

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

October 2008

October Highlights

Mission & Outreach

Eight Girls Scholarships Awarded in Kenya. Using funds donated in last year's Mission Auction, eight Kturiri girls received scholarships to attend a girls' secondary school. PW has also identified eight women to serve as prayer partners for our scholarship girls and to write them throughout the year.

From the Pastor's Desk:

In Whom Do We Trust? Economic times have been tough and at times chaotic. Pastor Marty suggests that we clarify who we love and in whom we place our trust.

Our Church Community

Volunteers Making It Happen. As the new program year gets under way, a look at the numbers tells us that the volunteerism rate at COG is running about twice the national average. Many thanks to those who volunteer!

Spring Break in Mexico. Plan now for a house-building project in Tijuana on April 9-14. This is an intergenerational event.

Confirmation Coming. Mentoring for Senior High Confirmation is coming. Have an interest or need more information? Contact Lorrie Gaffney

Session Notes. Here you will find the notes from the September 16 Session meeting.

September Financial Update. Here is our updated monthly financial picture provided by Tim Fluetsch.

Crossroads Items of the Month. In October the Crossroads Urban Center is looking for ramen noodles and cereal. Their most needed items in the thrift store are winter clothes and shoes. All are invited to October's annual Crossroads Bazaar.

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

It's Cool in the Furnace! Practice for a fall musical is just getting under way...a musical featuring Kazoo's as the primary medium of music. Check out these details.

Senior Luncheon. Our ACTS kids (5th & 6th graders) are teaming with our high school youth leadership team to share a luncheon with our more senior members on October 26. This will truly be an inter-generational event!

Parent Talk on “Tween” Moral Development. Psychologist Natalie Roth will provide parents guidance on the development of “twens” on October 26. Invite a neighbor. Parents of “pre-tweens” are also welcome.

Jr./Sr. High Youth Mission Trip. In the early stages of planning, this year’s Wind Rivers mission trip is already filling up. Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to participate. See Lorrie Gaffney and the web link provided here for details.

Parents of Jr. & Sr. High Youth. An informal meeting is scheduled for October 5 to review the many offerings available at COG this year.

Scheduled for October 25

“Sheer Fun” Plans Lagoon Day. ☐ “FrightMares” at Lagoon is on the calendar for all junior and senior high youth...just for fun!

Adult & Family

Adult Opportunities: Get Involved! ☐ With the new program year under way, there are many opportunities for adults to get involved at COG. You can choose from a supper club to yoga, from a Tuesday Bible Study to Sunday School, from a prayer group to a service project. Join the community, get involved.

October Care & Prayer Events Announced A new collaborative project between our Deacons and ACTS kids has been scheduled, and members are invited to share a prayer story.

October 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)

Program Notes. Scheduled programs for October include a panel discussion, adult craft night, and “Super Craft Saturday.”

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



October Highlights

Mission & Outreach

Eight Girls Scholarships Awarded in Kenya

by Nancy Halden
Presbyterian Women

School has begun in Kiraro, Kenya home of our sister church, Kiraro Immanuel Presbyterian. Just like here in Sandy, bright-eyed students eager to learn meet their new teachers and classmates. Kenya is serious about educating its young people. Public education is guaranteed for students through the 8th grade. However, when they reach high school, education becomes much more expensive, and especially for girls, can be considered a luxury.

After our Mission Auction last fall, COG made a commitment to provide 8 scholarships to needy girls from Kiraro who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Nturiri Girls Secondary School. The girls have been selected based on need – all of them have lost one or both parents, their families do not have a steady source of income, and they have been identified as promising students based on academic performance, discipline and conduct. Our Mission Auction funds also provided extra money for improvements to the school – teacher enrichment, text books, etc. It's a bright, new year at Nturiri Girls Secondary School. Thanks to all our members who participated in the Mission Auction and made these scholarships and school improvements possible.



