

# Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

January 2009

## *January Highlights*

### **[Update on Process and Timing](#)**

**[Interim Pastor Search Update.](#)** This is the latest update from our Interim Pastor Nominating Committee on our search for an interim pastor.

**[Annual Congregational Meeting Called.](#)** Session has called a meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25, 2008.

### **[A Publication of COG](#)**

**[“Our Prayers”](#)** Dede explains the origins of our prayer stories booklet, published by and for COG. Copies are still available at the welcome table by the narthex door.

## *Our Church Community*

**[Session Notes.](#)** Here you will find the notes from the December 17 Session meeting.

**[November Financial Update.](#)** Here is our updated monthly financial picture provided by Tim Fluetsch.

**[January Calendar.](#)** The January church calendar is available at this link.

**[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.](#)** Here you will find a listing of the current elders and deacons.

## *Children & Youth*

**[Finding Christ in Christmas 2008.](#)** Members at COG found room for Christ in Christmas by involving themselves in many meaningful activities during the Advent season just passed.

## *Adult & Family*

**[Faith and the Land.](#)** COG will host a special guest speaker on January 18. Terri Martin will explore the question of faith and land conservation at 12:30. Lunch will be included, and an RSVP to Dede is requested.

### **[New Mission Project at COG](#)**

**[Crossroads Food Co-op Distribution Hub.](#)** The Crossroads Urban Center is starting a new hunger program, and COG is now assembling a team to help on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

**[Crossroads Items of the Month.](#)** In January the Crossroads Urban Center is asking for milk and canned tomato products. Their most needed item in the thrift store is bedding.

[January Prayer Calendar](#). Prayers from the hearts of our members. *“Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” James 5:16*

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



### *Update on Process and Timing*

#### Interim Pastor Search Update

by Kelly Harris, Debbie Colt, & Dede Carpenter  
*Interim Pastor Nominating Committee*

As the new year rolls around, the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee has been busy accepting and reviewing applications for our new Interim Pastor. It is exciting and refreshing to see so many wonderful candidates wishing to become a part of our Community of Grace!

We will be accepting applications for the position until our deadline of December 31, 2008. We will review applications as they are received and create a list of those we are interested in reviewing further. After the deadline, our committee will meet again to decide who we would like to interview in person. We do not have a specific number of interviews to make, but we anticipate interviewing three to five people. We also anticipate that these interviews will take place in January.

If our time line goes as expected, we hope to make an offer to a candidate around the first week of February and have someone in the pulpit by the end of that month.

Our committee is dedicated to allowing God's Spirit to guide us through this important

decision. Your prayers are welcome and embraced.

If you have any questions along the way, please feel free to contact any of us.

View the two parts of our Church Information Form by clicking this link:

[CIF 1 <http://www.cogpc.org/forms/CIF1\\_01.pdf>](http://www.cogpc.org/forms/CIF1_01.pdf)

[CIF 2 <http://www.cogpc.org/forms/CIF2\\_01.pdf>](http://www.cogpc.org/forms/CIF2_01.pdf)



## INTERIM PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

### Annual Congregational Meeting Called

Session has called a meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, January 25, 2009, in order to report the final results of the Stewardship Campaign, share the budget with the Congregation, and to elect the Nominating Committee for 2008. The meeting will take place at 12:30 following the second service of Worship.



### ***A Publication of COG***

### "Our Prayers"

by Dede Carpenter

*Area Director of Adult and Family*

Sometimes God has a plan that begins long before it reaches fruition. Just like the story of Christmas begins with the Advent season, so began the story of our advent gift: "Community of Grace...Our Prayers."

Last August Millie Nielsen read an article in "Pray! Magazine." The article explained how a congregation had started sharing prayer stories, and how the act of

sharing those stories actually encouraged others to pray. Millie thought this might be a wonderful tool for Community of Grace, so she began inviting a few members to share a prayer experience. Individuals were encouraged to write of a time where they were nourished, sustained, guided or enlightened, and subsequently found God's peace through prayer.

