

GRACE NOTES

August/September 2014



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mommyrodda@aol.com

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adcreager1@frontier.com

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Maddy Steele



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN LETTER DETROIT 2014



Friends, as most of you are probably well aware; there was a General Assembly meeting this year in Detroit, Michigan. For those who might not know, the General Assembly is the highest governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This body of our denomination meets bi-annually to discuss, discern, learn, pray, and vote on many of the matters concerning the world, the denomination, presbyteries, and particular congregations. Two major decisions (which most of you may have heard by now – either through credible sources, or perhaps through some other less-credible and misinformed sources) were on the issues of the divestment of funds in the Middle East and the authority of the pastor to perform same-sex marriages. Both of these topics stirred-up quite the debate. But, let us look at what exactly the decisions mean for us, or what we can learn from them.

First, let us discuss the divestment issue. By a narrow margin (a mere 7 votes out of the hundreds of voting delegates) it was approved to remove denominational investments from three specific companies: Motorola, Hewlett Packard, and Caterpillar. The reason these three companies were targeted specifically was because of their contributions to the unrest and hostility between Israel and Palestine. Specifically, Motorola provides military communications and surveillance systems in illegal Israeli settlements. Hewlett Packard has extensive involvement with the Israeli army and provides electronic systems at checkpoints, logistics and communications systems to support the naval blockade of the Gaza Strip, as well as business relationships with illegal settlements in the West Bank. Finally, we know that Caterpillar provides bulldozers used in the destruction of Palestinian homes and for clearing land of structures and fruit and olive tree groves in preparation for construction of the barrier wall. It is due to these products and what they are used for that the course of action of divestment was recommended to the greater body.

It should be noted that by no means is this a divestment from the actual State of Israel, nor is it an anti-Semitic based decision or intention. Instead, the focus falls solely on the process of peacekeeping in the Middle East. In closing to this topic, I will give you a quote directly from the PCUSA website on the issue of divestment; with the question asked: "what is the point of divestment?" "For Presbyterians individually, and collectively, investments offer not only financial return, but represent a form of constructive partnership for good in the world. Divestment is always a last resort, as a matter of faithful stewardship, when it becomes apparent that an investment can no longer be part of a constructive partnership for good. Presbyterians believe firmly that their investments must be in alignment with their values." (http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga221-middle-east-faq.pdf)

Secondly, the ongoing issue of homosexual marriage was again brought to light. This time though, the governing body enacted what is called (Authoritative Initiative); basically, the primary body's interpretation of our constitution (The Book of Order and The Book of Common Worship) deemed it that pastors (Teaching Elders) should be allowed to perform same-sex marriages. As a result, this action and decision makes it effective immediately for all ordained PC(USA) pastors. Now, it should be noted that pastors individually still have what is referred to as "local choice." Meaning, it is up to each individual pastor whether or not they will marry a couple, whether they be homosexual or heterosexual. By no means is this a mandate telling pastors who they can or cannot marry. Merely, this is a decision that will absolve a pastor of ecclesial discipline should they perform a same-sex marriage. Also, the marrying of a same-sex couple can only occur in states in which it is legalized. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

PASTOR CHRIS' CORNER



"GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPEN LETTER" CONTINUED...

As these two proceedings were both an upper-echelon denominational decision, they are not actions that will need to be voted on by Presbyteries. Instead, they are effective immediately. On the side of divestment, that is just with the funds from the denomination's portfolio, and while they are encouraging local congregations to follow suit, it is not yet a mandate for particular churches. The marriage topic, as mentioned, was deemed as an Authoritative Interpretation, and is also not up for Presbytery vote. However, some proposed changes to the wording in the Book of Worship and the potential addition of the Belhar Confession to the Book of Confessions will go before Presbyteries for a vote.

I hope you now have a better understanding of what transpired at the General Assembly level. However, if you have any further questions or concerns regarding these matters, by all means feel free to contact me (Pastor Chris) via e-mail, phone call, or even with an office visit. We all may not agree with some of the decisions made by the General Assembly. Some may rejoice, others may mourn over some of the choices made. Yet, in part, the ability to have different opinions is a portion of the beauty of the Presbyterian Church (USA). At the end of the day, we are all united in Christ, and we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, so we should love one another accordingly. May God's peace and grace be with you all.

Sincerely, Rev. Chris Kirwan

From the Choir Director



Debi Thorpe



Greetings!

