

Grace Notes

SEPTEMBER 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

When was the last time you were overwhelmed by God? I mean really overwhelmed from sitting and thinking about his magnificence, his greatness, his glory, his mercy. When was the last time thoughts of our creator took your breath away?

Recently I went to visit with Ruth Hendrickson. She told me her eyesight was going, and it was difficult for her to read her Bible, and then she asked if I would read some scripture to her.

I began to read to her out of Psalm 8, and parts of Psalm 16 and 19, the verses I had shared the day before in worship. I had read those verses the day before in worship, but there was something different about this reading. I don't know if it was sharing it with a dear soul like Ruth, or being in an intimate setting like we were in her room at her caregiver's, but I felt something different than the day before.

As I read these verses out loud to Ruth, there was this immense feeling of God's greatness and love for me. As I sit here and write this, my mind goes back to that experience.

I think about what God thinks of me as I read Psalm 8; and I begin to paraphrase parts of it in my mind: *"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, who am I that you are mindful of me, that you care for me? You have made me a little lower than the angels and crowned me with glory and honor. You made me a ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under my feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas."*

My only response to this overwhelming greatness of God, and his relationship to me, is what the Psalmist wrote, *"Lord, MY Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"*

Praise and glory to God for being overwhelmed by him!

Inside This Issue:

Notes From The Board Spiritual Life Notes From Your Music/Worship Leader & Lay Minister of Church Life	2
Calendar Birthdays Anniversaries	3
Grace-full Grace Family Finances MUMC'S Open Heart Pantry	4
Devotion: 3 Things I Learned About Work	5

SEPTEMBER
COMMUNION
SERVERS:
Sharon Owen
Georgia Young



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

I may be starting to sound like a broken record because I've said something similar for the last couple of months. In order for the board to find a time to meet, we have had to deal with the logistics of the schedules of the seven members of the board, as well as Pastor Rich who will be acting as the facilitator for the meeting. Because of having to work around everyone's schedules, it has caused a delay in the scheduling of the meeting. With that said, the board **is** meeting to discuss the future and God's wisdom and direction for Grace on Wednesday, August 29.

It is anticipated that a congregational meeting will be held during late September to discuss and get feedback on ideas, suggestions and recommendations that come out of the board meeting. Once the specifics on the date of and topics for the congregational meeting are decided, that information will be announced.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

My recent daily devotions have been reading a chapter at a time through the Bible beginning in Genesis with the purpose of showing "the story line of the Bible". I am now at Exodus chapter 5, and Pharaoh is hardening his heart towards God and his people, making the task of brick making harder. As God does, he uses all things to work together for his good.

I am reminded that God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. I, like others, have stuff happening around me that can seem too hard to endure sometimes, but praise God, he does use all things to work together for his good. He is also Love, and 1 Corinthians 13: 4-5 lists characteristics of love that he displays toward us as his creation and children.

We are blessed and should be grateful to him. God has a plan and it includes us. Keep seeking to do God's will.

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

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



Our fall schedule will begin on Sunday, September 9. Sunday School will at 9:30 am and our worship celebration at 10:30 am. We will be trying some different ways to incorporate Fellowship Time.

A combined worship service with Iglesia Visión Nueva is being planned. The date has not yet been set, but details will be communicated soon.

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>“Welcome September: A new month, new chapter, new page, and new wishes. May the month give you courage, strength, confidence, patience, self-love, & inner peace. May everyday in September fill your days with hope, love, sunshine, and energy. Let there be joy, fun, and laughter.” -onlinecalendarprint.com</p>						
2 9:00 am Meet @ Church To Carpool To Arrah Wama 10:30 am Service @ Arrah Wama 12:00 pm Generations of Promise	3 Friends & Family Camp @ Arrah Wama Ends Labor Day	4	5	6 7:00 pm Walleye Club Meeting	7 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	8 1:00 pm IVN Wedding 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
9 <i>COMMUNION</i> 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	10 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	11	12	13 11:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUMC 12:00 pm MUMC's Food Distribution Manned By Grace	14 3:00 pm MUMC's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	15 9:00 am MUMC's Food Distribution 11:30 am Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Heidi's (August & September) 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
16 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	17 1:00 pm Board Meeting	18	19	20	21 1:30 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	22 9:00 am All Church Work Day 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
23/30 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	29 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal

