

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

April 2009

April Highlights

[Easter Activities.](#) Here is a listing of activities planned for Holy Week: April 5-12.

[Royal Family Kids Camp.](#) Volunteers are being sought for this year's RFKC, August 9-14. This article describes the positions that need to be filled and how to volunteer.

[Congregational Meeting Called.](#) Session has called a meeting of the congregation at 12:30 pm on Sunday, April 19, 2009.

Our Church Community

[Letter from Pastor Marty.](#) Pastor Marty sent a thank you note to our members.

[Staff Opportunity at New Beginnings Church.](#) Two positions have opened at the New Beginnings Presbyterian Church in West Jordan.

[Session Notes.](#) Here you will find the notes from the March 17 Session meeting.

[February Financial Update.](#) This is our updated monthly financial picture provided by Tim Fluetsch.

[Presbyterian Links.](#) Here is a listing of helpful links for those who are interested in our denomination's work at the national level, including what Presbyterians believe.

[Church Officers.](#) This is a listing of the current elders and deacons.

Children & Youth

[Are We There Yet?](#) We are very close to our children's goal of collecting enough money to purchase a cow for Heifer International. "...and then the smiling face of Jesus breaks through."

[Special Children's Dates.](#) Ideas to help prepare your children for holy week.

[Youth Making a Difference.](#) Our busy youth will be traveling to build a house in Tijuana (April 9-14), repair homes in on the Wind River reservation (June 21-27), and joining in a COG camp/raft weekend at Flaming Gorge (June 26-27).

Adult & Family

[Honoring All God's Creation.](#) From planting saplings to interfaith dialogue, COG members strive to be good stewards of our planet.

Serving and Sharing Our Stories. Our own members have been sharing their stories of service this spring and, through their service, making a difference for those in need.

Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans. We are sending a team of 15 to partner with Habitat for Humanity in building 14 new homes on Ferris Place.

April Prayer Calendar. Prayers from the hearts of our members. *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16*

Thanks to XMISSION for providing our church with free internet access and a website.



Easter at COG

by Lorrie Gaffney
Area Director of Children and Youth

Hunting for *More* this *Easter*?



Discover...

Joy!

Easter Egg Hunt: April 11, 10:00 am sharp at CoG
Toddlers through 4th grade, (designated age groups)
Bring a basket; Friends and Neighbors welcome
Join other families over light refreshments in gym

Hope!

Meaningful Worship: April 12, 8:30 and 11:00 am
Welcome our new Interim Pastor, Bill McGuinness and his wife Kathy, from San Jose, California



HOLY WEEK

Community!

Easter Brunch: April 12, 9:45 am
Bring a breakfast item to share and sit down with others over coffee, juice and good food

OTHER EASTER EVENTS:

Maundy Thursday: Thursday April 9th 7:30 pm. First Presbyterian and Wasatch Presbyterian will join together in our sanctuary for this service.

Good Friday: Friday April 10th 12:00pm. This is a community-wide service based on the seven last words of Christ. Seven pastors from different churches will participate.

Interfaith Procession of the Cross: Friday April 10th , 6:00 pm. Through the streets beginning at First Presbyterian Church and ending at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. In candlelight, worshipers will sing hymns, stopping at local church sites to pray and to listen to scripture.

Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC)

by John and Shelly Horel
Camp Co-Directors

RFKC will be held the week of August 9-14 this year. Sponsored by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, RFKC is one of two Utah programs providing a Christ-centered summer camp for abused and neglected children between the ages of 7 and 11.

Volunteers are needed in many capacities...for the full week, for 2 ½ days, or for just a half day. This year's camp will be closer than in past years: Camp Kostopulos in Emigration Canyon. Many types of volunteers are needed:

<i>8 Female Counselors</i>	<i>An Uncle</i>	<i>Plenty of Cooks</i>
<i>8 Male Counselors</i>	<i>Grandparents</i>	<i>2 Assistant directors</i>
<i>10 Assistant Counselors</i>	<i>15 Support staff</i>	<i>And much...</i>
<i>An Aunt</i>	<i>Drama Leader</i>	<i>...much more!</i>



What can you do to help? Pray for the children who will attend the camp and for the over 100 volunteers who will donate their time and talents. You can also volunteer for a half-day, 2 ½ days, or the full week. To volunteer, download an application form from www.rfkc-gslc.org.

Congregational Meeting Called

by Dave Adamson
Elder

Session has called a congregational meeting for April 19, 2009, following the second service at 12:30 p.m. This meeting is held annually for the purpose of hearing a report of the Nominating Committee and then electing elders and deacons, whose term of service will begin June 1. All members of COG are encouraged to attend this brief but important meeting.

