

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

August 2009

August Highlights

Pastoral Transition Process. Pastor Bill explains the Presbyterian process of transitioning from one pastor to another.

August 9-14

Royal Family Kids Camp. Again this year COG will be a major sponsor of the Royal Family Kids Camp, a special camp for abused and neglected children. They are now looking for any who could join a prayer team for the children and staff...even if those prayers are made at home.

Session Approves Mission Study. Because COG had recently developed a mission study known as our Core Spiritual Identity (CSI), the process of finding a new pastor may be shortened. On July 21 Session approved an updated version of our CSI, and a copy can be found in this edition of Grace Notes.

Our Church Community

Session Notes. Here you will find the notes from the Session meeting of July 21.

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.

Crossroads Items of the Month. In August the Coalition of Religious Communities at Crossroads is asking for cereal and rice. For their thrift store they need kids back-to-school clothes and shoes.

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



Pastoral Transition Process

by Bill McGuinness
Pastor

Our session has assigned to the church nominating committee the task of proposing a slate of seven individuals, broadly representative of our congregation, to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). We ask that every member become informed about the process as documented here, and prayerfully consider serving on the PNC. If that's a direction in which you sense God's encouraging, please complete a PNC Referral Sheet (OVER) and turn it in to Debbie Colt or Pat Holmes, session representatives of the church's nominating committee. The congregation will vote on a slate of seven presented by the nominating committee in September. The PNC's tasks include completion of the multi-part Church Information Form (CIF) with the help of the clerk of session and the treasurer. It is then submitted to session and the COM (Committee on Ministry of Presbytery) for approval. Then it goes to Church Leadership Connection in Louisville for matching with potential pastors. Once the CIF has been matched and PIFs (Professional Information Forms) are received, each PNC member reads and evaluates PIFs for further consideration. A member of the PNC is appointed to do reference checking on candidates of interest and share that information with the rest of the committee. Once it has narrowed the field of prospective pastors, the PNC will interview potential pastors away from the local area and during visits to the church community. The PNC selects a candidate to place in nomination before the congregation, works out details of the terms of call, and makes arrangements with the presbytery for the appropriate examination and approvals. Normally, service on a PNC requires regular meetings at least monthly and usually weekly for periods of up to several months during the process. At least a few weekends along the way will likely be involved to meet, hear, interview and host prospective pastors in person.

Election to A PNC Is A Sacred Trust: The members of the congregation must give careful and prayerful attention to the volunteering and election of persons to serve in this important role. Those who consider serving should consider this to be a significant

commitment of their time, energy, and very best wisdom. They should be persons who understand and accept this as a task of spiritual discernment, not being easily influenced by personal desires or congregational politics, but rather listening for the voice of God. They also should be persons of integrity who respect and can maintain confidentiality. In the Presbyterian call system, the congregation gives authority to the PNC. Once the PNC is elected, the other members of the congregation and the session have no role in determining who will be the next pastor until the PNC is ready to recommend someone to the congregation for a vote. Any Presbyterian may have names to suggest to the PNC, but the work of the PNC must be protected from pressure and intrusion. Names under consideration are not shared outside of the committee. This is both to protect the persons being considered and to protect the integrity of the discernment process.

The presbytery, through the Committee on Ministry (COM) and the executive or general presbyter, has a responsibility to work with our PNC, to advise us, and to evaluate the person whom we select as our next pastor. They are authorized by our Constitution to be partners in the discernment process.



PASTORAL TRANSITION CHECKPOINTS

Pastor Marty Leaves	Fall 2008
Session Arranges Temporary Pastoral Coverage	Into Spring 2009
Session Secures Interim Pastor Bill	May 2009
Session Prepares and Submits a Mission Study demonstrating readiness to begin search for a permanent pastor	Summer 2009
Congregation Votes to Elect a <u>P</u> astor <u>N</u> ominating <u>C</u> ommittee	Early Fall 2009
PNC completes a <u>C</u> hurch <u>I</u> nformation <u>F</u> orm, submits it to session, then to Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for approval	Mid to late Fall 2009
CIF is computer matched with database of Presbyterian Pastors considering a change. Pastors also submit their <u>P</u> rofessional <u>I</u> nformation <u>F</u> orms directly to PNC. Total PIF count probably in the range of 50 - 80	Mid to late Fall 2009

PNC prays, studies, reads, discusses, checks references, phone calls, interviews, narrows, visits, hears sermons, meets, selects, administers, proposes start-date and brings the candidate they have discerned to represent God's leading to the congregation for vote.