These stories began to arrive in the office during the fall months. By late November our little booklet had grown to 25 pages filled with stories of Hope, Joy, and Peace during the Christmas season. What had begun with a plan to assemble 10-12 reflections had grown far beyond our expectations. We realized that we now had a heartfelt and timely gift to our congregation as we entered Advent without Pastor Marty's presence.

God's timing and grace works in amazing ways. Our thanks go out to all who submitted pieces, helped in production and...of course...those who were moved to pick up and read these stories from the heart.



## *Our Church Community*

Session Notes (*Meeting of December 17, 2008*)


by Dave Adamson  
*Elder*

1. This meeting was moderated by Rev. David Henry, our interim moderator appointed by Presbytery until the interim pastor is in place. Dede Carpenter represented the staff.
2. Dede reviewed the status of our transition to this interim period. Most responsibilities are being handled successfully, and no alarm bells are ringing yet. With only one service on 12/28, no pastor available that Sunday, and low attendance expected, it was decided to show a 20-minute video explaining "Living Waters for the World" in lieu of a sermon. This is the denomination-sponsored charity that the Session previously authorized as the recipient of this year's special Christmas offering.
3. Session members signed up to open and close the church on Sundays from December through February until an interim pastor is appointed.

4. Session decided to schedule the annual congregational meeting at 12:45 on Sunday, January 25, following the second service.
5. Tim Fluetsch reported that our 2008 budget came in seriously short in both October and November. There are a number of families who pledged last year who have not yet submitted their pledges for 2009. He recommended that Session begin to generate a list of potential budget cuts and revenue enhancements. The budget situation will be shared with the congregation on January 25.
6. The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee reported that to date they had received seven applications with a 12/31 deadline. An ad has been placed in the "Presbyterian Outlook," a denomination-sponsored magazine. They are hopeful to have an interim pastor appointed by the end of January.
7. It was decided that Debbie Colt and Pat Holmes will represent Session on the 2009 Nominating Committee.

## November Financial Update

by Tim Fleutch  
*Treasurer*

2008 Income & Expenses	 <b>Financial Update</b>	
	Year To Date	Current to 11-30-08 Budget Year To Date
Income		
Pledges	\$319,936	\$355,917
Other	\$46,531	\$48,400
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$366,467</b>	<b>\$404,317</b>
Expenses		
Personnel	\$209,890	\$210,476
Outreach & Mission	\$51,125	\$56,907
Operations	\$110,770	\$111,514
Children & Youth	\$8,617	\$13,109
Adult & Family	\$5,009	\$5,545
Worship	\$3,399	\$3,208
	<b>\$388,810</b>	<b>\$400,758</b>

Total Expenses		
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$22,343)	\$3,558

## 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](http://www.pcusa.org))
- Presbyterian 101 [Facts about Presbyterians] ([www.pcusa.org/101](http://www.pcusa.org/101))
- Expressing Our Faith: National and International Service  
([www.pcusa.org/navigation/mission.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/navigation/mission.htm))
- What Presbyterians Believe ([www.pcusa.org/catech/studycat.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/catech/studycat.htm))

## Church Officers

### Board of Deacons

*Deacons Moderator:* Lisa Wiscomb

### **Class of 2009**

Randy Carter  
Dave Fry  
Barb Gentry  
Lori Packard  
Sharon Riley  
Wes Starkenburg

### **Class of 2010**

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

### **Class of 2011**

Kim Beaslin  
Elaine Nordberg  
Linda Page  
Lisa Wiscomb

### Session

*Acting Session Moderator:* Rev. David Henry

*Recording Secretary:* Jane Cooper

### **Class of 2009**

Tim Fluetsch  
Dave Adamson

### **Class of 2010**

Pat Holmes  
Chuck Stolfa

### **Class of 2011**

Kelly Harris  
Debbie Colt

## *Children & Youth*

### Finding Christ in Christmas 2008

by Lorrie Gaffney

*Area Director of Children and Youth*

Well, it's way past the deadline for Grace Notes and Dave Adamson, our Communications Director, hasn't said a word, even in the graceful way that he reminds

us. Perhaps it is because today is when the real Christmas Season has finally kicked in for me, the day to share “good news of great joy”!

