



From the Pastor....

Over the last two years six people connected to us have been diagnosed with brain tumors. In all of the years I have been in the ministry I do not remember such an onslaught of critical illness, apart from the very common occurrence of cancer, sometimes an accompanying part of the brain tumor diagnosis.

The news of a brain tumor is often preceded by complaints of headaches, diminished function, speech issues, moments of disassociation, seizures, etc. Such a change in behavior often propels the affected person to a doctor's visit... and then the frightening news.

In the six cases we have known, the outcomes appear very different, depending on the location and nature of the tumor. For example, my nephew, Philip, has responded well to the removal of his tumor, whereas our friend, Jan, succumbed to it as it was a fast-growing malignant type.

I have thought of what happens in our spiritual

lives when we allow disobedience to grow within our hearts. Soon enough, there are tell-tale signs in our behavior. We often experience pain and discomfort. The things we talk about and how we express them may change. We may withdraw from fellowship with other believers. We may even be "seized" by the world's temptations and as James suggests, *"dragged away and enticed"*. James 1:14.

The malignancy of sin is treatable. It is, however, not accomplished through manmade solutions, but only through divine surgery. As we see the danger signs, and come to the Great Physician, the prescription for healing- and sometimes His discipline- may seem painful, but in the end *"it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it"*, Hebrews 12:11.


Those we know and love who suffer with the consequences of a brain tumor are the objects of our prayer. As we see their lives sometimes transformed before our eyes-their normal behav-

iors changed-we grieve for them. We rejoice when medication and treatment take hold and some normalcy returns. Sometimes, sadly, their healing is the ultimate triumph-God takes them home and they are separated from the ravages and suffering of an earthly and corruptible body.

As we see those we love wrestling with sin, acquainted as we are with its virulent effects, we should be motivated to pray for them. We should direct them to the Great Physician for *"He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed"*, Isaiah 53:5.

As we grieve those who face the challenge of a brain tumor, and pray for their healing, we should also be challenged to pray for those whose lives are being impacted by the malignancy of sin. God's healing- His divine surgery of mercy and grace-are available to us all.

News & Notes



.The pastors were on a short retreat September 17-19. We are grateful for this time of rest for them and their spouses as well.

*Marlene Throssel (our church secretary) has been caring for hr mother who was recently diagnosed with a slow-growing brain tumor.

*We are enjoying the special music of our Ladies Quartet, “FourEver In Hymn”, featuring Donna Douglass, Elizabeth Wiebe, Eileen Sy and Lisa Spiro.

*Ryan Gillespie and Aimee Destigter were married on Saturday, September 19th. Congratulations to them as they begin their new life together.

*A love offering was taken on Sunday, September 20th to assist Marty and Maxine Hooper in their possible transition to the Jackson area. Thanks for all who contributed.

*Thanks to Mike Spiro for faithfully guiding our parking crew; we are giving him a break and Darren Benton is taking on the new role. If interested in helping, please contact the church office.

*Dan Simpson had the privilege of performing the wedding of his son, Josh, and his new daughter-in-law, Jen, on Sunday, September 13th.

*Thanks to Debbie Schnabel; for her work in helping us establish our Perishable Pantry ministry. Bill and Beth Molesworth are now coordinating this outreach at Grace.

*Good news regarding Lukas Finch—his white blood cell count began elevating September 12th—this is good news as he responds to a stem cell transplant surgery.


*It was good to welcome Mike and Shirley Pounds to our worship services on Sunday, September 20th.

*Five were baptized on Sunday, September 20th, and we rejoice in their testimony of faith and this step of obedience.

*Patti Arterbury returned form two weeks in Birmingham , Alabama working with Ed in helping to establish a thrift store there for Vapor Sports Ministry.

*Congratulations to Logan Carnell and his recent ordination with “None Shall Perish”. His mentors, Gene Cunningham and Jim Parlier, joined him for this meaningful event.

*Andrew May, and his wife, Rochelle, are the proud parents of Ryder Hezekiah May. The proud grandparents are our own, Dennis and Judy May.



Prime Timers / Senior Adult Fellowship

Growing Old Gracefully

By Pastor Ward Willoughby

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18).

