

Grace Notes

AUGUST 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' (Matthew 25:14-21, ESV)

In this parable, Jesus describes how a wealthy master entrusted a significant amount of his property to three of His servants.

A talent was worth about twenty years' wages for a common laborer (so this was serious money!). And although each servant was given a different amount, they were given the same task: invest the treasure they'd been entrusted with.

We can often become overwhelmed with the idea of joining God in His kingdom plan. We see titanic issues around the world and in our own communities. We can also compare ourselves to others who appear to be accomplishing big tasks for God.

Unfortunately, we can often miss the significant opportunities He already entrusts to us every day. Sometimes we need to take a step back and see what God has already entrusted to us.

- specific relationships we need to invest in more.
- obvious spiritual, physical, and social needs in our communities.
- talents and abilities that we need to use to make a difference.

Jesus challenges us to courageously move forward with what God has already entrusted to us, then He will give us more.

The first step of this is realizing that where we are and what we have has been entrusted to us by God and should be invested in for His glory. No matter how small you think a relationship is, God expects you to be a good steward of it.

This can seem like a daunting task, but can also be the most rewarding as we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Take a few minutes to ask God to open your eyes to relationships, opportunities, and abilities which you may not recognize.

-shortdailydevotions.com

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**AUGUST
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Diana Hiatt
Steve Hiatt



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

As was mentioned in my July article, the board is meeting to seek God's wisdom about the future and direction for Grace. This meeting was to take place on July 26, but we had to postpone it because Randy was unable to attend due to the gravity of his dad's health and Randy going to California to be with him.

This board meeting will be rescheduled in August. Once the board has met, it is anticipated that a congregational meeting will be held to discuss and get feedback on ideas, suggestions, and recommendations that come out of the board meeting.

As soon as we have the specifics on the date of and topics for the congregational meeting, we will provide that information.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

For my devotions, Steve and I are reading together, *"Epic (part 1): The Storyline Of The Bible"*. It amazes me how God created mankind and how He worked with such a variety of characters to reveal Himself and to show this world His Love! In my mind, I hold some of these characters as ideal or perfect people, when in fact they are much like any of us, sinful and often second guessing or trying to help God do His work for a variety of reasons (my reasons, my way). Boy, do I get in His way!!

This review of Genesis has been revealing to me that God uses us just the way He created us to bring glory to Himself in spite of who we are. That is why we need to try to live our flawed lives for Him and to give HIM glory! It's not about me. Thy will be done. PRAISE GOD!

Keep reading and praying!

Blessings,
Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

MUMC'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Grace team completed the first "Open Hearts Pantry" service day. The team felt it was a success and a positive experience for all those involved. It gave them a chance to get acquainted with the pantry and be of real service.

Three family units were provided with help. This was good as it will take a few times before the community realizes that there is now a Thursday option.

The needs for the pantry remain steady. Most helpful are canned fruit, jams/jelly, and peanut butter. The jam donations we at Grace made on July 15 were indeed helpful. Remember to bring non-perishable food any time to place in the white barrel in the church entryway.

The next shelving day will be Thursday, August 16. The Grace team will man the food distribution on that same day. MUMC will have the pantry open on Friday, August 17 and Saturday, August 18.



AUGUST 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <i>goodbye July, hello</i> AUGUST </div>						
5 <i>COMMUNION</i> 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	6	7 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	8	9	10 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	11 4:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
12 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	13	14	15	16 11:00 am Stocking and Shaving Food @ MUMC 12:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution Manned By Grace 7:00 pm Hymn & Praise Sing	17 10:30 am Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	18 9:00 am Statewide Youth Bash 9:00 am MUMC's Food Distribution 11:30 am Griffrinds' Birthday Lunch @ Heidi's 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
19 9:30 am Praise/ Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:30 am Worship	20	21	22	23	24 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	25 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
26 9:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 10:00 am Fellowship 10:00 am Montavilla Street Fair 10:30 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31 6:00 pm Friends & Family Camp @ Arrah Wana	

August Birthdays

2 Sybil Hart
 18 Ruth Hendrickson
 19 Shannon Hastings
 24 Georgia Young
 26 Dave Becker
 29 Theresa Benson
 30 Nancy Brazda

Happy Birthday!

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



"Send forth Your light and Your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell. Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise You with the harp, O God, my God." Psalm 43:3-4

When I attended high school camp this summer, one of the activities Cory Hughes, the Program Director, had us participate in was a prayer labyrinth. He spray-painted the labyrinth on the grass and set up several prayer stations with scripture and prayer suggestions along the path. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has one clear path. It has many twists and turns, but clearly you can only go one direction, ending in the center of the circle.

