

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

June 2009

June Highlights

[After Worship Activities](#)

[Faces and Places of God.](#) We have only one worship service at 9:30 each Sunday during the summer, followed by an all-church and friends activity. The June activity schedule is listed here.

[Presbyterian Denominational News](#) Pastor Bill provides an update on our denomination at the state and national level.

[PW Yard Sale!](#) Our annual PW yard sale will be held on June 12 & 13 this year.

Our Church Community

[Session Notes.](#) Here you will find the notes from the May 19 Session meeting.

[April Financial Update.](#) This is our updated monthly financial picture provided by 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

[Pockets Magazine](#) COG is providing this magazine for children in Grades 3-5.

[You, Your Child, and TwiG.](#) 10 suggestions are provided for enabling children to have at least 10 minutes each day of time with God (TwiG).

[Children's Worship](#) Thanks to those who have helped with children's worship, and a request for worship assistance during the summer.

[Wind River Mission Trip.](#) Our mission trip to the Wind Rivers reservation begins on June 21. Prayers requested, participants listed.

Adult & Family

[Crossroads Items of the Month.](#) In June the Crossroads Urban Center is asking for rice and saltine crackers. For their thrift store they have a need for towels, washcloths, shower curtains, and rugs.

[June 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.



After Worship Activities
Faces and Places of God

by Lorrie Gaffney
Area Director of Children and Youth

Please check out the upcoming opportunities to enjoy God, one another, and serving those in need. **Please bring a camera** and help us create our collage of the glimpses of God's amazing handi-work. Family, friends, and visitors are encouraged to get to know the CoG community by joining any of these activities

(Please Note: *schedules may change*)

June 7 *Immediately after worship* - **Lunch in the Park – Pioneer Park!** Bring a blanket, a lunch for **you** and one to **share!** Pack some new or gently used underwear or socks that can be handed out with the lunch to bless someone's day.

June 14 *Immediately after worship* - **A Day at the Aviary!** Mill House is reserved from 11 – 1:00 pm: COG former Elder and present Aviary Board Member, Davis Mullholand, will share how he got connected to the Aviary. A Bird Visitor will come at 11:30, limited tickets to feed birds will be available at various times and the Bird Show starts at 1:00 pm. Bring a sack lunch and meet at the Mill House at 11:00 am. Group tickets prices will be available for those who sign up and prepay at the following rates: Adults \$4; Seniors/Students \$3; children 4-12 yrs \$2, (under 4 years are free) Sign up sheets can be found at the Welcome Center counter.

June 26-27 Camping/rafting at Flaming Gorge – see Welcome Center for details

June 28 Local Sunday hike TBD

Presbyterian Denominational News

by Bill McGuinness

Pastor

COG representative to Presbytery, Elaine Nordberg, and Pastor Bill attended the May 9, 2009 Spring meeting of the Utah Presbytery, hosted by the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Fruit Heights. At that meeting, a job description (.75 time beginning in 2010) was approved, and a nominating committee elected for nominating someone for the position of Executive Presbyter. Our Transitional Executive Presbyter, Rev. Laura Stellmon's contract was extended through 2009. A nominating committee was elected to conduct that search and our own Tom Keene was elected to serve on it. Unlike particular congregations, Presbytery may choose to call its' Interim / Transitional leader as permanent.

Nationally, our PCUSA denomination has rejected a constitutional amendment that would permit individual presbyteries and sessions to determine whether a candidate for ordination is seeking to live life according to scripture and its interpretation through our PCUSA historic confessions. Had that amendment passed, it would have replaced language requiring among other things, that candidates for ordination to the office of deacon, elder or minister, live a life characterized by either faithfulness in marriage or chastity in singleness. The underlying issue is the eligibility of self-identified practicing gay and lesbian individuals to be ordained. A clear majority of presbyteries nationally have voted to date against the proposed amendment that would have replaced the fidelity or chastity requirement with the judgment of the ordaining body. This matter has come to vote twice in the last ten or so years and the rejecting majority has gotten smaller each time. In Utah Presbytery the vote this time was very close in favor of the amendment.

With just a few dissenting votes, presbyteries across the country have approved historic covenants and agreements with, the Episcopal Church, the Korean Presbyterian Church in America, the Moravian Church and with the Roman Catholic Church relating to agreement on baptism. In addition, the General Assembly Council will have a new name – the General Assembly Mission Council – which will put the word “mission” front-and-center to reinforce the work of the council.



Annual PW Yard Sale!

by Kristin Gorang
COG Presbyterian Women (PW)

The Annual PW Yard Sale will be held this year on June 12 and 13. Members are asked to bring donated items to the church between June 7 and 11. Friends and neighbors are invited and encouraged to participate both as donors and buyers. Many volunteers (men and women) are needed for this annual event to price, sort, bake items, and work on the days of the yard sale. Volunteers are also needed on Saturday to help carry boxes out to the Salvation Army truck at the conclusion of the sale. Proceeds from the sale go to supporting international, national, and local mission projects, as well as COG mission trips and youth activities.



