

GRACE NOTES

September Birthdays:

3rd – Mike Shannon

6th – Jamie Fiorini

23rd – Nancy Wallace

24th – Yvonne Fiorini

28th – Rachael Welch



© wondercliparts.com

Ladies' Birthday Luncheon for September:

Place: Don Tito's

Date: Wednesday, September 26th

Time: 12:45 (following Bible Study)

Please plan to attend even though you may not be in the Bible Study.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Nancy Wallace, for vacationing Betty Clough

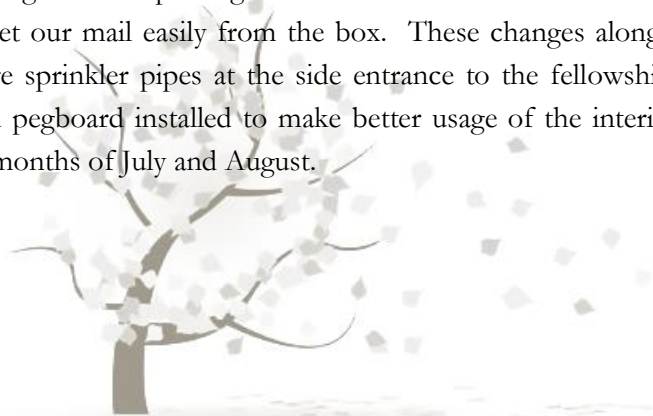
Building Committee Report - September 2018

Many of the final touches to our landscaping have been completed this summer. We thank all of those who have been involved in getting these changes done. If you have not taken a look at the church library you will see that many books are starting to fill the shelves through donations and a collection of new Christian reference books and other Christian reading materials which session purchased to replace those lost in the fire.

As you enter the parking lot at church, have you noticed our new church sign, the two stone benches and the retaining wall at the north corner edge of the parking lot? Also the area around the mailbox has been landscaped and provides a path to get our mail easily from the box. These changes along with installation of anti-bird spikes on the lights and fire sprinkler pipes at the side entrance to the fellowship hall. The storage building has now metal shelving and pegboard installed to make better usage of the interior area. All of these changes have taken place during the months of July and August.

Respectfully submitted,

John Christ, Committee Chair



	LAY READER	GREETERS & USHERS
2	Marilyn Harrington	Charlie & Nancy Buck
9	Mike Krause	Don VonTungeln
16	John Pitzer	Neil & Marge McDowell
23	John Christ	Rita Heikura & June Watson
30	Sharon Grace	Bob & Sharon Grace

COMMUNION – SEPTEMBER: JAN MAUCK OCTOBER: BETTY CLOUGH

Brothers and Sisters,

Over the past few months I have written to you regarding evangelism and how God has called each one of His people to participate in sharing the Gospel message with the lost. That includes our neighbors, our friends, our family, and even strangers. There is so much that could be said about this topic but instead I thought I would share some of the words of the Westminster Assembly. This is the work of our faithful forefathers in Gospel ministry and I hope you will be encouraged by reading, reflecting, and rejoicing over these truths. And please take time to look up the Scripture references.

**You will notice some of my reflections in parenthesis following each point.*

Westminster Confession of Faith, chapter 14

1. The gift of faith makes it possible for the souls of the elect to be saved by believing in Jesus Christ. This gift is the work of the Spirit of Christ in the hearts of the elect (1) and is ordinarily accomplished by the ministry of the word. (2) It is also increased and strengthened by the word, by prayer, and by the administration of the sacraments. (3)

- 1. Heb 10.39, 2 Cor 4.13, Eph 1.17-20, 2.8, 1 Cor 12.3, Heb 12.2
- 2. Rom 10.14,17, Mt 28.19-20, 1 Cor 1.21
- 3. 1 Pt 2.2, Acts 20.32, Rom 4.11, Lk 17.5, Rom 1.16-17, Mt 28.19, 1 Cor 11.23-29, 2 Cor 12.8-10, Lk 22.19, Jn 6.54-56, Lk 22.32

(It is important to notice here that the work of salvation is God the Holy Spirit's work. Because of this we can have total confidence when sharing the Gospel with someone, knowing that the Holy Spirit is capable and powerful to change even the hardest heart. It is also important to see that true saving faith is a product not of our methods or schemes but of the power of God's word and is nourished and strengthened by the covenant means of grace.)

