

# Grace Notes

## JULY 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



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

Launda and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the brothers and sisters of Grace Baptist Church for the wonderful experience of “filling in” while Pastor Randy was on his sabbatical.

Grace is a very appropriate name for this community of Believers. By definition, grace is fundamentally the love of God bestowed freely upon humankind. In addition to much more, it also includes: “To honor or favor; to give beauty, elegance, or charm; a disposition to be generous or helpful.” As I said...an appropriate and accurate name for this church family.

Certainly, we were the blessed recipients of God’s love bestowed freely upon us through you...including all the other elements that define the reality of grace. Our spirits were lifted each week from the moment we opened the front doors and were immediately greeted with warm hugs, smiles, and cheery greetings...which continued into the fellowship area. And what an example of generosity, hospitality, and helpfulness, as we enjoyed the wonderful refreshments prepared by members of Grace each week...especially the “best banana bread on earth.”

Expressions of grace continued into the sanctuary, including all the work that goes into creating the worship songs, slides, and managing the audio and visual components. And as I mentioned a number of times before, what a special gift is shared each week by the talented worship team...truly an expression of grace.

But it doesn’t end there. Behind the scenes is the grace evidenced through the work and commitment of the leadership board, church office, church volunteers, and volunteers cleaning and maintaining the facilities. It is their gifts of grace that keep the entire ministry operating efficiently.

As I said, Grace is an appropriate name for the brothers and sisters who gather together in Christ and are known as Grace Baptist Church. Launda and I have been blessed by God’s grace to join with you in this season. May He continue to express Himself and His grace to all of you...in all of you...and through all of you...to His glory.

In Christ,  
Rich and Launda Carroll

### BEA’S 95TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Bea Watson would like you to join her on Sunday, July 29, at 10:00 am, during Fellowship Time to celebrate her birthday with cake and coffee.

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**JULY  
COMMUNION  
SERVERS:**  
Terri Becker  
Sharon Owen



## NOTES FROM THE BOARD

One of the things the Board is responsible for is our church finances. We monitor our finances every month and have been paying especially close attention in 2018. Each month we provide a financial report to the congregation in the newsletter. We thought it would be good to provide a summary of what has been happening with our finances during the first five months of this year.

	EXPENSES OVER INCOME			GENERAL FUND BALANCE	
	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>GF Balance</u>	<u>GF Balance less PR Liability</u>
Jan	7,915.60	9,280.87	-1,365.27	9,573.96	8,951.16
Feb	9,180.90	8,636.50	544.40	10,714.59	9,495.56
Mar	7,525.70	8,941.73	-1,416.03	9,897.93	8,079.53
Apr	7,402.25	8,666.07	-1,263.82	7,419.49	6,815.71
May	6,703.29	10,085.57	-3,382.28	4,765.28	3,553.23
AVG	7,745.55	9,122.15	-1,376.60		

As you can see from these figures there is a pattern of income being less than expenses with the resultant drop in our General Fund balance. If this pattern continues, it appears that the General Fund will be depleted before the end of the year.

In order to be sure that we are able to meet all of our expenses through 2018, the Board has made the decision to use up to \$20,000 of Atkinson Fund money, if necessary, to shore up the General Fund. If the General Fund balance less payroll liabilities drops to \$1,000 in any month where income is less than expenses, money will be transferred from the Atkinson Fund to the General Fund to cover the shortfall.

That takes care of 2018, but raises the question about what we do in 2019. The Board has scheduled a meeting in July to talk about God's plan for Grace in the long term. After July we will gather as a church family to discuss ideas and recommendations that come out of the July Board meeting.

Please keep the church and our leadership in your prayers as we seek God's direction and move forward in action together to be the church He wants us to be.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

## SPIRITUAL LIFE

Thank you to the nine people who continue to pray at church during the weekly prayer times. If someone would like to call-in during any of the times listed and pray by phone, please call me and I will arrange for that to take place. Current prayer times at church are: Monday @ 10:00 am, Tuesday @ 4:15 pm, Wednesday @ 10:00 am, and Thursday @ 10:30 am. Please take note that Thursday prayer time has been changed to 10:30 am.



