

# Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

May 2008

## *May Highlights*

***Annual 30-hour Fast:***

**[Slavery: this year's fast focus at COG.](#)** This year's 30-hour church-wide fast is focused on Slavery. There are many ways members and friends can participate.

***Making a difference for people in need...***

**[...in Need of Oxygen.](#)** Volunteers from COG helped restore the Jordan River floodplain by planting trees. Dede describes the event and even took pictures.

***From the Pastor's Desk:***

**[How is the Bible God's Word?](#)** Continuing his series on what Presbyterians believe, Pastor Marty looks at the Bible as God's Word from a Presbyterian perspective.

## *Our Church Community*

**[Parking Lot Repairs.](#)** The Session has accepted a bid to repair our parking lot as soon as the weather warms up and we get a few consecutive dry days.

**[Thanks for Volunteers.](#)** Thanks to those who helped with repairs to the facility this spring.

**[Open Forum Results.](#)** On Sunday, April 27, our last Open Forum for the year was held...this time focused on Operations. This is a summary of what took place.

**[1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Update.](#)** With the nation's and world's economies struggling, we are blessed that the members of COG have continued to meet their pledges. The figures presented are really a note of thanks.

**[Session Notes.](#)** Here you will find a synopsis of the March Session meeting.

**[May Calendar.](#)** The May 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.

**[Crossroads Items of the Month.](#)** In May the Crossroads Urban Center is looking for canned or powdered milk. Their most needed items for the thrift store are men's clothing (all sizes).

**[Church Officers.](#)** In response to several requests, we have listed the current elders and deacons at this link.

## *Children & Youth*

***Youth Ministry:***

**'Journey of Faith' Confirmation Completed.** Eight youth completed this 3-month process, and six elected to join COG on April 27. This article lists the confirmands, their mentors, and a summary of the process. Their personal reflections can be read by clicking this link: [reflections](#).

**Vacation Bible Camp Scheduled.** Reserve the dates now for our annual Vacation Bible Summer Camp: August 4 – 7. Consider also if you can serve in this ministry.

**ACTS Kids May Activities Announced.** This month's programs for the ACTS Kids is detailed.

## *Adult & Family*

***Beginning Yoga Class:***

**Renew and Reflect.** A beginning yoga class will run through June, taught by Stephanie Kieszek who has a passion for both yoga and her Christian faith.

**Celebrating Life Transitions.** On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Deacons will host a reception following the second service for COG members who are graduating.

**May 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)*

**Spring Events.** Circle your calendars, two spring events are described.



## *Annual 30-hour Fast*

### Slavery: this year's fast focus at COG

by Lorrie Gaffney and Dede Carpenter  
*Directors of Children & Youth, Adult and Family*

It is startling to learn that in the world today, there are **27 million** people enslaved (*by comparison, 13 million were taken from Africa during the entire 400 years of the trans-Atlantic slave trade*). Of these, 80% are women and 50% are children. After a month of study, prayer, classes, and related youth activities, COG will conduct its annual 30-hour fast focused on the issue of modern-day slavery.

The church-wide fast will be held on May 3-4. Members are registering for the fast, purchasing T-shirts, committing to sponsor a child through the World Vision Program, and wearing orange to church that Sunday. Those needing an alternative way to participate can conduct a modified fast from TV, music, talking, one meal, soda, etc. Youth will spend the day and night together from Saturday's 5:00 a.m. breakfast through Sunday at noon as the church breaks the fast together. Students are supporting the national organization "Loose Change to Loosen Chains" by asking for your support. Look for coins in hidden places, ask friends, and bring your money to our Loose Change buckets. It costs about \$500 to free someone enslaved and provide after care support. We hope to free 5 people! Parents of young children are encouraged to discuss slavery and consider a way that they can participate as well.

All are invited to begin the fast at I-hop at 5:00 am for breakfast, followed by a 2.5 mile walk to COG in honor of the 2 children every minute who are forced into slavery. The fast will conclude following the second service on Sunday, May 4. The entire church is invited to participate in a pot-luck meal to break the fast together.

Above all, we can participate through our prayers, scripture reading, study and worship. Through these means we hope to see better as God sees. Through our fasting and prayers, COG hopes to make a difference for those in need. In May 2008, we seek to make a difference for those in need of a rudimentary freedom from bondage.

[for more information, check out these websites: [www.ijim.org](http://www.ijim.org) [www.love146.org](http://www.love146.org)  
[www.freetheslave.net](http://www.freetheslave.net) [www.lc21c.org](http://www.lc21c.org) ]

### ***Making a difference for people in need...***

#### ...in Need of Oxygen

by Dede Carpenter  
*Adult and Family Director*

On Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> twenty volunteers from Community of Grace embarked on a Family Fellowship and Service event with a goal to make a difference in the lives of those in need. As it turns out, the people in need were ALL of Us!

God has surrounded us with incredible diversity in the amazing gift of nature. Living organisms of different shapes, colors and textures interact to support larger ecosystems: trees and vegetation producing oxygen to sustain life, shade on a hot day,

habitats for other creatures, and much more. Nature offers us so much and yet, we often live our lives with a **bigger/better/more** mentality, placing greater value on commercial development that eliminates forests and fields to make way for parking lots. God's wonderful creation is now threatened on a scale never before seen by mankind.

Thankfully there are people who work to remind us to slow down and reconsider. They are the advocates for reclaiming and nurturing God's gifts. Richard St. Barbe Baker (1889-1982) was among the first ecologists to make a difference by drawing public attention to the global implications of deforestation and desert encroachment. In 1922 he organized 3,000 Kikuyu warriors in Kenya and launched the "Men of the Trees," later becoming an international movement that advanced tree planting and conservation in 108 countries. He also conceived the Civilian Conservation Corps in the US and led the efforts to save the California coastal redwoods.

Today in Utah we have organizations that are focusing on developing "greenways" to restore and reclaim God's diversity in nature. Tree Utah is currently working with volunteers and other non-profits to restore habitat and wildlife along a 120 acre stretch of the Jordan River. That Saturday over 100 volunteers from four different groups in our community worked together to plant saplings; making a difference not only in our lives, but the lives of those in the future.

*We plant this tree for those who will follow.  
We plant this tree for creatures great and small.  
We plant this tree for its bounty and its beauty  
We plant this tree for all.  
Praise God for the gift of trees.*





***From the Pastor's Desk:***  
**How is the Bible God's Word?**

by Pastor Marty

How Is The Bible God's Word?

Not too long ago a Dutch man produced a controversial video that used the most violent and horrific verses from the Koran. In the video, the verses were read while showing pictures of horrific acts committed by supposed Muslims. In response, a Muslim from Saudi Arabia used the most violent and horrific verses from the Bible and

created a video. The Bible verses were read while showing pictures of horrific acts committed by supposed Christians. Everyone lost when their sacred texts were used this way.

It is easy to take any holy book from a religion and denigrate it. Every religion has plenty within its sacred texts to use as canon fodder against it. Even worse, every religion has plenty of its own practitioners who do not represent the greatness of the tradition. If Christianity had to stand or fall on its worst written passages and its worst members, it would simply fall.



## **The Bible: God's Word**

With that in mind, what is the Bible to us? We call our Bible, “Holy Scripture” and we say it is the “Word of God”, but what do we mean? Is every word or sentence of equal value? Is every separate word or individual story the “Word Of God?” Presbyterians have wrestled with these questions for years. Here is where we are today.

According to our catechism, Holy Scripture or the Bible is God's Word to us because of its content, its function, and its origin. For us, even though the Bible contains many stories, prayers, poems, dreams, pre-historical myths, laws, and more; its central content is Jesus the Christ. In other words, its central content is a love story of how much God loves all creation and all people through Jesus. For Presbyterian Christians, if the Bible did not contain Jesus as its central content, it would not be God's Word to us.

