

# Grace Notes

## MAY 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING PASTOR, RICH CARROLL

May 20th is Pentecost; the culmination of the traditional Jewish celebration of the grain harvest. It was a celebration of life, where Jewish families would gather to enjoy meals together and celebrate God's providence. Often referred to as the "feast of weeks", it came seven weeks after Passover and was celebrated on the fiftieth day. Many who came for Passover would remain in the city for this event. They would be joined by even more who did not want to miss this culminating harvest celebration. It was also the event God chose to birth the Church...a new family...the living body of Jesus Christ on earth.

New births are always exciting, but I can't imagine what that Pentecost celebration must have been like for the disciples. For forty-nine days they had been following the Lord's instructions to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of God which would empower them to take His message "to the ends of the earth." We read while they were gathered together on Pentecost, they were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit and began to worship the Lord in languages foreign and unknown to them, but easily recognized by many in the crowd gathered about them.

You see, the city was filled with celebrants from distant places. Coming from different regions, they spoke different languages, had different colored skin, experienced different cultures, and held views and values that differed as well. If there was ever a divergent gathering of worshipers of God, this was it. And yet they found themselves being powerfully connected through the experience of a shared language praising God.

Eventually, after the initial commotion settled down, Peter was able to share the "good news" of new life in Jesus Christ. Can you imagine what the disciples thought when over 3,000 strangers from all over that part of the world came forward to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord? What a baptism service that must have been! And what excitement and confusion must have followed as this new Church of over 3,000 very different people, all filled with Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God, gathered to worship and discover what the Lord was going to do next.

In our world today, where people live in communities for years and never speak with their neighbors, much less interact with people different from them, it is hard to imagine how this first birth of the Church survived beyond the initial celebration. But they did. In fact, in coming weeks thousands more would join them. And rather than confusion and calamity, Luke described them being one in heart and mind; devoted to the apostle's teaching, fellowship, prayer, and sharing their possessions together.

What a unique experience. Wouldn't you like to have even a taste of what that must have been like? I know I do. That is why I am so excited to be a part of Grace Baptist Church in this season when we have two opportunities to enjoy a small sampling of the reality of the Church birthed on Pentecost so long ago. On April 29th, we will be worshipping our Lord together with our brothers and sisters from Iglesia Vision Nueva. And again on May 18th, brothers and sisters in Christ from as many as four different congregations will be gathering together for the Bilingual Worship Jam. Just imagine...this sanctuary is going to be filled with people who have come from different parts of the world, with different colored skin, different languages, cultures, views, and values. And yet, all filled with Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God, gathered to worship and discover what the Lord is going to do next. I can't wait.

### 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 Rhythms of the Spirit	4
Outreach Grace Family Finances Mum's Open Heart Pantry	5

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## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

### Praying for Church Leadership

The list of things to keep in our individual and corporate prayer includes the church leadership. I'm including here some things for you to have in mind as you pray for the Board. The Board is continuing to seek God's direction and guidance in a number of areas and it is our desire to be open to whatever that leading might be.

We seek God's guidance:

- For our day-to-day ongoing operation and ministry, including our work with Iglesia Vision Nueva.
- For the best use of the building and its maintenance.
- For the optimal use of our finances for ministry. This includes determining how God would have us use the remaining \$20,000 received from the Atkinson estate in 2017 for which we have not discerned a purpose.
- In identifying God's plan for Grace Baptist Church in the long term.
- The Board will be making day-to-day decisions while Randy is on sabbatical, but any major decision making will not take place until after he returns.

### Our work with Iglesia Vision Nueva

We continue to work with the leadership of Iglesia Vision Nueva to provide opportunities for worship and ministry together. A committee has been formed of members from each church to plan and organize a Vacation Bible School. Details about the VBS will be shared as they become available. Our next joint leadership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 9.