Thanks for continued support of the Fellowship Fund each month. Betsy Vulkan has accepted the responsibility of overseeing this ministry as Seth steps down from it. A HUGE "Thank You" to Seth Young for his faithful service in administering this fund for many years. It has been a help for many people at Grace and in our community. Continued blessings on Seth, and now Betsy!

Welcome back, Pastor Randy!

Blessings,  
Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

# JULY 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>COMMUNION</i> 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Thank You Reception 10:30 am Worship	<b>2</b> High School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Walleye Club Meeting	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	<b>7</b> 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship 11: 45 am Welcome Back Potluck	<b>9</b> High School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>10</b> 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	<b>11</b> High School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>12</b> High School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>13</b> 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study  High School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>14</b> 4:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study  5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUMC  12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution Manned By Grace	<b>20</b> 10:30 am Bridger's Harvest Share  3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution  7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	<b>21</b> 9:00 am MUMC's Food Distribution  11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Chu's  5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> Elementary & Middle School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>24</b> Elementary & Middle School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>25</b> Elementary & Middle School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Board Meeting  Elementary & Middle School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>27</b> 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study  Elementary & Middle School Camp @ Arrah Wanna	<b>28</b> 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Small Birthday Party For Bea Watson 10:00 am Montavilla Street Fair 10:30 am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

**July Birthdays**

5 Ed Vulgan  
 7 Toni Masters  
 27 Mary Lynn Carothers  
 29 Bea Watson

**Happy Birthday!**

**July Anniversary**

20 Pastor Randy & Helen  
 Pearson

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**



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



*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” Colossians 4:2*

As Pastor Randy’s sabbatical comes to an end, I want to thank Pastor Rich and Launda for being so willing to be our acting pastor in Randy’s absence. He has shared such a vital message to our church family about being one with God and Jesus, and one in our church fellowship and with other believers. Thank you, Pastor Rich, for sharing from your heart the message God gave you.

Please plan to be at church at 10:00 am on Sunday, July 1, as we express our appreciation to Rich and Launda for their service with us.

On Sunday, July 8, Pastor Randy and Helen will return to Grace. We will have a “Welcome Back” potluck after the morning service on this day. We’ll grill hamburgers and hot dogs. Please bring food items to share. Weather permitting, we can quickly set up tables and enjoy the summer sunshine!

In Randy’s absence my prayers for him has been for rest, renewal, and the time he has needed for his doctoral work. Let’s all gather as one on Sunday, July 8, to welcome Pastor Randy and Helen back with love and encouragement as we discover God’s will for our church.

Your church board will be meeting two times in July to prayerfully discern the next steps for Grace Baptist. Please pray earnestly for Pastor Randy and your board. Our goal is to lead in the way God desires. We take this task very seriously each time we meet, and spend time in silence and prayer, listening to God, as we begin our board meetings.

## MUMC’S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Exciting News at the Open Heart Pantry. We now have a Grace Baptist team to staff a third day for food distribution. This will begin on Thursday, July 19. Two of our members have been to the Open Hearts Pantry for observation. Training of the new team members will be Thursday, July 12.

In celebration of this new event, we will declare July to be “Open Hearts Food Pantry Month” on Sunday, July 15. We will be introducing the team members from our church. There will be a discussion of this ministry and how we can be supportive. We would like each person or family to bring a jar (or more) of jam or jelly to be displayed in the entryway as a visible picture of our support.

The pantry has need of peanut butter and canned fruit. Non-food items are always in need such as personal care and cleaning items.

Shelving, formerly on Friday at 10:00 am, will now take place on the Thursdays of distribution week at 11:00 am. Our Grace team will oversee the pantry beginning on Thursday, July 19, 12:00-2:00 pm. The pantry is also open on Friday, July 20, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm, and Saturday, July 21, 9:00 am-12:00 noon will be overseen by MUMC’s people.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Open Hearts Pantry



## Montavilla Street Fair

Again, this year Grace will host a booth on Sunday, July 29, from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Last year we handed out over 700 bottles of waters. Please sign up for a shift.

