



Good News

For the Family of Grace

Volume 50 Issue 8

August 2011

With All My Heart...

The last few weeks have been filled with emotions for me. On June 3, Roxanne and I became grandparents for the first time when our younger daughter gave birth to a baby boy. Talk about instant love! I found a whole new compartment of my heart I didn't know existed.

Shortly after meeting my new grandson, my wife and I celebrated 35 years of marriage. I can't imagine any woman being a more perfect companion than Roxanne. She has tolerated me, laughed with me, and cried with me; but always loved me.

In early July, Linda Polson, my assistant in the church office, retired following 22 years of faithful service. God clearly led in the selection of Valerie Gibson as my new assistant, but it is still a bit disconcerting to say "good-bye" to somebody who knows all my quirky approaches. Join me in praying for Jim and Linda as they move to a new church and community in Florida. But also pray for Valerie as she assumes this important responsibility and adjusts to her new role!

A few days ago, our church passed an important

anniversary. On July 10, 1981, Pastor Ken Ashman entered the Lord's presence after serving as pastor for 35 years. As a young pastoral staff member, I watched as a brain tumor ended the life of the man who was the spiritual leader of our church for over a generation.

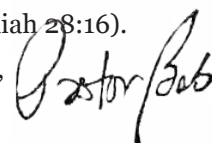
A few weeks after Pastor Ken died, the church asked me to become the senior pastor. That was 30 years ago! God has done amazing things in our church since that time... and I am deeply grateful!

As I've reflected on all of this, I am reminded of the words of an old hymn which says, "*Change and decay in all around I see, O Thou that changest not, abide with me.*"

I am so thankful that as change continues, God promises His consistent presence. The words of Jesus ring true every day: "*I am with you always...*" (Matthew 28:20).

I don't know what the future holds for you or me, but I am grateful that as life presents its inevitable changes, I can depend on the promise of the Lord who said, "*The one who trusts will never be dismayed*" (Isaiah 28:16).

With all my heart,



SonSurf Beach Bash VBS 2011 was Awesome!

We praise God for the many ways He blessed our SonSurf Beach Bash VBS including the following:

- First-time decisions for Christ made by 38 kids and 14 recommitments.
- High attendance of 576 kids and 264 workers.
- 681 kids and 290 workers attended at least one day.
- Unforgettable songs and skits by our worship team
- Great weather (no rain during VBS).
- Offering of \$12,667 for the week thanks to a matching gift.
- Donations by McConnells and Porrs from food and ice cream sales at the SonSurf Family Picnic of \$1,865.
- Total contributions for our Haiti missions project of \$14,532.
- Great response to the Sowing Hope Bus Ministry with 61 kids coming to VBS.
- Celebrating 25 years of VBS with Mr. Steve and Mr. Randy.



As we look back on VBS week, it's fun to reflect on ways the children as well as the adults were touched by the week. One of our teachers had this to say after VBS:

"I'm just so blessed to have had this opportunity. I went into it wanting to change the lives of these

children and I'm leaving having had my life significantly impacted as well. How awesome is our God! There are no words to explain what this week of VBS meant to me!"

Children and adults have been singing VBS songs for weeks and are sure to continue thanks to Mr. Randy's new CD! We saw God at work in so many ways and we praise Him for a great week at SonSurf Beach Bash VBS!

Special thanks to everyone who helped kids Get BIG Answers to BIG Questions as they met up with Jesus!

Backpack Sponsorship is as easy as 1... 2... 3...

1. Stop by display table
2. Purchase supplies
3. Deliver backpack

Visit the Sowing Hope display table or contact Jess at jartrip@woostergrace.org.

Sowing HOPE in the heart of Wooster

Renee Swope To Speak At Women's Day Away

"I loved having a day dedicated entirely for women. This is something I've never experienced and will never forget."

2010 WDA participant

Do you need a fun getaway? Call a friend and come to Women's Day Away on September 24. Not only will you be treated to featured speaker Renee Swope's authentic style and soul-stirring messages but you'll also have the chance to shop, enjoy Panera Bread fare, and spend a whole day with more than 550 women.

Swope has a unique way of knitting women's hearts together while inspiring them to no longer compare and compete but to encourage and complete one another. She is a



national speaker, author and co-host of Proverbs 31 Ministries' international radio program. Renee connects with women of all ages and stages of life. She loves to laugh, spend time with her family and have

fun with her girlfriends.

Every participant will choose two of the seven breakout sessions to attend. Topics range from travel planning, relationships and food to a special break out with Renee titled *The Power of a Purpose Driven Mom*.

Panera Bread will cater breakfast and lunch and five vendors will provide the opportunity to shop for clothing, accessories and decorating items, as well as candy and nuts.

For more information, check out www.woostergrace.org or watch for our registration tables in the church halls coming in early August. This special day of pampering and inspiration sells out early so make plans to attend now.

DIVORCE Care

**Begins August 28
4:00 - 6:00 PM**

Join us for this small group study designed to help you face the challenges of separation or divorce and move toward rebuilding your life. Cost of materials is \$15.00. Childcare available.

Complete the Communication Card or call Sharon at ext. 239 to attend this 13-week study.

GET ON THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL PEACE

Financial Peace University is a biblically-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before!

Dave Ramsey's
Financial Peace UNIVERSITY

**Begins August 28
4:00 - 6:00 PM**
Materials Cost: \$100/Kit
Childcare available

**Preview August 21
11:00 AM**

Call Sharon at 330.264.9459
x239 to register or
for information.

From the Family...

Christian Sympathy

Jeff Reed family in the death of his brother, Jim.

Leon Slabaugh family in the death of his mother, Erma.

Judy Ressler family in the death of Delbert Gasser.

DelAnn Miller family in the death of her brother, Steve Packard.

Carl Cruise, Kelly Cruise, and Gwen Lemmon families in the death of Alice Bishop.

Randy Kiser family in the death of his mother, Mabel.

Jerry Geiser family in the death of his brother, Wilbur.

Donna Good family in the death of her husband, Bob.

Congratulations

Katie & Aaron Holmes on the birth of Ellen Esther, 6/23.

Chelsey & Jeremy Fry on the birth of Brexton Ledger, 6/27.

Jacque Shows on the birth of Emmett Zachariah, 7/1.



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OUR MISSION

To develop all people into fully devoted followers of Christ.

Find us on the web www.woostergrace.org
August 2011 Issue

GRACE FAMILY PICNIC and BAPTISM
Sunday, August 14

Russ & Maralee Boreman
 4300 W Old Lincoln Way, Wooster

Schedule:

2:00 pm	Recreation Time
4:00 pm	Baptism-Worship
5:30 pm	Picnic

Bring:
 Lawn chairs, sunscreen, swimsuit, & towel

Complete:
 The Communication Card to sign up.

Pick up a Baptism packet at the Welcome Center and return it to Central Supply box #2 by July 31 to participate.

*From rows to circles...
 add **SHAPE** to your spiritual growth*

GROUPS at GRACE
DETAILS COMING SOON!

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