

Grace Notes

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

VOL. 33, NO 2

Your Pastor's Pen



"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us." - 2 Corinthians 8:20

Friends,

I'm declaring this the Year of Mission at Grace. I'm not talking about all of us becoming foreign missionaries. I'm talking about all of us doing Christ's work wherever we are. Jesus invites us to follow his commandment of love and bear fruit (John 15:12-17). God also calls us to be like Paul and Titus, and become partners with one another and with Christ in united and mutual service (2 Corinthians 8:16-24). Did you know mission benefits more than the people we serve? Within and beyond our community of faith, doing mission opens us to opportunities for mutual spiritual transformation and renewal.

Hopefully you've heard that we have started a new stop-hunger mission project, *Taste of Grace*. (more information on p. 4) We had a successful launch, including people saying they will pass the word. We'll also be holding little mission projects throughout the year, the next two are mentioned below.

Taste of Grace

We offer our thanks and congratulations to the following people who were commissioned during worship on January 12 as our new mission ambassadors at *Taste of Grace*: Barbara Krueger, Bonnie Anglewicz, Cathy & Ford Griggs, David & Marcy Livesay, Edna Sparkman, Ginger Green, Homer & Shirley Hill, Judy Anderson, Kay Gray, Ruth Nandico, Sharon LeBot, and Theresa Miles.

If you're considering working at *Taste of Grace*, ask one of the people how much fun it is. Then sign-up to work for February 26 or March 26.

Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 2, the youth of Grace are again participating in this national event to support stop-hunger programs. This year they've given us a 50/50 challenge --to donate \$50 for Taste of Grace and 50 cans of soup for the HELP Center. It's not too late to donate! Donate until February 9th and your donation will still count toward the challenge.

Valentine's Day Card Party

On Sunday, February 9 following worship, we'll be making Valentines for our homebound friends and patients at Integris Hospital. Please let me know if you can deliver cards to the hospital sometime between the 9th and the 14th.

These are just a few easy ways to be an ambassador for Christ's church. There will be more opportunities in the months to come. Where do you feel called to serve?

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Tori

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"

Katherine Russell Ward
September 22, 1921 - January 20, 2014

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Grant Kernan
with Joyce Burns, Treasurer

December Operating Income	\$9,577.00
December Expenses;	\$9,827.00
December Net Income:	(\$ 250.00)
Operating Account Balance	18,361.00
Operating Reserve Balance	27,888.71
General Memorial	6,156.18
Music Funds	753.98
Flower Fund	86.64
Property Projects	-80.16
Youth Ministry	291.91

Total Liquid Assets in Dec.. \$53,458.26

*Monies available to the Session: \$45,055.00

2013 statements were mailed several weeks ago. If you did not receive one and believe you should have, please contact Jo Ann.

SESSION

Rev Teri Summers-Minette, Moderator
Ford Griggs, Clerk of Session

January Session Highlights

- Voted in favor of having all Ruling Elders and Deacons eligible to serve Extended (home) Communion.
- Accepted plan to open separate bank account for *Taste of Grace* with Cathy Griggs and Joyce Burns as signers.
- Selected the officers for Grace's Corporate Board of Trustees; then presented them to the congregation on January 26. Congratulations to:
President - Grant Kernan
Vice Pres - Bonnie Anglewicz
Secretary - Ford Griggs
Treasurer - Joyce Burns

Next meeting will be Wed., Feb12 at 7 pm.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Edna Sparkman

The new Building and Grounds team members are, Edna Sparkman, Hank Miles and Rich Davis.

The north stairwell wall is undergoing a much needed facelift. Scott Clarkson has been contracted to do the labor.

As soon as the weather permits, we will be announcing a workday for building and grounds cleanup. Have your gloves, paint brushes and good attitudes ready!

Next CE meeting: TBA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Suzie Teehee with Linda Folsom

ADULTS

Dan Summers-Minette

Sunday mornings the Adult Sunday learning meets at 9:30 AM in the "Old Choir Room" off Fellowship Hall. We're working our way through the book of Genesis. Please join us -- no experience required!

Lenten Series. Lent is a season when we can reflect on our spiritual journey. This year we will offer a weekly Lenten reflection group on Sundays at 9:30 starting March 9.

If you are interested in participating in a study during the week, please contact Pastor Teri.