Thanks also to 6 members of COG:
Marilynn Branath, Karen Keene, Cheryl Mansen, JoAnn Maxwell, Millie Nielsen and Judy Smith and 2 members of New Beginnings Presbyterian Church: Judy Butler and Nancy Imhoff who have agreed to be prayer partners to our scholarship girls and to write to them throughout their year and encourage them in their studies and all their endeavors.

From the Pastor's Desk:

In Whom Do We Trust?

by Marty Shelton-Jenck

Pastor

Today, it seems our economic system is in crisis. I talked with someone recently who said they were thinking of pulling all their money out of investments and savings. They didn't know where they would put it. They speculated it might be better in their own home rather than in any financial institution. In essence, fear about the future had taken over and faith in the country's economic system and the leaders of government was all but gone. In other words, this person was deciding whether or not they could trust the institutions and leaders with their financial future.

It seems endemic across our country that people rarely trust institutions anymore. Whether we are talking about our local institutions of elementary education, the institutions of government, or even the local church; trust seems to be in short supply. We seem to live in a time when many, if not most people, don't trust anyone, not even their spouses or themselves. Maybe I'm overstating the case, but it sure seems that trust has a hard time getting a hearing.

So what about us as people of faith? Do we have faith in anything? Do we trust our schools? Do we trust our locally elected leaders? Do we trust the many non-profits? How about our local businesses, do we trust them? Do we trust our neighbors, our extended families, or our medical doctors? Do we trust ourselves? Do we trust God? Do we trust that God is good and we can give over our life to following Jesus the Christ? Do we trust that in all situations the Holy Spirit is giving and renewing all life?

About 25 years ago, the Presbyterian Church, USA wrote its first confession of faith and stopped using the language of "I believe" and changed it to "I trust." For many at the time, it seemed that when we used the language of "I believe" we were stating that we believe in the existence of God. Since Presbyterians assume the existence of God, the language of "I trust" said more. When the country had been through the Vietnam War, Watergate, Home Mortgage Interest Rates of 21%, and a hostage crisis that lasted more than a year, our denomination wrote a statement of faith that used the language I trust in God. Our denomination had decided that many people believed in the existence of God, but few, even few of the believers, really trusted God with their life. How about you?

One of the opportunities that comes with any crisis, large or small, personal or global, is the opportunity to clarify who we love and in whom we place our trust. If you are struggling with trusting a good, gracious God I encourage to read *The Shack*. If you are wondering to whom you can direct your love, I encourage you to read, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. If you are struggling with trusting in a loving God in the midst of difficult personal or global crisis, I would encourage you to read a good biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. If you are wondering if trust in a good God is real, then pick up your bible and read the stories of Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection. In all of the recommended books, there is trust in God in abundance.

Blessings,

Marty



Our Church Community

Volunteers Making It Happen!

by Marty Shelton-Jenck

Pastor

Churches are organizations of volunteers. Without volunteers, churches could not provide the broad range of programs and services that are available for our communities. We are truly fortunate at COG to benefit from the volunteer services of so many of our members.

As our new program year got under way in September, we were certainly pleased to see the number of people who stepped forward to make things happen here. Consider this impressive list:

- 15 Adults are leading and volunteering in the Adult & Family Area
- 51 Adults & Youth are leading and volunteering to support our Children & Youth
- In the area of worship 25 adults volunteering for everything from bands, choirs, liturgists, and ushers.
- We have 10 adult volunteers helping and leading with facility, grounds, and finances.
- There are 6 regular volunteers in the area of Mission and Outreach.
- On Session and Deacons we have an addition 8 volunteers.

There is no overlap in these numbers (e.g. there are more members of Session and Deacons, but some were counted in the other areas of service). That means we have 115 adult and youth regularly volunteering in the ministry of our church. That represents 40% of our total membership. When you consider that nationally, the typical number of volunteers hovers around 20%, we are doing quite well!

Many thanks to all who so generously contribute their time and talent to God's work in and through this congregation!



THANKS to all our COG Volunteers!

