

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

February 2010

February Highlights

From the Pastor's Desk

Deacon/Elder Retreat January 30. Pastor Bill reports on the recent joint retreat for deacons and elders.

Presbyterian Women

Tasting Dinner Date Changed. The Presbyterian Women Tasting Dinner is now scheduled for March 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Crossroads Food for the Month. The Crossroads Urban Center Food of the Month for February is dry, shelf, or canned milk. The most needed item in the Crossroads Thrift Store is towels and men's clothing.

Our Church Community

Session Notes. Here you will find the notes from the Session meeting of January 19.

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.

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



From the Pastor's Desk

Deacon/Elder Retreat January 30

by Bill McGuinness
Pastor

Your COGPC Deacons and Elders met Saturday January 30 for a three-hour working retreat. The sole focus was “how can deacons and elders work and communicate better with one another to serve the people of the church?” The Saturday morning “kickoff” was a 30-minute video illustrating the importance of relationship-based church and spiritual life. In contrast with that relationship basis, we then considered the “silo” issue.

A big movement in many fields in recent years has been the attempt to eliminate or reduce the extent of the ‘silo’ style of organization. “Silos” are individual stand-alone entities scattered out on the prairie without any real connection among them. In banking, for example, the checking account product/service people often don’t know what the credit card people are up to. Nor are the investment product folks very interested in savings account products except to maybe “steal” their customers. This happens in all kinds of fields, from healthcare to automotive. The need is to focus on the people we serve and to do our organizing / communicating / teaming in ways designed to meet their needs in a more coordinated fashion rather than simply carrying out our own individual assignments.

At COGPC we’re pretty good at minimizing the silo effect, but we want to get better. During our time together Saturday we looked at deacon and elder responsibilities and noted their similarities and differences according to our Presbyterian Book of Order. We looked at what it is about our teamwork and communication that is working well. We talked about and devised some simple practical strategies for keeping one another better informed. We devised a more streamlined process for noting and staying on top of prayer requests. We determined to meet together quarterly with a spiritual learning/training component followed by discussion of how those insights inform our lives as individuals as well as in our roles as deacons and elders. At a very simple practical level we agreed to 1) maximize our availability for various worship related tasks and assignments, 2) assist and be present in a more visible way, and 3) make it easier for members to identify us and approach us about whatever may be on their hearts and minds.

Please pray for our church leaders. None is any more or less adequate to the leadership task than this pastor. But by the grace of God, we can move mountains.



Look what PW is doing...

PW Tasting Dinner Date Changed

by Karen Durrant
COG Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Tasting Dinner is now scheduled for March 20 at 6:00 p.m. This is an adult social, but childcare will be available if needed. Contact Kristin Gorang (801) 562-8820 if childcare is desired. The tickets will go on sale February 7 through March 14. Tickets are limited to the first 100 and will be \$6.00/person. Recipes for the dinner will be selected from our three Community of Grace cookbooks. If you haven't attended a tasting dinner before, you won't want to miss the fun! Those of you who have participated in the past know you will definitely want to participate in this event. Remember, this is a church-wide event and includes both men and women.



PW Tasting Dinner 3/20

Our Church Community

Session Notes (Meeting of January 19)

by Jane Cooper
Elder & Clerk of Session

1. Prayer Reflection: Session members reflected on a handout from Pastor Bill listing twelve types of prayers from a book called "The Hour That Changes the World: A Practical Plan for Personal Prayer" by Dick Eastman. This book encourages individuals to develop a consistent habit of daily prayer that can have a strong impact on their lives. Elders shared their thoughts on the type of prayer that was most meaningful to each of them.
2. Second Celebration of Baptisms: Three more children of new members were baptized by Pastor Bill McGuinness on Sunday, December 27, 2009 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
3. Annual Statistical Report: Session has approved the Community of Grace Annual Statistical Report for 2009 that our Clerk of Session will submit to the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) in February.

4. Triennial Visit: The Presbytery of Utah's Committee on Ministry (COM) Representative for our church has requested a Triennial Visit with our Session in 2010. Session will schedule this visit at a date still to be determined.
5. 2010 Communion Schedule: Session approved the 2010 schedule for Holy Communion which includes offering Communion every Sunday at the 8:30 a.m. worship service and also the first Sunday of every month at the 11:00 a.m. worship service.
6. Election of Treasurer: Session unanimously approved electing Tim Fluetsch to serve as Treasurer in 2010 for Community of Grace. Session is very grateful for Tim's continued faithfulness in serving our church in this vital volunteer position.
7. Treasurer's Report & Budget Update:
 - Treasurer Tim Fluetsch reported that 92% of the 2009 pledges came in well at the end of the year, and he is thankful that members were so faithful in meeting their pledges. Tim will explain our financial picture more fully in a power point presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 31st.
 - Members of the congregation will be receiving letters asking them to donate the amount of their Per Capita (\$36.00 per member) in 2010 to help our church pay the mission obligation we have to the Presbyterian Church (USA).
 - We raised about \$3,000 for Local Mission at the "Be a Magi" tent during the Birthday Party for Jesus in December. Donations may still be made to defray expenses for Local Mission projects that our church hopes to support in 2010.
 - Session has given approval for the Youth Area Leader Search Team (YALST) to hire the person they recommended for the Youth Area Leader position, but our 2010 budget will only support funding for an eight hour per week position at this time.
8. Session/Deacons Retreat: A joint half-day retreat for Elders and Deacons is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2010 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and including lunch. The retreat will focus on ways to build a stronger relationship and support network between the Session and the Board of Deacons.
9. Pastor Nominating Committee: The PNC will present a report at the Congregational Meeting on their progress in the search for a permanent Installed Pastor for Community of Grace.
10. Church Nominating Committee: Elder Debbie Colt chairs the Nominating Committee and is preparing for the nomination and election of four at-large members from the congregation who are willing to serve on the 2010 Nominating Committee for one year. This committee also consists of two

Elders and one Deacon. The committee's task will be to nominate Elders and Deacons for the class of 2013.

11. Sunday School/Session Partnership: Pastor Bill is scheduling time to meet with individual Elders to discuss ideas for a closer partnership between Session and the Sunday School classes and teaching teams in our church.
12. Pastor's Study Leave: Pastor Bill will be on Study Leave from February 15 – 25, 2010 at the PC(USA)'s San Francisco Theological Seminary in California. He will arrange for pulpit supply on Sunday, February 21st to cover his absence.
13. Presbytery of Utah: Our Elder Commissioner Elaine Nordberg will represent Community of Grace at the Stated Winter Meeting of the Presbytery of Utah on February 19 and 20, 2010. We appreciate Elaine's willingness to continue to serve in this important volunteer capacity.

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

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