

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

August 2008

August Highlights

[COG Organized in 1983](#)

[25th Anniversary Celebration.](#) Now celebrating 25 years of service, a special anniversary celebration has been planned for August. Here are the details.

[From the Pastor's Desk:](#)

[25 Years](#) Pastor Marty reflects on the 25-year history of Community of Grace.

Our Church Community

[Sprucing Things Up.](#) □ We've accomplished a lot in our building this summer, most with volunteer help. Ed Taylor outlines the progress we've made.

[August Financial Update.](#)

[Session Notes.](#) Due to vacation schedules, the Session did not meet in July. In August Session will have both a regular meeting and their annual retreat.

[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.](#) Here you will find a listing of the current elders and deacons.

Children & Youth

[VBS 2008 God's Big Backyard:](#)

[Kids Have a Blast Loving God and Neighbor!](#) □ With the help of many volunteers, Vacation Bible School was a major success this year.

Adult & Family

[Mexico—The Adventure with God.](#) □ Dede reflects on her experience on the Mexico Mission Trip and its impact on her life.

[August 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*

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COG organized in 1983
25th Anniversary Celebration!

by Lisa Wiscomb
Celebration Organizing Committee

It was the year that Sally Ride became the first woman in space, Poland ended military rule and granted amnesty to political prisoners, President Reagan launched the "Strategic Defense Initiative," John Paul II visited his would-be assassin to forgive him, and IBM released the IBM PC XT. It was also 25 years ago that Community of Grace was officially organized. A quarter of a century has passed since Pastor Jim Lappen preached the first sermon at what was then called the Hershey Center across from Alta View Hospital. This is a landmark event in the history of our church, our city, and our state. A major celebration is certainly in order!



Mark your calendars for the 25-year anniversary of Community of Grace Presbyterian Church. We will begin our festivities on August 9th, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. with dinner and games at Willow Creek Park. The church will provide the main dish and drinks. There will be sign-up sheets to bring either a salad or dessert. On August 10th, we will celebrate with one service at 10:00 a.m. Jim Lappen, the first pastor at COG, is flying in for the event and will deliver the sermon. There will be refreshments and a slide presentation in the gym following the service. Don't miss it! This will be a special occasion for everyone.



From the Pastor's Desk:

25 Years

by Pastor Marty

We tend to think that our lives are determined by our efforts. We seem to think that we make our own way in this world. Yet, I think when we step back for a moment we realize how almost everything we have become depends upon those who have gone before us. For this reason, we are celebrating and honoring the past 25 years of ministry at COG. Without individuals and families who started and grew this church, we would not be here today.

In the summer of 1980, the year I graduated from high school, Rev. Everett Perry did a study to determine the need for a Presbyterian church in Sandy. When the study came back positive, the Mission Development Committee, chaired at that time by our very own Ed Taylor, appointed a task force in 1981 to organize a new congregation and call their founding minister.

Rev. Bob Rigstad, at about the same time, was gathering people in Sandy to begin a Presbyterian congregation. They began with bible study and started to lay the groundwork for creating a church. The members of the original task force included two couples who are still members today: Lynda & Bruce Adams and Jacque & Terry Beddoes. By June 1982 they had searched and found their first pastor, the Rev. Jim Lappen. Jim and his wife Barb, and their two kids Mary and Jimmy moved from the east coast to accept the call in Sandy.

On September 12, 1982 the new church held its first public service of worship at the Hirschi Center at 9801 South and 1300 East. By March 6, 1983, with the help of Mt. Olympus Presbyterian and Cottonwood Presbyterian, COG had gathered enough members to be chartered as a local congregation of the Presbyterian Church. This month, August 9-10 we celebrate the 25 years our congregation has worshipped and served.

I hope you will join us for the picnic on Saturday August. It will be a wonderful time for the whole family with food and games for all. Then on Sunday, we will worship at one service at 10AM with the founding pastor, the Rev. Jim Lappen preaching. In addition to Jim, several other folks involved in the beginning of our congregation will share a few stories.

Blessings!

Marty Shelton-Jenck, Pastor

Our Church Community

Sprucing Things Up!

by Ed Taylor

Building and Grounds Coordinator

We have been blessed with a wonderful building located in a prime location. Keeping our facilities in good condition is an important part of our stewardship to care for the many gifts we have received. With lots of volunteer assistance from our members, we've accomplished a great deal this spring and summer. Our building and our grounds are in very good shape.




