

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

March 2009

March Highlights

[First Community Food Co-op at COG.](#) Our first food co-op went off without a hitch on February 21. Pictures are provided. Our second is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, with orders due by Friday, March 13.

[COG Website Use Grows.](#) A look at the number of visits to our website since 2007 yields some interesting observations...including international visits.

Our Church Community

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

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

Children & Youth

[He's here in plain view...](#)

[Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?](#) Our children and youth are benefiting from the presence of Jesus as witnessed by the work of so many volunteers sharing His love. Some of those volunteers are listed here.

[Children's Programs.](#) We are looking at opportunities for the ACTS kids to serve seniors in our community, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt has been scheduled for April 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Adult & Family

[Chili Potluck – A Tasty Experience!](#) The Chili Potluck held on February 21 was not only a spicy event, but a tasteful success!

[Faith and the Land.](#) On January 18th 23 members and friends of COG engaged in dialogue with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Following this event photos of the event appeared on the SUWA website.

[Crossroads Items of the Month.](#) In March the Crossroads Urban Center is asking for crackers. For their thrift store they need kitchen items, including small appliances.

[Presbyterian Women.](#) Four programs are now scheduled in the next two months.

[March 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.



First Community Food Co-op at COG

The Community Food Co-op of Utah came to Community of Grace in February, and went as smooth as organizers John and Shelly Horel could have hoped. A program of the Crossroads Urban Center, the food co-op provides discounted food to all who choose to participate. The success of this program is evident by the fact that over 400 families along the Wasatch Front joined this past month!

Because anyone can participate, it is an opportunity for ALL members of our Sandy community to share together in a common project. For our first distribution we had 44 families order food and pick it up on February 21. Eighteen of these families were from COG. Over 25 people from COG helped unload the food and help with the distribution.

Would you like to participate in March? There are Co-op order forms in the narthex that include all the info you need, or look online at <http://crossroads-u-c.org/cfc/>. Simply place your order by March 13. Be sure to indicate that you will pick up your items at COG. You then need to pick them up between 10-11 AM on Saturday, March 28 in the gym.

If you would like more information, drop John or Shelly an email or give them a call.