The Bible is also God's Word because its basic function is to deepen our love, knowledge, and service of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. When the Bible is used in ways that do not deepen our love, knowledge and service of Jesus, then it is not God's Word to us. Whenever the Bible is used as a weapon, it is definitely not God's Word. Whenever the Bible is used as merely information or academic study, it is not God's Word to us. The Bible becomes God's Word to us when it functions to encourage us to love more deeply, know more profoundly, and serve more faithfully Jesus, one another, and especially those most in need. In essence the Bible functions to move us out of ourselves and into the world that Jesus loved so much. The Bible functions as a book that moves us to reach out in love.

Finally, the Bible is God's Word because its ultimate origin is found in the Holy Spirit who spoke through the writers and who inspires us to learn the truth that functions to deepen our love, knowledge, and service of Jesus the Christ. When we read the Bible we are ultimately asking the Spirit to move our minds and hearts to see, hear, and do what Jesus would do. If the Holy Spirit is not a part of our reading, listening, and following the truths of scripture, the Bible is not God's Word to us.

I hope and pray when you read the Bible you discover the Holy Spirit moving you to love God more deeply, know Jesus the Christ more profoundly, and serve all God's family under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. When that happens, the Bible is no longer just a book, but it is the Word of God to you.

Blessings, Pastor Marty

## *Our Church Community*

### Parking Lot Repairs

by Ed Taylor  
*Building and Grounds*

On April 17 Session gave approval to begin repairs to our parking lot. These repairs will come in the form of removing weeds, pouring tar into the cracks that have formed over the past several years, and re-painting the stripes. This process is similar to the work we see done on the public highways in the state. We have been informed that the asphalt is still in pretty good shape, but that tarring the cracks will keep it that way for years to come.

The timing of these repairs is an open question, though. The contractor tells us that he needs at least three days of warm weather before he can begin. Once completed, we will not be able to use the lot for a little while. It is very possible that members and staff may come to a meeting one day and find that they need to park on the street to get to the building. While this inconvenience will be short, the benefits will certainly be long-lasting.

### Thanks for Volunteer Help

by Ed Taylor  
*Building and Grounds*

A big thanks to the following people who helped replace the burned-out lights in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Exit Signs. Repairs were made and lights replaced to the Gym ceiling lights and perimeter lights:

Bill Cooper  
Davis Mullholand  
Bob, Stephen & Savanna Rollins  
Ed Taylor  
Keith West



## Open Forum Results

by Dave Adamson

*Elder*

On April 27 thirteen members met after the second service to discuss operations in our church. This was the third in a series of three Open Forums conducted this year on various aspects of our church. The purpose of an Open Forum is to allow the Session to hear from the many perspectives in our diverse and growing congregation, and give the congregation direct access to the decision makers in our church. "Operations" includes building & grounds, budget & finance, and personnel. The discussion ranged from commendations to questions, concerns to suggestions, and included updates on work that is currently in process.

Ed Taylor, our coordinator of building and grounds, explained to the group that parking lot repairs have already been authorized by the Session. He now has two bids for darkening the tinting on windows in the sanctuary. When the weather warms Ed will be painting the old outside doors to match the building color. Marty explained that the roofers have been out to patch some leaks, and we are still working with the contractor to repair some window seals in the new wing (at the contractor's expense.)

Responding to several suggestions, Tim Fleutch will now prepare a monthly budget update that we will print in Grace Notes. Marty will begin a plan to incrementally raise temperatures in the sanctuary, and we will meet with the snow removal contractor in the fall to clarify several concerns about snow removal. Beginning in May we will routinely publish a list of elders and deacons in Grace Notes each month.

