

# GRACE NOTES

June/July 2015  
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Grace  
Presbyterian Church



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## SUMMER SERMON SERIES



In case you could not tell, summer is almost here! As a result, I will be attempting a new summer sermon series! The name for it is "Pew to Pulpit" and the premise will be centered on answering questions that arise from members, guests, and non-members alike. Is there a question that you had concerning church history? Perhaps a theological issue or a Biblical issue is tugging at you, particularly if you have always wanted but never quite received an answer for it? Well, now is your chance! For a few more weeks

I will include an insert in worship bulletins to allow you that chance of having your questions eventually answered! Don't worry too, if you are a home-centered member and have not been able to make it to worship recently you can also submit your question to the church via mail, calling the church office, or via e-mail. Then, you can look for the answer to your question in one of the sermons that will be mailed your way! I hope you are looking forward to this sermon series as much as I am. See you in the pews!

*Rev. Chris Kirwan*

## Worship on the Lawn—June 14th and July 12th!

It's that time of year again! The time where the trees have beautiful buds, the flowers are blooming, and the grass is green! Those signs from nature tell us it is time once again for our outdoor worship services! For 2015 we have set two dates: Sunday, June 14th, and Sunday, July 12th. The time of the worship will remain the usual 10:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us for these services and connect with God in nature!



## Attention all members and friends of Grace Presbyterian Church!!

The Christian Education Committee is planning an all-church book-reading event for September 2015! This event will coincide with the start of Sunday School on September 13. Small-group "book clubs" will be meeting on Sunday morning and throughout each week so that you can attend when it is convenient for you.

The book we will be discussing is: "God is Just...Not Fair" by Jennifer Rothschild. This is a book about finding more than just answers. It's for anyone who needs hope when life doesn't make sense - for all who reach for a God who might sometimes feel distant.

\*This is a 6-week session...just one chapter per week!

\*It is hoped that all ages from teens on up will participate!



Watch your email and mailbox this summer for details!!!

# PASTOR CHRIS' CORNER



Abundance and Scarcity seem to be a predominant theme these days in the news. In California, there is an extreme scarcity of rain, to the point that there are water restrictions and people are going to extreme measures to make their lawns green! A couple of the options I have seen include spray-painting one's lawn green and even replacing one's lawn with an artificial turf. The latter of which does not sound like a bad idea to me, it means less mowing! Now, on the other side of the coin, we have the poor state of Texas which has experienced some deadly flash floods. Now, this is the kind of abundance that is neither beneficial nor appreciated by any party, particularly the one affected the most by it. Some people have lost their lives due to the flooding, and there is bound to be an astonishing amount of property damage that will occur as a result of the flooding too.

Now, with these sad situations it got me thinking; when we look on these situations it would be beneficial for all parties involved if we could, somehow, move the abundance of unwanted water that Texas is now experiencing, and give some of that excess water to those that need it desperately in California. To me, that would be a win for all parties involved, it would save lives, it would provide life to the foliage in California, and give the residents a break from the heat. In fact, after having lived through a couple Indiana winters, I feel the same way about the winter and summer months, wishing there was some technological way to bottle up heat from the summer to use in the winter, and cold from the winter to use in the summer.

I often feel this is what God calls us to do when it comes to our giving, offerings, and tithes. We are called to give the blessings and abundance we have been given, and are provided opportunities to share with those who live in a world of scarcity. Now, this is not saying that our abundance is a bad abundance. Merely, it is a wonderful chance to do what God calls us to do many times throughout scripture: Share abundantly with others what we have been freely given, whether that be finances, gifts, abilities, knowledge, or time, there is bound to be something we have in abundance. Here are two specific Scripture verses that tell us just that: 1) "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8b NRSV) and 2) "The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." With that in mind, I invite you to reflect prayerfully on the weather situations and how God might be calling you to share your own blessings, talents, gifts, and time.

## April Session Highlights

- ♦ The baptism of Abel Henry Ankney was reported and received.
- ♦ The Smock Van was officially accepted and designated to be used in conjunction with Grace and United Faith.
- ♦ Pastor Chris went over a "Great Commission Conscience Inventory" that the members of session filled out at the previous meeting. The primary purpose is to maintain focus on what our main motives and thoughts for the church are, and how we can go about fulfilling the "Great Commission" where Christ calls us to go forth and baptize those in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ♦ It was agreed that the men would take charge on fellowship for Mother's Day.

## From the Choir Director



Debi Thorpe



### ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS!

Mark your calendars for the end of the season  
3rd Annual Choir Picnic

When: Sunday, June 28, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.

