



Grace United Methodist Church
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GRACE NOTES

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church

Building Up the Church
to the Glory of God
Ephesians 4:12

October 2008

Grace Concert Series Opens This Month! *The Music of Grace, The Grace of Music*

On October 18, 7:30 p.m. in the Grace Church sanctuary, the Grace Concert Series will open its inaugural year with the Advent Chamber Orchestra, in four-concert residence at Grace this opening season. One of Chicagoland's finest young ensembles, the ACO has been thrilling audiences across the Midwest with their talent, passion and collective instinct. Along with the ACO on October 18, guest cellist Stephen Balderston of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will play the music of Brahms, Telemann and Vivaldi. This is just the beginning of the wonderful music to come in this concert series, featuring world-class classical music, pops, inspirational, Gospel, bluegrass, and more, all from some of the best musicians these genres have to offer.

In addition to the guest artists that will perform at Grace throughout this inaugural year, our own Grace Church artists-in-residence (most of whom offer their considerable gifts freely to the ministry of Grace) will present six free Music in Worship concerts during Sunday morning worship and on holy days. By joining our own music with that of our fine guest professionals, we are able to offer our concertgoers a truly unique experience.

It is our greatest hope and prayer that, through this exciting new concert series, we can further inspire the love of fine music that has been a hallmark of Grace for decades, foster an even stronger connection between Grace Church and the greater community we serve, and glorify God through the magnificent blessing of music.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 7:30pm The Advent Chamber Orchestra, with acclaimed CSO Cellist Stephen Balderston; Brahms, Telemann and Vivaldi



Friday, Nov. 7, 7:30pm "The Crist Family," Southern Gospel at its best!



Sunday, Nov. 23, 7:30pm "An Octave Above," a cappella jazz & pop

Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30pm "A Baroque Christmas," Advent Chamber Orchestra, Grace Chamber Singers, and Young Naperville Singers

Saturday, Jan. 17, 7:30pm "The Visionaire," Advent Chamber Orchestra; Bach, Couperin, Mozart, Vivaldi

Friday, Jan. 30, 6:00pm Dinner/ 8:00pm Concert "Nancy Staton and Friends," preceded by dinner from the Grace Foundation

Saturday, Feb. 14, 7:30pm "Seasons of Love," vocal concert and dessert; Grace Artists-in-Residence

Friday, March 13, 7:30pm "Ages, States and Nations" Choral Festival at North Central College's Wentz Hall; Armstrong, MN, and Naperville North H.S. Choirs, Grace Choirs, "Thula Sizwe" men's ensemble



Sunday, March 15, 7:30pm "Thula Sizwe" men's ensemble of South Africa; Gospel folk songs and dance



Friday, March 27, 7:30pm "Musical Benches," pipe-organ and piano duo featuring keyboard artists Christopher Garvin and Glenn Priest



Saturday, April 25, 8:00pm "Hebrew Melodies," Advent Chamber Orchestra; Ravel, Weiner, Perlman, Achron, Ben-Haim, Weil

Sunday, May 31, 1:30pm "The Special Consensus" bluegrass band—Chicago's finest!



MUSIC IN WORSHIP Free Concert Series

Nov. 2, 9:30/11am "City Called Heaven"
Dec. 7, 8:15/9:30/11am "One of Us"
Dec. 21, 9:30/11am "Christmas with Grace"
Christmas Eve, 11pm "Lessons and Carols"
Good Friday, April 10, 7:30pm "Tree of Anguish"—World Premiere!
May 17, 8:15/9:30am "Spring Choral Concert"

Awesome Autumn CELEBRATION!

SUNDAY, OCT. 26 10:45 a.m. - Noon

With Nationally Known Storyteller Chris Fascione!

Free of charge! Sign up in the Activity Center on Sundays or in the church office during the week

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

Families, don't miss a super fun day just for YOU! We'll have...

- Entertainment from Chris Fascione
- Crafts & Games
- Kid-friendly Lunch
- Treats
- FUN, FUN, FUN!

Free of charge! Sign up in the Activity Center on Sundays or in the church office during the week

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

Contact Margaret Harrison 630-355-1748, ext. 241, with questions or for further information

For full concert and ticket details, visit www.peopleofgrace.org/concerts

Or contact 630-355-1748 or concerts@peopleofgrace.org for a brochure



Pastor's Journal

There is growing consensus at Grace around the core ministries and vision of our Church that we are a family Church with an intergenerational ministry. Our goal is to connect people with the God we have met in Christ. Our historic and continuing mission is to help the children and youth of our community and the world to have fellowship with Christ. From our historic mission connection with Red-bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, to our contemporary work to provide housing for AIDS orphans in Maua, Kenya, Grace has been concerned with the welfare of the children of the world.