Our Church Community

Letter from Pastor Marty

by Marty Shelton-Jenck
Former Pastor

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the many cards, emails, and prayers I received after my mother's death. It was good to feel cared for by so many of you at COG. Life is going well for our family on the Island.

We're headed to Whistler for skiing this coming week. We miss you and we pray ever day for all of you.

Blessings & Peace,

Marty Shelton-Jenck

Staff Opportunity at "New Beginnings"

by
Elder

We have received the following job postings from the "New Beginnings Presbyterian Church" in West Jordan:

Ministry Coordinator

We want your ministry leadership experience for a new Presbyterian Church (USA) fellowship in the South/West Jordan area. Position gives an opportunity to mentor new leaders for Sunday School, Worship, Evangelism, Outreach, etc. Serves as the primary contact and staff coordinator. Work from your own home

and community in addition to late Sunday afternoon. 15 hours/wk, \$15/hr. with paid vacation. Let's discuss your experience and interest in serving God. Call Nancy 801.280.0164

Worship Leader

Serve God in Sunday afternoon worship with a new contemporary Presbyterian Church (USA) fellowship in the South/West Jordan area. Position gives an opportunity to coordinate and lead invigorating worship. Live praise band in place; welcoming new talent. 3 to 5 hours/week, \$100/week. One Sunday off each month. Call Nancy 801.280.0164

Session Notes (Meeting of March 17, 2009)

by Dave Adamson
Elder


1. The Treasurer's Report and balance sheet were reviewed. February receipts were good as pledging members found ways to keep true to their pledge. Fortunately, 65 of our pledging households have made a per capita donation. Because our expenditures were down in February and pledges are current, we are still within our budget. It was reported that Pastor Bill McGuinness plans to take an active part in this year's stewardship campaign.
2. Session received an update from the Interim Pastor Search Committee. Pastor Bill McGuinness plans to move to Utah in early April and will preach at COG on Easter Sunday. However, because of previous arrangements, his contract will not begin until May 1. Kathy McGuinness will also begin her part-time duties on May 1. It was reported that with careful adjustments in Bill's terms of contract, Kathy's salary will cost the budget only \$2,000 beyond what was originally planned.
3. Session adopted the following new policy on member privacy:
"We believe that our members join Community of Grace in order to become part of a community of confident followers of Jesus Christ. We respect our members' privacy in this endeavor. Accordingly, member contact information (address, phone, email, etc.) is distributed solely for Church and socially-oriented activities, and is never intended for marketing, sales, or other non-Church purposes. We ask members and non-members to respectfully abide by this policy."
4. Dede reported on the plans for Holy Week.
5. It was reported that the new coffee plan is working well. We have had many volunteers sign up to help.
6. Session is considering the use an outside consultant to assist with our technology needs. The formation of a new "technology team" was discussed and deferred until Bill McGuinness was in place.
7. There was a discussion about collecting, reviewing, and posting session policies on our web site. No action was taken.

8. Session voted to call a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 19, 2009, at 12:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving the report of the nominating committee and electing new elders and deacons.

February Financial Update

by Tim Fleutch

Treasurer

 Financial Update		
2009 Income & Expenses	Year To Date	Current to 2-28-09 Budget Year To Date
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges	51,448.73	56,066
Other	5,627.10	8,200.02
Total Income	57,075.83	64,266.02
<u>Expenses</u>		
Personnel	22,468.60	22,737.08
Outreach & Mission	3,286.72	7,010.02
Operations	19,195.62	21,791.42
Children & Youth	430.01	1,475.06
Adult & Family	291.01	858.34
Worship	182.76	583.34
Total Expenses	45,854.72	54,455.26
Surplus (Deficit)	11,221.11	9,810.76

Presbyterian Links

Here are some helpful links for those who are interested in our denomination's work at the national level:

Home Page, PCUSA (www.pcusa.org)

Presbyterian 101 [Facts about Presbyterians] (www.pcusa.org/101)

Expressing Our Faith: National and International Service
www.pcusa.org/navigation/mission.htm

Church Officers

Board of Deacons

Deacons Moderator: Lisa Wiscomb

Class of 2009

Randy Carter
Dave Fry
Barb Gentry
Lori Packard
Sharon Riley
Wes Starkenburg

Class of 2010

Cynthia Alex
Debbie Bybee
Denise Harris
Brooke Holyoak
Tom Keene
Bonnie Sackett

Class of 2011

Kim Beaslin
Elaine Nordberg
Linda Page
Lisa Wiscomb

Session

Acting Session Moderator: Rev. David Henry

Recording Secretary: Jane Cooper

Class of 2009

Tim Fluetsch
Dave Adamson

Class of 2010

Pat Holmes
Chuck Stolfa

Class of 2011

Kelly Harris
Debbie Colt

Children & Youth

Are we there yet?

by Lorrie Gaffney

Area Director of Children and Youth

Are we there yet? Are we THERE yet? Are we there YET?