KIDS GATHERING

Ruth Nandico & Linda Folsom

KIDS GATHERING meets from 9:30 until 10:25 on Sunday mornings. We gather in Fellowship Hall and then move to the classroom upstairs.

We're excited because Linda Folsom is now teaching! This month we're studying Matthew's recounts of Jesus' teaching of love one another and trust God to care for them.; and question #9 of catechism: What does it mean that we are made in God's image? (*Answer is on p. 3*)

Small snacks for little learners would make it nice. We could use: snack crackers, cookies, fruit rollups, gummy bears, etc. You can leave them by the Elders' mail boxes. Also, please contact Linda if you're willing to be a teacher's aide.

Next CE meeting: TBA

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Kay Gray

Our new Congregational Care Team consists of: Kay Gray, Moderator; and these Ministry Coordinators:

FELLOWSHIP: Judy Anderson;
MEALS: Trish Burns & Ginger Green;
CARDS: Mary Hamm, Ginger Green, & Shirley Hill;
FUNERAL: Ginger Crowl;
FLOWERS: Kay Gray & Shirley Hill;
RIDES: Ginger Green & Mary Hamm.

Let us know if you're willing to help with our different ministries.

A meal was delivered to Trish Burns and her family following the death of her mother, Katherine Ward. We also served a luncheon following the service. Flowers have been delivered to Jerry Gordon and visitations have been made to several of our shut-ins.

Congregational Care's next meeting will be Tuesday, February 4 at 11 am.

FELLOWSHIP

Judy Anderson

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the potluck last week, and thanks also to those who helped at Katherine's memorial service.

Our next potluck will be March 16, and theme will be "Think Green" in honor of St. Patrick's Day on the 17th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Lowell Crowl

Men's Breakfast meets the 3rd Thursday of the month. So join us on Thursday, February 20 at 8 am. Bring your appetites and a friend.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of GRACE

Betsy Schwegman

PWG is a monthly women's study, fellowship and dessert group that is open to all women -- not just members of Grace. We meet the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall.

This year our Bible study is on Exodus and Deuteronomy using the curriculum: *An Abiding Hope*. (Find out more on the internet at <http://horizons.pcusa.org/bible.htm>)

We also have a couple of small mission projects that we've done for many years. For example, we'll be making sandwiches for the free medical clinic staff in April and October.

World Day of Prayer is on March 7th

Each year we are involved with World Day of Prayer which is an ecumenical event around the globe. This year it will be on March 7 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, and the country theme will be on Egypt.

Next Cluster Meeting on Feb. 15

On Friday, February 15 at 9:30, we are hosting a meeting of PW groups in our area. Please bring a display or handout to share. Eveline Steele will show Choctaw Basket Weaving. Bring your own sack lunch and invite someone to come with you.

Presbytery Events of PW

Please mark your calendars for the following Presbytery events:

Feb; 22 at Bethel, OK - serving Indian Tacos.

April 26 in Sapulpa - Spring gathering

Sep 27-28 Dwight Mission - Women's Retreat

Many thanks to Betsy Karen, Kay, and Ruth for leading the last two meetings; and to Shirley and Ginger Crowl for bringing delightful and delicious desserts.

The light of God, our closing thought.

Shirley Hill

Please plan to join us at our next regular meeting. Monday, February 17 at 1 pm .

MARKETING

Ford Griggs

You're going to be seeing more outdoor banners on our front lawn. We were delighted that banners led many guests to Grace in December. Many thanks to Hank and Max Miles, and Cody Quinton for "preparing the ground" for our new banners.

In conjunction with the CE team, we are hosting the Valentine's Card Party. Some cards will be giving our homebound and ill, the rest will be taken to Intregis Hospital.

Also be looking for an updated website in the near future. If anyone would like to help us keep either the website or Facebook page looking fresh, please contact Ford.

Marketing's next meeting will be Wednesday, February ? at 10:30 am

Answer to Q. #9 of catechism: *What does it mean that we are made in God's image? It means we are made to reflect God's goodness, wisdom, and love.*



Thank you for the many cards and prayers for my family on the death of my uncle. It made the grief and stress so much more bearable.

Love, Pastor Teri

WORSHIP & MUSIC

**Scott Crow, Director of Music Ministry
with Ruth Nandico**

This time of year is always a little odd. We're between Christmas and Easter, a time to breathe a little. February is fairly quiet, Souper Bowl Sunday and Valentine's Day just about covers it.

