

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

September 2009

September Highlights

Get Connected. Dede describes this year's new theme: "Get Connected" through Sunday School, small groups, and service. Our kick-off is scheduled for 9/13.

Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry provides many benefits for our members and their families and friends. A training class for Stephen Ministers is coming up this fall.

Look What Presbyterian Women Are Doing! PW activities for September are listed here.

Choir Tuning Up. Beginning September 2, the adult choir is practicing on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:00. All are welcome.

Let Your Life Speak. We all mourn the sudden passing of Robyn Ward who has served as our Nursery coordinator for the past four years.

Our Church Community

Session Notes. Here you will find the notes from the Session meeting of August 25.

July 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.

Children & Youth

Get Connected. There are many ways that all of us can share. Each of us is asked to provide service and, through that service, become more connected to the work of our church.

Children's Programs. Lorrie summarizes the many opportunities available for our children this year. These also present opportunities for the rest of us to get connected.

Youth Ministry. "The Message" is back under the leadership of Max Roth, and the 2010 youth mission trip to Denver is now being planned.

Adult & Family

Adult Sunday "Connections". Dede outlines this fall's offerings for adult Sunday School.

[Going Greener at COG.](#) Steps are being taken this fall to be more environmentally aware and active in our church.

[Becoming a Woman of Freedom.](#) Kathy McGuinness will lead a Wednesday morning Bible Study this fall.

[Crossroads Items of the Month.](#) The Crossroads food of the month for September is not a food, it's drinks! They need milk - canned, shelf or powdered, and juice in large cans, small cans or small boxes. The thrift store item of the month is again kids back-to-school clothes and shoes, especially for boys big and small.

[Old Scripture Cake.](#) Looking for a great family activity? Try this recipe.

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



Get Connected

by Dede Carpenter
Area Director

On Sunday September 13th we are kicking off our new theme:
“**Get Connected**”.

God calls us to be in relationships and gather strength and encouragement as we come together with purpose. [*“A cord of three strands is not easily broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:12)*]
On Sunday September 13 everyone is invited to gather in the gym during the Sunday school hour; there will be no Sunday school that week.

Come share your unique puzzle shape as we **connect together** to serve our church, community, nation and world this year. Opportunities and information will be available to engage your interests and talents along with warm fellowship, food and beverage.





Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?

by Millie Nielsen
Stephen Minister

We have many needs for care in our congregation and community: people experiencing divorce, death of a loved one, a terminal illness, loss of a job, relocation, an empty nest, retirement, hospitalization, loneliness, and many other stresses or challenges. Often people with needs suffer silently or do not request or receive the level of care they really need. With only one pastor for our congregation, you can quickly see why it would be impossible for our pastor to meet every single need of every person. Stephen Ministry expands the care Community of Grace can offer by equipping and organizing members to provide care. This gives us a larger pool of people with the gifts, skills, and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who most need it.

Everybody benefits from Stephen Ministry. Those receiving care from Stephen Ministers benefit because they receive prayer and support throughout the crisis they face. Stephen Ministers benefit through the spiritual growth they experience from being involved in meaningful ministry. Our Pastor Bill benefits because caring ministry at Community of Grace is expanded and fewer people will slip through the cracks. Most of all YOU benefit from the knowledge that special care is available to you should you need it. In addition, you now have a place where you can refer a friend, neighbor, coworker, relative, or anyone else you know who is going through a difficult time so that they can receive special care when they need it most.

There will be a training class beginning this fall. Please consider receiving the excellent 50-hour training to become a Stephen Minister. What you learn will help you in all of your relationships. For more information contact Sherry Britt, 801-733-0083, or Millie Nielsen, 801-944-4671



Look What Presbyterian Women Are Doing!

by Karen Durrant
COG Presbyterian Women

August 23-September 27

Farmers Market

Please share the abundance and bring produce and baked items for the market. The market will open August 23. All proceeds will help fund Presbyterian Women mission activities. This is a wonderful opportunity to donate items and, if you don't have a garden, to purchase fresh produce and baked goods that help support mission.

September 14, 7:00 p.m.

It's back. Presbyterian Women Game Night.

Please join us for fellowship, fun, and snacks as we enjoy a night of Bunko. This is a great way to meet other women in our church. Come join us and bring a friend. You do not have to know how to play Bunko to enjoy this activity. Bunko is a simple game to learn and you will enjoy this night of fun.