Website Use Grows

by Dave Adamson

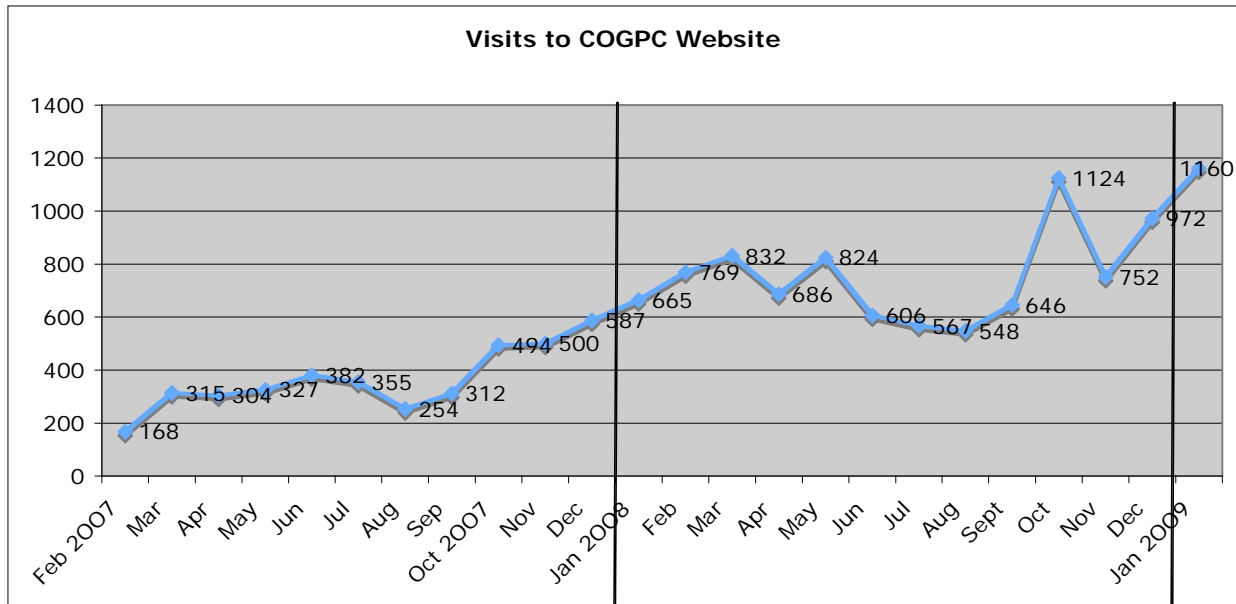
Elder

In February 2007 COG launched its new website with the technical support of webmaster, James Stearns. In the two years since the use of this website has continued to grow (see chart below). James has extracted some interesting data on visits to our website. Several observations can be drawn from these numbers:

- In 2007 the average number of hits to our website was 363 per month.
- In 2008 the average number of monthly hits to our website had grown to 749 (an increase of 106%).



- On average, someone visiting our website will look at 8 pages while there.
- The three months of highest website use occurred in the last four months (January, December, & October).
- We had visits from 14 countries outside the US this year (e.g. New Zealand 81, Brazil 51, Romania 42, Germany 35, Canada 30, Sweden 23).



NOTE: a "visit" is an individual coming to our website. A "hit" refers to each page on the website that was visited.

Our Church Community

Session Notes (Meeting of February 17, 2009)

by Dave Adamson
Elder

1. The Treasurer's Report and balance sheet were reviewed. January receipts were lower than last year, but not the lowest we have experienced in the past seven years (2003 and 2005 were lower). With our recent cutbacks, we continue to watch the budget very carefully. Thankfully, twenty families have already responded to our request for a per capita donation. We hope to see many more. Information will be provided to new members as well.
2. Session received a report from the Interim Pastor Search Committee. Members of the committee presented a recommendation and were enthusiastic about it, although the cost of a candidate with this background and experience was a concern. Session voted to support the recommendation of the committee and forward this recommendation to the Presbytery, with an anticipated start date on May 1, 2009.
3. The need to keep communication flowing about the interim pastor and the procedure for finding an installed pastor was again discussed. Posters in the narthex, website

postings, a picture board of elders [i.e. “who to call”] , bulletin inserts, and an FAQ paper were all discussed.

4. Session was pleased and grateful to receive Lorrie Gaffney’s decision to continue her service to the church as Area Leader for Children and Youth through this transition period.

5. The new plan for a coffee ministry was reviewed. There are five components that we would like to see in place:


- a) Create a “coffee team” of volunteers to manage this ministry.
- b) Distribute information about “fair trade” coffee.
- c) Starbucks has offered to continue to provide coffee (gratis) on the first Sunday of each month.
- d) Sandy will put together a schedule for brewing & clean-up through May.
- e) Information about this ministry will be communicated through the bulletin and a posted sign in the Narthex.

6. Session reviewed a report on the growth of the number of visits to our website (see separate article in this Grace Notes).

7. Because our need for pulpit supply will extend beyond February, names were suggested for possible pulpit supply for March and April. When possible, it was suggested that pastors be invited for two consecutive weeks. Session members again accepted assignments to prepare for Sunday worship and secure the church following the second service.

January Financial Update

by Tim Fleutch
Treasurer

2009 Income & Expenses	 Financial Update	
	Year To Date	Current to 9-30-08 Budget Year To Date
<u>Income</u>		
Pledges	21,428.34	28,033.00
Other	1,895.12	4,100.01
Total Income	23,233.46	32,133.01
<u>Expenses</u>		

Personnel	11,148.12	11,368.54
Outreach & Mission	562.97	3,505.01
Operations	7,920.23	10,895.71
Children & Youth	248.76	737.53
Adult & Family	57.04	429.17
Worship	138.11	291.67
Total Expenses	20,075.23	27,227.63
Surplus (Deficit)	3,158.23	4,905.38

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
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

He's here in plain view...