Ah, summer! This time of year is always fun for me – I get to enjoy the beautiful warm weather but it is also when I can celebrate a successfully finished season with the choir as well as the time that I can start planning for a new year of music. Right now, I'm researching programs for Advent. Yes, you read that correctly: the thermometer reads in the upper 80s and I am wandering around singing Christmas carols. Despite the strange looks from my neighbors, I have been enjoying myself and have lots of ideas for a Christmas season full of music for us to share.

Earlier this summer, the choir gathered at the home of Dick and Tina Weaver for a wonderful end-of-year celebration. Everyone contributed a dish of their own to the festivities and Dick impressed us with his delicious grilling talents. It was a lovely way to celebrate all our hard work (and fun) over the last year.

Although the choir is taking a short break right now, we will be back in the fall – tanned, rested and ready! We are looking forward to the start of a new season and are planning for the days ahead when we will once again raise our voices in praise and worship.

Your Sister In Christ,
Debi



JUNE/JULY 2014 WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

June 1	76	July 6	48
June 8	74	July 13	53
June 15	67	July 20	55
June 22	62	July 27	55
June 29	49		

Presbyterianism 101

The Book of Order – G-3.05 The General Assembly



G-3.0501- Composition and Responsibilities – The General Assembly is the council of the whole church and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). ...The General Assembly constitutes the bond of union, community, and mission among all its congregations and councils, to the end that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of the whole church, it shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0303), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).

The Book of Confessions – The Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter IV – Of Creation – 6.023

2. After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with the knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness after his own image, having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it; and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Besides this law written in their hearts, they received a command not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; which while they kept they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

June 2014 Session Highlights

- ◆ It is with a heavy heart and mutual sadness and excitement on behalf of Julie Schneider that we accepted her letter of resignation from the Grace Presbyterian Church session. She will be moving to San Antonio, TX to live closer to her son (and maybe escape the cold winters too).
- ◆ The upcoming wedding between Dan Hansen and Alexa Mauger was approved to take place on October 17th, 2014.
- ◆ A safety report received from our insurance policyholder – Brotherhood Mutual was mentioned and was gone over thoroughly by John Current, JoAnn Getts, and Pastor Chris.
- ◆ The requested dates for an outdoor worship service of July 20th and August 17th were approved.

Up To Date with Committees & Groups



Grace Mission's Contributions:

- ◇ Pentecost Offering...\$148.00
- ◇ NHNA Drug & Awareness Day... \$50
- ◇ Turnstone Ramp Building Program... July contribution \$321.15

Fundraising for the church:

- ◇ Chick-Fil-A Night...\$154.33
- ◇ Scrip orders YTD...\$320.41



Sarah Circle will resume meeting in September! The first meeting is the 2nd Thursday, September 11th. Lunch is at Raimondo's at 11:30. We will meet at the church at 12:30 for a brief business meeting and complete the study of the Heroes of the Bible. All women of Grace are invited.

PW upcoming events!

"LUNCH BUNCH" - Come have lunch at Glenbrook Mall Food Court on the last Thursday of the month - All are welcome!

Next dates: August 28 & September 25

PW Events this year!

- Sept. 20 Cookie Bake for the home-centered
- Oct. 18 Making caramel corn for fundraiser
- Nov. 8 Making peanut brittle for fundraiser
- Nov. 15 Cancer Pad Sewing & Lunch
- Dec. 6 PW Christmas Party

See Evelyn Brunnegraff if you would like to join us or have any questions. (424-2804)



Church Staff Relations

A new face in the nursery - Maddy Steele is the new childcare attendant for the newborns through age 2. She is the oldest of five children plus she has been working as a nanny this summer. Maddy will be a freshman this fall at IPFW with plans to major in nursing. Please welcome her to Grace!



Congregational Life Committee

All of us had a wonderful time at the TinCaps game on Father's Day despite the team's loss. We didn't let that stop us from enjoying the food and the company. Look for this activity to be scheduled again next season.

Events still in the planning stages for the remainder of the year are:

- ⇒ A light lunch followed by a gospel singing, a celebration fellowship hour for the completion of the building project
- ⇒ The second annual Superbowl Soup Spectacular on February 1, 2015.

More details on these events will follow in subsequent newsletters and church bulletins.

Stitch'n Time will resume September 9th. Come join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month to help fulfill our prayer shawl ministry!



Come join the Church

Women United for their annual Interfaith Luncheon on Monday, October 6, 2014, at Ceruti's, 6601 Innovation Blvd. The theme this year is "Through God Our Hands Can Protect" (Isaiah 49:15-16; Psalm 49:15-16) The speaker will be the Rev. Bill McGill.

