

Grace Notes

October 2021
"Come Home to Grace"

From the Minister:

"THE CASTAWAY"

Most of us are familiar with the Tom Hanks movie of 2000: "Castaway." What a difficult existence he had! Another story is told of a castaway who was stranded on a tropical island. Like Hanks' character, he had to survive for years on his own. Finally, one day, a ship passed close enough that he could get its attention, and the crew sent a rescue party. Before he left the island to return to civilization, the castaway offered to show his rescuers around his encampment, where he had lived without human companionship for all those years. He showed them his home – a comfortable building, considering the primitive conditions under which it was built. Then he showed them the church he had built, where he worshipped regularly. As they were getting ready to leave the island, the rescuers asked him about the third building in the encampment, a building he had ignored during their brief tour. "Oh, that's the other church. I didn't like it so I left and started another one."

It occurred to me that he could have started a new church within his old church. What if we could do that with Grace Church? I know, from my experience in building, that rebuilding within a current structure can be difficult and limiting. It can seem impossible. But, what if we can keep what is best and familiar and helpful, and rebuild with some new things and approaches that are also helpful and creative? That is what the new Evangelism Committee is about. If you are someone who has a positive attitude and wants to help us examine and plan for new and creative ways to worship, to be the church, to spread the gospel to those, maybe, who have never heard it before, please join us. Our next meeting is Sunday, October 10th after worship in the fellowship hall. We are planning for the service on October 31st, among other things.

Grace and Peace, *Pastor Rob*



Grace Notes:

Sundays in October:

- 3 World Communion Sunday “Who Will Come to the Banquet?” based on Luke 14:15-24.
Come and reconnect with church members and friends and celebrate communion with believers around the world.
 - 10 “To Everything” based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-15.
Are we “in-tune” with the changing “seasons” of life?
Can the wisdom of Ecclesiastes help us cope with changes?
 - 17 Presbyterian Elder Ruth Cole will lead worship.
 - 24 Sermon: “What Did Jesus Say About . . . How Are We to Relate to Others?”
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37 (Bible study on this and on Sunday’s sermon on 10/27, 7 p.m.)
 - 31 Coffeehouse Worship Service/Fifth Sunday Offering/All Saint’s Communion
Meditation: “What Did Jesus Say About . . . Fear?”
Scripture: Matthew 10:28-31
- *All services remain at 10:00 a.m.

New Bible Study

Have you ever wondered what Jesus said about a certain topic? I know I have. I know others have as well. We are launching a Bible study on “What Did Jesus Say About . . .?” The first meeting will be on October 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall where we can socially distance if we desire. We will review “What Did Jesus Say About . . . How Are We to Relate to Others?” and then introduce “What Did Jesus Say About . . . Fear?” which will be the topic for the Coffeehouse sermon on 10/31. We’ll continue into November. I am looking for feedback on the topic to help it be as useful and meaningful and relevant to you as possible! I will also take suggestions on future topics.

A Reminder on COVID at Grace Church

Just to be completely clear on this: the Consistory says there are adequate safeguards in place and available to everyone (vaccinations, masks, social distancing, parking lot service) if people wish to take advantage of them as we gather for worship and other church activities. There are no requirements or mandates, neither have there ever been. Wearing a mask or having a vaccination might be something you will want to do, or not! Your choice. Either way you are welcome to be with us in person, face-to-face, in whatever format you choose.

Confirmation

If you have a youth (usually at least 7th grade on up) you would like to have involved in a confirmation program, or know of one in the community, please come to an organizational meeting on Sunday, October 3rd, after worship in the Friendly Classroom, or pass this information on to a friend. Call Pastor Rob with questions (330-277-6640) or email at joyfamily5@comcast.net. Obviously the parents/guardians need not be members of Grace Church for the youth to take part. What format/timeframe do we need to use to make this a meaningful and, if possible, an exciting time in exploring the Christian faith out for your youth? Let us know and we’ll make it work!

Those Ministering This Month:

Usher: Cheryl Bell

Elevator Attendant: Steve Barnett

Candles: Dick Weber



Marge & Dick Weber	October 4, 1959
Jack & Dinah Sitrer	October 27, 1962
Ann & Bruce Wise	October 18, 1975
Chris & Steve Neiheisel	October 7, 1978
Cindy & Jon Duffy	October 6, 1984
Janet & Dave Flynn	October 6, 1992
Christine & Todd Hughes	October 29, 2004
Vincent & Katy Gala	October 13, 2012



Just a heads up! Deadline to order will be November 29. More information will come in your weekly bulletin.

Coffeehouse Worship Service On Halloween!

We haven't had one for a while and it's time we did! We'll have a coffee hour setting as we have some interactive and inter-generational projects. Kids (and adults, if you want) may wear Halloween costumes, just not too scary, OK? We'll also have communion served at our tables in observance of All Saint's Day. This is a good service to which to bring a friend or neighbor. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m.