Have You Seen Jesus My Lord?

by Lorrie Gaffney

Area Director of Children and Youth

That is the beginning of the chorus of one of my favorite songs. Jesus, here at Community of Grace? The chorus continues... *Take a look, open your eyes, He'll show it to you.*

God's spirit of love is found in so many people giving their time and heart in serving our children and youth so that they too, may know God is alive and among us.

We all want to see God. Well...

- stop by the nursery. Our nursery staff leaders (who took it upon themselves to donate their time in support our financial challenges), and volunteers, sitting with our little ones, introducing them to God's amazing love.
- chat with a Sunday School teacher. Ask them why they give up so many Sunday mornings to teach a message about God?
- ask Marilyn Branath how she has so much joy at her age for such an energetic crowd of kids in Children's worship?
- come to the Easter Egg hunt and see who stepped forward to lead this joyful event for COG families and friends
- stay for The Message at 9:45 and consider the heart for God that is shared with our teens through Max and our host team
- join a Sheer Fun event and see God's heart for fun through the Heidi Carter and her leadership team
- look into a conference room or youth room, and you may see a youth and mentor in discussion together – or you may run into a team at Starbucks
- look at the age range of the Radical Grace band and the passion of the music they share
- look behind you as you sit in worship... the person at the laptop who has come in and loaded the minute for mission may have actually had to spend HOURS getting it ready
- watch for the crosses our youth are building and know that behind the sawing, nailing and design are LEADERS who taught them and cared for them
- meet the leaders and chaperones who will spend a week encouraging our youth to enjoy serving others in the Wind Rivers
- be a prayer partner with the Amor ministries team and experience the power of prayer

Behind all these activities are direct leaders, behind the scenes folks, those that generously give to our operating budget that make it all possible, parents that bring kids and those that say kind and encouraging words. May all be blessed by the peace, joy and promises of God's extravagant, unconditional love that comes through giving and caring for others.

Jesus My Lord

by John Fisher

**Have you seen Jesus my Lord?
He's here in plain view.
Take a look, open your eyes,
He'll show it to you**

1. Have you ever looked at the sunset
With the sky mellowin' red,
And the clouds suspended like feathers?
Then I say . . . You've seen Jesus my Lord
2. Have you ever stood at the ocean
With the white foam at your feet,
Felt the endless thunderin' motion?
Then I say . . . you've seen Jesus, My Lord.
3. Have you ever looked at the cross,
With a man hangin' in pain
And the look of love in His eyes?
Then I say . . . you've seen Jesus, My Lord.
4. **Have you ever stood in the family
With the Lord there in your midst,
Seen the face of Christ on each other?
Then I say.....you've seen Jesus, My Lord.**



Children's Ministry

ACTS Serving Seniors

by Lorrie Gaffney

Area Director of Children & Youth

This week I will be having lunch at Wentworth Assisted Living as we look into partnering with Wentworth and our 5th/6th graders leading us in sharing God's love. Beginning March 15 and every 1st and 3rd Sunday through May, our 5th/6th graders will have an opportunity to extend God's love to seniors through bingo. We will also be having a collection for hygiene kits and an opportunity to assemble them with our Senior neighbors. Anyone wanting to be involved directly please let me know.

Easter Egg Hunt, Sat. April 11, 10:00 am – Mark you calendar and think of who might want to meet *Cooper*, the Easter Bunny... *helper*... and enjoy the fun of an Easter Egg hunt and breakfast on the COG grounds. Thank you to those who have volunteered to put this joyful event on! More to come...