The Luncheon is \$12. The registration deadline is 9/30/14. Forms will be set out in the narthex at Grace in September. Please see Pat Morrison if you have any questions.

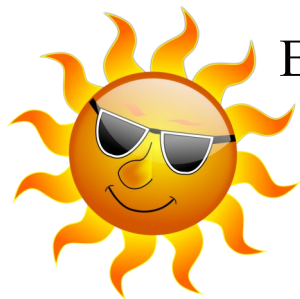


The Evangelism committee as been very busy. We just finalized our Back to School plans in the July meeting. It's going to be another fun event this year. Please stop by and check it out on August 10th!

Preliminary plans have been discussed for Halloween with Grace also.

The committee has also been scheduling visitor luncheons to help welcome our friends and have time to meet the Pastor and his family.

The active members on this committee are Pastor Chris, Tammy Menkes, Diana Eller, Cindy Bowers, and Kelly Bellis. We need more members with fresh new ideas! Please see Pastor Chris if you are interested. Thank-you.



END OF SUMMER HAPPENINGS!

Sunday, August 10, 2014
2-4 PM



Activities for the day will include...

- Free school supplies – first come first serve (children must be present to receive supplies)
- Live music with the Anchor Praise Band
- Games & Prizes
- Refreshments
- Moon Walk
- Basketball Fun
- Fort Wayne Fire Department
- Fort Wayne Police Department SWAT vehicle
- TRAA Ambulance

Sunday, August 17, 2014

10:30 AM

WORSHIP ON THE LAWN @ GRACE

On July 20th, we once again were able to enjoy God's creation while worshipping God outside on the Grace lawn! (*pictured here*) It was a gorgeous day and a great turnout of members and visitors alike. The sermon, of course, was fantastic (as usual - haha), and the music played, sung, and performed, was also moving and enjoyable. We were pleased to see so many people present, and we hoped all that came enjoyed the worship experience.

If you missed it, you still have a chance to attend another! Our next outdoor service at Grace will be on August 17th, and we hope to see you there!!

Pastor Chris



Sunday, August 31, 2014

10:30 AM

46808 CHURCHES WORSHIP IN THE PARK

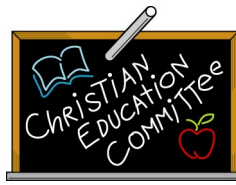
It's that time of year again where we will be worshipping in Hamilton Park alongside our fellow 46808 brothers and sisters in Christ! As usual, we will be enjoying lunch afterwards where people will be asked to bring a dish to share. The distribution for that is for families with last names ending in:

- A - F bring Side Dish & Drinks
- G - L bring a Dessert
- M - Z bring a Main Dish

This year, Grace is also in charge of providing the elements for communion, so if you would like to prepare and/or serve please contact either Holly Bouthot or Pastor Chris as they would appreciate any help! Currently, the time for the worship is set at 10:30 a.m. (but may be subject to change or move depending upon weather). Every year this is an enjoyable experience and we hope to see you all there! Also, if you are coming please plan to bring your own chair and/or a blanket for yourself or to share!

September 7, 2014

11:30 AM



SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF / TAILGATE PARTY

The first day of Sunday School is just around the corner! Classes will begin September 7. All classes start at 9:00 AM. A variety of adult options are available as well as our traditional children and youth classes. Watch for information to be posted in the Narthex regarding specifics of each class.

To celebrate the beginning of the new Sunday School year we will have our annual Tailgate Luncheon following the service on the 7th. Wear your favorite team's sportswear that day, bring a side dish or dessert to share, and join in the fun! Sandwiches and drinks will be provided.

The Christian Education committee hopes that you and your family will choose to attend Sunday School classes this year. New insights into Bible passages and daily living, and answers to both simple and perplexing questions about the Christian faith can be gained by coming to church and Sunday School regularly. Join us!



The Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone who helped make the PW Rummage Sale on June 21st a success. The sale was on the same day as the North Highlands Neighborhood Association Sale.

If you helped by donating items, sorting, pricing, renting a table,

setting up or
tearing down, it was
greatly appreciated!

The PW raised
approximately \$200
from this event.