September 18-19

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Cottonwood Presbyterian Church

The statewide Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering will be held at Cottonwood Presbyterian Church. Come and participate in this gathering of women and get to know other Presbyterian women in the state. More information will be posted on the PW bulletin board and a signup sheet will be available in the narthex. For information contact Kristin Gorang

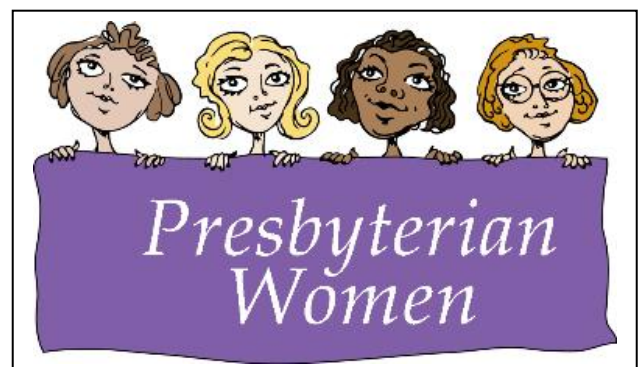
September 21

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

September 29



Martha Circle
7:00 p.m., COG

Martha Circle is now meeting. Please bring any craft of your choice (scrapbooking, knitting, crocheting, sewing, etc.) and enjoy this time working on your project and fellowshiping with other women. Bring a friend. This circle meets monthly on the last Tuesday of the month. Contact Carron Kopren for information.

Let Your Life Speak

That's a powerful phrase that sums up the life of Robyn Ward, our Nursery Director. Robyn died suddenly at the hospital on Aug. 23. She was our nursery director from 2005 to the present providing much needed structure and guidelines. More importantly, she provided a commitment for our littlest ones to experience God's love.

Robyn gave so much to ministry at Community of Grace, but as is the case with love, Robyn received so much from the children that came. We had to pray for more babies at one time, and come they did! She was asked to do other things in ministry, but she knew that serving our little ones was an important call - for her, the kids, parents and for our mission of building confident followers who love God, neighbor and self.

Finally, in addition to her love for the children, she loved working with the nursery staff and volunteers. There was a black paper across the nursery door as a symbol of the hole we all felt here when we heard the news. That has been replaced with flowers and hearts as we rejoice in her freedom and joy in being united with the very God of love she pointed to. Please surround her family and loved ones with prayer.



Our Church Community

Session Notes *(Meeting of August 25)*

by Jane Cooper
Elder


1. Area Leaders Dede Carpenter and Lorrie Gaffney led a PowerPoint presentation for Session with a proposal for possible changes to the COG Ministry Areas Organization Chart. The presentation included the current organization of church ministry areas for Worship, Adult/Family, Children/Youth, Mission/Outreach, and Operations. They then presented an Area Leader proposal for 2009/10 which would include hiring a part-time Area Leader for Youth ministry, and an Organization Chart Vision for 2010/11 envisioning a level paid staff base and development of more volunteer leadership and service teams. The Session and Area Leaders then participated in a question and answer session about all parts of the proposal. Session members will read over and think about the entire

proposal and then send their input on the proposed changes to Pastor Bill before further discussion at the next Session meeting.

2. Bianca Overstreet has completed her Confirmation process, and Session approved receiving her into active membership on Sunday, August 30, 2009.
3. Treasurer Tim Fluetsch reported that we are a little behind in pledging as summer draws to a close, but he expects giving to pick up this fall. Session voted to continue our annual practice of collecting a Christmas Joy Offering on Christmas Eve.
4. Our Stewardship program will begin soon and will culminate in a special Consecration Sunday celebration dinner to which all are invited on October 25, 2009.
5. The Nominating Committee has a full slate of seven people to present to the congregation for election to the Pastor Nominating Committee. There will be a brief Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2009, at 9:45 a.m. in the church gym, to elect the PNC.
6. Pastor Bill has ordered a discussion program series called "H2O: A Journey of Faith" that he hopes to begin in mid-October with Session involvement. This would be an evening small-group program that includes a meal for participants and incorporates a topical short film and group discussion time.
7. Session members received advance copies of the booklet "Why We Love Our Church" which contains about two dozen statements written by the congregation about Community of Grace. The finished booklet will be distributed to everyone in the congregation, along with extra copies that can be handed out to friends and neighbors.