In my family as a kid, that question likely meant we were driving from Corpus Christi TX to Kansas and I was in need of a potty stop! I can still push the question with various goals and achievements I want to see. This week I got excited about how close we were to the Sunday School goal of purchasing a cow for Heifer International. Could we get there by Easter? I did the math, and I knew it would be close. Then along came the reminder of the One Great Hour of Sharing. We ask kids to collect money in colorful fish-shaped offering boxes for Easter. This is an important offering for Presbyterian Disaster Relief – one of the programs I am most proud of as a Presbyterian. Hmm, it was looking like we wouldn't quite make our Heifer goal if we were going to join the One Great Hour of Sharing.

And then the smiling face of Jesus breaks through. This is the smile that always tries to remind me to let go of the goals and enjoy the journey. And that smile continued to be reflected in the person that came into the office today and handed me some money... for Heifer... so we could "have a cow this Easter" – a cow that will bring a family new life, new hope. Jesus coming through a gift of an animal, purchased from the hearts of children. That is resurrection-in-action!

Children's Ministry

Special April Dates

by Lorrie Gaffney
Area Director of Children and Youth

April 5: 5th/6th grade Egg Stuffing in Sunday School;

April 5 and 19 ACTS 5th/6th graders go to Wentworth 1:00 -3:00 pm

April 11: Easter Egg Hunt – Toddler – 3rd grade

April 12: One Great Hour of Sharing offering; Family brunch; Easter worship



We celebrate Easter this month! The joy of Jesus rising from the grave. But before we have Easter we have Good Friday. In fact we have a powerful week with stories that come *before* the Easter story. Please make sure that your child knows the basic building blocks of our faith. Teach, talk and ask questions to discover what you, as a parent, need to reinforce. Ask “what is Easter?” And go from there to talk about some of these key stories as age-appropriate. Bring out symbols like branches and coats to wave, towels and water for foot washing, bread and juice to remember Jesus, a piece of wood and nails to remember the pain, and then something very special to symbolize new life like a butterfly, a chick inside an egg and imbed each story with the key of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection: extravagant love for all.

Sunday, April 5, we celebrate Palm Sunday. One week before Easter. Jesus knows what is to come. Jesus enters Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey, humble peaceful, loving, while people shout for joy, excited to see him coming. They lay coats on his pathway and wave branches. Their king is coming to save them!

Thursday, April 9, Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday. For the last time Jesus eats his Passover meal with his disciples – including Judas who he knew would betray him (and he still loved him). Before the meal Jesus washed his disciples feet to show what serving love looks like. Jesus asked his disciples to remember him each time they would drink from the cup and eat of the bread, which we do each time we take communion.

Friday, April 10, Good Friday. Jesus was spit on, laughed at, his clothes taken, he carried his own heavy cross to the hill it would stand on and then nails were pounded into his hands and feet so that he would hang from the cross until he died. Still he

loved: the people who spit on him, the disciples who left him, the criminal beside him – everyone.

Sunday, EASTER. The tomb where Jesus was buried was empty. The large stone was rolled away. Angels appeared to the women, who came with spices, and said Jesus had risen. Later others would see the risen Christ and be amazed and rejoice as we do now that love is always stronger than evil and even death!

(Please talk about the role of the Easter Bunny in our Easter week! –Something like....*The Easter bunny brings eggs to **remind us** of God's joy for all creation and the eggs are so cool because they **remind us** that life comes out of a lifeless shell just like Jesus resurrection from a tomb.) **Happy Easter!***

Youth Ministry

Youth Making a Difference

by Lorrie Gaffney

Area Director of Children and Youth

Amor Ministries House building team departs on Holy Thursday and crosses the border into Mexico that same evening. We will begin building on Good Friday, Saturday and Easter, finishing what we can on Monday and returning on Tuesday. Sacrificial love, Joy, Hope and New Life will all have renewed meaning as we bring a concrete floor, walls and a roof to a family in need of shelter.

Team Members:

Lorrie Gaffney
Dave Gaffney
Jessica Gaffney
Judy Smith
Emerick Chow
Amie Boyer
Sara Boyer
Jackie Goodman
Bruce Goodman
Taylor Thurman
Sarika Khanwilkar
Laura Sterner
Family we are building for



We appreciate all the prayers and support from COG members and prayer partners that connect us on this mission service.