News from the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee will be meeting in October to set the 2022 budget. If anyone has comments or suggestions, or if anyone is interested in joining the committee, please let me know.

Thanks, Matt Bell



New Babies

We gladly announce the birth of twin sons to Nicole & Jesse James on September 18!

Jesse Clark James weighed 5.14 pounds, 20" long, born at 7:40 a.m., and Leo Martin James weighed 5.1 pounds, 18.5" long, born at 7:41 a.m.

They join big sister Ariel, at home. Welcome Jesse and Leo!

To my Grace Church Family,

Thank you so much for the lovely silver cross I was given for my 25 year anniversary as Grace Church's secretary! It truly was unexpected, but will be treasured.

In some ways, the 25 years have gone by so fast, and in others, so much has happened in those 25 years. I was 34—now I'm 59! My children were 3 and 1. They are now 29 and 27. Both married, and I have two beautiful granddaughters, whom I cannot imagine my life without now. They bring me so much joy.

In that 25 years, I have experienced many health problems. And to be honest, way too many health problems. I don't understand why some are given so much to bear. I have had many discussions with God about this subject, believe me. My mother was fond of saying God only gives you as much as you can handle. I never liked that saying, feeling like ok, I've had enough. So one day I went looking for it in the Bible. And here is what it says: "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13 Well, I'm still here, and I've endured it. Part of that endurance comes from myself, my family, but also my friends. Grace Church has truly kept me in your loving, giving hands, and I can't thank you enough.

One thing that is very hard for a church secretary is living through so many members deaths. It's hard on me to lose so many dear friends. I've also served three pastors, and two interims. The information I have accumulated over the years is truly beneficial and it's a lot! Who is married to who, who lives where, whose child is whose, I literally have family trees in my mind! There is so much that goes on behind the scenes in the church office. I know there will be some reading this that will ask, like what? Well, you'd have to come in for a week and observe. I'm the phonebook, the phone number and address knower. I'm the bridge between committees. I'm the one who takes all the different inspectors around to make sure our building is safe and up to date. I'm the informer of meetings, phone messages, and just important information. I could go on, but I think you get the drift.

Some have asked me if I have plans to make it another 25 years. The answer to that is no. I know I don't have it in me. I'm too young to retire, so I'm here for a few more years at least. But not 25 more!

Thank you all so much for being my friends and for the kindness you've shown me over the years. I hope you feel I've returned that kindness to you.

Blessings, *Marcy*

Grace Reaches Out:

GRO is gearing up for a very busy autumn season!

- First week of October, information and materials will be available for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. This might seem early, but collection week is November 15—22.
- Tuesday, October 19, Drive Thru Rigatoni Dinner, 4:00 to sold out. Helpers wanted!
- Sunday, October 24, after worship everyone is invited to a baked potato bar with all the fixing's. Free-will donations accepted (will go towards Fifth Sunday charities).
- October 31, Fifth Sunday loose offering will be divided between The Salem Chapter of the Salvation Army and NACCC—One Great Hour of Sharing for natural disaster relief. Just a reminder that you may donate in several ways: cash of course, add to your weekly envelope under the "other" section (designate to Fifth Sunday), or contribute online.

Do you like action, activity, and the satisfaction that you have served others as Jesus directed us to do? Then please consider joining GRO! We meet monthly (second Tuesday at 7:00) for about an hour in the church dining hall. If you can't make the meeting, we will still gladly accept your help. We have some exciting ideas for the upcoming months! Feel free to reach out to Diane Barnes, Jolane Day, Cathy Hoover, Pastor Rob, Debbie Rohm, or Pat Young to learn more about GRO.



Consistory Meeting of September 13th, 2021

Members Present:, Steve Barnett, Cheryl Bell, Chris Eisenbraun, Leslie Eisenbraun, Mark Frost, Alex Heintzelman, Rob Joy, Tim Reeser, Gary Scullion, Jack Sitrer. Financial Secretary: Matt Bell (Absent, report present)

Excused: Patty Lanterman

I. Devotions –Sept: Tim October: Patty

II. Duties – September: Usher: Leslie Elevator: Jerry October: Usher: Cheryl Elevator: Steve

Next Communion:

World Communion Sunday October 3rd – Gary.

All Saints October 31st – Alex

Thanksgiving Nov 21 – Jack

Christmas Dec 24 - Mark

New Year's Jan 2nd or 9th - Chris

III. Informal Discussion/Goal Setting: Chris feels a lot of good things have been happening and is proud to be here. A good crowd of people attended in the parking lot to the band on the Thursday of Street Fair. New faces, heard some good feedback. Would encourage continued positive mindset at trying new things.

IV. Communications: Natalie Lariccia – (To the endowment committee) thank you for meeting regarding potential money management opportunity for the endowment and memorial funds.

V. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Lacking a motion made last month. Motion to approve organ repairs, in two separate work orders, each totaling around \$2500. 1st: Mark 2nd: Jerry, motion carries. Motion to approve the minutes: 1st: Jack, 2nd: Mark, Motion passes.

VI. Financial Secretary Report (M. Bell):

August income: \$10,464. 77% of monthly budgeted income. Total income Year to Date is 71% of budgeted through August. August expense: \$11,302. 83% of budgeted monthly expense. YTD 92% budgeted expenses through August. ~\$9100 under budget for expenses for the year. Current fund ~\$7959 in the red.

Motion to accept the report. 1st Alex , 2nd Jack , motion carries.

Motion to put the now forgiven PPP loan in a savings account until determined how to spend it. 1st: Mark 2nd: Cheryl, motion carries.

Motion to rescind last savings account idea. Instead, deposit the PPP loan into the current fund, from which salary is paid and for which the PPP loan funds were originally intended / applied for. 1st: Mark 2nd: Jack, motion carries.

VII. Financial Committee Report (M. Bell): No Report.

VIII. Pastor's Report:

4 Services on Sundays, weekly newsflashes. 6 visitations. 7 counseling sessions. Karl Bott's internment, Tom Mercer and Mary Liggitts funerals. Wedding of Shannon Joy and Jeremy Lee. Ruth Cole will cover 11/28 service. Also asked for 10/17 – a requested vacation day.

Motion to approve requested vacation 10/16-23. 1st: Jack 2nd: Leslie, motion carries

IX. Unfinished Business: Joe Joseph finished the paint job in the sanctuary.

Parking lot repair estimates ~\$36k, CJ Long, East Palestine. Can schedule through October, maybe into November. Will have to wait until Spring after that. Heartland Christian did not return call about shared cost on that yet. Will ask for CJ long to give hold on price in writing through the spring.

X. New Business:

XI. Committee Reports:

-Music – Ray Wagner working with the choir. Choir plans for a Christmas-theme event around that time. If you have some music suggestions, please make them.

-Endowment – Met with 2 presenters regarding fiduciary mgmt. of the endowment / memorial funds. To meet with one additional presenter. The committee will make recommendation to consistory after the final meeting.

-Property – Fixed an AC unit on top of sanctuary roof, was leaking refrigerant. Elevator passed inspection this month.

XII. Adjournment & The Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting October 4th, 2021 7pm. In person and Zoom



- 10/2 Bev Price
- 10/5 Grace Gala
- 10/7 Pastor Earl Crecelius
- 10/10 Faye Detwiler
Dennis Weber
- 10/12 Nancy Garstick
- 10/15 Theresa Greenawalt
Hanna Barnes
- 10/16 Connie Scullion
David Weber
Vincent Gala
- 10/19 Tawnya Gologram
- 10/20 Sandy Tharp
Donovan Waselich
- 10/21 Brian Burkey
- 10/23 Evelyn Johnston
- 10/27 Christal Bonsall
- 10/29 Mary Lou Cope
- 10/30 Cheryl Bell
Tom LaVogue
Tanner Wessling
- 10/31 Katie Flynn

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

Thank You!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who helped the BBQ a success! A lot of changes were made, and everyone rolled with the punches to make everything run smoothly. Financially we did well, with more details coming soon, along with an announcement scheduling a follow-up meeting concerning how the proceeds should be spent.

A special thank you to the Core Committee who make it all possible: Matt Bell, Jolane Day, Leslie & Chris Eisenbraun, Janet Flynn (pie table), and Laurie & Alex Heintzelman.
—Sincerely, Diane & Russ Barnes

There was a very nice message left on the answering machine of the church. It said:

“Hi, my name is David, and my wife and I live in Salem. We came to your church for the chicken bbq, and it was just the best chicken we ever ate! Just wanted you all to know.”

Thank you, David, it’s nice to hear compliments!

THANK YOU

Because of the pandemic it was necessary to wait over a year to have the memorial service for Karl and Alan. During this time, Pastor Rob was so encouraging to hang in there, that we would get through this. Together with the support of our Grace Church family, we made it and were able to have a beautiful, meaningful memorial service for the two important men in my life.

The lunch that was served after their service was wonderful, the service conducted by Pastor Rob was comforting and inspiring, the eulogies by Mark Frost and Stefany Nussbaumer gave us a closer look at Karl and Alan’s lives, Diane’s solo, for all of this, I thank you. Even the bulletin was so tastefully done and I appreciate the word that Marcy does behind the scenes.

All the calls, cards and prayers from our Grace Church family have sustained us through this long journey and we are truly grateful.
—Judy Bott

Thank You!

Thank you to the Women’s Guild who put on a wonderful luncheon following my granddaughter, Leia Joy’s, memorial service on September 18th! For some visitors, who have not had much church experience, this was quite a memorable feast. It was perceived by all as a demonstration of love, concern, and support on the part of the church. Thank you! -Pastor Rob

Grace Notes

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