Several years ago an article in Reader’s Digest stated that “Middle Age” begins at twenty-six , as that is when the body begins to deteriorate! If that be so, the Genesis of “Old-Age” may be nearer than we like to think. Of course, as Edward Tuck has said:

“Age is a quality of the mind:

If you have left your dreams behind,

If hope is cold;

If you no longer look ahead,

If your ambitions fires are dead—

Then you are old.

But if from life you take the best,

And if in life you keep the jest,

If love you hold;

No matter how the years go by,

No matter how the birthdays fly—

You are not old.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes said, “To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old.” James A. Garfield said, “If wrinkles must be written upon our brow, let them not be written upon our heart. The spirit should not grow old.”

The apostle exhorts the believer to “grow in grace”— that is, in graciousness of disposition. Grace means every Christ-like quality.

Karl Wilson Baker has penned the lines:

“Let me grow lovely growing old,

So many fine things to do;

Laces, ivory, or gold,

And silks need not be new.

There is healing in old trees,

Old streets a glamour hold—

Why may not I, as well as these

Grow lovely growing old?”

God’s grace is available at every age, curiosity, joy, outgoing concern need not die at the age of 80, 85, or 90. God’s grace is always sufficient!

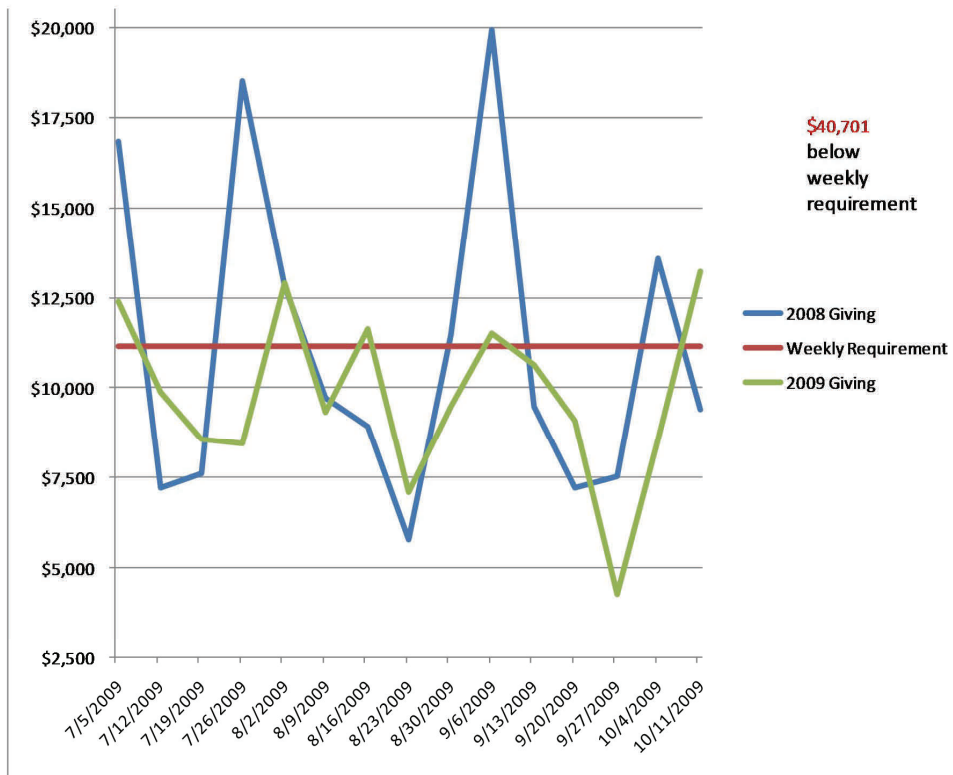


October Anniversaries

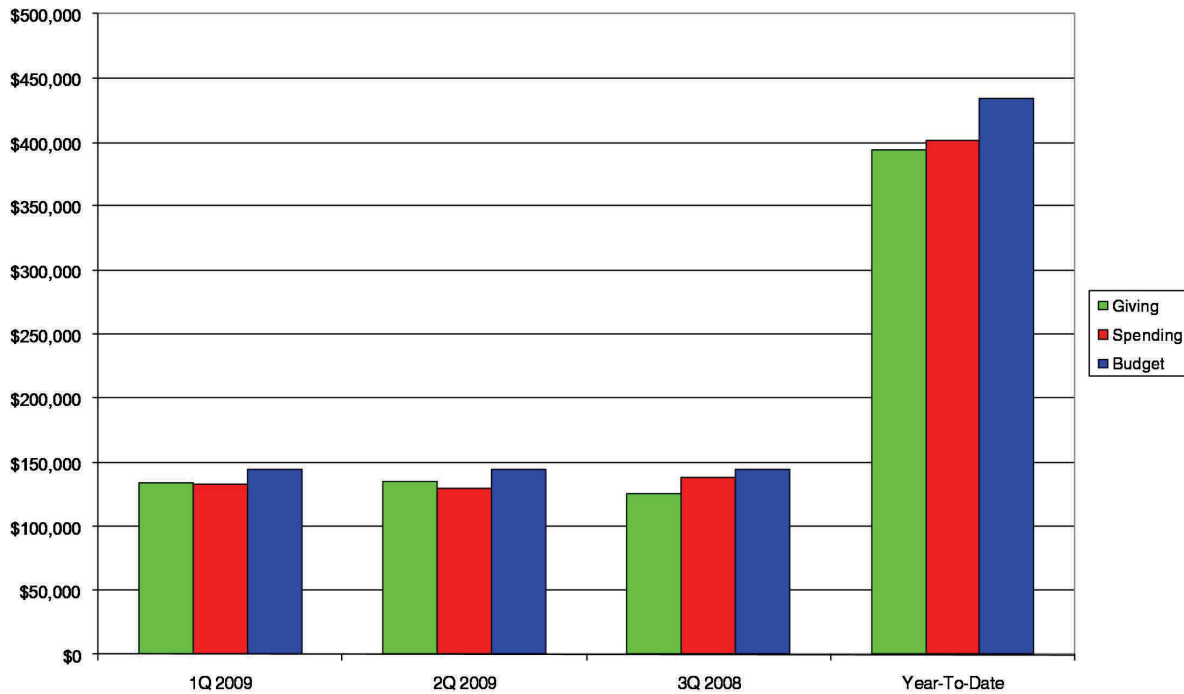
1. Brad & Beth Bernard
4. Ray & Carole Lindstrom
5. Bob & Cindy Swett
7. Terry & Marlene Throssel
9. Michael & Tara Hooper
12. Mike & Lisa Spiro
12. Milt & Sandy Bonzell
19. Carlos & Amelia Ayala
19. Ken & Pat Bush
21. Mark & Carole Myers
26. Pete & Ethel Huntley



2008 vs 2009 Weekly Giving



2009 Giving vs Spending vs Budget



Youth Ministries Updates

See You At The Pole

See You At The Pole (SYATP)

By Katelyn Sheehan

(Katelyn is an active part of Amador High School's Christian Club and a member of Grace's Core Group Leadership Team)