- Replaced all spot lights in the sanctuary, as well as the burned out fluorescent bulbs
- Replaced all burned out bulbs in the gym
- Cleaned the sanctuary and Narthex carpet
- Removed grass from the parking lot, tarred and striped
- Painted four brown doors in front of the church a grey to match the adjacent rock color
- Replaced a broken window in Room 4
- Cleaned and tinted inside of all windows in the sanctuary and Sunday School Rooms

On July 26 a crew of 17 washed 231 windows in 2 ½ hours. We probably saved our church over \$400 in professional cleaning costs. Many thanks to the many volunteers who helped with these various projects!

July 31, 2008 Financial Update

by Tim Fluetsch

Elder & Treasurer

2008 Income & Expenses	 Financial Update	
	Year To Date	Budget Year To Date
Income	\$245,348	\$257,292
Expenses	\$252,926	\$257,701
Difference	(\$7,578)	(\$409)

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)

What Presbyterians Believe (www.pcusa.org/catech/studycat.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
Marianne Wedertz
Lisa Wiscomb

Session

Session Moderator: Pastor Marty Shelton-Jenck

Clerk: Jane Cooper

Class of 2009

Tim Fuetsch
Dave Adamson

Class of 2010

Pat Holmes
Chuck Stolfa

Class of 2011

Kelly Harris
Debbie Colt

Children & Youth

VBS 2008 God's Big Backyard

Kids had a blast loving God and neighbor!

by Lorrie Gaffney

Children and Youth Director

Thank you to our awesome volunteers that gave so much to share God's love, and do it gracefully and joyfully!

The world is God's Big Backyard and each day a different country was celebrated with games, crafts, serving others, and of course snacks! Kids participated in singing, Bible Memory verse, an interactive Bible story and watched a special puppet message from

Backyard friends where toad learned to FROG (Fully Rely On God) and Fluffy learned that porcupines are loved by God even if they aren't fluffy!

As we look for God all around us, VBS is a beautiful opportunity to see God's power. "Sacrificial love that serves" was present each day as our leaders spent time listening and helping our kids. "Tweens," Teens and Adults chose to give up their evenings to make a difference in the lives of our kids and our backyard neighbors.

Here are some of the way our kids showed love for neighbors in God's Big Backyard:

- ❖ VBS families brought is a different food item each day, for Crossroads Food Pantry. Kids were excited about their offering and all were winners in our food contest – especially those in need!
- ❖ Shut-ins will have food delivered in cheerful boxes decorated by our kids who wanted others to have something bright and beautiful so they would know they are loved.
- ❖ Kids learned about Aids caregivers in Africa! Four *Caregiver Kits* were assembled with notes from VBS kids and the kits will be sent to Africa to let caregivers know that folks from Community of Grace are caring, praying and giving thanks for their care of people with AIDS.
- ❖ Kids learned about Royal Family Kids Camp, a camp for Foster kids. They decorated placemats and made napkin holders for their camp the first week of August to let them know others care!
- ❖ Prayer flags are flying around our cross tower caring the prayers of kids for those in China and around the world.

I believe that God is smiling as God looks around his Big Backyard!







Adult & Family

Mexico—The Adventure with God

by Dede Carpenter
Adult and Family Director

Last month I was in a state of anticipation, wondering what to expect and how I'd manage outside the box of routines and comforts while on the mission trip to Mexico. It was my very first mission trip and I was anxious; there were travel concerns, building concerns, outhouses, and a sleeping bag on the horizon. It was unknown territory and Dietrich Bonhoeffer said **"Every moment of our lives is related to God"**. I was praying to not only survive physically, but come away with a better understanding and appreciation of that relationship.



What did I experience on this trip that forced me to acknowledge God's presence in every moment?

Surprises...those unexpected and uncontrollable moments that assault your senses and evoke an immediate response. Perhaps, God's way of saying, "You're not running the show!"

- The best travel surprise: A truly amazing 10 hour collection of music assembled by Jacob, Derek and Nick that was a gift to all our ears! Hours of old and new tunes bridging the generations; with only one exception of a humorously added and very **painful** American Idol Tryout CD!
- Mexico surprises: The border wall marked with an endless row of crosses...heat that took your breath away...constant thirst...roosters crowing at 2:30am...brown landscapes of baked earth...trash everywhere...children in makeshift shanties next to railroad tracks...roadside vendors selling

everything from chicken tacos to car batteries... dogs in all the neighborhoods... bus drivers who not only maneuvered rutted earthen roads with incredible speed and dexterity, but became mechanics when engines and gears failed.