Where: Dick & Tina Weaver's Home  
7310 Blackhawk Lane  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Who: Choir Members & Their Families

What to Bring: A Dish to Share and Lawn Chairs

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

## Presbyterianism 101



**The Book of Order – W-2.3000 Baptism –  
W-2.3002 Dying and Rising in Baptism**

In Baptism, we participate in Jesus' death and resurrection. In Baptism, we die to what separates us from God and are raised to newness of life in Christ. Baptism points us back to the grace of God expressed in Jesus Christ, who died for us and who was raised for us. Baptism points us forward to that same Christ who will fulfill God's purpose in God's promised future.

**The Book of Confessions -The Second Helvetic Confession –  
Chapter XX – Of Holy Baptism [We Are Baptized With Water] 5.188**

And therefore we are baptized, that is, washed or sprinkled with visible water. For the water washes dirt away, and cools and refreshes hot and tired bodies. And the grace of God performs these things for souls, and does so invisibly or spiritually.

# Up To Date with Committees & Groups



The Mother's Day Plant Sale was a huge success. PW thanks everyone for their support. We realized a profit of \$155.

The PW Garage sale time is upon us. It is Saturday, June 6, from 8 am to 2 pm. Items (in good condition) are still being accepted but please no clothing or shoes. Also, we will be renting table space at \$5 per table to Grace members. Contact Tammy if you are interested in a space or if you can help on Friday or Saturday.

PW Monthly Gatherings!

Come join our regular get togethers!

**SARAH CIRCLE** - We are taking a break during the summer months of June through August. See you again in September!

Next date: September 10

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Come have lunch at Glenbrook Mall Food Court on the last Thursday of the month at 11:30 am - All are welcome!

Next dates: June 25th & July 30

**CANCER PAD SEWING** - Come join the women in putting together cancer pads for Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana. A simple stitch is all that is needed. Anyone can come help with this great mission.  
—Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00am.

Next dates: June 17th & July 15th

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



While we are greatly appreciative for the contributions and generosity of everyone in this church, we have noticed that our giving has been below our anticipated monthly average. If you are able, please review your giving and pledged amount and send it to the church. Also, we would be willing to receive any supplemental or additional donations. If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or constraints, please let us know too, maybe we can help!

## Grace Hosting COM

Grace is hosting The Whitewater Valley Presbytery, Committee on Ministry (COM) at Grace on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Bill Werling is a current member of COM. Congregational Life is providing the lunch and homemade desserts for the event.



Next Meetings:

- June—no meeting
- July—July 26, 2015



- Deacons are not meeting in June or July



Pat Morrison along with John and Nancy Current attended the Campus Ministry Dinner at IPFW. A dinner was catered by Ziano's. A film was shown regarding their mission trip to Ireland. The graduating members of Campus Ministry each talked about what the ministry meant to them while at college. The outgoing and incoming student officers were also recognized.



3B is a movement (exercise) program designed for everyone 50+ years young. We meet at 10:30 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the upper room. Classes will continue through July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will take a summer break but everyone will get a list of exercises for the summer.



# Congratulations!

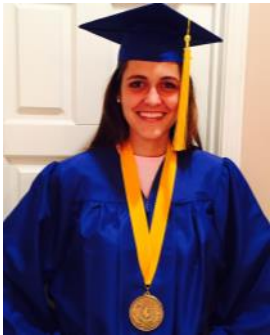


## Congratulations to Gabe Evans, Meghan Mahoney, and Katelyn Monnier on your confirmation on May 17<sup>th</sup>

In case you missed this event, here are a few excerpts from their responses to the question "What does your confirmation mean to you?" – Jesus died on the cross for us, Help with fellowship, Go on trips to help others in need, Learn more about my faith, Have more questions, and God is creating life and the universe every day, every second. These responses are just the beginning in their faith journey. Well done.

May 17<sup>th</sup> was also Youth Sunday. Thank you to Audra and Grace for providing the scripture readings and your beliefs on the readings. And thank you to all the youth for helping in the preparation of the liturgy. Great job!

## GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CELEBRATED THE GRADUATIONS OF GRACE GERMAN AND KYLE HOWARD ON SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015



Grace graduated from Homestead as an AP Scholar with distinction and had an 11.2 gpa (on an 11 point scale!). She is in the National Honor Society and was the only player in northeast Indiana to be named First Team Academic All-State in basketball. She was a four year starter on the basketball team and team captain for three years. The team's record while she played was 88 wins and only 15 losses. This year's team advanced to the state championship game and Grace was named First Team All-Conference three times, and All-State twice. Grace also was a volunteer with Special Olympics and was a student leader in Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In the fall, Grace will be attending Northwood University in Michigan, on a full-ride basketball scholarship. She will major in International Business and hopes to work for an international non-profit agency such as Habitat for Humanity, Global Village, or Compassion International.