Mid to late Fall 2009
through ____ ____ ____
(God's timing)

August 9-14
Royal Family Kids Camp

by Shelley Horel



At Royal Family Kids Camp, we try to have at least one person praying for each child and for each person on the staff. We believe that holding the camp and each person in it in prayer has made a huge difference in the success of the camp, and more importantly, in the lives of the kids and staff. We need people who are willing to keep RFKC held up in prayer, especially before and during camp, which is August 9-14. Please contact our prayer coordinator, Beth Hazur, at beth.hazur@hotmail.com if you could pray, and keep praying, for this God-centered and awesome ministry.

Our Church Community

Session Notes *(Meeting of July 21)*

by Jane Cooper
Elder

1. Pastor Bill McGuinness led an exercise in spiritual dialogue, or "God-Talk", during which Elders spoke about perspectives on God that included elements of personal faith stories. Pastor Bill is encouraging and assisting Session members to become more personally spiritually oriented and more fully equipped to provide spiritual leadership to the congregation.
2. The following church officers were installed in June:
 - Deacons ordained/installed on June 7, 2009:
Class of 2011: Barbara Gentry
Class of 2012: Erica Adamson, Scott Adamson, Sherry Britt, Keith West, Wes Starkenburg
 - Elders ordained/installed on June 14, 2009:
Class of 2012: Jane Cooper, Alywn VanderWalt
3. Treasurer Tim Fluetsch reported that the church budget is doing well month to month, although some of our bills have recently gone up. The interest rate on

our loan went down, which lowered our monthly payments, but the cost of our church insurance policy has increased. Tim has consulted with a church member with insurance expertise, and they have determined that we have good insurance coverage, but the higher cost will put us over the budgeted amount for the year. Tim is arranging for an outside person versed in accounting procedures to conduct the annual financial review of our church financial records as outlined in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

4. This year the congregation is encouraged to look at stewardship as one element of personal spiritual growth. Because of the many young people at Community of Grace, the Session envisions the need for a youth director who will benefit the entire congregation and provide a strong youth ministry that will bless the whole church. Our stewardship emphasis will begin soon and will culminate in a Consecration Sunday celebration in October to which all are invited.
5. The Area Leadership Team (ALT) of Pastor Bill, Dede Carpenter, Lorrie Gaffney and Kathy McGuinness is now providing weekly reports to Session to keep Elders informed of their day-to-day work in leading the church. This reporting system was implemented to improve communication between Session and the ALT so Elders can be better prepared to answer questions and communicate information more effectively to church members.
6. Session approved the final draft of our Mission Study Document which will now go to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for approval. It will also be emailed to those for whom we have email addresses. Paper copies will be available by request through the church office. The Mission Study is mostly familiar material about our church and is used to demonstrate to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) that we have a self understanding and readiness to begin the process of calling a permanent pastor. This will allow us to move forward in electing a Pastor Nominating Committee in September. That committee, elected by the congregation, will then begin the process of searching for and calling an Installed Pastor. Church members are encouraged to prayerfully consider serving on the Pastor Nominating Committee and to speak to Debbie Colt, Pat Holmes, or any other Session member about their possible interest in serving in this way.

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 2010

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

Class of 2011

Kim Beaslin
Barb Gentry
Elaine Nordberg
Linda Page
Lisa Wiscomb

Class of 2012

Erica Adamson
Scott Adamson
Sherry Britt
Wes Starkenburg
Keith West

Session

Moderator: Rev. Bill McGuinness

Clerk: Jane Cooper

Treasurer: Tim Fluetsch

Class of 2010

Pat Holmes
Chuck Stolfa

Class of 2011

Kelly Harris
Debbie Colt

Class of 2012

Jane Cooper
Alwyn Vanderwalt

Coalition of Religious Communities.

