

Leadership ... It's Not What It Used to Be

By Pastor Cindy Marino

Who are our leaders? In response to that question last fall, we published a flyer that included photos and descriptions of our Church Council members. These are the folks who make sure finances, personnel, and building needs are addressed at Grace. They are faithful, experienced, and committed to God and the people of Grace. They lead with integrity in a time when the church is regaining its footing in a world that needs footprints to follow.

But, there is more to leadership, just as there IS more to life. Who are the spiritual leaders at Grace? You might say, "Well, to state the obvious, that would be the pastors." True enough. We hope the pastors provide spiritual leadership.

But there are other spiritual leaders at Grace whose gifts can take Grace from being a faith-based organization to being a faith-filled community of God's grace. You have seen these other leaders witness their faith to you at each worship service during the Season of Lent, as they have led the congregation in prayer. The deep faith they've professed in these prayers has inspired me again and again. I am so grateful for their courage and willingness.

These leaders have something in common beyond their passion for God and for prayer. They share a call to spiritual leadership, nurtured through a process of self-discovery and time with God. These are persons who have attended the Walk to Emmaus Retreat offered through the Upper Room Ministry of the United Methodist Church. The retreat is designed to develop leaders in and for the local church.

Grace UMC has never limited leadership to folks with these experiences in their portfolio, nor would we do so, but time and time again, it is those with Emmaus experience who seem confident in their call and willing to serve in a way that draws others to Christ.

I highly recommend the Walk to Emmaus Retreat for anyone looking to rethink or to further their relationship

with God and others. The Emmaus Retreat offers a simple lineup of talks based on John Wesley's theology of God's grace. It's a very "United Methodist" thing to do, but is open to anyone.

If you are interested please contact Judy Cornett or talk with any of our 'pray-ers' in worship. You can always talk with me as well; although, with these deeply led lay spiritual leaders serving on our behalf, who needs a pastor?

Walk to Emmaus in Spring 2017

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. - Luke 24:15

The Walk to Emmaus is a 72-hour retreat experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation, formatted by the Upper Room. As God's grace and love are revealed to participants through other Christian believers, you have the opportunity to meet Jesus in a new way. During the Walk, there are opportunities to sing, laugh, reflect, worship, and participate in small groups.

The objective of Emmaus is to inspire and equip local church members for Christian action in their churches and communities, using their gifts and servant-leadership skills. If you are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ, and would like to know more about attending a Walk, prayerfully consider whether this is your time to register for a Walk to Emmaus.

The next Men's Walk will be April 20-23, and the Women's will be April 27-30. Contact Eric Jungnickel (ericjungnickel@yahoo.com), or (630-560-0004) for more information about the Men's Walk. Contact Ann Moore (630-248-3868) for more information about the Women's Walk. Information is also available at www.nil-emmaus.org and www.upperroom.org.

Holy Week 2017

April 9: Passion/Palm Sunday Worship at 8:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. with music led by the Chancel Choir and Children's Music Ministry. The 11 a.m. service with music led by the Grace Praise Team.

April 12: Holy Week Experiential Worship at 4:45 p.m. Join us for a children and family centered look at Holy Week and what it means for us today. We will experience The Last Supper together with Hand washing and Holy Communion. Music led by the Children's Music Ministry.

April 13: Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and Hand washing on this holy night, commemorating the Last Supper with music led by the Chancel Choir. (Childcare available)

April 14: Good Friday Worship at 7:30 p.m. "We Remember Calvary" a Contemporary Tenebrae service with music led by the New Life Singers. (Childcare available)

April 15: Saturday Prayer Vigil from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Chapel.

Easter 2017



April 15: Saturday Evening Worship at 5 p.m. with Holy Communion and music led by Vickie Wagner featuring the Grace Chamber Singers and Grace Brass Ensemble. (Childcare available)

April 16: Easter Sunday Worship:

Traditional Worship at 8:15 a.m. with music led by the New Life Singers, Grace Brass Ensemble and Organ. (Childcare available)

Blended style Worship at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with music led by the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, Grace Brass Ensemble and Organ. (Childcare available)

Master Plan Update

By John Bodine, Grace Project Team Chair

The surveys are in, the interviews are done, and our first project review with JNKA Architects was completed on March 15. The architects were impressed at the amount of input they received from members and groups within Grace and how well this input re-enforced our goals:

- Develop a welcoming spirit
- Enable programs for children and young families
- Leverage existing Grace assets

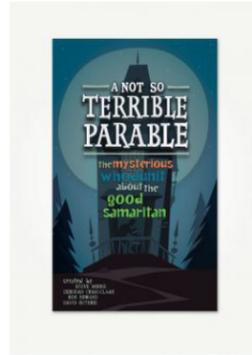
We were impressed with how well they captured the essence of where we are trying to go, as well as the details and nuances of work done at Grace every day. We are definitely on a good track.

Next steps will be to begin conceptual development of alternatives to achieve these goals. This will begin as a fuzzy picture that will gradually sharpen in focus, guided by our goals, our needs, and available funding. The Projects Team will now meet every three weeks to critically review work progress and steer evolving concepts until June, when a "Town Hall" will be planned as an open forum for review by all Grace Members. No construction activities have been committed to or planned at this point, though capital funds of about \$1 million are available to Church Council from the Glenna Holloway Estate Gift.