What touched me and opened the heart to God's wonder and joy?

COG families and the amazing love they have for children, siblings, parents and friends... the gentle nature of Veronica Ordonez-Martinez and her daughter Karen's shy smile... the music of John Thomas Oaks... Steve Brooke and Al White's unbridled persona's as Mexico Idol judges... the amazing brilliance of the night sky and youth who could identify constellations... 5am "Buenos Dias" from our food team every morning as I grabbed an early coffee... Amy Mathis's enthusiasm and smile... Marty and Ginny translating the worksite prayer each morning in Spanish for our family... Mexico Family Camp staff who freely handed out backup bandannas and other "forgotten necessities"... Gabe's willingness to share his camp experience with the audience during the last Worship...

What inspired me?

Ingenious recycling... abandoned tires became retaining walls, property dividers and roofing material... windmills made of large metal barrels split lengthwise to catch the breeze. Denise's early morning reading and sharing of the Daily Word... teamwork that developed over the four days at the worksite... quieting words that acknowledged differences and moved our youth to common bonds... Scott and Gayla's Amor ministry story... the energetic Mariachi music during the bus rides... Marty teaching Derek and Jacob sawing techniques ... the simple pleasure of cooling off with a spray bottle... the stories of the at-risk students from the Milton School in Hersey, PA... the playful imagination of youth... the willingness of everyone to persevere and actually build a house... Veronica's tears as she received the keys to her home.

Did I experience God in every moment?

Another surprise... I couldn't seem to stop thinking about God in the mix of this diverse group of humanity and the heat; the marvel of God's creation and the dynamics of living.

I had prayed that God would shift my focus away from personal discomforts and fears to relationships and compassion; seeing as God sees... loving all people.

Life is filled with conflict and the unexpected. Issues of loving your neighbor seem pretty straight forward but, when your neighbor is from another group and keeping you up at night with their snoring, love can hit a pothole... and when a rooster starts crowing at 2:30 am, you wonder "what is going on?"

Then in the noisy darkness a prayer slips into my thoughts and God settles in with the voice of compassion... a gentle tap at 2:30 am... a reminder... be still, and know that I am.

August Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen
Prayer Coordinator

1. I believe; please help my unbelief.
2. Almighty God, when all I can do is want to want you, take my crumb of faith and break it like bread to feed thousands including me.
3. As we eat the bread and drink the juice together this morning, we experience the presence of the Lord.
4. I pray that the Royal Family Kids Camp brings joy and healing to each child at camp this week.
5. Lord, empower the deacons of Community of Grace as they do your work in serving members of Community of Grace.
6. Loving God, pour out your Spirit on me and speak your words of life.
7. Lord, since you have forgiven me, how dare I refuse to forgive myself?
8. I give thanks to you, God, for the leadership of Pastor Marty, Dede, and Lorrie.
9. Lord, touch me with your Spirit so that I take your peace to my family, to the office, and to every encounter I make today.
10. Thank you, God, for the gift of music and for your people who lead our music in worship.
11. Father God God, by your love, renew my inner being so that I can receive your love, and know it truly, and be your love to others.
12. Lord, teach me the time for everything under the heavens.
13. Oh God, help me to make a radical break from the darkness of my life and move toward the Light, who is your son, Jesus.
14. Lord, I pray for humility for our country, the superpower of the world.
15. Guide our sister church, the Immanuel Church, Kiraro in Kenya and keep it a bright light in their community.
16. God of peace, help me be a peacemaker in all I do today.
17. Lord, open my heart and mind to hear with joy what you have to say to me today.
18. Help me forgive others for then I remember that I am like other people and I know I also need forgiveness.
19. Fill each elder with your Holy Spirit as session meets today.
20. Lord, help me be your hands and face and words to all I meet today.
21. May I look at others and name them as God names them -- "Beloved."
22. Father, give us unity between people as we work for the common good.
23. Lord, look with mercy on those who are mentally ill.
24. Gracious God, today I offer myself to you in praise and thanksgiving.
25. Set me free to serve you -- free from anxiety, fear, self pity, self hatred, skepticism.
26. Lord, help me to be the change I want to see in the world.
27. God, teach me to pray because that is the constantly flowing root system of life in you.
28. Give me a listening heart so I may hear your Word and courageously act upon it.
29. Lord, move all countries of the world to seek peace, not domination.
30. I pray for people who are ill, old, or lonely; show me how to bring your comfort.
31. May we celebrate God's presence in worship today.