### Light of the World Ministries

For about two years Light of the World Ministries used our building for worship and other events. In early 2018 there were changes in the life of Pastor Rax and his family and they ended up moving to California; and that ended Light of the World's use of our building. The two key impacts on us have been the loss of the monthly rental income, and we now have four cleaning teams instead of five. We are thankful for the time they were with us and the opportunity we had to share our building with their congregation.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

We have begun a season of corporate prayer: Sundays at 10:40 am, in the small room off the sanctuary, to pray for the worship service and God's leading, as well as Mondays at 10:00 am, Tuesdays at 4:15 pm, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 am. Feel free to join in any of these times. There are suggestions on the white board in the room regarding what to pray for. Feel free to add your requests and praises. There is no minimum or maximum time limit. If you don't have a key and the double doors are locked during these times, go around the front of the building to the side door outside that room and knock, so folks in the room can open it from the inside for you.

The room we are using for prayer is going to be renovated to provide more space. If anyone would like shelving from that room, please contact Ken Danielson or Paul Young; otherwise it and the closet with the partial wall will be removed and thrown away to make room for a comfortable meeting space.



Our Spiritual Life committee has sent letters to inactive members in an effort to update our membership rolls which hasn't been done in many years. We are hearing a mixed response to those letters and truly encourage them to join with a local body of believers, since most have moved away, or to become active again at Grace and a couple other options.

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life


# MAY 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	2	3 7:00 pm Walleye Club Meeting	4 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	5 4:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
6 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	7	8	9	10	11 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	12 9:00 am Church Workday 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
13 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship Mother's Day!	14 11:00 am Board Meeting	15	16	17	18 10:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUMC 1:30 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:00 pm PDX Praise Jam	19 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution 10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ King's Omelet 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
20 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:15 pm Bring A Friend To Lunch 6:00 pm Bible Study	21	22	23	24	25 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	26 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
27 9:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 10:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	28 Memorial Day!	29	30	31	In Memory of America's Armed Forces 	

**May Birthdays**

15 Gerald Coulesey  
23 Diana Hiatt  
23 Jenny Whiting  
29 Bob Fox



**May Anniversary**

5 Dan & Beth Jones

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



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



*“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” Max Lucado*

- ♦ I am thankful for our corporate prayer times at Grace. There is comfort and power when you get together with believers and pray. God is always at work in our lives, and I am so thankful for His presence. Whether you are able to come to church

during the week to pray, or have to stay in, please continue to pray for our church, our members, our mission, and our leadership.

- ♦ Georgia Young and I met with some members of Iglesia Vision Nueva to discuss their desire to plan a Vacation Bible School. This is an activity they have never participated in. They are asking us to partner with them to minister to the children in our area. We discussed curriculum, preparation, and logistics. They will decide the date and theme; then we will come together again to help them make this a reality. It will be a pleasure to help them. I will keep you all updated as to time and date. Please pray for them as they prepare and consider what you can do to help them.
- ♦ PDX Praise Jam will be on Friday, May 18, at 7:00 pm. This will be a four-church praise and worship evening held here at Grace. Please plan to attend this exciting event. Woodland Park, Esperanza, Iglesia Visión Nueva, and Grace will all participate. It is a joyous time of music, scripture, and prayer. Refreshments will be served following the event. Invite a friend to attend with you.
- ♦ Summer Worship Schedule begins on Sunday, May 27 (Memorial Day Weekend). This year we will begin our worship at 10:30 am with fellowship time at 10:00 am. There will be no Sunday School during the months of June, July, and August.

## RHYTHMS OF THE SPIRIT

The American Baptist family on the West Coast will be treated to a unique spiritual retreat experience at Camp Arrah Wana, June 4-8, 2018, sponsored by our ABCCPC region. The website explains that the intent of this conference/retreat is to give you time to explore the gifts of silence and solitude and how those gifts will enhance your life and ministry. To develop a more contemplative life, time is necessary to practice contemplation and how many of us take that time? This opportunity allows us to focus on what God is saying to us—to LISTEN—as Pastor Rich explained to us in a recent sermon.