The need for volunteers to assist with some of these issues is very clear. Ed will begin to develop and post a "to do" list of jobs that volunteers can help with. Next winter we will need volunteers to help with ice and drifting snow since the snow removal contract only covers storms, not maintenance. Members are invited to call Ed to see how they can help. A copy of the notes taken at this Open Forum can be found at this link: [Open Forum Notes](#).

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Financial Update

by Marty Shelton-Jenck

*Pastor*

All Is Well...

The stock markets are down. Utah state budgets are getting tighter. And there seems to be a lot of anxiety about our overall economy. The good news is our first quarter financial results are good. Thanks for giving so generously.

<b>2008 1st Quarter Income &amp; Expenses</b>		
	<b>Year To Date</b>	<b>Budget Year To Date</b>
Income		
Pledges	\$99,431	\$97,068
Other	\$10,850	\$13,199
Total Income	\$110,281	\$110,267
Expenses		
Personnel	\$57,566	\$57,402
Outreach & Mission	\$12,385	\$15,519
Operations	\$28,618	\$30,908
Children & Youth	\$1,816	\$3,575
Adult & Family	\$1,189	\$1,512
Worship	\$753	\$875
Total Expenses	\$102,327	\$109,791

Session Notes (Meeting of April 15, 2008)

by Dave Adamson  
Elder

1. BUDGET. Our monthly income and expenditures were reviewed. We continue to be on track with our budget. The anticipated impact on our snow removal budget because of the unusual winter did not occur.
2. PARKING LOT. Session decided to approve repairs in the parking lot. The estimate obtained by Ed Taylor falls within the existing budget. Work will be provided by the same contractor who did the parking lot at Mt. Olympus Pres. Because the asphalt is still in good condition generally, the scope of this project will be limited to weed removal and filling the cracks with tar...much the same way that the county maintains the highways. The project cannot begin, however, until there are several consecutive days of warm, dry weather. This is the kind of project will delay the cost of major repairs for years to come.

3. CLERK OF SESSION. Jane Cooper has graciously consented to volunteer as Clerk of Session, replacing Karen Keene who resigned last fall for full time employment. Session made the formal appointment, effective August 1, 2008. (Thanks, Jane!)

4. REPORTS. Session received reports from the Treasurer, Nominating Committee, Pastor, and annual reports from the directors of Children & Youth and Adult & Family. Following last month's discussion of Area Leader responsibilities and the limited time allocated to fill those responsibilities, Dede Carpenter attended a portion of the meeting to participate in a discussion of Adult and Family programs.

5. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING. Session voted to authorize the Nominating Committee to call a Congregational Meeting on either May 18 or June 1, depending on the progress of their work. In either case, the meeting would be conducted following the second service.

6. SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS. Session voted to continue our practice of changing worship hours during the summer. Worship will continue to be conducted in two services, the first at 8:30 and the second at 10:00. This schedule will be in effect from June 1, 2008, through August 31, 2008.

7. SESSION RETREAT. Session voted to schedule its annual one-day retreat on August 16, 2008. The purpose of this retreat is to develop priorities for the 2008-09 program year.

## 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:* Marianne Wedertz

### **Class of 2008**

Devon Colby  
Jane Cooper  
Carol Goodman  
Elaine Nordberg  
Marianne Wedertz  
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

## Session

*Session Moderator:* Pastor Marty Shelton-Jenck

*Clerk:* Jane Cooper

### **Class of 2008**

Dave Adamson  
Ron Barnett

### **Class of 2009**

Tim Fuetsch  
Melissa Venable

### **Class of 2010**

Pat Holmes  
Chuck Stolfa

## *Children & Youth*

### 'Journey of Faith' Confirmation Completed

by Dave Adamson  
*Elder*

On April 27 eight high school students completed the confirmation program and six elected to become members at Community of Grace. Confirmation at COG is a three-month process in which youth and an adult "mentor" engage in a study of church membership and faith.