Today, we had 31 people (half were teens) helping unload over 1,000 turkeys, pies and other Christmas dinner supplies, carry this food to cars, bus stops for people in need, and do misc. tasks to support the Great Turkey Giveaway. This service offers a glimpse of grace, the reality of God to those in need who wonder why people would come out in the cold and snow, carry their food... and be smiling!



Today, I delivered presents, specially chosen by a Session member’s family for a young refugee from Sudan who has two boys (eight and nine years old) and is pregnant with twins and on bed rest. And that is not all. Besides fleeing a war that killed her dad, living with a food shortage in Ethiopia, an abusive husband in the states... she is now homeless, living at the Road Home Shelter. But that won’t be for long. I just got off the phone with another Session member whose family is providing support to allow her to get housing sooner than the wait list (of approx. three months), for a housing voucher.

Yesterday and today we had people stop in the office with a check for Living Waters for the World (LWW). We are close, and should surpass by Christmas, the amount needed to purchase at least one filtration system to bring clean water where there is none available. LWW is our own PC(USA) denomination program to provide water filtration systems, with a belief and passion that drinkable water is something that should be available for all God’s children.

Yesterday we had someone stop in with hand knitted hats that will be offered to homeless folks in need of some warmth by our youth. Another person who had discovered gloves on sale, stocked up and brought them in.

Today I will be matching amazing mentors and youth to study in our confirmation program, but more importantly, to glimpse real faith in real life in the way it is best learned about – caring relationships.

The snow that has fallen all morning just stopped and the sun is beginning to shine! I think God is smiling!

Looking forward to sharing Christ’s joy with you in the New Year,

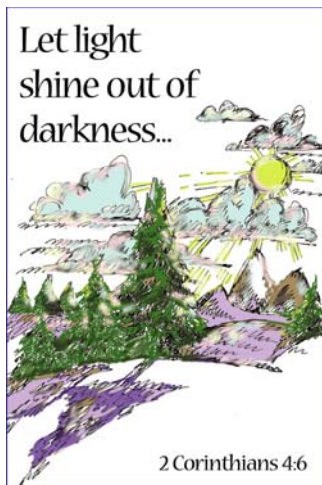
*Adult & Family*

## Faith and the Land

by Dede Carpenter  
*Area Director for Adult & Family*

Is the future of Utah's wild lands important to you? Do you ever turn to Utah's wild landscape for spiritual inspiration, renewal or insight? What do you see and experience when your eyes rest on the mountains or red rock vistas? Are you being called to acknowledge an important role of stewardship and care for the land? Do you realize the strongest voice for protecting the natural beauty in Utah comes from those living outside the state of Utah?

In the spring of 2008 Terri Martin with Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance was struck by the fact that local awareness and commitment to protect Utah's beauty was so minimal; despite universal appreciation for the beauty. This inspired her to contact local faith communities. Would the faith communities be willing to explore and discuss their faith relationship with the natural world around them? Over the past eleven months groups have convened throughout the Salt Lake Valley within the LDS, Episcopal, Jewish and United Church of Christ communities. These dialogs are becoming part of a larger initiative to determine if our faith does call us to act, what does our action look like?



**Sunday January 18<sup>th</sup>** Terri Martin will be hosting a **Faith and the Land conversation at our church**. Adults are invited and encouraged to participate in this thought provoking two hour session. The session will be held from 12:30-2:30pm; lunch will be provided. **Please RSVP to Dede by January 11<sup>th</sup>** (*sorry, no childcare provided*).

This is another great opportunity to share and explore our Faith in Action!

### ***New Mission Project at COG***

## Crossroads Food Co-op Distribution Hub

by Dede Carpenter  
*Area Director for Adult & Family*

Under the leadership of Shelly and John Horel, the gym at Community of Grace is about to become a distribution hub for the Crossroads Urban Center. The need for support in Sandy has grown to the point where two hubs are needed. Hilltop Methodist is the other hub. A volunteer team from COG will help distribute food on the third Saturday of every month, beginning February 21 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The "Community Food Co-op" is a project of Crossroads Urban Center, a grassroots, non-profit organization that has been working to meet people's basic survival needs and address the root causes of poverty since 1966. For over four decades Crossroads has been known for its direct service and advocacy efforts. Crossroads has also played an important role in Utah's non-profit community by identifying and responding to unmet community needs through new initiatives and

programs. Several of these efforts have evolved into independent organizations, such as “Utahns Against Hunger” and “Wasatch Community Gardens.” It is in this tradition that Crossroads is now launching the “Community Food Co-op of Utah.”