I was captured by this quote by Howard Thurman: “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” We have spent a great deal of time and energy trying to “divine” what our community and neighborhood needs from us. Maybe we need to re-evaluate who we are—each unique individual person--and hear from God as to what each of us should do to strengthen and further his Kingdom on Earth.

The retreat has a \$15 registration fee plus \$185 for those who commute and \$285 for those staying at Arrah Wana. The Leadership Team has four members, including our own Jeff Savage, pastor at Springfield First Baptist Church, who is the Keynote speaker each day. More information is available at [www.rhythmsofthespirit.com](http://www.rhythmsofthespirit.com). You can register by calling the ABCCPC office.

In conjunction with the Grace focus on corporate prayer, this event can be a catalyst for enhancing our prayer lives.

Sharon Owen

## OUTREACH

### **Bring a Friend To Lunch**

On Sunday, May 20, after the worship service, the Outreach Ministry will be providing a lasagna lunch. This is an opportunity for you to invite friends and/or family to join you for worship and lunch or to just join you for lunch.

### **Open Hearts Food Pantry**

It appears there is sufficient interest in our Grace family to put together a team to begin staffing the Montavilla Methodist Open Hearts Food Pantry distribution on Thursday of the same week as they are already open on Friday and Saturday. We will be meeting with the pantry coordinators in May to determine when we will begin this expansion of our ministry with them.

### **Montavilla Street Fair**

The Outreach Committee has decided to once again have a booth at the Montavilla Street Fair. This year it will be held on Sunday, July 29, and we plan to give out water and snacks. This gives us the opportunity to have a presence with our neighbors and the community as they gather for a day of fun.

### **Rest Stop**

Our Rest Stop continues to be used and enjoyed by our first responders. Thank you to all who have donated coffee K-cups and chocolate candy.

## GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

### MARCH 2018

#### **General Operating Fund**

Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25
Income Received	\$ 7,525.70
Expenses	\$ 8,941.73
Net Received for Month	\$ (1,416.03)

#### **Mission Fund**

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,113.30
Specified gifts/offering	\$ 465.00
Sarah Nash Match	\$ 180.00
Total Mission Payments	\$ 1,758.30

#### **General Fund Balance and Liabilities**

General Fund Balance 03/31/18	\$ 9,897.93
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1,817.40
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 8,079.53

#### **Other Funds (03/31/18)**

Atkinson Fund	\$ 139,515.53
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90

## MUMC'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Beautiful warm weather, yet there are still so many in need! Remember to bring non-perishable food to the donation barrel in the entryway. God bless each of you and thank you for remembering the Montavilla United Methodist Open Heart Pantry.

As usual, the pantry is always in need of personal care items, such as: toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and bath soap. They are also in need of household cleaning supplies that are not usually available at food bank donation sites. Remember to shop at Dollar Tree for good prices; and take advantage of coupons from other stores.

Next shelving day is Friday, May 18, at 10:00 am. Food distribution days are Friday, May 18, at 3:00 pm and Saturday, May 19, at 9:00 am

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Open Hearts Pantry.



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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 MAY**

**1 Deaconesses' Meeting**

**12 Church Work Day**

**13 Mother's Day**

**14 Board Meeting**

**18 Stocking Shelves at MUM**

**18 Bridger's Harvest Share**

**18 PDX Praise Jam**

**18 & 19 Food Distribution at MUM**

**19 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ King's Omelet,**

**10711 NE Halsey**

**20 Bring A Friend To Lunch**

**27 Summer Worship Time Begins**

**STAFF EMAILS**

**Pastor**

Randy Pearson

[pastorrandy@graceportland.com](mailto:pastorrandy@graceportland.com)

**Minster of Worship and Music**

Judy Young

[judy@graceportland.com](mailto:judy@graceportland.com)

**Secretary**

Beth Jones

[grace@graceportland.com](mailto: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.