

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

October 2009

October Highlights

[Single Combined Service at 9:30](#)

[Consecration Sunday Coming Oct 25.](#) This year COG will approach stewardship giving from a Biblical perspective, culminating in a single combined 9:30 worship service on October 25 followed by a catered celebration luncheon.

[Reflections of an Elder](#) This is the text of a reflective message delivered by Elder Chuck Stolfa on Sunday, September 20.

[Look What Presbyterian Women Are Doing!](#) PW activities for October are listed here.

[Church Women United Coming.](#) Women are invited to a special inter-faith presentation and luncheon on November 6. The theme is "Piecing the Earth Together."

Our Church Community

[Session Notes.](#) Here you will find the notes from the Session meeting of Sept 15.

[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.

[Adult Sunday "Connections".](#) Dede outlines this fall's offerings for adult Sunday School.

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



Single Combined Service at 9:30 followed by a catered celebration luncheon

Consecration Sunday Is Coming Oct. 25

by Tim Fluetsch
Elder & Treasurer

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Session has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in
Consecration Sunday events!

inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.



**Consecration
Sunday**
October 25 9:30

Reflections of an Elder

by Chuck Stolfa
Elder

[The following reflections were shared by Chuck Stolfa in the worship service on Sunday, September 20, and are printed here for those no able to attend.]

As a member of Session, I've come before you today to talk a little bit about the past and a lot about the future of Community of Grace. First, a little bit about the past.

As many of you know, Lorrie Gaffney is no longer serving in the position of Area Leader for Children and Youth. Out of respect for Lorrie, it would be unfair to discuss her resignation in any more detail. However, I will say that she will be greatly missed and personally, I will miss her a great deal. Her many contributions to our Church are too numerous to mention, and her enthusiasm for ministry encouraged others to serve as well. We wish her the best.

Lorrie leaves big shoes to fill. The good news is that we have a God who always seems to be opening new doors for growth and development. And so, we now move to checking out the newest door that's been opened.

So let's talk about the future, and I believe that COG has a bright one. With Pastor Bill here, the spiritual leadership of COG is in his hands, and he has Session's support and assistance as he prepares our congregation for a permanent Pastor.

As a congregation, we have a lot of work to do, but we have a plan for getting that work done. This past week, Pastor Bill and Dede worked to develop a plan for managing our ministries going forward. They reviewed the plan with Session and we unanimously support it. Here's what we have planned:

At this time, we will not be replacing the Area Leader position for Children and Youth, but we anticipate no change in our current programming for those areas. Dede will transition some of her responsibilities in Adult and Family Ministry to Pastor Bill in order to assume a larger role in our Children's Ministry. For example, Dede will manage the

Sunday School program, and I'm confident that we won't miss a beat there. Pastor Bill will lead Deacons, Prayer Ministry and New Members classes, which is a natural fit for our Pastor to lead.

Pastor Bill will temporarily lead our Youth Ministry, serving the teenagers of our congregation. He will be ably assisted by Max Roth and the great volunteers that are already in place there. This is a temporary role for Pastor Bill because we plan to hire a permanent Youth Leader in the coming months. It was Dede and Lorrie who first introduced the idea of a Youth Area Leader over a year ago. Research shows that a substantial majority of the people who come into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ do so before reaching their 18th birthday, and young people respond more positively to different outreach influences than do people who embrace Christ later in life. The young people of COG need and deserve a dedicated Area Leader, and Session has made it a priority item in next year's budget.

Office staff, volunteers, and members of Session will also pitch in to assist the Area Leadership Team. Pastor Bill and Dede have done a great job assembling a list of functions and tasks that are part of running COG. Some are quick, easy opportunities and others are more involved. If you'd like to learn more about ways that you can volunteer and help COG deliver on our mission of building confident followers of Jesus Christ, please see Pastor Bill or Dede—they will be happy to speak with you. They are also available if you'd like more information about the new structure of the Area Leadership Team.

Another important step in the future of COG is finding a permanent Pastor. The Pastor Nominating Committee was approved at last week's congregational meeting, and the committee will meet shortly to learn how the Pastor Selection Process works. The process is dictated by the Presbyterian Church USA, and we will also be assisted by the Presbytery. As a member of the committee, I look forward to learning about the process and sharing it with the congregation. I do know that an important part of the process is gathering feedback from the congregation about the attributes that we need in our Pastor, and I look forward to working with all of you.

On behalf of Session, I'd also like to extend an invitation to all of you to speak with any of us whenever you feel the need. We will do our best to help you answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Allow me to take a moment to introduce our Session members, who will stand if they are here: Pat Holmes, Kelly Harris, Debbie Colt, Jane Cooper and Alwyn VanderWalt. We'll be available in the Narthex after the Service if you'd like to talk.

The last year has been one of huge change for our Church. As difficult as change is, it is also healthy. A wise member of this congregation once told me that "the opposite of change is death". Very blunt, but very true. Tough as it seems, God has been opening a lot of doors for us lately. Let's have faith in what He has in store for us.



