It’s September, the month of great hope – hope for cooler weather, that is.

The first official day of fall is September 22 (for those of us in the northern hemisphere while it’s the first day of spring in the southern half of the world). In many polls, fall (or autumn) is the favorite season of the year. The oppressive heat and humidity of summer starts to fade and we have a brief respite of cooler temperatures and lovely fall colors before we’re reminded of why we also dislike winter.

It’s also a wonderful time for us to reflect on the state of the world before we get into the holiday season. We being our church educational year in September with our “Season of Peace.” As Presbyterians, we have claimed this purpose: Peacemaking – The Believer’s Calling.” Then in October and November, we will again observe our “Season of Thanks Giving.” Whether you’re a church member, one of our online visitors, or anyone who would like to share in our worship or Christian Education, these next couple of months will be a great time to reflect on your faith and any questions you’d like to explore. Reflecting on “peace” and “being thankful” is always a good thing to do on a regular basis, but we think you’ll find that it gives special meaning as we reflect on God’s love for us during the holidays.

Praying the cooler weather comes sooner rather than later!

Peace be with you all,

— Mitch and Sue Trigger
Financial Update

First the good news: From the beginning of the year to July 31, 2021 the GCPC has recorded $559,624 in revenue (including a $89,200 forgiven PPP loan) and $387,507 in expenses for a surplus of $172,117.

Now the not so good news: in July the receipts were $28,305 and the expenses were $55,194 for a deficit of $26,889 for the month. As is our pattern in previous years, several people prepay their pledges early in the year, receipts are slow during the summer months and then pick back up during the last few months of the year. Expenses are relatively level throughout the year. The church typically runs a deficit during the summer months. As long as the year to date surplus seems to be sufficient to fund the summer deficits and members give at least pledged amounts, the church will continue to be financially sound.

There are several ways to make monetary contributions to GCPC. About 30% of contributions come through on-line contributions. (Instructions for online or text giving can be found on GCPC.org website, just click “on-line” giving on the menu.) Attendees at the in-person church service can also drop their contributions in the box in the back of the church. Everyone can mail a check to the church. Some members set up automatic drafts at their bank. Call the church and ask for Tara Hyder for instructions on contributing stock or bonds to GCPC.

SMASH Sunday!

SMASH Sunday!

September 19, 4-6pm

I See Jesus in You!

Have you wondered what it means to see Jesus in someone else? Our K-5th/6th grade kids are going to answer this question through awesome and fun activities. Join us on September 19 from 4-6pm in Heartland Hall.

Please RSVP to help us safely prepare for supplies. RSVP to Christy Soule at christysoule@yahoo.com. Please let her know how many children will attend.

CROP Hunger Walk

Saturday October 9 at 10am

The graphic above came from Church World Service, the ecumenical organization that raises funds through CROP Hunger Walks to support its anti-hunger work. Grace Covenant is a long-term supporter of the Kansas City Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk. This year’s walk is being held at Central United Methodist Church Saturday October 9 at 10am. (Note the move to Saturday morning rather than the traditional Sunday afternoon.)

Go to crophungerwalk.org to join the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Team as a walker or to make a donation to someone who is walking or to our team of walkers. Please contact Karen or Dave Pack if you have any questions.
Reggie Reynolds Golf Scramble Recap

On August 15, Grace Covenant members and friends participated in the 16th Annual Reggie Reynolds Golf Scramble. A total of 30 golfers participated, which is a 57% increase over last year.

The weather was perfect, and the scores were low.
- The Baker’s Group (Larry Baker, Jason and Laura Bontje, and Jonathan Baker) had the best round, coming in at 8 under par.
- The team of Mike & Chris Mattix with Carl and Walter Clark came in 2nd at 5 under par.
- There were 4 additional groups that all came in at 4 under par.

There were prizes awarded for:
- Closest to the pin on hole #2 – Laura Bontje
- Closest to the pin on hole #5 – Larry Baker
- Longest Drive on hole #8 – Jason Bontje
- Longest Putt on hole #9 – Jane Knoche

Special Guest – Al Hook – was able to join in on the fun! It was great to see him back!

A total of approximately $1,370 was raised to support the Reggie Reynolds Scholarship, including more than $300 from members of the congregation who did not golf. Their support is greatly appreciated!

Care and Connections

Are you looking for some easy jobs to do around church without much time commitment? Do we have a few jobs for you! Please contact Diane Schmit, diane.schmit@lumen.com, if you can help.