Choir will begin rehearsals again and hopefully be singing for Sunday morning services soon.

Worship is looking forward to holding a Taizé service this spring, hopefully during Lent. Taizé is a contemplative service and we hope to be joined by other congregations.

As we begin preparing for special music in the summer, if you of a group or individual that you'd like to hear, please tell Scott or Ruth.

Worship Team's next meeting will be Wednesday, February 26 at 2:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Supper & Worship **March 5 at 5:00 & 5:30 pm**

To start the Lenten season, we will have an Ash Wednesday Supper & Worship. A simple supper of soup and bread will start at 5 pm. Then at 5:30 we will have a short prayer service which will include Communion. Please invite people to come with you for this special service and fellowship.

Home Communion

Communion is a special spiritual experience which binds us together as Christians. It is important that those who are unable to attend worship have the opportunity to participate in communion. Please call Pastor Teri if you'd like home communion.

Updating the Church Directory

Jo Ann is beginning the arduous process of updating the Church Directory. We need any new or corrected information you have.

Also, if we do not have your birthday date (we don't need the year), please tell it to Jo Ann so we can send you a birthday card.

Finally, be watching in the bulletin for dates when we'll be taking pictures for the directory.

MISSIONS **Marcy Livesay**

Taste of Grace

Did you know that 13% of women 75+ years of age in Grove have incomes below the poverty line? And about 16% of Grove's population live below the poverty line? And about 61% of students in Grove schools are eligible for free or reduced price lunches? There is great need for assistance in Grove. Taste of Grace helps to meet that need.

In preparation for the mission, over 1,500 flyers were distributed in the community from about 15 distribution points! This included public service organizations such as ABC Blessings and the Christian Medical Mission, thrift stores and dollar stores as well as Cheapo Depo and Curtis Tate Tire Store.

These flyers got out the word about Grace Presbyterian as well as the Taste of Grace. Almost everyone approached was very happy to make the flyers available.

Additionally, Taste of Grace and Grace PC were listed in Grove Sun's Sunspots for two weeks prior to the offering. Then on January 24, the Sun ran a large article about the church and Taste of Grace. (see it on our Facebook page: Grace in Grove.)

Besides fulfilling the main mission of feeding the hungry, Taste of Grace is fulfilling the

secondary purpose of helping Grace in Grove become more visible in the community.

Thanks to everyone who helped this much-needed community program get going; and hats off to Barbara, Bonnie, Dan, David, Edna, Gary, Ginger Green, Judy, Marcy, Ruth, and Teri for volunteering on January 29th.

The next Taste of Grace will February 26. We need people to deliver flyers, greet/serve, clean-up. Be looking for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

Missions' next meeting will likely be Thursday, February 20 at 2:00 pm

Who was St. Valentine?

Valentine was a 2nd century Roman priest and physician who was martyred by the Emperor Claudius II for marrying Christian couples. It is said that Valentine overstepped his bounds when he tried to convert the emperor, and taking exception to it, Claudius sentenced him to death – and an ugly death at that. Folk lore says that he was beaten, stoned, and finally beheaded.

Valentine's Day has been celebrated on February 14 as a lovers' holiday and a day of romance since the 14th century, when the date was thought to be the beginning of the mating season for birds.

EMAILED GRACE NOTES

Hopefully starting with the April edition, we will email your copy of Grace Notes to you rather than sending it via the postal service. If you do not have an email address, naturally we will continue sending you a postal mailed copy.

Should you have email, but prefer a hard copy, please email Jo Ann at:
gracepresby8340@sbcglobal.net

Special interest

Our own Joyce Burns is going to be in a one act comedy with the Readers' Theatre. The title is "The Last Romance" and it will be done on February 14, 15 at 7:30 and February 16 at 2:00. The Readers' Theatre is a part of Grove Playmaker's. Please come out and support Joyce and the Playmakers.

Valentines Party



Sunday, Feb 9 following worship

Please join us for a Valentines Party

Class of 2014

Bonnie Anglewicz

Linda Folsom

Marcy Livesay

Session Elders

Class of 2015

Scott Crow

Ruth Nandico

Kay Gray

Class of 2016

Ford Griggs

Kernan Kernan

Edna Sparkman

Teri Summers-Minette, Moderator and Ford Griggs, Clerk of Session