God Opens Doors

Finally, I want to share with you my first impression of Community of Grace. It was December 1998 and my wife Andrea and I had just moved here from Boston. We visited for the 8:30 service, which was being led by the Interim Pastor who preceded Marty. There weren't many people there-maybe 20 in all, and the idea of a Church in transition wasn't appealing to us. Frankly, Community of Grace didn't look like a very healthy Church. We judged it on that one day and we became members of a different Church, which turned out to be a less-than ideal fit for us. Thankfully, we took a second, closer look at Community of Grace and became members in 2002.

We had made the mistake of underestimating this Church, which means we made the mistake of underestimating the people of this Church. I, for one, will never make that mistake again. Thank you.

Look What Presbyterian Women Are Doing!

by Karen Durrant
COG Presbyterian Women

October 5, 2009 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Focus: Obstetric Fistula

Film: A Walk to Beautiful (A documentary into the experience of women with fistula)

Following the Film: Speaker Kent Farnsworth, M.D. Dr. Farnsworth is a retired OB/GYN doctor trained by the Fistula Foundation to do fistula repair and to teach other doctors to do fistula repair.

If you need childcare, call Kristin Gorang (562-8820).



For Women at COG

Church Women United Coming

by Karen Durrant
COG Presbyterian Women

A multi-faith gathering of Christian women is coming to Sandy this November. Sponsored by Church Women United (CWU), a "World Community Day Celebration" is scheduled for November. All women are invited to mark their calendars now.

September 21

Ruth Circle

7:00 p.m., COG - Ruth Circle continues its bible study Jubilee. All women are invited to participate. This Circle meets monthly on the third Monday of each month. Contact Karen Durrant for information.

Theme: **“Piecing Earth Together”**
When: 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)
Keynote Speaker: TBA (Focus on Environmental Care)
Registration: \$1 Lunch: \$4.00
Community Outreach: Please bring “Unexpired” Canned Goods for
Volunteers of America
Free-will Offering: Used for CWU National Programs
(Checks made payable to: “Church Women United”)

Lunch RSVP: Call Barbara Stone at 801-262-1109 or
Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz at 801-272-5356
by Monday, November 2nd

Our Church Community

Session Notes *(Meeting of August 25)*

by Jane Cooper
Elder

1. Session offered prayers for Lorrie Gaffney as she leaves an Area Leader position at Community of Grace and moves on to find new ministry opportunities.
2. Pastor Bill and Dede Carpenter have been working on a realignment of key roles, functions, and tasks to make sure that our ministries move forward successfully. Session discussed and approved the following changes:
 - a. Adult and Family Area Leader Dede Carpenter will assume several roles and functions of the Children’s Area to effectively provide continuity so there will be no compromise on the quality and extent of children’s ministry.
 - b. Pastor Bill will assume some roles and functions of the Adult and Family Area Leader. He will pick up responsibility for Deacons, Prayer Ministry, New Member classes, and new small groups.
 - c. Pastoral Ministry Coordinator Kathy McGuinness will continue providing Pastoral support but will also help cover children’s ministry to assist Dede Carpenter. Ministry staff and office staff will also take on some new functions.
 - d. Currently serving Elders will take on more ministry support roles, including establishing and maintaining liaisons with Deacons and Sunday School classes.
 - e. Volunteers from the congregation will be needed to assist with other functions and tasks.
3. Hiring a Youth Area Leader is a top priority in the coming months. Pastor Bill will temporarily assume leadership of the Youth Area pending the hiring of a Youth

Leader. This leader will be recruited by a Search Team consisting of Max Roth, Connie Marshall, Sunel VanderWalt, Keith West, and possibly two students.

4. Elder Chuck Stolfa will address the congregation at both services on Sunday, September 20th to communicate the plan to move forward and to keep all ministry areas running smoothly.
5. Treasurer Tim Fluetsch reported that pledges are coming in well. A Financial Review was recently conducted by an outside person with financial expertise, and finances at Community of Grace were found to be in order. Tim gave Session a preliminary draft budget for 2010 which includes funding for the Youth Area Leader position. He said pledges will need to increase by 11% to fully fund the proposed 2010 budget.
6. A Pastor Nominating Committee of seven members was elected at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2009. The committee members are: John Colt, Tim Fluetsch, Brooke Holyoak, Raechel Hwang, Karen Keene, Stephanie Marin, and Chuck Stolfa. They will now begin the process of searching for a permanent Installed Pastor.

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 Starckenburg
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

Adult Sunday "Connections"

by Dede Carpenter
Area Director

Connect with others and share a learning experience this fall!
(Beginning Sunday September 20th 9:45-10:45am)

"To Join or Not to Join" – 4 week introduction to church membership class led by
Pastor Bill

Jeremiah Bible Study – led by Ed Sanders and Cheryl Mansen

John Calvin, His Life & Legacy – 5 week Drop In class with DVD/discussion led by
Dede Carpenter