Adult & Family

Chili Potluck - A Tasty Experience

by Dede Carpenter

Area Director of Adult & Family

It was an evening that tickled the taste buds with an amazingly diverse selection of chili recipes. There were so many choices; Kahlua Chili, Tony's Top Sirloin Chili, Chili Chowder, White Bean Chicken Chili, Grandpa Cooper's Chili, Vegetarian Chili, Chili Verde, and a Southwest Chili complete with a variety of fresh toppings. Armed with small 6oz portion bowls people trekked to and from the buffet of crock pots to select samples of them all! Salads, cornbread and desserts rounded out the meal leaving no one hungry.

Conversation around the tables began with lively discussions of recipe ingredients and favorites then moved into sharing stories and updates. Wrapping up the evening was an opportunity to sit down at a well-stocked craft table (our thanks go out to Adrian Gentilcore) to stamp and paste notes of encouragement for our youth participating in the upcoming FAST.



It was a great way to come out of the winter cold and share the warmth of fellowship in February!

Faith and the Land

by Dede Carpenter

Area Director of 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?

On January 18th 23 members and friends of Community of Grace participated in a Faith and the Land conversation with members of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. A recap (Harvest) of our COG discussion is now available online at

www.suwa.org if you would like to read a summary of thoughts and comments expressed.

There will be an **Interfaith – Faith and the Land** gathering on March 12th from 6-9pm at the St. Marks Episcopal Church. If you are interested in participating please contact Dede at dede@cogpc.org before March 1st. We anticipate a media event announcing the Interfaith Statement Tuesday April 21st as a lead in to Earth Day on April 22nd.



Interfaith--Faith and the Land

Crossroads Items of the Month for March

Food Pantry: crackers, especially saltines

Thrift Store: kitchen items including small appliances

Address: 347 South 400 East

Presbyterian Women

by Sue Bennett

Presbyterian Women

Drought-safe Gardens. On March 2 master gardener Kristi Reardon will come to teach us how to grow a garden that is water conservative and what plants do grow well here in Utah. Both men and women are invited!

Craft Night. Craft night will be on March 25 this month.

March Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen

Prayer Coordinator

1. Help me learn to trust you and your word.
2. Lord, let me rest in the shadow of your wings.
3. Give our deacons strength and joy as they serve our members.
4. God of love, guide me in the path of faithfulness and into your ways of justice and peace.
5. I give thanks for Dede and Lorrie's commitment and leadership at Community of Grace.
6. Give me, O God, a vivid sense of your powerful presence and touch me with the certainty of your love.

7. Lord, embolden me to work for a world in which your abundance is shared by all.
8. Living God, through our church community you have drawn me into abundant life. Help me to be truly present to your word.
9. God of generosity, teach me to share with others as you have shared with me.
10. Forgive me for neglecting to seek peace and instead being more ready to make war.
11. Give me the gift of prayerful thought and thoughtful prayer.
12. Lord of love and compassion, release me from my pride so I may rest in you.
13. Bless the pastor and lay leaders of Immanuel Church-Kiraro, Kenya, so that they can work together in harmony.
14. Almighty God, empower me to be an instrument of your peace.
15. Bless our Christian education program -- the children and adults who participate and also those who lead classes.
17. Fill our session members with your Holy Spirit as they make decisions for our congregation.
18. Help me to live with restraint so I can be a kind and forgiving presence in the world.
19. Give your strength and success to all who are fighting addictions.
20. Lord, give me a sense of humor.
21. Give healing and peace to all who are mentally ill.
22. Lord, I give thanks for our music in worship which praises you.
23. Lord, I give thanks for the Ulster Project that brings reconciliation to Protestant and Catholics in Ireland.
24. Father God, help me to love others..
25. Give strength and patience to to the members of New Beginnings church as they continue to bring your Word to people in the western part of the Salt Lake valley.
26. Give me the grace to love the people I don't like.
27. I give thanks for the Heifer Project livestock that makes lives healthier for many people in third world countries.
28. Be with me to unfold my life to a new beginning, a spring within as well as around me.
29. Help me be still and listen to your love.
30. In your love, give me the power to behold the beauty of your world in all of its splendor.
31. Life has meaning in its struggles. Triumph or defeat is in the hands of God so let me celebrate the struggles.