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Grace will continue to take the 2018 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering during the month of July. We responded in Puerto Rico when hurricanes Irma and Maria hit. Seminario Evangelico suffered major damage to its student housing, chapel, library, trees and administration building. Immediately the school received an OGHS Emergency Disaster Response Grant to deal with student needs. OGHS funds will assist when volunteers begin work efforts at the school. They will also be part of 75 projects to be addressed by ABHMS multi-year "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico" initiative.

OGHS partners with organizations worldwide to provide access to clean water to help eradicate disease and transform communities. In eastern Kenya, they supported the building of a sand dam. Before the dam, the Mbangulo people went hungry because they didn't have enough water to cook food. Children missed school because they needed to get water for their families. The task of fetching water took most of the day.

The local community provided local materials that were combined with construction materials provided by OGHS. Now children are in school. They have built new classrooms out of local brick. Food is more plentiful as water allows people to grow gardens and have more time to tend them.

International Ministries received a grant from OGHS to respond to the critical needs after the volcanic eruption in Guatemala last month. Over 1,701,956 people were affected when their villages were buried. The grant is being coordinated by Rev. Ricarda Maylo Bracero, who resides in Guatemala and is the IM Regional Consultant to Iberamerica and Caribbean.

After consulting with the Board of General Ministries, the Rev. Dr. Lee B. Spitzer, ABC USA General Secretary, has written a letter to Jeff Sessions in response to his remarks which cited Romans 13: 1-2 as justification for practices such as separating children from their parents in immigration cases. Dr. Spitzer states he wants to communicate "our ABC Churches' deep concern over unjust immigration policies of the United States government, and in particular, the unconscionable separation of children from their families at our southern border." He urges that compassion, fairness, and family-affirming policies need to characterize our response to the plight of families on our borders. He quoted *Romans 13:10*, "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law."

For a full text of his letter go to <http://www.abc.usa.org/2018/06/19>.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

## GRACE-FULL

As I write this article at the end of June, I want to reiterate what I wrote you in the January article in December 2017. I mentioned that the General Fund was in the black, and then the following: *"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."*

Grace's financial situation has continued to slide in the past six months. Only in February when expenses were lower than usual, has there been more income than expenses in any month, and I do not anticipate anything different in the June report. I want to assure you that your Board is paying very close attention to the financial situation. In the quote above, I point out that the Board "will have to simultaneously address our ministry goals and our financial situation." The plan to do that "addressing" will continue with a Board retreat in July after Pastor Randy has returned.

We answer to you, the congregation/body of Grace Baptist Church, as your elected leadership and we are each in serious prayer "mode" for the future of Grace. Please undergird us with YOUR prayers.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

## GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

MAY 2018

### General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25
Income Received	\$ 6,703.29
Expenses	\$ 10,085.57
Net Received for Month	\$ (3,382.28)

### Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,223.60
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 280.00
Sarah Nash Match	\$ 235.00
Total Mission Payments	\$ 1,738.60

### General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 05/31/18	\$ 4,765.28
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1,212.05
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 3,553.23

### Other Funds (05/31/18)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 138,343.02
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 JULY**

**4 Happy Fourth Of July**

**8 "Welcome Back" Potluck**

**9-13 High School Camp @ Arrah Wana**

**10 Deaconesses' Meeting**

**16 Board Meeting**

**19 Stocking Shelves at MUMC**

**19 Food Distribution @ MUMC Manned By Grace**

**20 Bridger's Harvest Share**

**20 & 21 Food Distribution at MUMC**

**21 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Chu's:**

**17110 SE Powell Blvd, Portland, OR 97236**

**23-27 Elementary & Middle School Camp @ Arrah Wana**

**29 95th Birthday Party For Bea Watson @ Fellowship Time**

**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.