2. By this faith a Christian believes whatever is revealed in the word to be the true, authentic, authoritative statement of God himself. (4) By this faith the believer also acts according to what particular passages in the word say. By faith the believer humbly submits to and obeys God's various commands. (5) He trembles at God's awesome threats, (6) and eagerly embraces his promises about this life and the life to come. (7) But the chief actions of saving faith are accepting, receiving, and resting on Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, in the power of the covenant of grace. (8)

- 4. Jn 4.42, 1 Thes 2.13, 1 Jn 5.10, Acts 24.14
- 5. Rom 16.26, Mt 22.37-40
- 6. Is 66.2
- 7. Heb 11.13, 1 Tm 4.8
- 8. Jn 1.12, Acts 16.31, Gal 2.20, Acts 15.11

(This point reminds us that authentic faith is evident by believing in what the word of God teaches. This is so important for us to grasp because too often people can make equivocations about the Bible on the false idea that much of what we read is simply the thoughts of mortals like Moses, David, Paul, or Peter and still consider themselves Christians. But the reality is that the Bible is God's word and someone who is truly saved not only demonstrates a respect for the Bible and desire to obey its message but an attitude of reverence for and submission to the author of the Bible... God Himself. This is made clear by the statement that a true believer "humbly submits to and obeys God's various commands", even when such commands go against the grain of our culture, our upbringing, our preferences, our opinions, or our desires.)

3. This faith has different degrees of strength and weakness. (9) It may be attacked and weakened often and in many ways, but it gets the victory. (10) In many believers it matures and becomes completely assured through Christ, (11) who both creates and perfects our faith. (12) ...continued on page 3

...continued from page 2

- 9. Heb 5.13-14, Rom 4.19-20, Mt 6.30, 8.10
- 10. Lk 22.31-32, Eph 6.16, 1 Jn 5.4-5, 1 Cor 10.13
- 11. Heb 6.11-12, 10.22, Col 2.2, 2 Tm 1.12
- 12. Heb 12.2

(Authentic faith does not equal perfect faith. There are varying degrees of strength and maturity among those who are truly saved. But regardless of the relative strength or weakness of each one's faith, true faith will be proven genuine over the course of our walk with Christ. The key is found not in looking to ourselves or to our works for assurance, but to Christ, His work, and His word. It is in Him and the truthfulness of His word that we are to find our confidence. From Genesis to Revelation we clearly see that it is all about Jesus and it is all from Jesus, displayed in astonishing consistency and beauty. He is the author and perfecter of our faith and as such it is in Him that we must always find our security.)

Peace and Rest, Pastor Nick

Christian Education

Tuesday Night/Afternoon Bible Study: We're still working on this home group. We mostly meet in homes either late afternoon or early evening with dessert. We'll probably be changing to another day this fall. See McDowell's, Watson's, Jan or Betty if interested in joining us, and bring a friend! Gerry and Neil usually lead this Bible Study.

Ladies' Bible Study: Part II of *The Patriarchs*, will begin September 5 facilitated by our own inspiring Rachael Welch. We meet Wednesday mornings 10-12:00 at church. Rachael will be showing a video review of Part I on Wednesday, August 29, which will help jog our memory, but especially good for new members to see. Open to all ladies! Newcomers will need a book, \$18.00; see Rachael or email Betty (cloughbet@cot.net).

Children's Sunday School: Thanks to Neil McDowell and Sharon Grace for subbing the three Sundays that I was out of town.

Elder Betty Clough,
Chairperson
938-2019

Parent's Night Out: Grace Church was hoping to begin a new outreach ministry program this fall, Parent's Night Out. However, we couldn't get enough volunteers so we'll put it on hold until another time. We'll keep you posted. See Rita, Sharon or Betty if you'd like more information. Dads and grandpas are needed, too!