

Grace Notes

MARCH 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

In Matthew 18:19-20, Jesus makes a promise to his disciples, *"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

Most of the time when we think about this passage we do so in the context of worshiping. However, an argument could be made what Jesus is talking about here is corporate prayer—praying together.

Over the last year there has been a lot of growth in people's personal prayer lives and spiritual journeys. But there has been a lack of our church coming together as a whole in prayer.

Most of the time we think of prayer as a personal exercise, something we do by ourselves. However, there is a lot of talk in scripture about God's people praying together, especially the early church in the book of Acts.

Even Jesus prayed in a group with his disciples. We have the Lord's Prayer because one of Jesus' disciples heard him praying and asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. In fact, when you read the Lord's prayer, you will notice all of the pronouns are plural, as if Jesus is telling us, "Pray together like this."

This past week our leadership board was discussing challenges Grace faces as we move forward in the future and continue to do ministry to the glory of God. It is my belief that we are not equipped to meet those challenges, and we will never be equipped to meet them left to our own devices.

We desperately need the help of God, and the leadership of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the tasks God has for us to do. And the only way we are going to have that is coming together in prayer and seeking God's face.

Over the next month's we are going to be offering more and more opportunities for God's people to come together in prayer and claim the promise Jesus gave his disciples in Matthew 18. Let me implore you to take advantage of those opportunities so together we can seek God's will together as we move forward in reaching people for Christ and transforming lives through the Holy Spirit.

Inside This Issue:

Notes From The Board Spiritual Life	2
Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries	3
Notes from your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister of Church Life America For Christ Meet Rebecca and Larry Stanton	4
White Cross Mum's Open Heart Pantry Grace Family Finances	5

**MARCH
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Paul Young
Seth Young



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

The Board continues to work with the leadership of Iglesia Visión Nueva to enable our congregations to get to know each other through opportunities for fellowship and worship and to ultimately come together in support of each other in ministry. Our next joint leadership meeting will be Saturday, March 24.

As you have heard, Pastor Randy will be taking his three month sabbatical during April, May and June. We have asked Pastor Rich Carroll to fill the pulpit during this time. Pastor Rich was a long time pastor at Lakeshore Community Church in Vancouver, WA. He is now retired, but continues to minister as a mediator with Peace Connections, an organization who helps churches with conflict resolution. Several members of the board and Pastor Randy had the opportunity to meet with Pastor Rich on February 12 and begin to get to know him. We look forward to having him share God's word with us during Pastor Randy's absence. His first Sunday with us will be April 8.

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2018 and beyond, the Board is undertaking times of prayer and discernment over decisions that will enable us to continue to minister within the financial resources God blesses us with.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

An 11-day devotional I am reading by Phil Cooke & Jonathan Bock, *The Way Back – Get Your Christian Life Back on Track*, suggests “the greatest threat to American Christianity in 2018 is American Christians. We are our own worst enemy.” These devotionals are based on the #1 Christian New Release Book on Amazon, *The Way Back – How Christians Blew Our Credibility and How We Get it Back*, by the same authors. They noted seven mysteries the early church attendees were radically committed to: surrender, scripture, submission, service, sacrifice, simplicity, and suffering.

Helen also noted in her sermon that WE stand in God's way all too often. I became an example of that minutes after the service was over. I was focused on doing something and someone came right behind me and unknowingly un-did what I had just done. I curtly hollered across the room selfishly to the person who had un-done my effort to leave it alone. My hollering was un-called for and I hurt that person's feelings terribly. I did apologize, but not until I was confronted by the person, rightfully, and was told how it hurt them. I should have gone to the person and explained to them what I was doing instead of hollering across the room a command! That was my mistake and I hurt at least one person because I didn't communicate in a personal conversation.

Do you see how many of the seven mysteries I “transgressed” in my mistake? I look forward to reading more on these mysteries to help me to get and to stay on track! I continue to be transformed from water into wine!??

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

MARCH 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 pm Walleye Club Meeting	2 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	3 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
4 <i>COMMUNION</i> 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	5	6 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	7	8	9 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	10 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
11 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Potluck Birthday Party For Mildred Rasmussen 6:00 pm Bible Study Daylight Saving Time Begins!	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	17 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 11:30 am Girlfriends' March Luncheon @ Spaghetti Factory (we will be carpooling) 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
18 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	19 1:00 pm Board Meeting	20 	21	22	23 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	24 8:00 am Joint Leadership Meeting 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
25 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	26 April Articles Due In Office	27	28	29	30	31

March Birthdays
12 Mildred Rasmussen
29 April Johnson
30 Paul Young

Happy Birthday!