Here in Naperville, Grace has invested in a wonderful building and campus, most of which is designed for the presence of children and youth. By investing in the youth of our community, we grow future generations of Christians who will love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. This is our calling and our goal.

This fall we enter our annual stewardship drive with many concerns for our economy and our Church. Revitalizing our ministry with children and youth will require additional resources applied to these ministries. Grace will invest in God's future through new and restored programming for families with young children today.

As the Grace Stewardship campaign comes to your door, please consider how you might be a part of this great future by investing today in Grace. It is our calling, our mission and our purpose.

Grace and Peace,

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE By John Bodine, Church Council Chair



With the rustle of fall leaves and the gradual shortening of our days, we are launching

into our strengthened emphasis on Family Ministry. We have a long heritage of family focus at Grace, but this emphasis has waned over recent years. Feedback from our Grace members over the past year has shown children's and family ministry to be an area of special interest and one to target over the next several years. We want to regain our vitality and effectiveness in Family Ministry.

Even as we've been assessing this feedback, momentum has been gaining in two areas during 2008: Youth Ministry and Children's Education. Even in spite of the loss of our youth director in

2007, parents and staff have rallied during the year to create a vibrant and active program for our youth. The excellent program development and summer program activity has been further strengthened by the hiring of Rev. Howie Snyder in August, who will be helping to further develop aspects of our youth focus in 2009. The subject of revitalizing and improving Children's Education at Grace was tackled by a study team charged by the Church Council to review best practices at neighboring churches and identify areas for improvement at Grace. Their recommendations have been integrated into budget and staffing plans for 2009.

Our overall plan for the next three years is to re-energize Grace Family Minis-

try with a focus on young families and multi-generational families and their needs. Our goals are:

- To connect young families with God and each other
- To address unmet needs of young families through the experience of faith
- To enhance existing programs at Grace for families, especially through small group ministry
- To rejuvenate Grace as a vibrant, exciting, valued, and meaningful institution that attracts new members
- To inspire current members to engage in this renewed direction, using their personal gifts to contribute and provide sustaining support

We'll need your talents, your commitment and support, and particularly in these economically difficult times, we'll need every family that is inspired and able to step up their giving to help Grace connect families with God.

Beginning October 26, as many as 80 Grace members will participate in personal delivery and pick-up of Stewardship pledge cards to Grace members at their homes to ensure that members have a chance to contribute. We intend to complete the drive by November 16. You'll hear more on this process from the Stewardship Campaign Team toward the end of October.

Thank you in advance for your giving hearts and willing spirits.

OUR PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE IN!
Pick up yours in the Activity Center on Sundays and the church office during the week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comprehensive church announcements appear weekly in "Grace in Mission," our Sat./Sunday bulletin insert, and online at www.peopleofgrace.org.

"Over 50" October 16, Fell. Hall

Gaye Lynn Loufek and Howie Snyder will discuss their vision for Youth Ministry and the impact of contributions to summer missions. Lunch/program is \$5, payable at door. Please RSVP in the office by 10/14. **GCS Debut Concert Oct. 18** (see pg. 1) **CROP Walk Oct. 19, 1:15 Center St.** Walkers, pick up a sponsor sheet in the Activity Center on Sunday or in the church office. Sponsors, you may support CROP's effort to relieve local, national and global hunger by sponsoring a walker in person or visiting www.napervillecropwalk.org. To make a donation online, click the "CROP Walk-We Walk Because They Walk" button; then click "Donate"; then "Search"; then click on the name of the walker you wish to sponsor (alpha order). Phyllis Pepiot, Susan Marseille and Pastor Lisa Telomen have signed up online—if our Grace team raises \$10,000 or more, Phyllis and Lisa will gladly dye their hair CROP Walk red! Online donation benefits include helping hungry people, credit card rewards, and a receipt for tax purposes.

Pennies for UMW Missions

Now through Oct. 19 in the Activity Center, United Methodist Women are collecting change toward the NIC's \$122,000 goal for UMW missions. Please donate your change or perhaps a minute of support (\$36.80; checks payable to NIC-UMW).

Grace Book Club

Meets again on Wednesday, **October 22**, 12:45 p.m., in the home of Mary Abe. We will discuss *Little Heathens*, by Mildred Armstrong Kalish.

Youth Wii Night!

Youth in grades 6-12, join us in Room 234 Friday, **October 24**, 7:00-10:00 p.m., for food, fun and Wii! Bring a snack to share.

Seeds of Grace Makes a Difference

Seeds of Grace will be selling the African jewelry of PEMA on "Make a Difference Day," Sat., **Oct. 25**, 9:30am-12:00pm, at Universal Spirit Yoga (408 W. 5th Ave. in Naperville). Proceeds will help impoverished Kenyan children afford school supplies and fees.