Our Church Community

Session Notes *(Meeting of May 19, 2009)*


by Jane Cooper
Elder

1. Elaine Nordberg was re-elected to represent Community of Grace as our Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery of Utah.
2. Eryn Gorang was nominated by Session to be a Youth Advisory Delegate from COG to the PC(USA) General Assembly in 2010.
3. Pastor Bill McGuinness discussed five main tasks in the transition process including further development of our mission statement, identity and vision, and examining leadership and organizational needs. Small group meetings of the congregation will be set up, and Session will manage the Mission Study to prepare for selecting a Pastor Nominating Committee.
4. Pastor Bill and Chuck Stolfa will put together a power point outline for the congregation summarizing the transition process from the arrival of the interim pastor through the installation of a new called/installed pastor.
5. Financial reports were reviewed. Pledges and loose offerings are continuing to come in well so far, and we will be going into the summer, when giving traditionally slows down, as strong as we ever have. Tim Fluetsch wants to thank the congregation for continuing to give faithfully and responsibly at this time. Pastor Bill would like to begin the stewardship process in September this year, with emphasis on the spiritual aspects of our stewardship.
6. The new Summer Sunday Schedule was approved by Session, beginning on Memorial Day weekend and going through Labor Day weekend (May 24 through September 6). On summer Sundays there will be one service at 9:30 a.m., Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, music featuring a mix of older favorites and newer songs/hymns, and a variety of fellowship and service opportunities for all ages each week after church as extensions of our worship.
7. Elders and Deacons will be ordained/installed on Sunday, June 7.
8. Session will hold a retreat on two successive evenings in June: Monday, June 15th and Tuesday, June 16th. The retreat will focus on our Core Spiritual Identity and on examining transition tasks and setting goals as we plan for the future and move forward in the process of calling a new installed pastor.



April Financial Update

by Tim Fluetsch
Treasurer

2009 Income & Expenses	 Financial Update	<i>Current to 04-30-2009</i>
	Year To Date	Budget Year To Date
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges	\$105,843	\$112,132
Other	\$13,856	\$16,400
Total Income	\$119,698	\$128,532
<u>Expenses</u>		
Personnel	\$53,255	\$49,953
Outreach & Mission	\$6,379	\$14,020
Operations	\$41,093	\$41,983
Children & Youth	\$996	\$2,950
Adult & Family	\$516	\$1,717
Worship	\$375	\$1,167
Total Expenses	\$102,614	\$111,789
Surplus (Deficit)	\$17,084	\$16,743

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

Class of 2011

Kim Beaslin

Class of 2012

Erica Adamson

Debbie Bybee
Denise Harris
Brooke Holyoak
Tom Keene
Bonnie Sackett

Barb Gentry
Elaine Nordberg
Linda Page
Lisa Wiscomb

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

Children & Youth

Pockets Magazine

by Lorrie Gaffney
Area Director of Children and Youth

Pockets Magazine is full of faith-based, real-life stories for kids approximately 3rd grade through 5th grade. You will find recipes like Berry-licious Cones, games, bad jokes, and especially stories that teach about faithful living. The June edition, on Loneliness is available, compliments of Community of Grace, by our entryway couches (older editions can be found at the back of the sanctuary). The following Psalm adaptation makes a wonderful prayer for bedtime or when parents are traveling. This is a key teaching you want your child to have to hold onto now, and in later years when challenges and hurts arise.

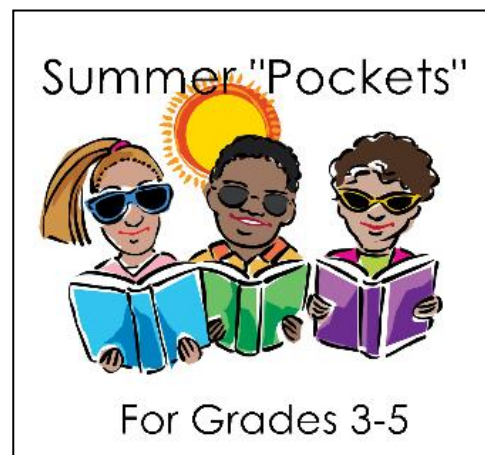
God, you know me so well!

You know...

