

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

July 2008

July Highlights

Summer of Service. Dozens of COG members and their families will be engaged in service this summer, and through that service making a difference in the lives of those in need.

From the Pastor's Desk:

Grace in Film. A rare movie review and recommendation this month from the pastor for a film now out on DVD.

Our Church Community

25th Anniversary Coming Soon. Two special events are now scheduled to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Dates, times, and locations are announced here. Please plan to join us.

July Financial Update. Despite continuing economic problems, our members continue to be faithful in their giving.

Session Notes. Here you will find a synopsis of the July Session meeting.

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

God's Big Back Yard. ☐ Vacation Bible Camp will take place in the evenings this year at COG from July 28 – 31. There is still time to sign up. Bring your friends!

Help for Parents and Grandparents. ☐

A newsletter specially designed to assist parents and grandparents is available through our website. There are separate editions for children and youth.

Adult & Family

God's Adventure...My Butterflies. ☐ Dede Carpenter reflects on the angst of preparing for a mission trip to a foreign country.

Crossroads Items of the Month. In July the Crossroads Urban Center is looking for milk and snacks. Their most needed items for the thrift store are new underwear (all sizes).

[July 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

Presbyterian Women (PW)

[PW Update](#). □ Ruth’s Circle study topics announced and a thank you for all who helped with the garage sale.



Summer of Service

by Lorrie Gaffney

Children and Youth Director

The Mexico Family Mission team takes off tomorrow (6/20). What a powerful experience of family. Kids, moms, dads, youth, young adults, all joining as part of the family of Community of Grace to join with our larger family of fellow Christians from around the U.S. that will connect with our larger family in Mexico.

One week after that (6/29) the San Francisco team takes off to serve “family members” most in need in the inner-city. Members have joined that trip through gift cards that will be offered to homeless folks as a gift from COG. Other members have joined as prayer partners to surround the group and its mission with God’s love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Those who make pledges of giving to the COG budget join the mission trips as part of those pledges get set aside in an account to offset some of the costs of traveling,

including gas and van rentals.

Please join the Mexico team in Sunday worship on July 6 and the San Francisco team on July 13 as each group leads worship and shares how God's grace has been shared and received through service to those in need.



Summer of Service

From the Pastor's Desk:

Grace in Film

by Pastor Marty

Have you ever wondered how Grace works? How does undeserved, sacrificial love enter into our lives? While the Bible is filled with story upon story, every now and then a movie comes along and captures the mystery and beauty of God's grace. One of those movies is *Lars & The Real Girl*.

For those who read this column every month, you know I have never recommended a movie. And I almost didn't see it! If it had not been for Heidi's persistence and Lorrie Gaffney's recommendation, I would have missed it.

What would you do if Lars, your brother or your brother-in-law, introduced you to his girlfriend? That might seem rather normal until you realized she was a doll, a real doll. How would you respond? Better yet, if you were on the church board would you welcome "the doll" to worship? Would you offer to cut her hair? Would you invite Lars and the doll to your house for a party? If you were Lars's co-worker, would you go bowling together?

All these questions and more are explored in this gem of grace. There is humor, sadness, joy, anger, love, death, reconciliation and a doctor who grasped the truth of loving a person even though he was way outside the bounds of “normal”. There is a scene of love that includes a unique moment of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. There are discussions between two brothers about what it means to really be a man. And there are many ordinary people, who in the midst of their ordinary lives, live God’s extraordinary grace.

If you rent any movie this summer, I highly recommend you rent this one. Don’t just watch it alone, call up a couple friends enjoy the evening. Then sit back after the film and marvel at the ways of grace.

Blessings!

Marty Shelton-Jenck, Pastor



Our Church Community

25th Celebration Coming Soon

by Lisa Wiscomb
Moderator of Deacons

A quarter of a century.


That’s how long COG has been serving in this community. Plan to join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Community of Grace Presbyterian Church.

- On August 9, 2008, we will share a dinner and games at Willow Creek Park from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

- On August 10, 2008 we will join together in one united service with a special guest presenting the sermon. Refreshments will be served after the service in the gym.