Awesome Autumn Celebration

October 26! (see back cover)

Trustees' Workday November 15

Come help Grace Trustees clean up our church grounds! Bring your rakes, gloves, brooms, blowers. Time (morning) TBA.

MEN'S EVENT

- **When:** Friday, **Oct. 24**, 6:00-9:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Grace United Methodist Church (rooms will be posted)
- **Featuring:** Keynote Speaker Rev. Timothy Casey; catered dinner from El Burrito Loco; break-out discussion groups; free copy of *The Will of God* (get yours in the Grace, Community or Wesley UMC office). Note: *you do not have to read the book to attend this event, but it's a very short read (only 85 pages!) and is included in the price of the event.*
- **Cost:** \$20 per person **on or before** October 19; \$25 after Oct. 19
- **Registration/payment:** Fill out a registration brochure (found in the Grace, Community or Wesley UMC office and Grace Activity Center on Sundays) and drop it off with your payment. You may also register online at: www.peopleofgrace.org (payment cannot be made online); *walk-ins welcome.*
- **Free childcare:** Reserve by October 19 with Margaret Harrison (630-355-1748, ext. 241)



Rev. Timothy Casey, Pastor of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Bartlett, IL, Ordained Pastor of the Church of the Nazarene, Full Member of the Northern Illinois Conference, and a paraplegic who is intensely focused on the ultimate will of a good God, will be the inspiring Keynote Speaker of the October 24 Men's Event, based on *The Will of God*, by Leslie D. Weatherhead.

Mistletoe Marketplace!

Saturday, Nov. 1, 9am-1pm, Fellowship Hall

Don't miss United Methodist Women's annual Mistletoe Marketplace! Come shop for one-of-a-kind Christmas items, crafts, yummy baked goods, and more! Have brunch in our "café," enter our silent auction, and find out if you're the lucky recipient of our beautiful queen-sized "Dashing for Tulips" quilt and other handmade quilted items. Drawing tickets for quilted items are \$5 for six tickets, on sale now in the Activity Center on Sundays and the church office during the week. All proceeds benefit UMW missions.

Grace Men in Barbershop Quartet

Join Tom Jones, Gene Skooglund and Jay Bentz as they perform in the Barbershop Quartet of DuPage on Sat., **Nov. 15**, 7:30 p.m., at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Naperville. Tickets are \$20, including dinner; see Gene or Tom for tickets.

Nancy Huber Lights the Night

In honor of their husband and father, Bill, Nancy Huber and her daughter Janine participated in the Indianapolis "Light the Night" Walk for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society on October 11. If you would like to make a donation to LLS in Bill's name, you may send a check to Nancy at 512 Bourbon Lane, Naperville, IL, 60565, payable to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, or donate at www.lightthenight.org.

Feed My Starving Children

Grace can help the impoverished people of Haiti, hit hard by recent hurricanes, by packing food on our designated dates (TBA) for the 20-foot food container we've procured to fill and send directly to Haiti, or by donating to the high cost of the food container (please make checks payable to GUMC; noting "Haiti Food Container" on the memo line). Contact Ericka Wagner at 630-369-5004 with questions.

Save the Date: "Celebrate the Season" Women's Event December 3!

ROUND OUT YOUR LIFE!

Join our circle of worship every Saturday evening, 5:30 p.m., in the Activity Center. Informal, intimate worship style, weekly communion, family time, and original music from singer/songwriter Vickie Wagner.

The deadline for November Grace Notes news is: **Monday, October 27**

Grace Notes is published for the members and friends of Grace United Methodist Church. Submit news to Barb Ceruti via e-mail at gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org; phone at 630-355-1748, ext. 240; or drop off news in the church office, ATTN: Barb

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“Men Behind the Lens” continued from page 3

Ron: My interest in photography started with my Dad. I remember him taking pictures, and I even remember the name and model of the camera he used (a Yashika Twin Lens reflex)...I did not take pictures or own a camera until Ruth and I were married. The birth of our children renewed my interest in photography, and I have been recording their lives since then.

GN: Is photography a hobby or a profession for you?

Dick: In the early 70s, I began to take cityscapes of the Chicago area and sold prints at art shows and exhibitions. After retirement, I began to specialize

in wild animal photography, and the sale of these pictures allowed trips to Africa, Alaska, Canada, Australia, China, and Central America, all to take photos of animals in the wild.

Ron: For me, photography is a hobby, but...if you talk to Ruth, she might call it an obsession. I enjoy landscapes, flowers, butterflies, fireworks, and informal pictures of people enjoying themselves. I have always feared that if it became a profession, much of the fun would be gone.

GN: Why is it important to chronicle the life of the church through pictures?