Located at the Crossroads Urban Center, the "Food of the Month" for August is cereal and rice. They can re-bag large quantities into family size portions. The thrift store item of the month is kids' back-to-school clothes and shoes.

The Crossroads 'Food of the Month' program was created to fill immediate gaps in our food supply. Each family that comes to Crossroads Urban Center is given a fixed list of items. We try to keep everything on the "menu" for each food box in stock. When we run out of a particular item, we can't substitute something extra or we would run out of a second food item more quickly.

So, when you see that we need CEREAL that means that we are out or almost out of that food item. If we don't receive a supply of cereal right away then each family we are serving will go without cereal and their family will be short that much food in their food box. That is the difference one box or can makes to a hungry person in our community



Mission Study Document Approved by Session July 21, 2009

I. Who We Are

The Core Spiritual Identity (CSI) of Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

Why Do We Exist?

Our mission is to build confident followers of Jesus Christ who love God, neighbor and self.

What is God's vision for us?

We are called to be a community growing in love, compassion and justice.

What values guide our ministry?

- *We are led by our Session, Pastor and Area Leadership Team in prioritizing **spiritual practices** of worship, scripture study, and personal prayer as essential to develop a strong personal and corporate relationship with God.*
- *We **love** others where they are and we encourage them on their spiritual journey.*
- *We strive for **excellence** in teams and systems to honor God and inspire people.*
- *We **share Christ** with others in word and deed.*
- *We communicate the gospel in practical, meaningful, and **relevant** ways that touch the heart and head.*

What behaviors are we developing in people who desire to be confident followers of Jesus Christ?

We are leading people to...

Connect deeply with God through Christ-centered relationships.

Grow and mature to follow Jesus Christ in all areas of life.

Serve in ministry offering our resources, gifts, passions and strengths.

Share God's love by reaching out to others in word and deed.

Live worshipfully, practicing the presence of God as the dominant reality of our lives.

We are a local congregation of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

II. What We Are About

Key Ways - we do, and will continue to implement, our Core Spiritual Identity (CSI)

Outreach and Mission

At Community of Grace, one of the ways we build confident followers of Jesus Christ who love God, neighbor and self is through the ministry of Outreach and Mission.

Outreach and Mission exists to:

- Invite **others to experience life as confident followers of Jesus Christ.**
- Welcome **genuinely all who are drawn to us by the Holy Spirit.**
- **Serve** our local community, our nation and the world as the hands and feet of Christ. Service experiences are intergenerational, as well as geared for specific age groups.

Children's Ministry

Our nursery is open during worship with at least two staff nursery attendants and with volunteer support as needed. We believe that our nursery is a child's introduction to a God of amazing love as demonstrated through caring interactions. Safety and health are a priority. Pagers are provided to each parent during worship.

We provide opportunities for children to:

Worship: One service is designated for children to remain and worship with their family; the other service offers a separate children's worship time with music, a message, prayer and activity designed to engage a truth of God.

Grow: Sunday School is offered each Sunday during the school year (September to May) with teams of 3-4 teachers in each class committed to teaching a Bible story using FaithWeaver curriculum's use of interactive learning tools for different learning styles.

Serve / Connect: Tweens--5th-6th graders, have the opportunity to participate in ACTS (Accepting, Caring, Telling, Sharing), a program that serves and encourages interactions between Community of Grace and community Senior Citizens.

Outreach events such as Vacation Bible School, an annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Birthday Party for Jesus allow kids to invite friends to fun activities.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry is designed with a desire for **REAL** values: **Relevant, Excellent, Active Participation, Love.**

The Message is a program designed to help youth **grow** in understanding God's truths and **worship** Christ through a relevant message.

Sheer Fun events are planned for Sheer Fun – to allow kids to **invite** friends. Our annual Fast has become another tool for kids to **invite** others into the challenge of fasting to make a difference with a need around the world.

Connecting in Christ-Centered relationships through small group Bible Study, service and fun together is a priority to develop.

Mission trips primarily for youth, and intergenerational trips, offer opportunities to receive a life-changing blessing from **servicing and caring** for others in need.