Spring Break in Mexico.

by Lorrie Gaffney

Director of Children and Youth

For the past two years COG has sent teams to support Amor Ministries efforts to build houses in Tijuana. This year's project is scheduled for April 9-14. Plan now to attend. The cost is \$400. Sign up today with a \$200 deposit to insure you are one of the Amor 2009 team of 18. (COG covers van rentals, large tools, gas).

This is a blood, sweat and tears challenge: *Jesus' blood, your sweat, their tears* as you take four days (plus a few extra for traveling), and leave someone a house. If you have concrete foundation, door and a roof, give thanks and consider giving someone else that gift. I think it would be what Jesus would want for an Easter celebration!

This is an intergenerational opportunity (under 9th grade requires a parent participant). Family participation is welcome.

Crossroads Bazaar

You are invited to the Crossroads Urban Center annual fund-raising bazaar. This year Wasatch Presbyterian, 1620 South 1700 East, will host the event on Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Booths include bake sale, boutique, baby, pet items, and new and used books plus a fantastic silent auction. Lunch will also be available.

Admission is \$1 or a can of food

Session Notes (Meeting of September 16, 2008)

by Dave Adamson

Elder

1. Jane Cooper has brought Session minutes and records up to date over the course of the summer. She is also forwarding to Session members copies of Deacons' minutes each month.
2. It was reported that we had 73 young people attend our start up for Sunday School programs for children and youth on September 7. Our adult and family offerings this fall include 8 growth opportunities, 4 recreational small groups, 2 prayer groups, 3 evening connect and grow groups, and 5 service opportunities. These do not include the fellowship and study groups that are run by PW.
3. Session devoted a large portion of this meeting to a discussion of child safety during participation in church-sponsored programs.
4. A special Session meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, for the purpose of reviewing the proposed budget for 2009 and follow up planning from the Session retreat in August.

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 Fluetsch
Dave Adamson

Class of 2010

Pat Holmes
Chuck Stolfa

Class of 2011

Kelly Harris
Debbie Colt

Children & Youth

Children's Ministry

by Lorrie Gaffney
Director of Children and Youth

Consider a quote by Garrison Keillor sent from an anonymous COG friend: *"Nothing you do for children is ever wasted."*

And working with kids means you get to develop a good sense of humor. Consider this plausible story!

On an unusually hot September Sunday when all the guests were seated for dinner, a mother asked her 5 year old son, David, to say the blessing.

"I don't know what to say," he protested.

"Just say what you've heard me say," Mom replied, somewhat miffed.

Obediently, David bowed his head and intoned, "Lord, please explain to me why I invited all these people here on a day like this. Amen."

It's Cool in the Furnace! And participating in our Fall Musical playing kazoos is cool! Contact Kathy Moore with questions. Practice starts Sept. 24 6:00-7:00 pm for elementary and older, Pre/Kind begins practice Oct. 22. Join the fun and the worship performance on Nov. 16. Like Kathy, who performed this as a kid 30 years ago (she must have been one or two years old!) kids will not forget Mesach, Shadrach and Abednego sent to the fiery furnace in the book of Daniel!



Senior Luncheon. This is truly intergenerational! Our Youth Leadership Team (YLT) of Confirmed Senior High students will be leading 5th/6th graders in ACTS of celebrating our Seniors. YLT will meet on Oct. 24 with 5th/6th graders to set up and decorate our gym. On Sunday, Oct. 26, following the second service our Deacons will provide food for the luncheon and our 5th/6th graders will serve and enjoy lunch with our Seniors.

Sign up for the luncheon outside the 5th/6th grade Sunday School room.



Intergenerational Luncheon October 26

Parent Talk on “Tween” Moral Development (with lunch provided) will be offered by Psychologist Natalie Roth (Oct. 26, same date/time as Senior Luncheon). Invite a neighbor to join you. Don't have a “tween” yet but want to know what is in store? Join us! Sign up outside the 5th/6th grade class.