July Financial Update

by Tim Fluetsch
Treasurer

2009 Income & Expenses	 Financial Update	<i>Current to 7-31-2009</i>
	Year To Date	Budget Year To Date
<u>Income</u>		

Pledges	\$171,308	\$196,231
Other	\$19,936	\$28,700
Total Income	\$191,224	\$224,931
<u>Expenses</u>		
Personnel	\$108,661	\$100,387
Outreach & Mission	\$11,185	\$24,535
Operations	\$71,649	\$71,370
Children & Youth	\$1,945	\$5,163
Adult & Family	\$2,747	\$3,004
Worship	\$1,109	\$2,042
Total Expenses	\$197,928	\$206,501
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$6,054)	\$18,430

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

Class of 2011

Class of 2012

Pat Holmes
Chuck Stolfa

Kelly Harris
Debbie Colt

Jane Cooper
Alwyn Vanderwalt

Children & Youth

"Get Connected"

by Lorrie Gaffney
Area Director

"Get Connected" is an opportunity to discover how you can share God's love in our church, community and world. The Area Leadership Team will be asking various leaders to provide information about ways to serve. We believe that sharing God's love by **servicing in our church** helps build confident followers of Jesus who love.

- We believe that sharing God's love in our **community** strengthens us and those around us.
- We believe that sharing God's love in our **nation and world** stretches us to understand our common status as children of God as we help those with very different lives than our own.
- We believe that choosing some way to serve in each area: church, community, world, will make a real difference as the circle of God's love becomes wider and wider.
- We believe that sharing God's love by servicing in our church helps build confident followers of Jesus who love.

Children's Programs

by Lorrie Gaffney
Area Director

Children's Sunday School teachers share the stories and truths of God that make a difference. A foundation of faith is never wasted. One never knows when these truths will be most needed but we do know they are essential for a life of joy, peace and freedom. Each of our teachers is committed to extend God's love through their care, teaching and time. We have a couple of openings in 3rd/4th and 5th/6th so please consider joining a team. You don't need to have kids or experience with kids. The teams are very solid and each team has returning teachers to help problem solve or provide assistance. A faith relationship with the kids will bless them... and you.

- Sunday School Teacher Blessing: Sept. 13 (either service)
- Sunday School Start: Sept 20



Sunday School Kick-off 9/20

Children's Worship provides a time to enjoy praising God and demonstrate care for our families, community and world. Do you have a favorite story that shares a truth of God, a special song you could teach, or instrument to play, a craft that kids would enjoy? Or maybe you can assist and enjoy some time with our kids? If so, please put your name/date, along with what you would like to offer, on Room 2 (next to the nursery). Tweens, teens, people of all ages are welcome and appreciated. This is an important ministry to our kids, parents, visitors coming to our church.

2nd Grade Bibles. We will be giving out Bibles in October to our second graders.

This is a gift from Presbyterian Women and Community of Grace. Please make sure you are on our computer list so we can order the correct number of Bibles (if you filled out a Family Information Form in the last two years you will be on the list. If not, or if you need to update, please pick up a form or contact Sandy Growe.

ACTS Kids will be starting up in October with a Senior luncheon on Oct. 11, prepared by our Deacons. ACTS is an opportunity for 5th/6th graders to care for seniors, and our environment. Please pray about committing to leadership with this amazing group of tweens. I have been so touched and inspired by these kids that I know you will receive as much as you give.

“...so in **Christ** we who are many form one **body**, and each member belongs to all the others...” **Romans 12:5**

Youth Ministry

by Lorrie Gaffney

Area Director

“The Message” returns! Max is ready to roll on Sept. 20. All youth, 7th-12th grade are invited to grab a treat and a good seat to see what music, video or other message God has for you. Parents are always welcome. Students who are confirmed and willing to be on the Host team, please contact Connie Marshall. These youth will have an important role in welcoming students and leading our prayer time as a valuable peer leader with another adult.



"THE MESSAGE"

It's time to reserve your spot on the 2010 Youth Mission Trip.

This trip will take students to the city of Denver with returning leaders Gerald VanCampen and Minerva Overstreet. Students will serve in local ministries such as

homeless shelters, soup kitchens, elderly and children centers. Hopefully you saw God's love shared and received through the Youth Works Wind River trip and are ready to sign up. Spaces are already limited and won't last so sign up in the Youth Room. Please contact Gerald VanCampen or Minerva with any questions!

Adult and Family

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



Adult & Family "Fall Small Group Connections"

Coming soon...small group opportunities; Taekwon Do, yoga, volleyball, supper clubs, prayer/devotional group, women's Bible study, women's Faith in Action book study **AND** an **evening dinner/Bible study group**. Look for more details in our upcoming Worship bulletins and church wide emails.

Going Greener at COG

by Dede Carpenter
Area Director

Despite the brown patches around our parking lot entrance and...yes, the sprinkler heads are now repaired...Community of Grace is taking steps to GO GREENER.