Wind River Wyoming Mission Trip June 21-27 is full. This group will paint/repair homes; play with kids in a Kids Club, eat homemade fry bread prepared by an Indian couple; explore Sinks Canyon where the river disappears for about ½ mile underground.

All ages are invited to hear their adventures by joining in a COG **camp/raft weekend** at **Flaming Gorge June 26 and 27**. Campsites are limited so reserve your space, at the Welcome Center. Flaming Gorge is just over a 3 hour drive from SLC.

Adult & Family

Honoring All God's Creation

by Dede Carpenter

Area Director of Adult & Family

God's creation is an amazing world of integrated species and systems and this month we're celebrating our natural environment. Saturday April 4th Community of Grace adults and youth will be assisting Tree Utah planting saplings in the Jordan River Parkway. As in years past, we are choosing to celebrate God's gift of trees and offer our hands and hearts in support; passing along a wonderful gift to future generations.

*We plant this tree for those who will follow.
We plant this tree for creatures great and small.
We plant this tree for its bounty and its beauty.
We plant this tree for all.*

In addition to planting, individuals from Community of Grace have also been involved in "Faith and The Land" dialogues that have taken place in a variety of faith communities over the past year. These dialogues have provided an exciting opportunity to share experiences and thoughts regarding how our relationship with the land connects to our faith.

This past month an interfaith group gathered to assess the collective findings and address our common ground. Every faith community who participated reported diverse yet, overlapping beliefs, doctrines, teachings and practices that called on them to safeguard nature, including wild places.

In anticipation of Earth Day an Interfaith statement proclaiming our common understanding of the spiritual value of wilderness and call to honor wild places will be presented to the greater Salt Lake Community.

Serving & Sharing our Stories

by Dede Carpenter

Area Director of Adult & Family

Personal stories speak to our hearts and Community of Grace has been blessed with a number of adults who have shared their volunteer service stories during our March/April "Drop In Class." Putting their faith into action, these individuals have reached out to connect with Big Brothers and Sisters, special need tutoring, hospice care, Volunteers of America, Stephen Ministry and feeding the hungry. Listening to



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their stories and hearing how hearts are touched on both sides of the relationship encourages us to listen for God's call in our own life. Where can we use our gifts and talents to make life better for all God's children? (You can start with just one...)

RHINO: Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans. by Dede Carpenter

Area Director of Adult & Family

The work continues long after the media leaves. Community of Grace is excited to have a team of 15 going to New Orleans in May! We will partner with Habitat for Humanity and St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church working on project that is building 14 new homes on Ferris Place.



April Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen

Prayer Coordinator

1. Lord, let me not forget your wondrous love.
2. Bless Lorrie and Dede who have carried on the leadership of ministry with much grace, wisdom, and courage.
3. Prepare our hearts and minds to welcome our new interim minister in May.
4. I give thanks for organizations that exist to bring justice and grace to many people -- Organizations such as Heifer Project, International Justice Mission, Children of Peace International, AMOR Ministries, World Vision, Ulster Project.
5. This Palm Sunday fill us with the Holy Spirit and keep us faithful.
6. Lord, release me from personal ambition to follow you joyfully.
7. Renew our deacons and give them joy in serving.
8. Lord of mercy, I pray for those overwhelmed by a world raging with war.
9. Make me your servant in the image of Jesus.
10. God, help me to see those who have been rejected as equally beloved in your sight.
11. Bless our sister church, the Immanuel church, Kiraro in Kenya. Give them your truth and power.
12. Lord, help me share the wonder of the resurrection with others.
13. Almighty God, I pray for leaders embroiled in difficult decision making.
14. Lord, give your comforting healing and peace to those who are ill.
15. Lord, help me to trust you with my life.
16. Bless New Beginnings church as they plant the seeds of your word.
17. I pray for soldiers scarred by violent combat.
18. Lord, transform me from the inside out.
19. Thank you for Sunday School classes that help us learn more of you.
20. Merciful God, give your peace to people suffering from mental illness.
21. Fill our session with the desire to serve you, Lord, in all of their discussions and decisions.
22. God of creation, I pray for your strength to restore the beauty of your handiwork.
23. I pray for the people of Iraq, whose grasp on life has grown weary.
24. Lord, bless the small groups of Community of Grace so that as they pray, study and fellowship they may grow closer to you and to each other.
25. Thank you for praise through music during worship.
26. Thank you, Lord of all seasons, for the promise of life as buds swell this spring.
27. I pray for strength and grace for people who confront hatred with love.
28. Almighty God, help me see your powerful hand at work in my life.
29. Faithful God, help me to trust you with my life in sickness and in health, in fullness and in emptiness.

30. Bless and guide Pastor Bill McGuinness as he begins his work at Community of Grace. Give us wisdom, grace and harmony as we work together.