The program was designed to challenge the youth and mentors to engage COG's 5 characteristics for faith development:

- Connect: (one-on-one relationships and group gatherings)
- Grow: (reading the book of Luke and studying our foundations of faith)
- Serve: completing ministry service for worship, children's ministry and more
- Share: serving our community and world through Utah Food Bank, Fast...
- Worship: attending COG worship as well as worshipping in another faith tradition

Upon completion each was invited to formalize their relationship with the church by becoming members of COG. The Confirmand/Mentor teams listed below participated in the process. Reflections written by each can be read by clicking on this link: [reflections](#).

Brad Marshall/Dave Adamson  
Taylor Packard/Kelly Harris  
Kelsey Pizac/Sandy Killion  
Eryn Gorang/Connie Marshall  
Aaron Tyrell/Rob Riley  
Jessica Gaffney/Natalie Roth  
and Kristin Gorang  
Audrey Marshall/Lisa Wiscomb  
Doug Pizac/Scott Wedertz

### Confirmation Journey



Special thanks goes to Lorrie Gaffney who organized and supervised the process, and to the mentors who contributed their time. In commemoration of the event, a special tile cross has been constructed and will be hung in the south vestibule. Each tile in the cross was contributed by a participant in the confirmation process.

## Vacation Bible Camp Announced

by Lorrie Gaffney  
*Children and Youth Director*

Please mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible summer camp. The date is **August 4-7th**. Please consider inviting someone who can discover God's joyful love and please pray about your commitment to serve God and our children in this ministry.



## ACTS Kids Activities

by Melissa Venable  
*Elder*

Join us this month as we look at serving outside the United States.

**Sat. May 3rd:** ACTS Kids are invited to join in Fast Activities. 11-12:30

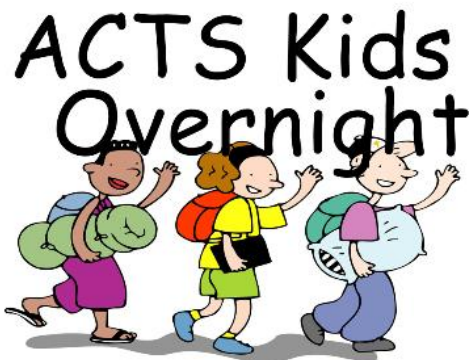
**Fri. May 9th:** Pastor Marty tells tales of his service in Peru. 7:00 pm

**Sat. May 17th** at 4:00 pm to **Sun May 18th** at 9:30 am.

### ***ACTS Overnight:***

Missionaries from Africa and Cambodia visit. We'll finish our Quilt of Valor, enjoy international foods and great games. We'll wrap up our year with the overnight as a celebration - it will be lots of fun so don't miss it!

Please note there is no meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Contact Melissa Venable with questions.



## *Adult & Family*

### Renew and Reflect

by Dede Carpenter

*Adult and Family Director*

Spring... the time of year that surrounds us with new life. Winter snows are melting, trees are budding, birds are nesting and flowers are beginning to bloom. It is the season of renewal; life awakening after a winter slumber.

This spring in addition to our very successful Taekwon Do program we are offering another Play & Pray opportunity that nurtures and renews your body & spirit. Our Beginning Yoga class is taught by Stephanie Kieszek, a certified instructor who has a passion for yoga and her Christian faith. Stephanie's enthusiasm for teaching the movements and stretches that nurture our body along with intentional rhythms of breathing is a wonderful expression of honoring God's gifts.

At the end of the class while your body lies in a resting pose you quietly listen to a scripture verse and meditate ...breathing in...breathing out... listening to God's word to you.

This opportunity is open to all ages and genders, members and non-members, who have a desire to nurture their body and spirit. Classes run thru June on Saturday mornings (9am-10am) and Wednesday nights (7pm – 8pm). Costs are \$32.50 for 1x per week, \$45.00 for 2x a week and \$5.00 for a single class. Registration information is available at the class and Narthex Welcome Desk.\* Please bring a mat if you have one and wear comfortable workout clothes.