Plastic and paper recycling services are now in place at Community of Grace through our regular collection agency for only \$2.00 per month. Our recycle bin has been placed next to the mower storage in the parking lot. What a wonderful solution to handling the growing amount of cardboard waste generated by our Food Co-op. Plans are also in the works to transition from Styrofoam to paper coffee cups in our Sunday Hospitality service. So get ready to see GREENER steps being taken at Community of Grace this fall.

Becoming a Woman of Freedom

by Kathy McGuinness

Becoming a Woman of Freedom
A Bible Study by Cynthia Heald
Wednesdays – 9:30 to 11:00 @ COG
September 16th – November 18th

If your schedule permits – and your heart desires – come join a small group of women, led by Kathy McGuinness as we meet weekly to connect with God and one another. Each week will be a stand-alone class to accommodate our different schedules.

Please feel free to try it for a few weeks to see if this is a group that you enjoy and can grow with.

A sampling of a few chapters titles:

- Laying aside Doubt & Fear/Running with Faith & Trust;
- Laying aside Busyness/Running with Rest;
- Laying aside Anxiety/Running with Peace;
- Laying aside Pleasing People/Running with Fellowship.

There are no prerequisites – only a desire to connect with God and each other.

If you have need for child care, please give me a call and we will try our best to arrange for it. Please also let me know if you plan to attend so I'll know how many books to order (Kathy@cogpc.org or call me at the church (943-4043) or on my cell (408-242-9377).



Wednesdays Beginning 9/16

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

Old Scripture Cake

submitted by Nyla Adamson

If you know your Bible well, this will pose no problems. If you don't know it quite that well, the translation can be found at the end of the recipe.

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup Genesis 18:8
- 1 1/2 cup Jeremiah 6:20
- 5 Isaiah 10:14 (separated)
- 3 cups sifted Leviticus 24:5
- 3 teaspoons 2 Kings 2:20
- 3 teaspoons Amos 4:5
- 1 teaspoon Exodus 3:23
- 1/4 teaspoon each 2 Chronicles 9:9
- 1/2 cup Judges 4:19
- 3/4 chopped Genesis 43:11
- 3/4 cup finely cut Jeremiah 24:5
- 3/4 cup 2 Samuel 16:1
- Whole Genesis 43:11

Directions:

- Cream Genesis 18 with Jeremiah 6. Beat in yolks of Isaiah 10, one at a time. Sift together Leviticus 24; 2 Kings 2; Amos 4; Exodus 30; and 2 Chronicles 9.
- Blend into creamed mixture alternately with Judges 4. Beat whites of Isaiah 10 till stiff; fold in. Fold in chopped Genesis 43; Jeremiah 24; and 2 Samuel 16. Turn into 10-inch tube pan that has been greased and dusted with Leviticus 24.
- Bake at 325 degrees F until it is golden brown or Gabriel blows his trumpet, whichever happens first. Bake for an hour and ten minutes. Remove from oven. After fifteen minutes, remove it from the pan. Cool completely. Drizzle over it some Burnt Jeremiah Syrup.

BURNT JEREMIAH SYRUP

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups Jeremiah 6:20
- 1/2 cup Genesis 24:45
- 1/4 cup Genesis 18:8

Directions:

- Melt Jeremiah 6 in a heavy skillet over low heat. Keep cooking it till it is a deep gold, then add Genesis 24. Cook till smooth and remove from the heat. Add Genesis 18 and stir till it melts, then cool.
- After drizzling this on the Scripture Cake, you can decorate it with whole Genesis. □

THE SCRIPTURE CAKE: Genesis 18:8 "And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them." Jeremiah 6:20 "To what purpose cometh there to me frankincense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country." (Sugar) Isaiah 10:4 "And my hand hath found as a nest the riches of the peoples; and as one gathered eggs that are forsaken, have I gathered the earth." Leviticus 24:5 "And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof." 2 Kings 2:20 "And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein." Amos 4:5 "And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim free will offerings and publish them." (Baking Powder) Exodus 30:23 "Take thou also, unto thee the chief spices; of flowering myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet cinnamon half as much." 2 Chronicles 9:9 "And she gave the King a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and spices in great abundance." Judges 4:19 "And he said unto her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water to drink; for I am thirsty. And she opened a bottle of milk and gave him drink." Genesis 43:11 "Carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spicery and myrrh, nuts and almonds." Jeremiah 24:5 "Thou saith Jehovah, God of Israel: Like these good figs, so will I regard the captives of Judah whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans, for good." 2 Samuel 16:1 "And when David was a little past the top of the ascent, behold, Ziba, the servant of Mephiboseth met him, with a couple of asses saddled, and upon them two hundred loaves of bread, and a hundred clusters of raisins. Genesis 24:45 "And before I had done speaking in my heart, behold Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the fountain, and drew: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee."