

Grace Notes

NOVEMBER 2018

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

(The following article is a reprint of an article by Rev. Linda Bergeon, Interim Pastor, Eastwood Baptist Church, Medford, OR)

- O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- O give thanks to the God of gods, for his steadfast love endures forever.
- O give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his steadfast love endures forever;
- O give thanks to the God of heaven, his love endures forever. (Psalm 136:1-3, 26)

Here we are at the beginning of November, the beginning of a holiday season that will last until the first of the year. Holidays are beautiful and magical and precious... and sometimes they're not. Sometimes holidays are sad, or scary or anxious. Sometimes holidays are hard.

The reality is, there are many reasons why the holiday season might be hard. For me it is the reality of celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas without my Dad. I find myself struggling with feeling depressed and sad. For all of you out there who find yourselves feeling anxious, sad, depressed, scared, sick or angry about the holidays I just want you to know, you are not alone.

I also want to share with you that there are some things you can do to help yourself cope with those feelings. First of all, don't ignore them. Admit that they are there. Give yourself time to cry or yell or whatever. Feel what you feel and don't heap guilt on yourself for feeling that way. At the same time, try not to get stuck there. *

Call a friend. Hearing a friend's voice and talking through your stuff always helps.

Give. It can be your time, money or a smile, but give of yourself and maybe the joy you feel in that will help you find joy in the season.

Hug. Find people who like to hug (Eastwood has a bunch of them!) and hug away.

Join me on an adventure I have been challenged to go on.

A friend suggested I find all the verses in the Bible that contain the words thanks, thankful, thankfulness and thanksgiving so I started with verses I could remember, most of which were in the Psalms. Then I looked in a concordance where I found over 100 verses containing some variation of the word "thank."

After finding out there were so many I decided to look up some of those verses every day between now and Thanksgiving because it occurred to me that if I did that I would reap a number of additional benefits.

First, by focusing on thankfulness I will be forced to pay attention to what I have rather than what I don't have.

Second, focusing on thankfulness will encourage me to have a positive attitude. It will force me to think about what is right with my life rather than what is wrong with.

Third, focusing on thankfulness will help me look to the future with hope.

Fourth, focusing on thankfulness will lead to gratitude and gratitude will change my perspective. I cannot be grateful and anxious at the same time. I cannot be grateful and grumpy or irritable at the same time.

Fifth, focusing on God will fill my heart with peace no matter what I am feeling. God loves me just the way I am and will help me cope with and maybe even overcome my negative feelings.

If the holidays are a difficult time for you, I invite you to join me in this challenge and may the Lord bless us each step of the way.

* There are times when no matter what we do or say to ourselves we continue to be overwhelmed with sadness and depression. If that is the case, seek professional help.

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**NOVEMBER
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Shannon Hastings
Georgia Young



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

“And don’t forget to thank Him” (Philippians 4:6).

In my daily devotional one day, the words of the song *Count Your Blessings, Name Them One by One* was included. I haven’t sung that song for a long time – the words are tremendous:

*Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev’ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by.*

What a wonderful reminder to take the time to think about what God is doing for us. Too often we focus just on the horrid things – the evil, the hurricanes, the floods and devastation and famine.

But take time every day to verbalize or write all you are thankful for. You may want to use this outline. Doing so will revitalize your soul.

Begin With Thanksgiving

Psalm 100:4 tells us,

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.”

- Thank Him for His patience and forgiveness.
- Thank Him for the privilege of coming into His presence.
- Thank Him for what He has done in and through your life in the last year.

List What He Has Done

Take time to list what God has done for you. Be specific. Think through every area of your life.

Become Still Before the Lord. (Psalm 46:10)

- Consider who God is. (Psalm 103)
- Praise Him for His attributes. (Psalm 145)
- Rejoice in your fellowship with Him and that He delights in you. (Proverbs 15:8)
- Read passages of scripture and pray them back to God. (Psalms 146-150)
- Sing to the Lord.

Lord I thank You for the beauty of the seasons. I thank You for health and strength. I thank You for people to love and people who love me. I love You God and thanks for loving me first. Amen.

by Katherine Kehler, Thoughts About God

NOTES FROM THE BOARD



On Saturday, October 6, twenty-four people of our Grace family gathered to discuss the future of Grace Baptist Church. I want to thank each one who made the commitment to participate in this discussion. As was mentioned at the meeting, this was the first of a potential series of discussions where we will attempt to answer questions and address issues that were raised during our initial meeting. I want to encourage us all to maintain our commitment to participate in this process as the Board makes plans for future meetings.

A part of our looking ahead to the new year is to put in place the organizational structure that will allow us to continue to do ministry. On Saturday, November 17, at 10:00 am, we will gather for our Budget and Election meeting. Please plan to come and be part of the discussion and decisions as we elect leaders and adopt a budget for 2019.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

NOVEMBER 2018

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	4 <i>COMMUNION</i> 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship Daylight Saving Time Ends	5	6 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	7	8	9
	11 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship	12 1:00 pm Board Meeting	13	14	15 11:00 am Shelving Food @ MUMC 12:00 pm MUMC's Food Distribution Manned By Grace	16 1:30 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUMC's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study
	18 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship	19	20	21	22 	23 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study
25 8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship	26	27	28	29	30 9:00 am Hanging of the Greens	
						3 4:00 pm IVN Sisters' Bible Study 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal *Turn clocks back on Saturday night. Daylight Saving Time Ends on Sunday.
						10 9:00 am All Church Work Day 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
						17 10:00 am Budget & Election Meeting 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
						24 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal

November Birthdays

3 Nancy Uhlinger
5 Earl Wise
12 Savart Kamsard
20 Carol Martin
26 Lily Johnson
30 Helen Pearson



November Anniversary

6 Dave & Terri Becker



SPIRITUAL LIFE

One thought about the church listening feedback meeting is we need to have some kind of gatherings, other than Sunday morning, that we can get to know each other informally and in a deeper way to build trust and unity in the body. It seems small groups would be most effective with this effort. In the past, Larry and Carol have suggested dinner groups. Do YOU have another idea to accomplish this? Are YOU willing to help me with your idea? Please share it with me.