July Financial Update

by Tim Fleutch
Treasurer

2008 Income & Expenses	 Financial Update	Current to 5-31-08
	Year To Date	Budget Year To Date
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges	\$157,392	\$161,780
Other	\$32,302	\$22,000
Total Income	\$189,693	\$183,780
<u>Expenses</u>		
Personnel	\$95,798	\$95,671
Outreach & Mission	\$33,826	\$25,867
Operations	\$48,041	\$51,522
Children & Youth	\$3,479	\$5,958
Adult & Family	\$1,419	\$2,521
Worship	\$884	\$1,458
Total Expenses	\$183,446	\$182,997
Surplus (Deficit)	\$6,247	\$783

Session Notes (Meeting of June 17, 2008)

by Dave Adamson
Elder

1. The Transitional Presbyter for the Presbytery of Utah, Laura Stellmon, visited COG Session this month and led a discussion about the nature and future of our presbytery. Elders were asked to reflect on its function, mission, impact on our congregation, and the characteristics of the leadership it will need to accomplish its purposes. Laura is also surveying all of the elders of the presbytery, along with ours, to determine the level

of understanding and experience that exists in the local congregations. The Presbytery of Utah is in the process of seeking a new executive.

2. New elders Debbie Colt and Kelly Harris were welcomed to their first Session meeting.
3. Financial reports for the month of May were reviewed. We continue to be on track with our budget as we now enter the normal “summer slump” in attendance and giving.
4. Marty provided the Session with a brief overview of the work of General Assembly as it convenes in San Jose from June 21 through June 28. This year’s theme for General Assembly is “Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with your God.” The progress of this year’s GA can be tracked at www.pcusa.org.

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 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
Marianne Wedertz
Lisa Wiscomb

Session

Session Moderator: Pastor Marty Shelton-Jenck

Clerk: Jane Cooper

Class of 2009

Tim Fuetsch
Dave Adamson

Class of 2010

Pat Holmes
Chuck Stolfa

Class of 2011

Kelly Harris
Debbie Colt

Children & Youth

God's Big Backyard

by Lorrie Gaffney

Director of Children and Youth

Vacation Bible Camp will take place in a corner of **God's Big Backyard** called Community of Grace, July 28-31, 6:00-8:30 pm. Kids will discover what Backyard friend **Cooper** knows: that serving our neighbor is the key to the abundant joy God wants for us. God's Big Backyard will lead us to discover the beauty of our neighbor in India, China, S. Africa, Mexico through fun crafts, snacks, games and service learning. Bible stories will inspire kids to serve family, friends, neighbor and community.

Community of Grace covers the cost of this event through our regular budget for our members, friends, and neighbors as our annual summer welcoming. Participants are encouraged each day to provide much needed food items for Crossroads Food Pantry which is struggling to provide for families in need. Registered participants will receive a letter explaining the daily offering collection and more will be shared at the start of VBS. Participants will also learn about a wonderful ministry called Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC) which is held the week following VBS, in the Uintas, for kids in foster care. Kids will connect with the Royal Family Kids Campers by making place mats and napkin rings for their dinnertime. All kids need family. What a joy it is to be a part of a ministry that extends the family of God as real hands and hearts to foster kids. Anyone who could give a day at camp, a week, or help with registration or ending dinner can contact the Horels for more info.

Our family came to Community of Grace because of the caring and joy-filled Vacation Bible School experience. Be a good neighbor – invite a friend to join in the fun.

Early registration helps our teams purchase and prepare the crafts and activities necessary for a healthy opening. Please sign up by going to our front page website www.cogpc.org <<http://www.cogpc.org/>> or directly to the **registration page** at <<http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/communityofgrace>> .

Volunteering to help at VBS is a wonderful way to connect with your child and demonstrate your values of serving. We have wonderful teams and could use help in moving kids from one center to another, providing teams with helping hands, photography and decorations. Please sign up in the entry way of church, online at the link above, or contact Lorrie Gaffney.

Vacation Bible Camp



Help for Parents & Grandparents

by Lorrie Gaffney

Director of Children and Youth

We have two **ParentLink Newsletters** that go out every other month, designed to support parents in guiding their kid's faith development – One with an elementary-aged focus and one for Teens. If you are not receiving these newsletters and would like to be on the email list, simply contact Sandy at www.cogpc.org <<http://www.cogpc.org/>>. These newsletters can provide helpful thoughts for grandparents and anyone who provides guidance for children or youth.

[Summer ParentLink – Kids](#)
[Summer ParentLink - Youth](#)



Support for
Parents

Adult & Family

Mission Trip to Mexico

God's Adventure...My Butterflies

by Dede Carpenter

Director of Adult & Family

[Editor's Note: COG is sending a 17-member Mission Team to Mexico from June 20-27 to join with Amor Ministries in constructing a house for a family. Dede's article is a reflection on the experience in anticipation of this trip, and the reassurance that comes in prayerfully facing an unfamiliar challenge.]

