

Grace Notes

JANUARY 2019

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

As we leave 2018 behind and enter 2019, we leave behind a very chaotic year.

Like many of you, I am not very comfortable with chaos. I would rather have things more orderly– more predictable. Unfortunately that is not how life works most of the time.

Often life is messy, chaotic, and unpredictable. However, it is in that chaos that God does his best work.

Before God created the earth and the heavens, Genesis 1 tells us, “In the beginning...the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep...” My interpretation of this is “In the beginning the was in chaos.”

But in the midst of the chaos we are also told, “...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” Even in the chaos God’s spirit was present. Let me say that again, **EVEN IN THE CHAOS GOD’S SPIRIT WAS PRESENT.**

What was true “in the beginning” is true today– in the chaos God’s spirit is present. The fact God’s spirit is present in the chaos raises an interesting question, “Why is God just hovering in/over the chaos and not doing anything about it?”

I believe the answer to that question is God is waiting. He is waiting for two things. First God hovers waiting for us to acknowledge his presence. Not just a half-hearted, God-is-present-in-everything sort of acknowledgement, but rather a heart-felt, I-know-deep-down-in-my-bones-God-is-present kind of acknowledgement. We need to recognize no matter how chaotic things get, God is there.

Second, God is waiting for us to listen to what he wants us to do in the chaos. Just as on the first day of creation, God always has a plan to bring order out of chaos. Jesus came to our chaotic purposeless lives into lives that has purpose and significance.

No matter what kind of chaos we are experiencing, if we stop and acknowledge God’s presence and listen for his voice, he will always move us through the chaos into his peace and his joy. Thanks be to God for that!

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NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Once again, I would like to remind you that we have scheduled the second congregational meeting facilitated by Pastor Rich Carroll to discuss God's future for Grace Baptist on Saturday, January 12, at 10:00 am. Please continue to seek God's direction for the future and ask for God's insights about those items that were raised during our first meeting. It is the hope and desire of the Board that we all, as the Grace family, will remain committed to participating in this vitally important process.

As we begin the new year, we are in the process of putting together the 2018 Annual Report. The Annual Report provides us the opportunity to look back over 2018 and be reminded and celebrate how God has blessed and used us. The report will be available on Sunday, January 20. You are encouraged to pick one up and read through it. Then on Sunday, January 27, after worship we will have a short meeting to allow opportunity to ask questions about the information contained in the Annual Report.

Barbara Furman, Moderator

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Christmas and the New Year are much different this year from last year. Last year we were having health issues and this year we're celebrating without my dad. Gratefully, Advent has been extra special this year because of the hope we have in Jesus and His promises to all who believe in Him. To the shepherds the angels "announced good news of great joy for all people, a savior" was born in Bethlehem (Jesus), "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." That peace to men is realized by relationship, forgiveness, and hope of God's grace. I look forward to someday joining my dad, mom, and other brothers and sisters in the faith that have gone before us to praise God. What JOY!

Let's continue to be light and salt in the world around us so others can see and believe also! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life

MONTAVILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OPEN HEART PANTRY

Many families have been blessed this year at the Open Heart Pantry. Our Grace team continues to meet needs on Thursdays when the pantry is open. In December, the pantry distributed frozen turkey breasts, frozen mashed potatoes, gravy, casseroles, and side dishes for Christmas dinner.

Many thanks to the Grace family for the generous donations. I hope to have some statistics available by next month as to how many families are being served each month. The needs are much the same: canned fruit is always needed as well as peanut butter, jelly or jam, and toilet paper.

January dates for the pantry are Thursday, January 17, at 11:00 am for shelving, and the Grace team opening is at noon; Friday, January 18, at 3:00 pm, and Saturday, January 19, at 9:00 am.

Thank you again to all who serve and for your donations.