Continue reading God's word, praying, and praising God!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

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

As a church family, we know that prayer is a vital part of our lives. The board has been seeking direction from God through prayer, and we have asked all of you to join us in praying for Grace Baptist.



During my devotion time last week, I came across the following and thought it was worth sharing: "Lancelot Andrewes (1555-1626), was one of the great theologians and preachers of his day. After he died, his private notebook on prayer was discovered and published. In it he had written two lists:

First, he wrote a list of times of prayer in the Bible: Always; without ceasing; at all times; three times a day; evening, and morning, and at noon; seven times a day; in the morning, a great while before day; at daybreak; about the sixth hour; the hour of prayer, the ninth; by night; at midnight.

Next he wrote a list of places of prayer in the Bible: In the assembly and in the congregation; your closet; an upper room; a housetop; the temple; on the shore; a garden; on their beds; a desert place; In every place.'

There is no limit to the times, places and different ways in which we can pray. God is very faithful and will answer our prayers and guide us.

Plan to attend a joint Worship Celebration with Iglesia Vision Nueva on Sunday, November 25. More details coming.

Hanging of the Greens will be November 30 and December 1.

THANK YOU

The Young Family would like to express our love and thanks to the Grace Family after the recent passing of our Dad, Seth. Thank you for all the calls, cards, food and helpfulness during the "Celebration for Life". We all miss him, but know one day we'll be reunited when we meet our Lord.

OUTREACH

During the month of November, Grace will continue taking the World Mission Offering. This offering helps support 162 missionaries throughout the world.

Sarah Nash is currently at 85% funding and she is now planning her Commissioning Service scheduled for Saturday, December 15, in Olympia, Washington. Please contact Carol Martin if you want to attend.

Sarah hopes to be on an airplane to Bolivia in January. She will be working with Rhonda Reed coordinating the House of Hope in Santa Cruz Bolivia. Rhonda will focus on the ministry in Cochabamba. This ministry encompasses an array of health and development ministries led by local churches focusing on urban ministries to families and women and children at risk.

JD Reed has become the Regional Consultant to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean in the area of Theological Education where his primary focus is with the Master of Theological Studies (MTS) in Latinola Ministries at Palmer Seminary. Currently 12 students are participating in Boniva and 80 students throughout the Americas.

Save the Dates:

- Saturday, December 8, 5:00-8:00 pm: Community Carol Sing.
- Saturday, December 15: Sarah Nash's commissioning service in Olympia, Washington

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

MUMC'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

Thanksgiving is here already. The Open Heart Pantry will have turkey breasts and a few turkeys available. What will be needed is items to fill out the Thanksgiving meal: stuffing mix, canned vegetables and fruit. (fruit is always in need), pumpkin pie mix or canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, cranberries, canned yams, mashed potato mixes and gravy. We are still taking clean, dozen-size egg cartons only!

The Grace crew on Thursday has seen an increase in families. There were 7 families served on October 18th. We are pleased to be apart of this ministry.

November dates are as follows: Shelving will be on Thursday November 15, at 11:00 am. Food Distribution days will be Thursday, November 15, at 12:00-2:00 pm (Grace team), Friday, November 16, at 3:00-5:00 pm and Saturday, November 17, at 10:00 am -12:00 pm.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Open Hearts Pantry

MOST WANTED
 boxed stuffing
 boxed potatoes
 canned fruit
 cream of mushroom soup
 french fried onions
 saltine crackers
 cranberry sauce
 canned gravy
 corn muffin mix
 relishes
 canned corn
 canned green beans
 pumpkin pie filling
 boxed pie crust
 evaporated milk

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

SEPTEMBER 2018

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25
Income Received	\$ 7,998.58
Expenses	\$ 8,050.47
Net Received for Month	\$ (51.89)

Mission Fund

Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,289.76
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 547.80
Sarah Nash Match (to be matched)	\$ 200.00
Total Mission Payments	\$ 2,037.56

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 09/30/18	\$ 4,133.84
Payroll Tax Liabilities	
& Accounts Payable	\$ 1,941.92
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 2,191.92

Other Funds (09/30/18)

Atkinson Fund	\$ 90,694.23
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90
Endowment Fund	\$ 35,669.71



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 NOVEMBER

4 Daylight Saving Time Ends

6 Deaconesses' Meeting

10 All Church Work Day

12 Board Meeting

15 Stocking Shelves & Food Distribution @ MUMC

Manned By Grace

16 Bridger's Harvest Share

16 & 17 Food Distribution at MUMC

17 Budget & Election Meeting

25 Joint Worship With Iglesia Visión Nueva

30 Hanging of the Greens

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.