### Celebrating Life Transitions

by Dede Carpenter

*Adult and Family Director*

Deacons will be hosting a Graduates reception in the Narthex on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> after the Worship Services to acknowledge our graduates and celebrate their success! We will also take this time to recognize our 6<sup>th</sup> graders moving into Youth Ministry programming next year, and our Sunday school teachers who have truly "Made a Difference" in the lives of our students this year!

Please join us for light refreshments as we celebrate life transitions and God's presence in our lives.



## CONGRATULATIONS, COG GRADUATES!

### PW Spring Events

by Sandy Killion  
*Presbyterian Women*

#### **Salad Supper**

6:30 May 5<sup>th</sup> PW Installation and Salad Supper

Join us as we install our new officers. We supply the bread and desserts. We ask you to bring a salad to pass. Laurie Fields will be the speaker. Laurie is the wife of the Cottonwood pastor and will be speaking on prayer. Childcare will be available. Contact Karen Durant at 561-1024

#### **Annual Garage Sale**

It's coming, sooner than you realize.

It's the annual PW Garage Sale scheduled for June 13 and 14.

Start saving your items now.

#### **Ruth Circle**

Ruth Circle is beginning a new study, "Above and Beyond." This study focuses on hearing God's call in Jonah and Ruth. All women are welcome.

We meet the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 10 (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade).

Contact Karen Durant for details 561-1024

You don't want to miss these!



### May Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen  
*Prayer Coordinator*

1. Lord, thank you for the people who follow you joyfully making your life abundant manifest to me.
2. Give peace and joy to Pastor Marty as he leads this congregation.
3. Give me the resolve to use my financial resources to fight child slavery that is prevalent in

some parts of the world.

4. Christ, in Holy Communion today, give us the bread from your heart, food that comforts and nourishes us.
5. Gracious God, today I celebrate this underserved new life you freely give.
6. Lord, give the deacons of Community of Grace servant hearts as they serve the needs of members.
7. Merciful God, encourage me as I dare to take risks with you.
8. Bless our sister church, the Immanuel church, Kiraro in Kenya that they may be a light in their community dispensing grace, love, and forgiveness.
9. Lord, may the seeds of your Word scattered by New Beginnings church grow and bear fruit.
10. Lord, give your peace to those who are mentally ill.
11. Dear Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the gifts of women . . . . nurture, compassion, gentleness, tenderness, wisdom.
12. Comfort those whose world has become smaller due to old age or illness.
13. Lord, I give thanks that you are the bond that unites us all and erases all division.
14. Oh God, may we be one as you are one in us and we in you.
15. Spirit of wisdom and revelation, I welcome your work in me.
16. Give wisdom, integrity, and humility to the leaders of our country.
17. Give your hope to all people in war zones of the world.
18. Thank you, God, for the enriching 2007-2008 Sunday School program successfully completed today.
19. God, today I choose truth over comfort, challenge over complacency.
20. Give discernment and wisdom to session members as they make decisions for Community of Grace today.
21. God of peace, show me how to be a peacemaker today.
22. Lord, open my eyes so I can see, my ears so I can hear.
23. Give strength and wisdom to those struggling with divorce.
24. King of Glory, help me see your grace in all things.
25. Bless our musicians for their praise through music in worship.
26. Lord, give me humility to joyfully grasp Isaiah 11:6 . . . . "and a little child shall lead them."
27. Heavenly Father, hear the secret yearnings of my heart.
28. Heal and comfort those who are ill and in pain.
29. Father God, give success to those who are fighting addictions.
30. Give me the grace to love my enemies so I may befriend them and disarm them rather than seeking to destroy them.
31. May my home be a testimony of your love so that when people enter my home they see how you have loved the world.
26. Lord, lead me away from ignorance into knowing.
27. Thank you for our Christian Education Program that brings us closer to you and to each other.
28. Lord, when I rest, may I rest in you.
29. Oh God, heal and comfort all who are sick.
30. God, remind me that I live not to please others but to please you.