- We are looking for a few individuals who could send cards to members who may need a pick me up … singles living alone or are lonely, caregivers, and people who are ill. A list would be provided to you by Care and Connections and/or pastors.
- We are looking for a few volunteers who could be available to set up/take down (tables, chairs, etc.) for various events at the church. Events would be once a quarter and shouldn’t last more than an hour.

Upcoming events we need assistance:
GCPC Smoke Off:
- Saturday, October 23; set up and take down
Bingo Night:
- November, November 12; set up and take down

Mark Your Calendars - BINGO Night!
Friday, November 12 at 6:30pm

Mark your calendars! Care and Connections will hold an intergenerational BINGO NIGHT on Friday, November 12. Bring the whole family for this fun event, starting at 6:30pm. We are asking everyone to bring a heavy appetizer to share, as we kick off a night of fun and fellowship. More details coming later.

The Great GCPC SMOKE-OFF is returning per your requests

On Saturday, October 23, the GCPC parking lot will be abuzz with Bar-B-Que. The amazing GCPC grillers and Smokers will be preparing their specialties, and guests will be asked to bring items for the potluck! There will be no charge for the dinner at 5:30pm, but we hope that you will cast a vote with your dollars for your favorite grilled goodies. Proceeds will go to charity. More details coming …

WANTED: Grillers and Smokers for the GCPC Smoke-off.
If you are willing to share your smoking/grilling expertise on 10/23/21, please contact Tom Stroud at 913-515-0591 or Teresa Ilten at 913-515-1087 by Friday, October 1.

Thanks so very much from your Care and Connections Team!
Exciting New Things on Sunday Mornings!

**Toddlers 2’s and 3’s** - Room 23  
Our littles are introduced to beautiful Bible stories that show them God’s love and care and the wonderful work of Jesus.

**Pre-school 4’s and 5’s** – Room 25  
This class will discover the practices Jesus taught and lived using the new Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living curriculum. They will learn about the same practices adults are learning in their class.

**K-2nd and 3rd-5/6th grades**  
Grace Makers Learning Workshops - Rooms 10, 14, 15, and more  
Our elementary age kids will explore the same Bible stories as the pre-school class but in a workshop rotation model that explores the stories through art, cooking, drama, music, storytelling, and more.

**Conversation Café** - Heartland Hall

**Fellowship Time** – enjoy refreshments outside and pick up information about our Fall classes. You’ll find the refreshments under the portico.

Here’s what’s new for Adults:

If Christians are known for anything, it is how we welcome others. In this series of study, we will begin by exploring Christian hospitality. Hospitality was central to Jesus’ life and teachings as well as the history of ancient Israel. Participants will practice seeing Christ in every person and discover their own gifts of hospitality. The adult class will meet in Room 3.

There will also be a Conversation Café in Heartland Hall. This is an informal, spontaneous conversation around the coffee pot. A discussion guide will be on the counter.

**Belhar Confession and Anti-Racism**

A part of our Matthew 25 commitment is to learn about the way that behavior, institutions, and culture influence the harmful effects of racism. In 2016 the PCUSA added the Belhar Confession to our Book of Confessions. This confession was adopted by the Dutch Reformed Mission of South Africa in 1986 and addresses the sin of apartheid in South Africa. The Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar recommended that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) add Belhar as part of its Constitution because it believed the clarity of Belhar’s witness to unity, reconciliation, and justice might help the PC(USA) speak and act with similar clarity at a time when it faces division, racism, and injustice. Join Joel Ilten as he guides participants through a study of the confession and how we can become anti-racist. The class will meet in Room 4.

**An Option for 6th Grade Families**

In the KC metro, some school systems move 6th grade to middle school, some do not. That is why, at GCPC, moving up is optional. Our 3rd-5th/6th class gives families the option to keep their elementary school 6th grader with other elementary kids or middle school 6th graders can move up with other middle school youth. We are happy to accommodate families because the well-being of our children and youth is a priority.
Here is Music Team’s Updated plan to resume our music ensembles for the fall/Advent semester as of September. Changes may occur, as needed. (Updated from August’s Newsletter)

Remember: everyone must be masked while inside the church – including at all music rehearsals.

Please mark your calendars for dates ensembles resume & contact the listed director or Rebecca Prater for more information.