CLASSES AT GRACE

Sundays @ 9am

- Sunday School - grades K-5
- Youth Group - grades 6-12
- Coffee & Christ
- Sunday Morning with Peggy
- The Wired Word

Wednesdays @ 10:30am

- Retired Men's Bible Study

Thursdays @ 2:30pm

- Friendship Bible Study

2nd Thursday of each month

- Sarah Circle Study



MEMBER UPDATES



New Contact Info:

- ◆ Dave Zimmerman
Cell # 260-438-5550 (correction to directory)
- ◆ Brian Zimmerman
12018 Tapered Bank Run
Fort Wayne, IN 46818
- ◆ Beth White
Cell # 260-438-1489

Deaths:

William Hatfield 6/10/14



August 1, 1987 Dale & April Lehman
August 9, 2003 Matt & Teri Seitz
August 10 Tom & Autumn Callahan
August 21, 1953 Max & Carol Achleman
August 21, 1976 Arnold & Mary Patten
August 27, 1949 Don & Isy Bosse



In Touch with Our Home-Centered Members

Mildred Anderson #424-2457
2010 Emerson Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Norman Bauer #426-5210
2009 Ellen Avenue
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Judy Bellis #387-9192
532 Huffman St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Janet Campbell #483-5045
2425 Beineke Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Don & June Clark #483-8631
3323 Chancellor Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Glen Clifton #432-6692
4305 Aboite Lake Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Don & Ruth Foland #493-9128
Georgetown Place
1717 Maplecrest Rd., Apt.207
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Maxine Ford #747-1663
Kingston Residence
7515 Winchester Road, Apt. 116
Fort Wayne, IN 46819

Larry Gouker
9401 S. Highpoint Dr.
Muncie, IN 47302

Dorothy Holsworth #483-7549
2512 North Highlands Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Frank Dee Lehman #483-9281
6318 Bittersweet Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Rev. Loran & Carolyn Lewis
Lutheran Life Villages
6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt.E131
Fort Wayne, IN 46816
Loran - Apt. E131 #447-7230
Carolyn - Rm. 417 #441-0348

Robert Morell #489-2599
1701 Wayside Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46818

Arnie & Mary Patten #426-7532
1655 Hinton Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Harold & Evelyn Pelz #627-6817
The Cedars
14409 Sunrise Ct., Rm.102
Leo, IN 46765

George Ripple
101 Surrey Lane
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Jean Sark #210-2643
Woodview Healthcare
3420 E. State Blvd., Rm.104
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Mary Scribner #484-3120
Woodview Health Care
3420 East State Blvd., Rm. 204
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Hattie Springer #484-0308
Emeritus Senior Living
4730 East State Blvd, Rm. 11
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Harry Stucky #424-0069
1655 Cherokee Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Jean Swigart #483-0491
2213 N. Anthony Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Lois Walsh #496-1421
3110 E. Coliseum Blvd., Rm. 201
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

James Witzigreuter, Sr.
3705 Summit View Place
Fort Wayne, IN 46808
#432-3500

Bill & Madge Zion #485-5353
8426 Tewksbury Ct.
Fort Wayne, IN 46835



August 01 Debi Thorpe
August 01 Harold Pelz
August 02 Ruth Foland
August 02 June Clark
August 09 Carol Fahrenbach
August 11 Michael Werling
August 12 Karen Horner
August 14 Leora Bartusch
August 15 Dorothy Lovan
August 19 Tammy Menkes
August 20 Frank Lehman
August 21 Jon Wolf
August 24 Bob Fahrenbach
August 27 Jan Gouker
August 28 Beth White
August 28 Tom Weber
August 30 Bill Werling
August 30 Nick Barchak
August 31 Connie Stucky
August 31 Donna Parrish

Sept. 03 Bruce Barnett
Sept. 04 Mary Patten
Sept. 05 Maureen Rogers
Sept. 07 Brian Geist
Sept. 07 Doug Haller
Sept. 07 Judi Eckler-Queen
Sept. 08 Rachel German
Sept. 08 Lauren Widmann
Sept. 12 Dot Gilbert
Sept. 12 Dick Weaver
Sept. 14 Anne Courtney
Sept. 16 Linda Haller
Sept. 16 Rev. Chris Kirwan
Sept. 16 Audra Widmann
Sept. 17 Carolyn Lewis
Sept. 18 Laurie Howard
Sept. 19 Alyssa Kirwan
Sept. 19 Kevin Mahoney
Sept. 20 Landon Seitz
Sept. 20 Jean Sark
Sept. 21 Mila Wolf
Sept. 22 Allison Zimmerman
Sept. 23 Cheryl Fahrenbach
Sept. 24 Don Stoiche
Sept. 25 Tom Callahan

Sept. 25 Brian Zimmerman
Sept. 27 Todd German
Sept. 27 David Josse
Sept. 29 Dan Hansen





- I would like to say a BIG thank you to my Grace family for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recent surgery and recuperation. Also, a special thank you to Pastor Chris for his hospital visit, as well as phone calls, and a special thank you to my friend,

Margaret McBride, for playing for me while I was out.
I appreciate everything so much, and you are all super!