Youth Ministry

by Lorrie Gaffney

Children and Youth Director

Parents of Jr. and Sr. High Youth. Get Connected with Youth Ministry

What: Parent informational gathering (wine/non-alcoholic beverages, snacks provided)

When: Oct. 5, 4:30 – 6:00 pm

Where: Home of Tim and Dorothy Fluetsch

Why: Get acquainted with other parents, leaders, and get information on programs, needs, and ways to get involved.

What will take place: Share information, key dates, ways to get involved and hear ideas/feedback about Sheer Fun, The Message, Jr. High Foundations, Sr. High Confirmation, Youth Leadership Team, Spring and Summer Mission experiences, Faith in Action Sunday

We will begin promptly at 4:45 so please arrive at 4:30 to grab a drink/snack. You will be welcome to stay and chat at the end. Communication is essential for healthy faith development as you will always be the primary and most influential leader of your youth. You are awesome - your presence will provide support for your youth as well as COG's youth ministry!

Special Thanks to Tim Fluetsch for opening his home!

YouthWorks Wind Rivers Mission Trip. Jr./Sr. High Youth Mission

Date will be announced soon;
YouthWorks space availability is filling
up; interested youth should contact
Lorrie Gaffney with any questions or for
more details.

This trip is open to youth entering 7th
grade through graduating Seniors of
2009.

[Click here to link to details.](#)



Junior High Foundations. Jr. High Foundations will offer a special building project that will serve others and get those basic building skills into shape for Mexico or Wind River needs. Plan to make a difference as you discover the foundations of our faith.

“Sheer Fun” plans Lagoon Day October 25!

Leaders Heidi Carter, Debbie and John Colt invite all youth to a day at Lagoon

Who:	Jr./Sr. High Youth - Jr./Sr High friends welcome! (<i>Adult drivers needed</i>)
What:	Lagoon “FrightMares Day”
Where:	Lagoon (Meet/pick-up at COG)
When:	Sat. Oct. 25 (meet COG 11:00 am; pick-up 10:30 pm)
Why:	Sheer Fun
What to bring:	\$25 cash or check to COG; COG annual liability release

- Note: this event will be cancelled in case of hard rain or snow;
- Additional \$25 discount passes may be available for families who would like to attend (good for 10/25 only)
- Contact Heidi Carter for questions or more information on tickets.

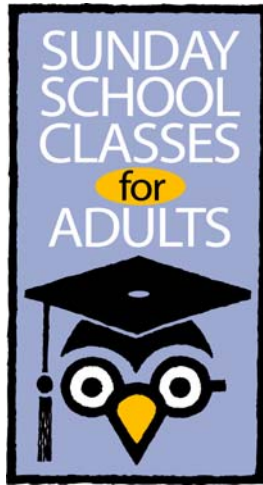
Adult & Family

Adult Programs: Get Involved!

by Dede Carpenter
Director of Adult & Family

Fall brings that time of year when we think **school!**

For those of us on the traditional cycle it’s a time of wrapping up summer with all its physical outdoor activity and moving inside to engage our minds. This fall we have an assortment of opportunities for our adults and families to GROW, CONNECT, SERVE & SHARE; all the components that help us develop and nurture our Christian faith.



I am encouraging you to expand your Sunday Worship by participating in an **adult Sunday school class**. These classes provide a wonderful opportunity to GROW as you meet others in the church community, engage in discussions, share experiences, study and learn more about your faith. Check out our listing under Sunday School Classes.

Small groups provide another vehicle to GROW and CONNECT thru a study focus or recreation. Additional small groups include; Prayer groups, Men's and women's study groups meeting during the week, supper clubs, yoga and Taekwon Do.

Come check out the **Tuesday morning Bible Study** led by Lorrie Gaffney which is reading Ephesians and The Ragamuffin Gospel. This group is open to all and provides childcare for those with small children.

SERVICE and SHARING...it's our faith in action! This fall we will once again be heading outside, beyond our church walls to reach those in need. There will be all church events for leaf raking, turkey giveaways, bell ringing, sandwich making and more to encourage our families and adults to serve others and share God's love; the fundamental message of our faith!