An adventure in Mexico awaits me as I write this and checklists have started to invade my nightly dreams. The anticipation is growing and I'm trying to make sense of what to expect and how I'll manage **outside the box** of my routines and comforts! First of all there are the glaring differences; hot and dry weather replaced with hot weather and hair curling humidity...sleeping accommodations at ground level, literally...a tent city and rows of outhouses...showers (loose term) resembling garden misters with limited amounts of solar heated water...lots of sand and the smell of sunscreen prevailing without the beach... up close and personal relationships with concrete and stucco... and passports that become necessities. I'm praying my **body** doesn't stage a revolt.

Then there's **my mind** ...two 12 hour drives with teenagers, complete with their music, humor and interpretation of some **adult music**.... survival Spanish at the worksites to navigate directions to the outhouse and water... and oh yes, did I mention building a house...a livable structure for a family. What was I thinking? Could I really have forgotten those late nights on Christmas Eve when I threatened to sue every manufacturer of **easy to assemble** toys?

The adventure is rapidly approaching; soon to become a reality and I'll be right smack in the middle of it with friends and strangers...and God.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us, "Every moment of our lives is related to God." So **at this moment** I'm praying for God's strength to keep my body functioning and my mind focused while I'm on this amazing adventure in Mexico. I'm asking God to shift my focus away from personal discomforts and fears to compassion and relationships with the people around me. I'm praying to return from Mexico with a greater understanding and appreciation for how every moment of my life relates to God.

This story continues July 6th in Worship.



ADVENTURE in service

Crossroads Items of the Month for July

Food Pantry: milk (canned, powdered, etc), snacks (individually wrapped granola bars, chips, peanut butter crackers, etc.)

Thrift Store: new underwear (all sizes)

June 6 and 7

Presbyterian Women (PW)

by Susan Bennett

Presbyterian Women

Ruth Circle. The Ruth Circle is meeting throughout the summer on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. They are studying Jonah and Ruth.

PW. A big thank you to everyone for their hard work and the wonderful donations for the garage sale! It was a huge success! We made \$6,413.00!
Coming soon this summer: the Farmer's Market!

July Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen

Prayer Coordinator

1. I give thanks for the deacons of Community of Grace who support our members through prayer and service.
2. Holy Spirit, touch me today with the joy of your presence and fill me with the power of your love.
3. Guide and bless our executive team, Pastor Marty, Dede, and Lorrie as they plan and lead ministry at Community of Grace.
4. Give the United States the grace to seek service in the world rather than power.
5. Lord, lead me beyond my narrow vision so I can see as you see.
6. Through our worship and communion may I taste and see you are good.
7. Father God, I pray for my church and for all who teach and serve there.
8. God, I pray for all people in war zones of the world.
9. Lord, I ask for your strength for all who are struggling with addictions.
10. Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that we are born out of your love, we die into your love, and we have eternal life in your love.
11. Oh God, according to your will, heal those who are suffering.
12. Cleanse me of selfishness and fear and renew me so I may live joyfully in your grace.
13. As we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, may our words be pleasing to you, and may we be transformed by the power and presence of your spirit.
14. Bless our sister church, the Immanuel church, Kiraro, in Kenya and give them your power and truth as they sow your Word.
15. Lord, give session members prayerful hearts as they discuss the needs of this congregation and make decisions on its behalf.
16. Lord, help me to love you because you loved me so much.
17. Give New Beginnings Church assurance that the seeds of your Word which they plant will take root and grow in your time.
18. Thank you for those who have gone ahead. Thank you we will see them again.
19. Lord, give me faith to believe that my life will always know its season of hope.
20. Fill our worship today with the Holy Spirit and startle me with your truth.
21. Oh God, teach me to love, give, and serve for your sake, knowing I am really doing it to you.
22. Lord, move me to spend more time with you in prayer.
23. Father God, bring understanding and forgiveness to husbands and wives struggling in their marriage.
24. Loving God, make me truly grateful for your creation.
25. Lord, when I have an opportunity to speak for you and don't know what to say, give me your words.
26. May God's own spirit of love lift life into me.
27. Through our worship today may I surrender my life to your love.

28. Bless our VBS camp as we learn how God's spirit gives us POWER to be thankful and brave.

29. Lord, thank you for the things you send into my life that seem hard and disappointing. Help me to believe that they are part of the pattern.

30. Keep me very close to you all my life, until you take me to your home.

31. Oh God, touch me with the newness of life you offer and create in me the power to do your justice with my life.

