

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

November 2009

November Highlights

[Children of Peace International Benefit & Film Premier.](#) Tim Fluetsch describes this COPI project that COG has supported for several years.

[Faith and the Land.](#) Dede Carpenter reports on the progress made since 25 members and friends of COG engaged in serious dialogue about protecting wilderness areas.

Our Church Community

[Session Notes.](#) Here you will find the notes from the Session meetings of October 5, 18, & 20.

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

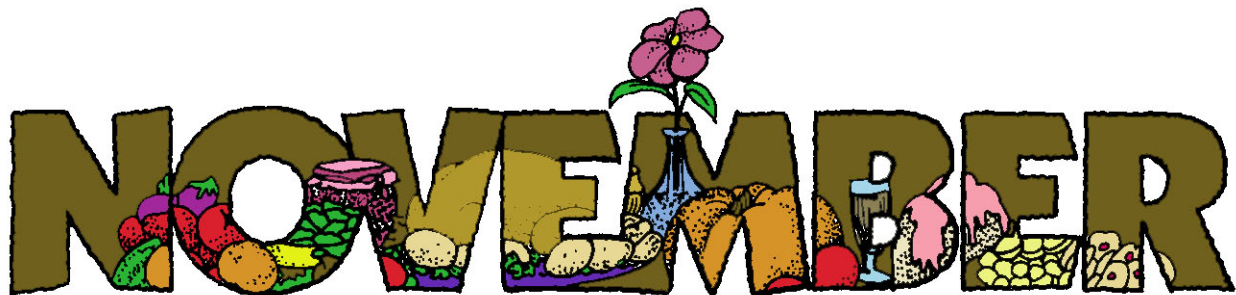
[Presbyterian Links.](#) Here is a listing of helpful links for those who are interested in our denomination's work at the national level, including what Presbyterians believe.

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

Presbyterian Women

[November Calendar.](#) Karen Durrant highlights PW's November calendar.

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



Children of Peace

International Benefit and Film Premiere

by Tim Fluetsch

Children of Peace International is a humanitarian organization dedicated to helping the people of Vietnam develop the capability to help themselves. Through financial and material support of orphanages, hospitals and clinics, as well as two medical missions each year, COPI offers hope, and help, to those in need. COPI currently serves over 6,000 children spread across 14 schools and orphanages in Vietnam.



For more than five years, Community of Grace has supported COPI and its missions with vitamin and monetary donations. COG has also sent two congregation members on its medical missions.

In 2008, a documentary film crew captured the many heart breaking moments of her trip and created an award winning film called "A Necessary Journey." The film will have its Salt Lake premiere at the COPI fundraiser next month.

Tickets are \$25/each and include traditional Vietnamese appetizers made by Micaela Choo and the desserts by Martin Perham.

Please join us at this fun and worthwhile event.

Saturday, November 7th
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
8575 South 700 East
Sandy, Utah

5:30 pm reception & silent auction (no formal sit down tables this year, we will have cocktail tables)

6:30pm film screening, following the film q & a and COPI project updates.

Tickets are available from Micaela Choo or Dorothy and Tim Fluetsch.

Faith and the Land

by Dede Carpenter
Area Leader

It has been nine months since twenty-five members and friends of Community of Grace participated in a Faith & The Land dialogue. The importance of protecting wilderness areas from a position of spiritual relationship was adamantly voiced and supported during this two-hour session. (More information and dialogue summaries are available at www.suwa.org Help Build Interfaith Support)

Since participating in this dialogue I have continued to be involved with a larger interfaith group representing ten different faith communities actively promoting Faith & The Land wilderness issues. Our desire is to engage more individuals and build a stronger presence with a more unified voice from faith communities to advocate wilderness protection in a responsible manner.