*"Thank you to everyone at Grace for helping me celebrate my high school graduation with a reception and gift. Thank you also for supporting me so kindly for the past 18 years. Although I am excited about heading off to college in the fall, I will miss seeing everyone each Sunday. I'll be back on breaks for sure though!"*

*Grace German*



On May 2, Kyle graduated from Bethel College with a Master of Ministries Degree. This follows attaining a Bachelor's Degree in Education from IPFW in 2013 with concentrations in Math and Language Arts for Middle School. While pursuing his master's degree Kyle worked as a substitute teacher for Fort Wayne Community Schools, and served as a volunteer basketball coach at Lakeside Middle School. Kyle has gained additional experience by completing internships with both the High School and Middle School ministries at Pathway Community Church. Through his internship and as a volunteer, Kyle has been a youth leader on numerous mission trips, retreats, and conferences. He has also gone on the Habitat for Humanity mission trip to El Salvador twice.

This summer Kyle will return to working at the Wellspring Interfaith Social Services Summer Youth Program where he previously has worked for 5 years. Kyle will be pursuing a career in youth ministry moving forward.

## NEW COMMUNION SET



In case you have not noticed, the worship committee has ordered a new communion set! Due to the pastor's penchant for clumsiness, the previous set was unfortunately chipped beyond repair. However, it did allow the opportunity to purchase a new set with two matching chalice's (the cup thingy's), a new plate, and a new pitcher. When we received the set in the mail we were quite impressed. The primary point of appreciation seems to stem from the fact that the new set looks rather rustic, and could even possibly be something similar to what Christ used with the Disciples during the actual Last Supper. We hope to enjoy and appreciate this nice set for many years to come!



Raelynn and Skylar Kirwan enjoy a lesson with teacher, Holly Bouthot, during our new Sunday School Toddler Class for ages 1 through 4.

All the Sunday school classes will resume again this fall on Sunday, September 13, 2015.

See you then!

## EASTER EGG HUNT AT GRACE SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2015



The annual Grace Presbyterian Church Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 19, 2014. Approximately 65 children and their families attended! Activities included an egg hunt, games, songs, crafts, story time, and snacks. Over 1,000 eggs were stuffed with candy by our wonderful members. Many volunteers came together to make this event special for the children. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped with the hunt!!



# MEMBER UPDATES



## Baptism:

- ◆ Abel Henry Ankney  
Baptized 4/26/15  
Parents: Dan & Jess Ankney

## Confirmed Members 5/17/15: (see page 4)

- ◆ Gabe Evans
- ◆ Meghan Mahoney
- ◆ Katelyn Monnier

## Graduates:

- ◆ Grace German—Class of 2015 Homestead High School (see page 4)
- ◆ Kyle Howard—Master's Degree, Bethel College (see page 4)

## Added to our home-centered list:

- ◆ Bob Guingrich
- ◆ Carol Macy
- ◆ Helen Ricker
- ◆ Barbara Springer

## In Memory:

- ◆ Harry Stucky—died 4/28/15
- ◆ Marilyn Young—died 5/7/15



## 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 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  
Don - Georgetown Place  
1717 Maplecrest Rd., Apt. 338  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815  
Ruth - St. Anne's Nursing Home  
1900 Randallia Drive, Apt. 311-B  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

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

Bob Guingrich #483-6929  
818 Lincoln Court  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

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

Rev. Loran Lewis #447-7230  
Lutheran Life Villages  
6723 S. Anthony Blvd., Apt. E131  
Fort Wayne, IN 46816

Carol Macy  
Golden Years Homestead  
8300 Maysville Road  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

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

Arnie & Mary Patten  
1655 Hinton Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Evelyn Pelz #627-6817  
The Cedars  
14409 Sunrise Ct., Rm. 221  
Leo, IN 46765

Helen Ricker  
Harbour Assisted Living  
Send mail to:  
c/o Janice Weber  
612 Marston Ct.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

George Ripple  
101 Surrey Lane  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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

Barbara Springer  
1936 Senior Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

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

## APRIL / MAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE



April 2	42	May 3	75
April 5	95	May 10	77
April 12	63	May 17	no count taken
April 19	66	May 24	no count taken
April 26	86	May 31	71