Shannon Hastings, Open Heart Liaison

JANUARY 2019

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</p>	1	2	3	4	5	
<p>6</p> <p>COMMUNION</p> <p>8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:20 am Honoring Beth 10:45 am Worship</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 am Future of Grace Church Meeting</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 am Shelving Food @ MUMC 12:00 pm Open Heart Food Distribution Manned By Grace</p>	<p>18</p> <p>1:30 pm Bridger's Free Food Market 3:00 pm Open Heart Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 am Open Heart Food Distribution 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship</p> <p>Annual Reports Available</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 am Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn 11:45 am Girlfriends' Santa Gift Exchange @ Church 5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:45 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:20 am Fellowship 10:45 am Worship 12:15 pm Annual Report Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>		


January Birthdays

2 John Hastings
9 Barbara Furman
19 Sharon Owen
19 Ken Danielson



January Anniversary

31 Earl & Marian Wise



OUTREACH

As I write this, Grace and Iglesia Vision Nueva have come together to provide 35 individual gifts to 8 families at Bridger and Vestal schools. These will be delivered the week before Christmas.

On Saturday, December 15, four of us drove up to Olympia for Sarah Nash's commissioning service. Sarah was supported by her pastor of 23 years, Rev. Mylinda, and Rev. Gary Bates, Rev. Sarah Strosahi Kagi, Rev. Jamie McCallum, Rev. Adalia Gutierrez Lee, MD. The Ceremony of Commissioning was led by Mercy Johnson.

Sarah is currently at 93% funding. Once she is at 100% she will attend her last training in February and will be on her way to Bolivia in March or early April. It has been wonderful to be a part of her pathway over the last year and a half. During 2018, Grace has met its goal of matching \$2000 of giving toward Sarah's support. Between the Sarah Nash fund budget, the match, and mission giving, Grace has provided \$5,109 toward her support.

International Ministries goes where the need is. Currently Ray Gutierrez is back in Tijuana Mexico working with partners to coordinate services for the families who are seeking asylum at our boarder. Please pray for Ray and also the many migrants that are stranded in Tijuana.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

Grace-Full

We always look forward to a new year in anticipation of unknown, but eagerly awaited, opportunities. Grace Baptist Church on the brink of 2019 is looking forward to a year of seeking our purpose in God's work. At our November Budget & Election meeting we approved a deficit budget. We decided not to let the amount of income drive what we are doing or will be doing in 2019. Instead, we decided to rely on the bounty that God provided us through Jean Atkinson in 2017 and, instead, focus our attention and hearts on hearing God speak to us.

May we come together and come alongside our Lord in ministry and love in 2019!

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

Grace Family Finances: November 2018

<u>General Operating Fund</u>		<u>Mission Fund</u>	
Monthly Budget	\$ 10,126.25	Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,199.40
Income Received	\$ 8,011.24	Specified gifts (non-Nash)	\$ 160.00
Expenses	<u>\$ 9,125.92</u>	Sarah Nash (to be matched)	<u>\$ 305.00</u>
Net Income for Month:	\$ (1,114.68)	Total Mission Giving	\$ 1,664.40
		<u>Other Funds (11/30/18)</u>	
General Fund Bal (11/30/18)	\$ 1,615.68	Atkinson Fund	\$ 90,714.29
Payroll (P/R) Tax Liabilities		Building Fund	\$ 12,033.90
& Accounts Payable	<u>\$ 1,307.36</u>	Endowment Fund	\$ 35,669.71
General Fund Less Liabilities	\$ 308.32		



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY

1 Happy New Year

8 Deaconesses' Meeting

12 Future of Grace Church Meeting

17, 18, & 19 Food Distribution @ MUMC

18 Bridger's Harvest Share

20 Annual Reports Available to the Congregation

26 Girlfriends' Birthday Breakfast @ Village Inn

26 Girlfriends' Santa Gift Exchange

27 Annual Reports Meeting

STAFF EMAILS

Pastor

Randy Pearson

pastorrandy@graceportland.com

Minster of Worship and Music

Judy Young

judy@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.