**VOCAL/CHORAL ENSEMBLES**

CHILDREN’S MUSIC - Began August 22nd
Sundays at 10:45am (at the beginning of Sunday school)
Joy! (4s-K) Emily Hussey, director – Room 25
Celebration! (1st-6th graders) – Room 15
Pam Kelly, director & Lara Schesser, assistant director

For safety, masks are required.

**YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS, & ADULTS**

Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00pm – Sanctuary
Praise Team (Youth-Adults)
Carrie DeVries, director – Sanctuary

For safety, participants need to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask.

Wednesday, September 1st – Sanctuary
Chancel Singers + Exaltation! Singers
(aka CHEX – 8th grade-Adults)
Rebecca Prater, director and Patrick O’Halloran, assistant director

This combined ensemble has had to make the most changes for safety’s sake. We had hoped Exaltation! Singers and Chancel Choir would resume as a one large ensemble this fall, but then along came the Delta Variant and for safety reasons, we needed to make some changes.

Here are the Changes:

Chancel Choir and Exaltation! will begin rehearsals on September 1st, but we will continue with the three smaller ensemble format as we did last year. For safety, participants will be fully vaccinated and masks are required.

We’ll continue with disinfecting, spacing, shorter rehearsal times, & ventilation. We will continue to pre-record anthems for worship, but would like to sing live a couple of times in the semester, if able.

We hope to resume full vocal ensembles in January of 2022.

**HANDBELL ENSEMBLES** – Room 1

For safety, masks are required

Wednesday, September 8th at 6:00pm
Charter Ringers (Adults)
Chris Krug & Celia Nicholas, co-directors

Sunday, September 12th – Time TBD
Exaltation! Ringers (8th-12th graders & Young Adults)
Trey Bures, director

Sunday, September 12th – Time TBD
Jubilation! Ringers (Adults), Kathy Bures, director

**INSTRUMENTALISTS**

Schedule TBA by Director – Sanctuary
GCPC Wind Ensemble/Orchestra (8th graders – Adults)
Pam Kelly, director

For safety, wind instrumentalists need to be fully vaccinated and use a mask or bell cover. For safety, masks are required for string players and percussionists.

Stay tuned,
Rebecca Prater, Director of Music Ministries

**THANK YOU NOTE**

An anonymous donation of the anthem “For Anyone Born” arr. Tom Trenney has been made to the Glory of God and in honor of Kirk & Donna Heer’s musical gifts. September 2021.
The Poster Palooza Event Continues

Roughly a year and a half ago, Youth Team sponsored an event called the Poster Palooza. It was designed not only to be a fundraiser for youth trips but also as an opportunity for members to connect with each other in unique ways. Many of the products offered have been delivered and events have taken place. Funds have been used to support our students attending the Montreat Youth Conference just last month! Unfortunately, COVID caused some events to be postponed. We encourage those who have offered and/or purchased a product or event that has been postponed to connect with each other and explore ways to safely fulfill the many different opportunities offered on the posters.

Christian Education for Youth

Sunday Morning Classes for youth are already taking place this fall and we are happy to be meeting in person as well as offering a Zoom option. We have separate classes for middle and high school students and are happy to have Katie Hearn and Donna Heer back as teachers along with Miles McDonald. The 6th–8th grade class uses a variety of fun activities to learn the message and value of New Testament concepts and stories. 9th–12th uses videos and activities, to explore practical applications of faith and how God works in and through each of us. Classes take place at 10:45am on Sundays in the youth wing with windows open, and occasionally outside.

Connect

We will continue with “Connect” Youth Group events this fall and are going back to a more consistent time (currently 6:30–8pm) on Sunday evenings. When it works to meet outside that will be our plan. Of course, everything depends on everything else, so if school schedules or the GCPC youth music schedule shifts, we may need to adjust. Also, since we have had a great time working together on service projects and have seen such a great need, we will continue to do that when possible.

Fall Presbytery Youth Retreat September 25

Mark your calendars to join us out at Heartland Camp September 25 for a Saturday getaway. This will be open to all 6th–12th grade students and friends are welcome. Our goal as a Presbytery is to have annual semester retreats (fall & spring) for youth. Our team initially planned for a full weekend event, including two overnight stays but determined that sleeping with a group in an enclosed space would not be in our student’s best interest. We are very excited about the opportunity, however, so have compressed the content into a single action-packed day. We look forward to this time to connect as a larger community to each other, to God, and to camp.