June 13, 1998	Dennis & Sharon Allen
June 17, 1989	Bob & Ann Bausser
June 19, 1976	Dave & Carol Courtney
June 27, 1981	Al & Sue Creager
July 12, 2003	Brian & Carrie Geist
July 29, 2006	Nick & Angie Barchak



June 06	Chris Cattin	July 08	Bob Gilbert
June 06	Kara Polk	July 08	Brittney Bellis
June 06	Renee Lyons	July 08	Jennifer Mahoney
June 21	Samuel Barchak	July 10	Bonnie Geist
June 27	Tyler Bowers	July 11	Laura Fuller
June 28	Bob Guingrich	July 13	Katelyn Monnier
June 28	Stacey Monnier	July 17	Teri Seitz
June 29	Caleb Ankney	July 19	Dave Courtney
July 01	Evelyn Brunnegraff	July 22	Cindy Bowers
July 04	Mary Scribner	July 23	Todd Fahrenbach
July 04	Tina Weaver	July 24	Delaney Seitz
July 06	Dennis Allen	July 27	Glen Clifton
July 06	George Ripple	July 29	Dan Ankney
July 08	Albert Bragalone	July 29	Kelly Bellis
		July 31	Chris Werling





Thank you Grace congregation for your donations of food, personal items, and cleaning supplies for Wellspring. Fifteen (15) bags were recently taken to them. Wellspring is truly appreciative of what we do for them.

*Tammy Menkes*

Thank you to all of the Sunday school leaders and teachers for your dedication and faithfulness in leading and teaching others this past year! I am very grateful for your continued ministry in the walls of this church and know first-hand the impact you are making on the lives of others, thank you!

*Pastor Chris*



### "The Good Life and A Life of Service"

Grace Presbyterian was the site of a luncheon workshop May 12th sponsored by Center for Congregations.

The workshop was led by Reb Rebele, a guest lecturer in the Master of Applied Positive Psychology program at the University of Pennsylvania. He offered a blend of instructional presentation, personal reflection and group activities and discussion to inform and equip congregational leaders to support congregants' pursuit of a deeper life fulfillment as they serve their congregation and community.

Pursuit of "the good life," improving one's own well-being, can sometimes seem to be at odds with a deep call to a life of service. This is especially true when service is understood as improving the lives of others at potentially significant personal cost. Some researchers have started to look at the intersection between the two to help us figure out how we can give as much as possible to others while still taking good care of ourselves.

For many people, congregations are the central organization they can turn to for guidance on both how to take care of themselves and how to offer help to others. Congregational life can offer unique opportunities for cultivating some of the central elements of the good life, such as meaning, purpose and community. It also offers built-in opportunities for service, whether through volunteer opportunities, support groups or charity. And though congregations are rich in theological, philosophical and personal sources of wisdom about the good life and the life of service, empirical research from the social sciences offers complementary insights and ideas for how to connect with and support the pursuits of their congregants.

Attending from Grace were Rev. Chris Kirwan and Pat Morrison. Tammy Menkes and Nancy Current volunteered to set up and tear down tables, drinks, and assist with the catered lunch for the 25 people that attended from many different churches in the area.



### WAYS TO HELP WELLSPRING!

Wellspring Shoppe is in need of larger sized clothes for men and women. Clothes can be brought to church and placed in Wellspring cart. Linens and blankets are also needed.

Food Bank: One or two people are needed to help get canned foods from First Presbyterian to Wellspring on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. This will involve lifting and carrying of cases of food.

Other Volunteer Opportunities: Driver for Parent Club or Older Adult Program, help with Summer Camp, and "on-call" volunteer for Food Bank.

Please see Tammy Menkes if you are interested.  
483-4856  
tamjmenkes63@gmail.com



"Now turn to hymn 206. Sing the first verse. Mumble the third. Hum the fifth."

Our dedicated Grace choir members will be taking a summer break and return in the Fall!



Grace Presbyterian Church  
1811 Fairhill Road  
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## Back to SCHOOL With Grace



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015**

**2-4 PM**

It's that time again! With school letting out for summer, Grace will now begin working towards the Back-To-School ministry we offer in August. This year, the date has been set for August 2<sup>nd</sup>, to take place between 2 and 4 p.m.

As always, we will need volunteers to help run it, so please let us know if you are able and willing to help with any aspect of it! And we could use a donation of supplies, including pencils, paper, and other generic classroom materials.

This year, we are also planning on sitting down with the families to get to know them a little better instead of just simply handing out the backpacks and having games. If anything, set your calendars for August 2<sup>nd</sup> to participate, we hope to see you there!

