

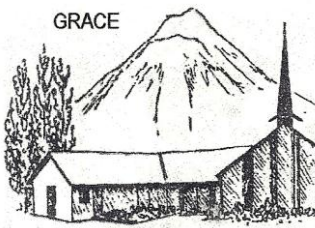
Grace Notes

GRACE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MCCLOUD COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

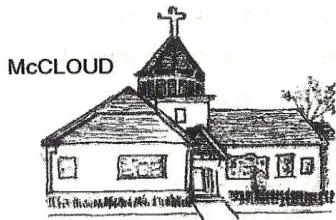


JULY 2016

As most of you know, I steer clear of politics from the pulpit. There are many reasons for this but the most important reason is that I do not believe the pulpit should be profaned by discussing the transitory fancies of pundits and policy makers. Rather it should be for the sole purpose of proclaiming the innumerable perfections of God, His Gospel, and His will in all creation. That is not to say that politics or the political system is unimportant. But it is exponentially less important than the eternal Truth of the Gospel, and the importance to love our families, our neighbors, and even our enemies. The Bible makes it clear that Christians are to be respectful, obedient, and helpful citizens in whatever country they find themselves.



The Bible also makes it clear however, that our identity is not defined by our country of origin or the nation in which we reside. Our identity is defined by our position as image bearers of God as well as our allegiance to Jesus alone and His commands. You see, who sits in the oval office is not nearly as important as who sits on the throne of Heaven and your heart.



So the question is often asked, "How should a Christian think about politics, voting, and citizenship?" My answer is simple, although it may not be easy to hear. A Christian ought to view those with whom they disagree as fellow image bearers of God who are valuable and in need of love regardless of their opinions regarding issues such as the second amendment, gay marriage, or abortion. Again, I am not saying that these issues are not important, they are. But in no way does our disagreement with someone keep us from loving them.

I will be extremely honest with you, I am not a Republican. Nor am I a Democrat. There are aspects of both platforms that I applaud. And there are aspects of both platforms that I abhor, and I believe that God abhors as well. Infanticide, gay marriage, irresponsible financial systems, and warmongering just to name a few. And because the two candidates that represent red and blue (Trump and Clinton) are reprehensible to my moral and Biblical sensibilities, I cannot in good conscience cast my vote for either. But that does not and cannot stop me from loving and serving those who are eagerly awaiting their opportunity to check a box for one or the other. I don't intend this to spark debate or disagreement, my hope is that it will spark thought and reflection among us as to what God would have us do in relation to our cultural and political climate. I believe that Scripture is clear regarding this.

As I mentioned earlier, I believe that Christians are to be respectful, obedient, and helpful citizens in whatever country they find themselves. That means if you live in America, be a good citizen. If you live in China, be a good citizen. If you live in India, be a good citizen. And if you live in Iran, be a good citizen. But no matter what kingdom a Christian finds themselves in, they are called, first and foremost, to be a good citizen of God's kingdom.

(continued on page 4)

July Sermon Series:
 Ephesians: *To the Praise of His Glory*

Happy Birthday

July 5 - Marylin Harrington

July 24 - Gerry Watson

Happy Anniversary

July 9 - Jim and Sharon Ray

July 14 - Nick and Rachael Welch

July 26 - Bill and Nancy Hoy

July 28 - Meri and Charley Pace

Grace Ladies Birthday Bunch

We'll be lunching together to celebrate **Marylin Harrington's** July birthday.

11:30 a.m., Thursday July 7
 at Ellie's (Main Street, Weed).
 All ladies are welcome!

June Session Minutes

There will be a joint Session meeting with McCloud Church on Friday, July 22, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the EV Free Church in Mt. Shasta. Lunch is provided.

Joel DeBotoli, missionary to Nepal, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, June 26.

Elder Gerry reported in depth on the progress of the rebuilding of our church. There is progress!

A special meeting to review, edit and revise, as necessary, Grace Church bylaws was on Monday, June 20 at 9:00 a.m.

Sign-ups are open for the Carnevale booth.

A time for a Bible Study program was discussed.

Pastor Nick and family will take vacation time this year. Starting July 26 p.m. for one week will be Part 1.

Clerk of Session,
 Nancy Wallace

BIBLE STUDY

It's not too early to mark your FALL calendar. September 13, 7:00 p.m. begins our Tuesday evening study, meeting in member's homes. Sunday morning study begins September 11, following worship and fellowship.

COMMUNION

ELEMENTS:

JULY: Joyce Christ

AUGUST: Sharon Ray

You do well to wish to learn our arts and ways of life, and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are.
 GEORGE WASHINGTON

	Lay Reader	Greeters and Ushers
3	Mike Krause	Don VonTungeln
10	Marge McDowell	Marge and Neil McDowell
17	June Watson	Joyce and John Christ
24	Neil McDowell	Sharon and Jim Ray
31	Jim Ray	Janet Mauck

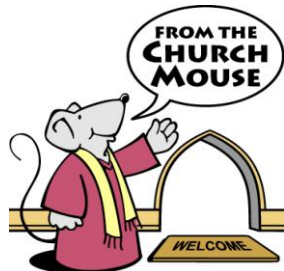
Repeat: Calling YOU to help at the Carnevale
Friday and Saturday, July 22^{ed}-23rd.



Grace Presbyterian will man a booth at the Carnevale. We are a missional church and this is an opportunity to share what God is doing in our congregation. We have Christian literature to give each family, and an activity and 'grab bag' for the children.

We especially need your help on Friday, because Session members have an all-day joint meeting with McCloud that day. Please sign up for one or more two-hour shifts, from 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Carnevale is at Bel Air Park off College Ave.

If we all pitch in, we can reach hundreds of people in our community. Please sign up on the sheet provided or call Betty, 938-2019.



Have you been by your old church site in recent days? I'm there almost every day and I can tell you that lots has happened! The outer walls are up, the individual rooms have been framed and ready for putting up the interior walls. The beams are in and they have started putting rafters up for the roof. Still a lot to be done but they are making progress each day.

Soon I will be able to stay there all the time, as I will have a roof over my head and plenty of room to roam about and invite my mousey friends.

I do enjoy visiting the site where you now gather on Sundays. The missionary last Sunday was excellent. If I needed some wood I would call on him to chop some for me. I know that there is so much for him to do in Nepal; a real poor country.

I enjoy the crumbs that are dropped on the floor on Sundays. I really enjoy it when there are several kids. They know how to feed me better and drop larger pieces of food. My real concern is that a nice lady sweeps them up before I can get to them. What a waste!

I plan to visit your booth at the Carnevale on July 22nd – 23rd. There should be plenty of food crumbs on the ground for me at Bel Air Park. Hope to see all of you there!

I'm taking a summer vacation and hope all of you have an enjoyable summer and return rejuvenated to do the work of your church.

Squeak and Peace,
THE OLD MOUSE

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(Continued from p. 1)

1 Peter 2:17 tells us how to do this when it says, "Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor." Working backwards through this text it is easy to see what we ought to do:

- #1-Show proper respect to the governing authorities.
- #2-Show proper fear and reverence toward God.
- #3-Have sincere love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- #4-And treat everyone you meet (and even those you see on TV or have merely read about) with Godly charity and respect, whether you agree with them or not.

So this election cycle, don't see winning the argument or the office as the goal, but rather make the goal, loving your neighbor, your enemy, and even those on the other side of the political aisle from you.

Peace and Rest, Pastor Nick

P.S. My thoughts in this article may cause some disagreement, frustration, or simply bring up some questions. If that is the case, or if you just want some clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me anytime.