Triennium

Next summer we will attend Triennium with our Presbytery July 24–27. This is an incredible event, like Montreat but with even more people, and will have great leaders from around the country. This year it will be help in Indianapolis, IN. We are looking forward to sleeping in air-conditioning this year, which is a big step up! Registration will open soon, so save the date and be on the lookout for registration!

Labyrinth Room

We have a wonderful space in the youth area with soft carpet squares arranged to create a labyrinth. Some people consider this to be the most relaxing and intimate place to connect with God at GCPC. Our Confirmation Class has met there for many years. We are planning a Confirmation Class for next year but not this year, so the labyrinth room is currently a special occasion room. Any adults who would like to walk the labyrinth are welcome to enjoy this special space.
Thanks for Your Generosity!

Each month GCPC designates a charitable organization to receive the offering collected on the Sunday we serve communion, or participates in one of the Special Offerings organized by PCUSA. Even during these economically straitened times, we’re so grateful for the generosity of our members.

Below please see the totals we’ve sent to the Communion and Special Offering organizations and other partners so far in 2021:

- Harvester’s Food Bank – $375.00
- Rosehill School – $550.00
- IHN – $125.00
- Safehome – $125.00
- Shawnee Community Services – $125.00
- CrossLines – $25.00
- Catholic Charities – $285.00
- Heartland Presbytery (Pentecost) – $75.00
- Heartland Presbytery (One Great Hour of Sharing) – $25.00
- Rosehill – $100.00
- Sunflower House – $100.00
- Crosslines – $25.00
- A Gathering of Friends – $100.00

On August 28, a group gathered to make stockings for our Red Bag Santas who will fill them with donations this December. Each year GCPC members donate toys and clothing for children in the community to make their holidays happier.
CELEBRATING GOD’S ALL ENCOMPASSING LOVE!

CHURCH STAFF

Co Pastors
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
  Mitch Trigger, mitch.trigger@gcpc.org — ext. 18
  Sue Trigger, sue.trigger@gcpc.org — ext. 15

Director of Music Ministries
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
  Rebecca Prater, rebecca.prater@gcpc.org — ext. 13

Church Administrator
- Office hours: Monday-Friday
  Patrick Bell, patrick.bell@gcpc.org — ext. 10

Director of Youth Ministries

Technical Director of Worship
- Office hours: Monday-Thursday
  Miles McDonald, miles.mcdonald@gcpc.org — ext. 17

Finance Administrator
- Tara Hyder, Mon. 8-4; Tues./Wed. 8-12; Thurs./Fri. by Appt.

Organist
- Linda Dover

Contemporary Music Coordinator
- Carrie DeVries

Contemporary Music Drummer
- Daniel Cole

Child Care Coordinator
- Carolyn Chaffin

Wedding Coordinator
- Lara Schesser

Funeral Coordinator
- Mary Sue Thomas

ELDERS

Jim Byrd
Ric Cummings
Miles Dalton (youth)
Andrew Frye
Katie Hearn
Cheryl Johnson
Jane Knoche
Angela Krug
Mike Mattix
Terri Monrad
Diane Schmit
Kylie Sutherland (youth)
Susan Sutherland
Bill Turner

MINISTRY UNITS

Congregational Nurture Unit Moderators
- Connections and Care — Diane Schmit
- Worship and Music — Melanie Townsend, Katie Hearn

Education Ministry Unit Moderators
- Adult — Maggie Blankers
- Children — Erin Frye, Angela Krug
- Youth — Kaki Conti

Reach Out Ministry Unit Moderators
- Kairos — Rick Randolph
- Mission — Mikki Walker

Welcoming — Vacant

Supportive Ministry Unit Moderators
- Facility — Kevin Mason
- Generosity — David Sutherland
- Finance — Jim Byrd

SUPPORT STAFF

Deacon Moderator
- Anita Hadel

Operating Committee
- Susan Sutherland, Mike Mattix, Terri Monrad, Ric Cummings

Newsletter Editor/Marketing
- Kim Krueger

Prayer Chain
- Cheryl Johnson

Website Administrators
- Kim Krueger, Patrick Bell

Worship Schedule
9:30am In-Person & Online Worship
Visit gcpc.org/online for links

Upcoming Newsletter Article Deadlines
- October 2021 issue - Deadline, September 21
- November 2021 issue - Deadline, October 19

Follow us on Social Media!
- Facebook: facebook.com/GraceCovenantPresbyterian
- Twitter: @GraceCovPres
- Instagram: @gcpc_overlandpark