September Birthdays

1 Lauralee Ware
4 Marieta O'Neal
8 Dick Laughman
24 Steve Hiatt
26 Marian Wise
27 Terri Becker



September Anniversary

7 Paul & Judy Young
17 Gerald & Sally Couley



GRACE-FULL

I last wrote in this space two months ago. At that time, we were looking forward to a July board retreat/meeting where we ask God to be with us as we made decisions about the future of Grace Church. As you likely know, that meeting did not occur at that time due to Pastor Randy's need to be with his father and family. The meeting will be occurring as this newsletter goes to press. A great deal of prayer and thought has gone into this time of seeking God. The Board will be joining you in discussion about the outcomes soon.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

JULY 2018

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25
Income Received	\$ 9,626.60
Expenses	\$ 8,343.17
Net Received for Month	\$ (1,283.17)

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,014.40
Specified gifts/offering	\$ 980.00
Sarah Nash Match	\$ 200.00
Total Mission Payments	\$ 2,194.40

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 07/31/18	\$ 3,532.92
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 587.93
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 2,944.99

Other Funds (07/31/18)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 138,371.53
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90

MUMC'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

August, Thursday 16, was the second month for Grace team to serve at Montavilla United Methodist Church's Open Hearts Pantry. Two family units were served on this day. More families were served on Friday and Saturday.

There is a need for clean, empty dozen-size egg cartons. Also, school will have begun by the time you get this newsletter. While many youth will be getting lunches at school, this does not meet all the needs. The pantry still has needs for family meals, canned items, especially canned fruit, healthy after school snacks and cereal.

Please take note of the dates for the September schedule. Because Open Hearts Pantry has always been scheduled for the third Saturday of the month, shelving (11:00 am) and distribution of food manned by the Grace Team (12:00-2:00 pm) will be on Thursday, September 13. MUMC will have the pantry opened on Friday, September 14 (3:00-6:00 pm) and Saturday, September, 15 (9:00 am-noon).

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Open Hearts Pantry



3 THINGS I'VE LEARNED ABOUT WORK

“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval” (John 6:27).

Since I've been old enough to babysit, I've always been working at something, whether a project for school, a part-time restaurant gig, or my current office job. And over the years I've come to learn many lessons about work. For example, work can become a joy and a passion if it's something you truly love and you're surrounded by like-minded partners. Or, on the other hand, even a job you like can become a drudge if you can't see eye-to-eye with your co-workers.

As I prepare to celebrate a day off work this upcoming Labor Day, I've been pondering three things that God has been teaching me about work in the past year or so.

1. A Christian never clocks out

It's easy and refreshing to hop in the elevator at 5 p.m. and not worry about work until the next day. But as a follower of Christ, I recognize that I'm called to carry his banner 24/7. When I'm grumpy? Yep. When I've been out all day and come home to a messy house? Absolutely. When I'm on Facebook and somehow everything in my feed is making me frustrated and irritable? Even then. Perhaps that's why we call ourselves "soldiers" in God's army. Everything's a battle... one we must remember to fight with love and peace!

2. God is the boss, not me

As easy as it is to judge another person's work (or seeming lack-thereof) I've had to be reminded a lot lately that it's simply not my job to critique other people's lives. Just as my supervisor has given me tasks to complete, and that's between the two of us – so God has a personal relationship with every single one of us, and he hasn't asked us to poke our noses into each other's to-do lists. And boy, don't we all have plenty of thoughts on the matter?

Why do they go to THAT church? Why is that woman constantly panhandling on that same street corner? Why doesn't he just get a spine and break off that harmful relationship?

If only I ruled the world. But I don't – and thank God I don't. Someday we'll all stand before The Boss and our choices will be evaluated. But for now, it's my job to do MY job, to love people where they're at, and to remember that life sometimes looks really different inside someone else's shoes.

3. Your work does make a difference

It's common for me to feel small and powerless. Maybe you feel that way too. But when small people like us put our minds to something, amazing things truly do happen. Even something as small as a smile or a word of encouragement can make all the difference in someone's day...maybe even in someone's life. So whether you teach, write, or clean up trash; whether you sit in a cube crunching numbers or you bag groceries – God wants to use your work to not only bless others, but grow you closer to him.

-Debbie Holloway, Crosswalk.com, contributor



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

1-3 Friends & Family Camp @ Arrah Wanna

2 Church Service @ Camp Arrah Wanna

2 Generations of Promise @ Camp Arrah Wanna

3 Labor Day

9 Sunday School Begins

11 Deaconesses' Meeting

13 Stocking Shelves at MUMC

13 Food Distribution @ MUMC Manned By Grace

14 & 15 Food Distribution at MUMC

21 Bridger's Harvest Share

18 Girlfriends' Birthday Lunch @ Heidi's @

1230 NE Cleveland, Ave., Gresham, OR

22 All Church Work Day

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

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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.