# DRAYER



## CALENDAR

### Reflections

### *Reflections about Confirmation*



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#### **Confirmand: Brad**

*Our weekly meetings were very beneficial and enjoyable. It gave us time to slow down and discuss these important topics of life.*

*I was surprised I liked the book of Luke so much. The word of God is promising and exciting.*

#### **Mentor: Dave Adamson**

*I was surprised how far his faith has developed. He is much farther along than I was at 16, and was able to share his faith in profound ways.*

#### **Confirmand: Taylor**

Experienced Joy?

*...Going to a Jazz game together*

Surprised about?

*...Female Rabbi and kosher rules at Synagogue visit*

Reaffirmed?

*...God loves good and bad people*

#### **Mentor: Kelly**

*"This was a great experience for me.*

*I felt like I was going through my own confirmation.*

*It was a new experience to share my own faith with someone, other than family, on such a personal level."*

*I feel like I made a friend for life*

**Confirmand: Kelsey**

*I think what I learned from Bonhoeffer is that no matter how bad things may seem, if you keep faith, you will be saved in the end.*

*...the guy was a great impersonator. I could just imagine how that cockroach was going to deliver that message to Hitler.*

**Mentor: Sandy**

- *Our best times were getting to know one another on a personal basis.*
- *We had a fun time during the Food Bank trip.*
- *My partner is a very involved lady who does a lot of volunteer work on her own.*

**Confirmand: Eryn**

*I had seen the confirmation process as a scientific process - I would ask questions and my mentor would just know.*

*She didn't know everything, but it was OK! We were able to discuss and try to understand the material together which was much more meaningful.*

**Mentor: Connie**

Joy?

*Remembering and sharing our timelines-mostly because we share memories of some of the same experiences and people.*

Rediscovered about God?

*How complex His love is...*

*and how simple for us to truly receive it.*

**Confirmand: Aaron**

Favorite scripture

(for tile cross and exchange with mentor):

*Then what looks like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled upon each of them. Acts 2:3*

**Mentor: Rob**

Experienced Joy?

- *Aaron's sense of humor*

Unexpected?

- *Aaron's quick grasp of what I thought were difficult concepts*

**Confirmand: Jessica**

*I loved relating lessons from the Bible to what I am experiencing in my life right now.*

*I was surprised how easy it was to talk to both my mentors. I felt like I was chatting with my best friends - their faith in God is inspiring to me.*

**Mentor: Natalie**

*This clearly affirmed to me that relationships are at the heart of how we experience faith as a community of believers.*

**Mentor: Kristin**

Scripture on tile for Confirmand partner:

*If God is for us who can be against us*

*Romans 8:31*

**Confirmand: Douglas**

*I was very surprised to discover the parallels between Bonhoeffer's death and the death of Christ. Both accepted their deaths, both had to endure extreme amounts of pain...*

*The message Bonhoeffer offers me is that I should not be ashamed of who I am and should stand up and fight for what I believe in and what I feel is right.*

**Mentor: Scott**

*You should know he is very intelligent and has a good understanding of the Bible. He was able to discern the parables quite well. I was shocked a couple of times.*

**Confirmand: Audrey**

*Every time we met it was a joy to be together.*

*It surprised me how well I connected... we really have similar personalities and the first day we met we just connected.*

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*Everyone can change a century, and can change the world if they put their thoughts and beliefs into action.*

**Mentor: Lisa**

*I was a little nervous to do confirmation because I had always worked with younger kids. I was really hoping that my partner would like me and feel a close connection.*

*She was like talking to a friend. She has a very strong faith and close relationship with the Lord. We were a perfect match!*