SYATP (See You At The Pole) is an event held each year at campus flagpoles across the United States. On Wednesday, September 23 at 7 in the morning, Christian Students and teachers (Junior High, High School, and College) will join together in prayer for their campuses' and other issues. This year we will have representative groups at Ione Junior High, Jackson Junior High, Argonaut, and Amador. We are really looking forward to joining together on that day.



Although this event is only held once a year, a few students from churches across the county have seen the need for prayer everyday. Every morning at Amador's flagpole, starting around 7:45 am, we and some random students that come by sometimes meet and pray. One of the girls, Rachael Miller, reads us a little devotion and then we join in prayer for the campus, faculty, and students, as well as things that need our attention via prayer. It is so important that we have groups like this so that, we as Christian youth, can join together and support each other in our walks with God. "As iron sharpens Iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17

Please be praying for our County's Christian youth and teachers as they strive to be light on their campuses; and pray for the SYATP event—that everyone would see the importance of prayer at school.



October Birthdays



1. Abby Henness

1. Gracie Pera

2. Tara Boulais

3. Virginia Fuentes

3. Marcia Beishline

3. Vic Beltz

4. Warren Wheat

5. Phyllis Rushing

5. Peter Throssel

6. Maddie Throssel

7. Russ Baker

7. Heather McDowall

8. Natasha Jennings

10. Gail Sweet

11. Shirley James

12. Dan Beishline

12. James Scivolette

13. Caleb Chadwick

14. Mary Lou Ingram

14. Keith Sweet

15. John Matta

16. Riley Tomczak

17. Tom Throssel

17. Vince Destigter

19. Laura Floyd

19. Diana Rutherford

20. Gavin Tillery

21. Bea Whaling

22. Bob Allen

23. Cindy Swett

23. Martha Johnson

27. Angela Pietrowicz

27. Joyce Guinn

27. Rudy Morgan

28. Anna Carrell

29. Josh Simpson

Women's Ministry News

Women's Retreat 2009

The Women's Ministry Board after much prayer and consideration decided to hold our retreat at Grace Fellowship Church. This allowed for the cost to be affordable to every lady and for those who have a hard time traveling the distance were able to join in the fun as well.