I encourage you to join in. Take a class or join a small group, do not limit your Community of Grace experience to just worship. Remember, you are never too old to have your heart opened to something new!



SERVICE & SHARING

October Care & Prayer Events Announced

by Millie Nielsen
Prayer Coordinator
and Dede Carpenter
Director of Adult & Family

New Deacons' Event. Our Deacons will partner with the ACTS program to host an intergenerational luncheon/program for our Seniors on Sunday October 26th.

Sharing Prayer Stories

You are invited...

...to share a prayer story...

...an experience with prayer when you were nourished, sustained, guided or enlightened and found God's peace.

Sharing our stories is a powerful way to encourage others to engage prayer in their lives. Millie Nielsen and Dede Carpenter would like to invite you to write down a prayer experience that has made an impact on you. We are looking for about a half page or less with a title and your name. You are invited to include a line of scripture if you'd like. Then drop your story off in Millie's mailbox at church or email the story to Dede at dede@cogpc.org.

Stories must be received by November 1st.

These stories will be compiled into a small booklet for distribution to our members during the Thanksgiving-Advent Season. We hope that **the holy spirit** will move you to be a witness and share a story with your brothers and sisters in Christ.



Presbyterian Women

by Sue Bennett
Presbyterian Women

Panel Discussion. Oct 6th "A Spiritual Journey." A panel discussion will be held from 6 -9 pm.

Adult Craft Night. Oct 22nd Fall baskets, 7-9 pm. Babysitting provided upon request.

Super Craft Saturday. Nov 1st "Super Craft Saturday." Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex. Come join us for a fun and creative day! Knitted hats, painted Thanksgiving art, gifts that taste good, Christmas cards and corny ladies (for kids).

October Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen
Prayer Coordinator

1. May God secure me firmly in the grip of His grace.
2. Father God, give me the courage to accept your mercy and the humility to seek your forgiveness.
3. Today I hope and pray that that every dawn brings deeper love for me as an individual and for the world as a whole.
4. Bless and guide Pastor Marty, Lorrie, and Dede, our executive team, as they lead our congregation.
5. Lord, give me generosity as I consider my pledge of time, talent, and money.
6. Lord, I give thanks for the children and youth of Community of Grace.
7. Guide our Elders as they meet to make decisions for Community of Grace.
8. Oh God, give me the grace to be both forgiven and forgiving.

9. Thank you for the Heifer Project that gives animals to needy families to provide better nutrition and funds for education for children, etc.
10. Lord, I ask for humility, for it creates a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with God.
11. Lord, show me how to help the lonely and the home-bound this week.
12. Give wisdom, patience, and caring to those who serve as Sunday School teachers.
13. Lord, bless the native Americans who lived in this country before Europeans arrived.
14. I pray for all soldiers and civilians who bear the brunt of war.
15. Bless our sister church, the Immanuel church, Kiraro, in Kenya and bless our relationship with them.
16. Lord, help me find growth among those who don't agree with me.
17. Comfort and give your peace to those who suffer with mental illness.
18. Thank you, Lord, for the healing brought about by the Ulster Project.
19. Thank you, Lord, for your gift of music.
20. Lord, I pray that the seeds planted by New Beginnings Church will grow and bear fruit.
21. I give thanks for the servant hearts of our deacons.
22. Merciful God, help me be the change I would like to see in the world.
23. Give strength to those who are addicted and break the strongholds of their addictions.
24. Lord, help me to embrace Grace, for then forgiveness flourishes.
25. Help me remember that hospitality is not just about welcome but also about listening and responding to the needs of others.
26. In worship today, help me find encouragement in your Word.
27. Lord, comfort those who are suffering and afraid.
28. Oh merciful God, restore broken families by your grace.
29. God of Grace, remind me to hear, see, and serve those who cry out for justice and mercy.
30. Lord, I thank you for the beautiful days of autumn.
31. Almighty God, keep our children from harm today and every day.