On Thursday, October 1, for the first time in 15 years, [America's Red Rock Wilderness Act](#) -- the most comprehensive proposal for protection of Utah's wild lands -- got a hearing in the U. S. Congress (before the Natural Resource Committee's Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands). George Handley, a representative for the interfaith Faith & The Land group was able to present our information in person to the Subcommittee prior to the hearing. In addition to the voice of Utah faith communities a number of national churches have taken up the call for wilderness stewardship and protection. A letter drafted on September 28th to members of congress included the signature of Presbyterian Church (USA) Washington Office. (See below.)

During the months of October and November the interfaith group of Faith & The Land is actively promoting wilderness stewardship. On Sunday November 8th an area in the Narthex will be set up with Faith & The Land articles and information. I encourage you to take some time to review this information and decide if God is calling you to be **a face and a voice** in our Faith & The Land efforts.

September 28, 2009

Dear Member of Congress,

Many people of faith find spiritual renewal in the wilderness. In doing so, they follow the same path walked by Moses who spoke with God in the wilderness of the Sinai and Jesus who was baptized in the wilderness of the Jordan River and numerous others of many faiths. Through Creation God nourishes life and provides blessings of sustenance. Special places, deserving of wilderness designation, provide a space for prayer and for retaining the vessels which sustain God's gift of life. The red rock canyon lands of Utah are among these treasures.

The wilderness of southern and central Utah, with its wide open spaces, spectacular vistas, and intimate slot canyons, constitutes one of the largest remaining networks of undesignated wild lands in the lower 48 states. These federal lands have wild, rugged characteristics where visitors can enjoy a remote experience iconic of the western United States, in addition to affording preservation of wildlife and retaining opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, scientific study, prayer, and spiritual reflection. Also protected would be a vast array of archeological resources and places sacred to Native Americans. As in many other locales, the protection of this land will also provide a sustainable economic foundation for the people who live amidst God's bounty. **As such, we urge you to support the American Red Rocks Wilderness Act (S. 799, H.R. 1925).**

God's lands are an integral part of Creation. Lands and wilderness provide refuge for the body and soul, offer blessings of sustenance like soil and water, and serve as stunning reminders of God's power and grace in our lives. As part of our call to be stewards of Creation, we have a duty to use the land responsibly, to manage it so that it serves the good of all, and to protect it for future generations and for all life. These lands are especially deserving of the protection afforded by the federal government, keeping it as it is today for our families and for future generations.

Stewardship of lands and wild places that God has entrusted to our care is both a critical part of our call to protect Creation and a responsibility shared by all citizens. We, as people of faith, call upon Congress to establish this kind of recognition, through the American Red Rocks Wilderness Act, giving permanent protection to this vital part of God's miraculous Creation.

Sincerely,

The Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
Friends Committee on National Legislation
National Council of Churches in Christ, USA
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

Our Church Community

Session Notes (Meetings of October 5, 18, & 20)


by Jane Cooper
Elder

1. Spiritual Growth: Session members participated in a God-Talking exercise led by Pastor Bill, describing why a variety of descriptive names for God were especially meaningful to them. This exercise is a valuable way to enrich each Elder's spiritual growth.
2. Pastor Nominating Committee: Session reviewed and unanimously approved the Church Information Form (CIF) as written and presented to them by our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The CIF will now be sent to the Presbytery of Utah's Committee on Ministry (COM) for their approval. Once approved by Presbytery, the CIF will be entered into the Presbyterian Church (USA) system so that interested candidates may apply for the Installed Pastor position at Community of Grace.
3. Treasurer's Report: Tim Fluetsch reported that pledges are coming in well, and he is grateful to members for their faithful giving. Income in August was better than expected, and September's figures show that we have received payments of about 80% of year-to-date pledges. Members are encouraged to view their stewardship as a way to give for their own spiritual development and are challenged to prayerfully respond on Consecration Sunday.
4. Stewardship: Session will not finalize a 2010 budget until results of the stewardship campaign come in after Consecration Sunday. Members of the congregation will be asked to submit pledge cards during the single 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 25, 2009. The worship will be led by Transitional Presbyter Laura Stellmon. All are invited to the Consecration Celebration luncheon following the service. Session members were each asked to contact a list of members who had not yet sent in an RSVP for the lunch.
5. Building Use Policy: Session discussed guidelines for groups using our facility because of several requests that came in recently to use the gym and other areas of our church. Session would like to become more familiar with the current Building Use Policy and make any needed revisions. A Session team of Chuck Stolfa, Alwyn VanderWalt and Jane Cooper will work on this and present an updated draft policy to Session for approval.
6. Sunday School Liaisons: Elders on Session have been assigned as Sunday School liaisons to each class from nursery through senior high: Debbie Colt – nursery, Kelly Harris – pre-K/Kindergarten, Jane Cooper- 1st/2nd grade, Chuck Stolfa – 3rd/4th grade, Pat Holmes – 5th/6th grade, and Alwyn VanderWalt – junior and senior high. Pastor Bill McGuinness and Dede Carpenter are drafting a "job description" with Sunday School Liaison guidelines.