The goal of the Community Food Co-op is to:

- Reduce hunger in Utah by providing a consistent way for people (particularly the working poor and those on limited fixed incomes) to stretch their grocery budgets while being able to afford quality, healthy food; and
- To build community by bringing people of ALL backgrounds together to collectively save money, consume more conscientiously, and break down barriers that keep us apart.

The Community Food Co-op is open to all people willing to work together to make our community a better place for everyone regardless of gender, class, race or ethnicity, politics, or religion. It's a simple idea, really...provide quality, healthy food at a substantial savings through cooperative purchasing; and build a sense of community by bringing people together and promoting volunteer service. If you are struggling to meet your basic food needs or are just looking for a way to share in community, you can be part of this simple exchange: giving and receiving.



Check out [www.crossroads-u-c.org/cfc/](http://www.crossroads-u-c.org/cfc/) for more details.

Contact John or Shelley Horel to become part of our COG volunteer team.

### Crossroads Items of the Month for January

**Food Pantry:** milk (can't get enough) and canned tomato products

**Thrift Store:** bedding—sheets, blankets, pillows, sleeping bags

NOTE: The “Coalition of Religious Communities” is inviting everyone to their annual orientation and tour on Capitol Hill on Thursday, January 22 at either noon or 3 p.m. Call Linda or Sarah at 364-7765 for more information.

### January Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen  
*Prayer Coordinator*

1. Loving God, on this New Year's day give me a new heart and new eyes to see as you see and to love as you love.
2. Lord, I give thanks for the commitment of Dede and Lorrie as they lead us in ministry.
3. I pray for all world leaders who can play a part in bringing peace to the troubled areas of the world and I offer prayers of praise that while we are limited in bringing about peace, we have

a God without limits.

4. May the body and blood of Christ renew us in your Holy Spirit.
5. Lord, empower me to make my life more like your word and deed.
6. Bless our deacons and give them servant hearts in caring for the people of our congregation.
7. Gracious God, thank you for calling me to your service. Help me be generous in allowing you to use me.
8. Loving God, let my life be a blessing to others.
9. Bless Stephen Ministry which supports people who are going through a crisis.
10. Open my ears and heart to hear your word today.
11. Holy God, be with us today in our worship, trusting in your love.
12. Lord, even though I cannot fully comprehend you, I want to love you.
13. May your Holy Spirit bring your power and harmony to the pastor, leaders, and members of Immanuel church, Kiraro in Kenya.
14. Help me be more aware today of God shining into my life.
15. Encourage the members of New Beginnings church as they continue to carry your word to people in the southwest area of the Salt Lake Valley.
16. Lord, may others be able to meet the loving Christ in me.
17. God, help me find quiet times rather than being obsessed with busyness.
18. Thank you for your praise through music.
19. Lord, give me the courage to work for a world in which all people who were created by you are seen as equal despite color and race.
20. Guide our session as they make decisions for our congregation.
21. Give wisdom to our president and other elected officials and give them hearts to serve rather than a will for greed and power.
22. Lord, comfort people who suffer with severe illness and give them hope in you.
23. Lord, save us from ignoring the elderly.
24. Lord, give safety and hope to all people in the war zones of the world.
25. God of Glory, help us to honor you in the hymns we sing, the prayers we share, the Gospel to which we listen.
26. Almighty God, keep me from glorifying armaments and war, and wishing our enemies dead.
27. Lord, help me to speak the truth in love.
28. Father God, be merciful to people who are mentally ill and help me to be merciful and understanding.
29. Thank you, God, that I can talk to you and listen for your voice to me anytime.
30. Almighty God, give me the grace today to ask to do your will rather than asking you to do mine.
31. God, give me the perception to know what is right and the resolve to do what I know is right.



**PRAYER**



**CALENDAR**