My journey into the center of the labyrinth was slow and methodical and a bit tentative; praying for campers, families, and our church. Once in the center, I stopped and read the scriptures provided and thought about all that God has done for me throughout my life. My steps out of the center were much faster and more confident. As we talked and reflected on this exercise with the high schoolers, I couldn't help but relate the journey to my life journey. As a young Christian, we begin our faith-walk slowly, taking tentative steps as our faith and trust in Christ begin to grow. As I have come to trust God more and have learned over and over again how much He truly loves me and wants the very best for me, my faith-walk is more confident; not because of me, but because of Christ's strength. Life is full of twists and turns, ups and downs, but we can be sure of this: God is with us each step of the way!

COMING THURSDAY, AUGUST 16 @ 7:00 pm—Hymn and Praise Sing

Come gather around the Fellowship Hall piano for an evening of singing old hymns & praise songs and learning some new songs for our worship celebrations. This will be very informal and a great time of fellowship. See you there!

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JUNE 2018

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25
Income Received	\$ 7,105.70
Expenses	\$ 8,997.34
Net Received for Month	\$ (1,891.64)

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,236.30
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 305.00
Sarah Nash Match	\$ 150.00
Total Mission Payments	\$ 1,691.30

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 06/30/18	\$ 3,467.52
Payroll Tax Liabilities	
& Accounts Payable	\$ 1,805.96
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 1,661.56

Other Funds (06/30/18)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 138,357.10
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90

STATEWIDE YOUTH BASH

Do you know a high school and/or middle school student who may want to go to a statewide youth bash? If you do, please pass this info onto them. This will be the first youth bash sponsored by the ABCCPC.

- **When?** August, Saturday 18, 9:00 am-8:00 pm.
- **Where?** Benson State Park.
- **What will be happening?** There will be food, games, swimming, competitions, and worship with youth groups from all over the state of Oregon. It's a great time to see friends from camp again or to make new ones!

For more info, please contact Matt Toupin (phone number: 503-975-2307 or email: mtoupin@abccpc.org)

NEW LIFE CENTER

The new Life Center in Thailand celebrated 30 years of service this past January. Thirty years ago Lauren Bethel coordinated the service at the center, and Karen Smith continues to coordinate this ministry today. Both women are International Ministries Missionaries. The vision and hope of the New Life Center is an “exploitation-free society for tribal people throughout the Mekong Sub- Region of Thailand.” In the last 30 years, the center has made great strides toward achieving this goal. Improvements in the Thai-anti-trafficking law have begun and we have seen capable women moving into powerful leadership role in all sectors of society. The New Life Center is now at the table collaborating with the Royal Thai Government to influence Thai laws related to human trafficking, citizenship, and human rights. The center has prevented exploitation and trafficking through promoting education and conducting anti-trafficking campaigns. They have provided case management and rehabilitative care for thousands of survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence, labor exploitation, and trafficking in persons. Improvements in the tribal society have occurred as the center worked in collaboration with government entities, other Non-Government Organizations, churches, and financial supporters.

As the Center looks to the future, they continue to expand prevention work by training leaders from Thailand and neighboring countries to educate people in their own language groups about the risk factors for trafficking. They continue to provide direct after-care services for survivors of trauma. They are advocating at both the provincial and national levels for human rights and citizenship. They work toward education and empowerment of tribal women, many of whom will become influential leaders in society.

The New Life Center was the first, but now one of many International Ministries programs to focus on human rights and human trafficking throughout the world.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

SARAH NASH

Sarah Nash has achieved 70% of her needed support. This summer she was able to attend the World Mission Conference in Green Lake. She is currently attending her required intercultural training workshop. She is hoping to be commissioned in the early fall upon achieving 80% of her needed support. Please keep her in prayer.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

7 Deaconesses' Meeting

16 Stocking Shelves at MUMC

16 Food Distribution @ MUMC Manned By Grace

16 Hymn & Praise Sing

17 Bridger's Harvest Share

17 & 18 Food Distribution at MUMC

18 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Heidi's @

1230 NE Cleveland, Ave., Gresham, OR

18 ABCCPC Statewide Youth Bash @ Benson State Park

31 Friends & Family Camp @ Arrah Wana

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

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Minster of Worship and Music

Judy Young

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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.