7. New Members: Session met with 10 new member candidates on Sunday, October 18, 2009, and voted to receive all of them into active membership at Community of Grace. New members joining COG are: Liz Arrington, Christy & Doug Arthur, Jennifer Blair, Kelly & Tim Carlson, Lynn Erickson, Anne & Jerry Holyoak, and Sarah Wealton McClellan. They will be welcomed into the congregation through either reaffirmation of faith or letter of transfer at both worship services on Sunday, November 1, 2009.

September Financial Update

by Tim Fluetsch
Treasurer

2009 Income & Expenses	 Financial Update	
	Year To Date	Current to 9-31-2009 Budget Year To Date
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges	\$208,882	\$252,297
Other	\$22,547	\$36,900
Total Income	\$231,369	\$289,197
<u>Expenses</u>		
Personnel	\$129,084	\$136,993
Outreach & Mission	\$13,891	\$31,545
Operations	\$89,571	\$90,961
Children & Youth	\$2,706	\$6,638
Adult & Family	\$2,757	\$3,863
Worship	\$1,109	\$2,625
Total Expenses	\$239,118	\$272,624
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$7,749)	\$16,573

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

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Look what Presbyterian Women are doing...

November Calendar

by Karen Durrant
Presbyterian Women

Church Women United
(multi-faith Christian women)

Mark your calendar and plan to attend CWU's World Community Day Celebration:

Date: Friday, November 6, 2009 (1st Friday)
Time: Morning (approx. 9:30 - 1:00, including lunch)
Where: Hilltop United Methodist Church
985 East 10600 South (Sandy)

- Theme:** "Piecing Earth Together"
Keynote Speaker: TBA...Focus on Environmental Care
- Registration:** \$1 Lunch: \$4.00
- Community Outreach:** Volunteers of America Homeless Youth (Teenagers) Resource Shelter; Please bring Canned Goods or NEW Men's Underwear & Socks (esp. sizes Large & X-Large). Check donations can be made payable to "Church Women United" with notation for VoA Homeless Youth.
- Free-will Offering:** Used for CWU National Programs: Checks need to be made payable to: "Church Women United"
- Lunch RSVP:** To Barbara Stone at 801-262-1109 or Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz at 801-272-5356 by Monday, November 2nd.

This is a wonderful ecumenical celebration shared worldwide and an opportunity to learn and grow spiritually and personally. Hope to see you there.

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women Christmas Dinner December 7

Plan to attend the annual PW Christmas Dinner December 7. This year's program will feature the Bell Choir from Hilltop United Methodist Church. Tickets will be on sale in the narthex November 8 through November 29. This is a busy time of year with the celebration of Thanksgiving, so remember to purchase your tickets early. Childcare is available for this event. You can sign up for childcare when you purchase your dinner tickets. Join us in welcoming the Advent season. Bring a friend. All women are welcome.