are so blessed to belong to a church family that is so caring and loving. Please continue to pray for me as I continue this slow recovery.

Love to all,  
Judy Young

## GRACE-FULL

As I write on New Year's Day, we have a whole new year to look forward to. Financially, we will end 2017 in the black. However, we will need to monitor finances very closely in 2018, and the Board will have to simultaneously address our ministry goals and our financial situation. Our expenses have been at least \$2,000 over our income for both October and November, and the December outlook is only slightly better. As your Lay Minister of Finance, I will be bringing the situation to the Board's attention.

Our God is wonderful and can bring money "from a rock" if needed. The Grace Family always steps up when there is work He shows us to do. I ask that every member of the congregation seriously talk with God about what He wants for us to do with Him in 2018. Then pray that your Board will see how to lead us.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

## GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

### NOVEMBER 2017

#### General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 9,790.33
Income Received	\$ 7,774.33
Expenses	\$ 10,113.65
Net Received for Month	\$ (2,339.06)

#### Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,054.25
Specified gifts/offering	\$ 491.00
Total Mission Giving	\$ 1,545.25

#### General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 11/30/17	\$ 13,741.40
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1,205.58
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 12,535.82

#### Other Funds (11/30/17)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 150,029.90
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90





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

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY**

**6 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn**

**6 Girlfriends' White Elephant Gift Exchange In  
Fellowship Hall**

**7 Farewell To Theresa Potluck**

**8 Board Meeting**

**8 Outreach Meeting**

**9 Deaconesses' Meeting**

**12 Annual Reports Due In Office**

**14 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry**

**19 & 20 MUM's Food Distribution**

**19 Bridger's Harvest Share**

**22 Articles For February Grace Notes Due In Office**

**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.