Adult Ministry

Our desire is to welcome every adult and encourage them to enrich their relationship with God. We invite them to participate in adult ministries that highlight the key characteristics of building confident followers: **Connect, Grow, Serve, Share and Live worshipfully.**

Connect: Small groups allow interaction that connect and develop relationships within our faith community which are critical for building a strong body of Christ.

Grow: Sunday School classes offer opportunities to grow through Bible study, book discussion and relevant information sessions.

Serve: Service opportunities in our local community and beyond allow us to put our faith in action and experience the love God has for all creation.

Share: Sharing our faith through leadership and mentoring deepens our faith experience.

Live worshipfully: Practicing the presence of God as the dominant reality of our lives engages the dynamic component of the relationship and celebrates the gift of grace.

Recent examples of Ministries in place... Lunch Bunch Bible Study, Faces & Places of God Sunday activities, Taekwon Do, Salvation Army sandwich making and serving, Crossroads Food Co-op distribution location, Rebuilding Hope In New Orleans (RHINO) mission trip.

Family Ministry

Families are contacted monthly by their Deacon, and special care is offered during times of crisis. Ongoing prayer support is available through a **Prayer Chain** and **Prayer Team** on a daily / weekly basis.

We are currently encouraging our families to participate in **Summer Sunday Faces & Places of God** events to engage fellowship in partnership with service or entertainment. These events have included lunch with the homeless in Pioneer Park, visiting Tracy Aviary, group hikes, July 5th Pancake Breakfast, Royal Family Kid's Camp support, Salvation Army sandwich making / serving, and Jordan River Parkway clean up.

During the year quarterly service events and other fellowship activities are on the calendar.

Quarterly service events: Crossroads "Fall Leaf Haul" leaf raking, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Crossroads Turkey Giveaways, support for 10,000 Villages, Tree Utah / Tree Planting.

Worship

During the school year (September to May) we offer two Sunday worship celebrations with distinct styles. At 8:30 a.m. it is contemporary, with the Spirit of Joy band and communion around the table weekly. At 11:00 a.m. it is more traditional, with piano and choir, communion monthly and a Children's Message.

During the summer we offer one service (at 9:30 a.m.), followed by after-worship

opportunities where people can experience the joy of God's creation through the places and faces of people in our community.

Operations and Finances

Excellent physical plant – Three building phases have been completed in the last 25 years. Outstanding location with adequate space inside and out (including parking) to handle considerable growth. No significant deferred maintenance.

Finances are down somewhat over recent past, but a new direction in stewardship planned for Fall 2009 is expected to close the gap, together with a better-communicated vision.

Non-program staff is approximately 1 FTE and well organized / knowledgeable / efficient

III. Where We're Headed

Key Themes for 2009-10

A) Outreach and spiritual growth through hands-on practical ministry locally and short-term mission trips.

B) Deepening commitment to children and youth ministry leadership.

C) Leverage ALT (Area Leadership Team) organizational structure through:

1. Building / training ministry teams.
2. Developing Session as the center for ministry leadership and values.
3. Calling a permanent pastor supportive and skilled at collegial and mentoring / encouraging styles of leadership with staff, Session and individual elders.
4. We will retain and build on our ELT (Executive Leadership Team) by repositioning it into ALT (Area Leadership Team). Most of this is a matter of reshaping perceptions such that the Area Leaders are, and are seen as, servants / encouragers / coordinators / resource-ers / mentors, rather than "executives". We also plan on more deliberately working this way with Session as a body, and with individual elders to help them develop more fully in their spiritual leadership role(s).

D) Our congregation theologically is represented by the bell-shaped curve with fairly short tails. We have been evolving, and plan to continue evolving, an increasingly "balanced Christianity"; meaning deepening personal relationships with Christ, going deeper into knowledge and appreciation of scripture, and finding both faith expression and spiritual fellowship in a variety of service opportunities.

E) Developing small groups that enjoy meeting weekly to engage in study, support, service and outreach.

F) Extending the thematic use of water-related missions and teaching: *Clean Water for all God's Children*, *Come to the Waters Vacation Bible School*, etc. into all appropriate ministry areas, building on the vision of Rev 22: 1 – 2: "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."