March Anniversary

22 Steve & Diana Hiatt



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

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing! He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23

I saw this Psalm with fresh eyes this morning after listening to Helen's message on Sunday. We worship a God who is so mighty, so amazing and majestic, so powerful, yet I see in this Psalm a God who does so much for each one of us! He LOVES us to the degree that he provides for our needs, he gives us peace and rest, he guides us, always. Our lives are full to overflowing because of his great mercy. As Helen said, we need to be on our knees thanking him every day, in awe of what he does.

On Sunday, March 11, immediately after our morning worship, we will be celebrating Mildred Rasmussen's 90th birthday. Her family has requested we have a potluck meal for her on that day. Please bring food to share. Mildred's daughter, Nancy, says her favorite part of the meal is dessert; so besides the birthday cake they will bring, you are welcome to bring a sweet treat! As usual, we will provide the plates, flatware and beverages. It will be wonderful to have Mildred with us on that day.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST

Grace continues to collect the American for Christ offering: Cultivating Leaders, Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities. One area this offering supports is the ABC's Disaster-response Ministries. *"Just as you did it unto the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me" Matthew 25:40.*

During the last year we saw hurricanes, tornados and wild fires. American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) provided financial assistance in every American Baptist region, including Puerto Rico. This financial assistance met immediate needs for food, shelter, and medical care. ABHMS also works toward long-term recovery such as, organizing volunteer disaster-response work crews.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach



MEET REBECCA AND LARRY STANTON

Larry and Becky Stanton are currently serving with IM partners Hungarian Baptist Aid and Baptist Union of Hungary. Becky works with schools in the eastern region of the country. Larry assists Serbian Baptist churches in Stara Moravica and Paer with service to the community and to refugees along the Balkan route. One of their projects is working with a local church to build a kitchen that will serve the refugee population.



WHITE CROSS

There are many ways both men and women can continue to be of assistance. We can always use more rolled bandages. See any of the women who have worked on these if you have not done this before. There is need for 36"x 36" light weight flannel baby blankets and simple baby gowns. These can be home made or purchased. Funds are needed for postage for mailing of bandages and other items.

Rainbow Acres and First Crow Indian Baptist Church have a list of needs, but will accept gift cards from Walmart or Costco. This may be the best way to help with these needs.

We also collect funds for International Missions. We have sent funds to the Philippines and to Dominican Republic as well as others in the past.

If you can help in any of these areas, please see me, Nancy Uhlinger, or Georgia Young.

Shannon Hastings, White Cross Chair person for Grace Baptist

MUM'S OPEN HEART PANTRY

Greetings once again from Montavilla United Methodist Church Open Heart Pantry.

The need continues to grow. There has been an increase in numbers on the distribution days. Basic food items and hygiene items continue to be a need. Please remember to pick up extra when you shop. Make use of coupons and special offers. Hygiene items may be purchased at low cost from Dollar Tree.

Grace is talking with Montavilla United Methodist about the possibility of staffing additional day of distribution each month. This is still in the early talking stages. If you feel this may be an area where you would like to serve, please talk to me or Carol Martin.

The next Open Heart distribution days will be Friday, March 16, 3:00-6:00 pm and Saturday, March 17, 9:00 am-1:00 pm. The next shelving day will be Friday March 16. 10 :00-11:00 am.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Open Heart Pantry.

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JANUARY 2018

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25
Income Received	\$ 7,915.60
Expenses	\$ 9,280.87
Net Received for Month	\$ (1,365.27)

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,115.40
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 215.00
Total Mission Giving	\$ 1,330.40
Sarah Nash Match	\$ 155.00
Total Mission Payments	\$ 1,485.40

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 01/31/18	\$ 9,573.96
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ (622.80)
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 8,951.16

Other Funds (01/31/18)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 139,967.25
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90



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 MARCH

3 White Cross Work Day

11 90TH Birthday Potluck For Mildred Rasmussen

11 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

16 & 17 MUM's Food Distribution

16 Bridger's Harvest Share

17 Girlfriends' March Luncheon @ Downtown Spaghetti

Factory (we will be carpooling)

26 Articles For April Grace Notes Due In Office

24 Joint Leadership Meeting With Iglesia Visión Nueva

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.