Sue Creager

- Thank you to our friend and Art Class Teacher, Wileta Blevins. She weeded out the area by our new ramp entrance and planted a rose bush and some other items! It looks wonderful and was greatly appreciated.

Kelly Bellis

- A special thank-you to Julie Schneider for serving as the chair of Evangelism Committee this year. Julie will be moving to Texas in August. We will miss you Julie!

Evangelism Committee

- A huge thank-you goes out to Karen Doeberman and Tammy Menkes for planting and watering our flowers by the office and tower doors at Grace!

Kelly Bellis

- Thank you Diana Eller for shopping and finding pretty new mugs to place in our visitor bags! We love them!

Evangelism Committee

- Pastor Chris, Please thank everyone at Grace for their July gift to Campus Ministry at IPFW and Indiana Tech. We remain so very grateful for the generous and faithful support of your congregation! I hope and pray that you are well and that the Lord is continuing to bring fruitfulness to your ministry. Let me know if there is anything that I can do to be a blessing to you or to Grace. We are spending the summer training new student leaders and preparing for a new season of ministry beginning in August. The students are very excited about what God has in store for them during the coming year - including our 4th mission trip to Northern Ireland next March. Please pray that God will use our students powerfully on their campuses.

God Bless,

Ben Gates, Executive Director, Campus Ministry



NHCL 4th Annual Golf Scramble

It's that time of year again! The North Highlands Center for Learning 4th Annual Golf Scramble Fundraiser is upon us! All proceeds from this event benefit NHCL, a free after school program serving students K-8 or other children's ministries. NHCL is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. The date for this year's scramble is Saturday, August 9th and it will begin via Shotgun start at 8:30 am at the Eel River Golf Club, 1265 N. 650, Churubusco, Indiana, 46723. You can participate in a number of ways, either as an individual, and get paired with others, or as an entire registered team of 4. So, if you have some buddies bring them along for a fun day of golf and food! The cost is \$60 per person to participate, or you can sponsor a hole or contest and have your personal name, your company, or anything else (within reason) sponsor a hole. Hole sponsors will have a custom sign on display at 1 of 18 tee boxes. All Sponsors will also receive special recognition on the day of the event and in promotional materials. If you have any further questions, or would like to register please contact Tom Monnier at 260-312-1591 or via e-mail: NHCLevents@yahoo.com. We hope to see you out there!



The Session has approved new flooring for the Upper Room, Hallway between East & West Stairways, including the small Restroom in that area, Lower level Fellowship Hall and Hallway corridor. The flooring is now on order and we hope to have installed in August. Also, approved was the updating of the small restroom at the east end of

the upper level corridor at the top of the new stairway by the remodeled vestibule area / elevator. There will be a new accessible sink, toilet / grab bars with new lighting, mirror & other accessories in this restroom. Painting has been completed in the lower basement fellowship hall and in the upper level room.

The construction of a new ADA compliant Restroom at the Sanctuary level was approved, as well. This will be located in a section of the coatroom behind the Narthex. Our design build Team used for the previous construction will work this project with the Grace Building Committee. There are no timelines established yet for this project. You will notice some improvements in the lower level Women's restroom already which were completed by Dennis Allen & Aaron Bowers. Sometime in late August or September, we will be trialing a new speaker system in the Sanctuary to help improve the audibility in this area for those who have difficulty with hearing.



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Grace is starting a 3B class
here August 11th!

Smock Senior Ministries have made the 3B program possible. The focus is **Body**- movement for flexibility, balance, and strength. **Brain** - covering memory, problem solving, and growth of new brain cells. **Beliefs** – nurturing of one's faith. This Program is founded on the concept that we don't stop exercising because we get old; we get old because we stop exercising. We will meet three times a week and it takes just one hour each day we meet. The class is for those 50 years or older. You are encouraged to do as much as you can, but this is not a competition. A little is better than nothing. Please come, check us out, and discover the benefits of 3B. For more information, contact Tammy Menkes or Nancy Current, certified trainers of 3B.