Friday night started us off with wonderful music from our ladies quartet, "FourEver In Hymn", featuring Lisa Spiro, Elizabeth Wiebe, Donna Douglass and Eileen Sy, and our talented worship team led by Liseanne Wick, Mary Wheat, Vicki Murphy and Makahla Hooper. We broke cheesecake together and then enjoyed the words of our speaker Leanna Christe who challenged us to stop worrying and trust in God. Amen! Some of you brave souls even spent the night in our makeshift barracks, lots of fun.

Saturday morning welcomed everyone back with a delicious array of breakfast goodies. Leanna brought us another creative challenge in session 2 and along with our worship team music we could sense God's Spirit moving among us. Nancy Voight led a very insightful workshop on prayer, and offered us many tools to transform our own prayer lives. Thank you, Nancy. We hope to be hearing more from you next year God willing.

Our afternoon passed quickly as ladies gathered together for a unique craft, spoons with beautiful beads woven on with copper wire, maybe we will see some of them at our craft store in December. We also enjoyed a delicious lunch and dinner catered by Thomi's. After dinner we were guided into the sanctuary, the worship team had moved to the back of the church and were quietly playing and singing. The lights were dim, only a few candles and our cross were lit. There were stones lining the

top of the stairs. We were to reflect on the weekend, and what we had learned, many ladies knelt on the stairs and prayed, it was a very special time. If we had a burden or a worry we were to walk up, take one of the stones, and lay it at the foot of the cross, and then partake in communion. God was with us. We all sang and gave praises to the Lord.

It was a privilege to be apart of the planning and there are a lot of people to thank. Martha Johnson for being our retreat director, you did an outstanding job. We were also very thankful that Maxine Hooper could be there Praise The Lord! Marcia Beshline, who did all the decorating, unbelievably creative. We thank everyone in the committee for their faithfulness and for having the spirit of unity. We want to say a special thanks to Mary Reynolds and her sister Regina for working so tirelessly and overseeing the food set-up and clean-up. Thank you all!

Mark Your Calenders!

November 6th -All church baby shower for Mayari Carter.

December 4th- Sisters

December 5th- Cookie Exchange at the church.

December 11th- Christmas Craft Store during the Church Christmas Banquet. The proceeds will go for ladies scholarships and to help with event costs.

Family Camp 2009 By Jason Chadwick

Family Camp was really fun and we did all kinds of fun stuff! My favorite thing was that I rode a dirt bike for the first time ever! We also rode quads, went on a real sailboat and a speed boat. Mr. Toraya pulled us on a tube behind the speedboat. We also went four-wheeling in Mr. Temple's jeep. Brennan and I went rock-jumping too! I enjoyed playing with Jacob, Wes, Lily, my brothers, my friend Caleb, Noah and little Morgan. We all got muddy and dirty and wet! The food was great too, lots of peaches! I'm looking forward to next year's Family Camp! I can't wait... except I have to.



Fifth grade students in a Christian school were asked to look at TV Ads and see if they could in some way communicate ideas about God. Here are some of there ideas.....

God is like **Bayer Aspirin**,
He works miracles

God is like **VO-5 Hair Spray**,
He holds through all kinds of weather!

God is like **Hallmark Cards**,
He cares enough to send his
very best.

God is like **Dial Soap**,
Aren't you glad you have him? Don't you wish
Everybody did?

God is like **Tide**,
He gets the stains out that
others leave behind!

God is like **Scotch Tape**,
You can't see him, but you know he's there.

God is like **Allstate**,
Your in good hands!

God is like **Coke**,
He's the real thing!

October 2009

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

Sisters

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

*Rest Home
Ministry Gold
Quartz 1:30*

*Elder/Deacon
Meeting 6:30*

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Choir 6:00

*HS Yosemite
Retreat*

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

Communion

*LTD 6:30
Choir 6:00
Interfaith
Banquet*

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

Choir 6:00

*Family Fall
Carnival*