During this design period, we plan to keep Grace Members updated through monthly progress reports in Grace Notes, and weekly summary notes in Grace in Mission. At any time members are encouraged to touch base with Grace Projects Team Members with questions or concerns. This is an exciting venture with inspiring possibilities, but we are mindful of the importance of keeping our purpose before us and maintaining a two-way flow of information. Grace Projects Team members include:

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|----------------|---------------------------|
| Jeff Barbeau | Chamus Burnside-Savazzini |
| Larry Hartman | Mark Himel |
| Betsy Koepnick | Ron Laub |
| Becky Lindsay | Gail Lindsay |
| Rick Loufek | Cindy Marino |
| Steve Peters | John Ridder |
| Jack Staton | Ron Wills |

A Not So Terrible Parable



On Mother's Day weekend, the Children's Music Ministry will share a musical like none they've ever done before. Their musical, A Not So Terrible Parable, is a fun, over-the-top WHODUNIT mystery set in 1939 at the quaint Mountain Vista Inn in Simpleville. Alistair McAlister, host of Master's Peace Theater, welcomes all and introduces us to a mysterious cast of characters including: Guy Random (a real estate investor), Grace Mountain-Vista (the proprietor of the Inn), Ricki Blaine (the famous detective), Jenny Barrister (a lawyer), Brooks Binder (a door-to-door Bible salesman), Samantha Ayrton (the pizza delivery girl), and, of course, as everyone knows, no mystery can be told without a maid (Yvette), and a butler (Jeeves).

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"It was a dark and stormy night... a man lay injured by the side of the road. Two travelers passed him by. Mysteriously, he is delivered to the doorstep of the quaint Mountain Vista Inn, where the startled guests must use their wits to sleuth out every clue to get to the bottom of this mystifying whodunit."

All are invited to join us on Friday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day), at 11 a.m. for all the mystery... danger... surprise... and truth!!

Hero Central! Vacation Bible School 2017

Calling all Super Heroes to HERO CENTRAL July 17-21, 2017. Please save the date and tell a friend to save the date too! We are praying for a record year of sharing God's word in a fun and exciting way.



If you are a returning volunteer or a new volunteer, we NEED you. So please save the date! Online registration coming soon. Contact Chamus Burnside-Savazzini (chamus@peopleofgrace.org) for more information.

Stephen Ministry

By Danielle Keethler, Stephen Minister

As I contemplated retirement and the end of many years of working with young children, I knew that, in this next season of my life, I wanted to express my faith in a more meaningful way. Admittedly, I was a little intimidated by any ministry that involved someone over the age of six. I had received a phone call or two over the years encouraging me to consider Stephen Ministry. When I would read the occasional blurb in Grace Notes, I felt an undeniable nudge. I didn't know a lot of the details about the program and hadn't known anyone who ever participated in it.

I thought, who am I to offer advice to someone facing an incredibly difficult life transition? What would I say to a teenager whose life has derailed or a man who has lost his job? I was completely ill equipped to help people with their grief or a difficult diagnosis. So rather than stew about it, I looked to the Bible and read stories of others who also felt unprepared for the ministry to which God was calling them. Moses was a stutterer who wasn't even remotely prepared to be a leader of men. David didn't seem like the guy who should be called on to beat the giant Goliath. If they could be faithful to the incessant nudge from God, then the least I could do would be to join the Stephen Ministry class.

I immediately got my most urgent questions answered. First, I wouldn't be offering advice to anyone. Stephen Ministers offer a compassionate listening ear, not a solution. Also, I would never be asked to work with teenagers or men. Care receivers, the term used to refer to those who work with Stephen Ministers, are gender specific. Women work with women, men with men.

The fifty hours of training is designed to equip you with a deep understanding of a wide variety of life issues. The Stephen System provides a uniquely Christian perspective on life's challenges. The initial training is followed by monthly continued education and a confidential support group to offer encouragement.

So, nine years ago, I took the leap of faith. Like Moses, I asked God to send me. Since then, I have been privileged to come alongside a variety of women who have come to a difficult crossroad. I have seen firsthand what God can do when you respond to His call. If you might be feeling the same nudge that I felt, I would encourage you to join our next Stephen Ministry training, class beginning September 19. I suspect you will be glad you did! Contact the Church Office (630-355-1748) for more information.

Holy Smokes (May 7)

Tickle your taste buds! Holy Smokes, the youth summer mission fundraiser, is just around the corner.



Tickets are now available from any Side x Side or Hope @ Home participant. Tickets will also be on sale in the Activity Center on Sundays between the services beginning April 2, and the church office starting March 20.

Questions? Contact Gaye Lynn (gayelynn.loufek@peopleofgrace.org) or (630-355-1748, ext. 3234).



Grace United Methodist Women
present their

Annual Hamball Luncheon

~Featuring~
Hamballs
German Potato Salad
Assortment of Cold Salads
Variety of Pies
Rolls and Beverages



Friday, April 21, 2017
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Grace United Methodist Church
300 E. Gartner Road, Naperville, IL

\$12.00

Proceeds Donated to Missions

~For Tickets~

Church Office 630-355-1748
(table reservations can be made for 5 or more)