*When I sit and when I stand
When I lie down and when I wake up
What I think before I think it
What I will do before I do it.*

*It's hard to believe how much you love me.
Wherever I go, you are with me.
I can never run or hide from you.
If I move far away, you come with me.
If someone makes fun of me, you stand by
my side.
If my friends hurt me, you comfort me.
If I am sad or lonely, you hold my hand.
You created me. You love me.*

Adapted from Psalm 139: 1-14



You, Your Child and TwiG (Time with God)

Parents are the primary teachers of faith and values and Community of Grace is committed to supporting parents. For real growth and strength, setting aside daily time with God is essential – just as essential as daily tooth-brushing! Even 10 minutes with God each day allows a relationship to begin developing and sets a pattern for a habit that can later be an expected part of the daily routine.

What can you do during this time?

1. Read a faith-based magazine like Pockets together
2. Recite the COG Charge until it is memorized
3. Learn the Lord's Prayer (make up hands movements to go with it)
4. Share joys where God's love was especially seen that day
5. Memorize a favorite scripture each week – put it on the fridge and practice daily
6. Choose a devotion from the Hands On Bible
7. Request a CD with a children's version of the New Testament Books of the Bible and practice singing along (send an email request to lorrie@cogpc.org)
8. Go to Lifeway Christian Books and choose some wonderful Christian-based stories.
9. Make a craft to give to last year's Sunday School teachers
10. Come up with your own idea and share it with us!

Close your TwiG with a prayer, a hug and a blessing for the good things of God you want for your child... and watch those faith muscles grow.



Children's Worship is a time to introduce kids, 4-3rd grade to worship as a place to sing, hear a message and enjoy God's presence in our community through games and crafts. Our children need adults to care and share with them. Please choose one, two or three Sundays this summer to share a story or video with a message of sacrificial

love. Other activities could include a game, craft or snack kids create – anything that would help kids know God’s love and enjoy caring for others . Email or call Lorrie Gaffney or sign up at the Welcome Center.

A special THANK YOU, BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS for the sparkle and creativity of **Marilyn Branath** who led our **Children’s Worship** craft time so joyfully this past year. Our children certainly experienced the reality of God’s extravagant love through her. As she takes some time off, please know that her care, so generously offered, will require others to step in so her work will continue. She will be missed by all but certainly deserves some time enjoying our sanctuary worship.

Wind River Mission Trip

Wind River Mission Trip is preparing to depart on Sunday June 21 following worship. Please pray now and send them off with prayer and wishes as they extend Christ’s hands and feet on the Indian Reservation.

Leader: Gerald VanCampen
Co-Leader: Minerva Overstreet
Chaperones: Linda Tyrell,
Matt Gentilcore

Students

Erin VanCampen
Bianca Overstreet
Cameron Tyrell
Hannu VanDerWalt
Marilize VanDerWalt
Jacob Fluetsch



June Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen
Prayer Coordinator

1. Lord, let this summer be for me a time of gathering together the pieces into which my busyness has broken me.
2. Almighty God, give Pastor and Mrs. McGuiness and all the staff at Community of Grace your peace and guidance.
3. Open my heart each day so I may experience the wonder and surprise of your redeeming love.
4. God, today help me be grateful for your faithfulness and for the joy you give me.
5. Loving God, fill me today with love and forgiveness for someone who has been difficult for me to love,
6. Lord all people, I pray for harmony and grace for our sister church, the Immanuel Church Kiraro in Kenya.
7. God of love, send afresh your spirit that I may show your love in the world.
8. Lord, give wisdom and humility to our president and other leaders so they might serve well.
9. Lord Jesus, lead and guide our deacons as they serve the members of Community of Grace.
10. Today I pray for comfort and peace for mentally ill people and their families.
11. Lord, give me the ability to be a peacemaker in my home.

12. Gentle healer, open me to the healing I need in my life.
13. Lord, teach me to listen to those I meet. Open me to their joys and sorrows.
14. Lord, fill our worship with your Holy Spirit this morning.
15. Father of all creation, help me maintain a relationship with you, your people and all created things.
16. Lord, give your healing and comfort to all who are ill and in pain.
17. I pray for all people in war zones -- those who will kill and those who will be killed as well as all who live in fear.
18. Lord, thank you for the ways in which you move in my life.
19. Heavenly Father, may your word preached at New Beginnings church take root and grow.
20. I give thanks for AMOR ministries and for Habitat For Humanity and for those who volunteer to build houses.
21. Lord, we thank you for our fathers and for all men who have shown us your love.
22. Lord, help me remember that I am yours.
23. As session meets, fill our session members with your Holy Spirit so they may hear your voice.
24. I give thanks for the Ulster Project that brings reconciliation to Catholics and Protestants in Ireland.
25. Nurture in me a love so intense that the thought of you gives me strength to do your will.
26. Thank you for Heifer, Int. that gives animals to families in need.
27. Loving father, help me to recognize opportunities to do your work and not mine.
28. Faithful God, when people and institutions fail me, remind me of your steadfast love and faithfulness.
29. God, unite our congregation, Community of Grace, in your peace.
30. Lord, for your infinite goodness, I give you thanks and praise.