Dick: There is no better way to illustrate the grace of God than through the faces of our members as we worship, learn, care and

celebrate together. **Ron:** By taking pictures, we chronicle the evolution of our church, both the structure and the body of believers that worship in it. We have pictures to remember friends that have

“You cannot accurately describe the emotions that are captured in an image.”

been a part of the Grace family and are no longer with us. We can see our children grow through church events.

GN: What can pictures say that words can't?

Dick: A photograph grabs the attention much more quickly than the written word, and a well-planned picture can generate instant emotional response.

Ron: I like the ability to show the beauty of the middle of a flower blossom and, with the same camera, the excitement and fun had by players at our annual Turkey Bowl game at Grace...You cannot accurately describe the emotions that are captured in an image. Unless you are a truly gifted wordsmith, it is hard to describe the joy (or terror) on the faces of little ones as they sing in front of family and congregation...and there are no words to describe the look on the face of a person who sees a group of youth and adults arriving at their home site to start the building or repair process on one of our mission trips.

GN: Anything else?
Dick: My interest in photography led me to volun-

teer for both [former Communications Director] Ericka Wagner's need for photographs and a Finance fund drive's call for pictures in the hallways to depict church activities. These two needs led to our Hallway of Pictures. **Ron:** I hope the photography ministry at Grace will continue as long as Grace serves our community and our congregation. In today's digital world, it is easy and relatively inexpensive to capture the events as they happen. We have to remember that these events become part of our history and heritage as soon as the event is over. Picture taking is a talent I enjoy sharing with the people of Grace...I give thanks



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Women, be sure to stay faithful to your self-examinations and regular mammograms, MRI's, or other diagnostic tests. Never ignore symptoms that seem abnormal to you, and don't accept "It's nothing," even from a medical professional, without comprehensive, conclusive test procedures. Trust your gut!

Welcome, New Members!

Since March of 2008, the following new members have joined the family of Grace: Scot and Donna Anderson (Lindsey and Marissa); Moses M. Conneh, Sr. (Lyndhart); Barbara Hannon (Michael); Debbie and Christopher John (Brandon, Amy and Erica); John and Angela McCurdy (Ian and Xander); Berneice Quinn; David and Cindy Quinn (Jonathan and Matthew); Jean Roche (Tom); Ryan and Amanda Roush (Reagan and Ashley); and Nathan and Tricia Van Horn (Ian). Welcome! We're thrilled you're here!



BUSTER BROWN

This is **Buster Brown**, a Canine Good Citizen in training to be a therapy dog. His owner, **JoAnn Maki**, says, "With Buster's friendly disposition, two different colored eyes, and one jowl hanging lower than the other, I think he'll be a hit with the people at the hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, and schools that I plan to take him with Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club!"

Animal Attraction!

Grace Notes has a new feature—your favorite animal photos! Every month, we'll feature a photo of your pet (or a friend's, family member's, etc.) or cool animal shot taken by you or someone you know (no internet downloads or otherwise "anonymous" animal photos, please). E-mail them to gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org or drop them in the church office to be scanned (originals will be returned to the owner). Please include the animal's name (if applicable), your name, and where the photo was taken, if possible.

“Brides” continued from page 5...

as their parents, is the music. As Grace's Principal Organist, I lead Wedding Music Seminars every few months, inviting all couples who are scheduled to be married at Grace. Some couples attend this seminar as much as a year prior to their wedding day. I talk with them about the wedding being a service of worship and how the music serves this purpose. The couple is given lists of recommended processional and recessional music, congregational hymns, and other possible service music.

Examples are played, and the couple is assisted in filling out a worksheet with their choices. I also include information and assistance with vocal soloists and instrumentalists. I tell them that my goal is that 30 years from now, as they watch their wedding video, they are happy with the choices they made today.

In this important mission of Grace United Methodist Church, much care and attention is offered in the ultimate purpose of helping couples to carry out their covenant, so they may experience a day, and a life together, of great joy.

Meditations of a Formerly Fearful Sunday School Teacher

by Leslie Stapleton



I remember it clearly, another Sunday morning, rushing out of the house, applying lipstick in my rear view mirror while noticing the cereal mustache on my daughter...if I only had more time...We hurriedly parked, scooted the kids into their respective Sunday School rooms, and then, I exhaled.

My husband and I walked hand in hand into the sanctuary. This was our special time together. The service ended and we felt replenished and at peace. We slowly walked to pick up the kids. As I leaned in to sign them out, I noticed a teacher/helper sign-up sheet. "Oh, no," I said to myself, "just keep walking." After all, I had my kids all day (aged two and four), and I wasn't teacher material.

The next Sunday, different day, same routine, rush-rush. The picture of the sign-up sheet lingered for a bit; I felt a twinge of guilt, then, honestly, I forgot about it. There were plenty of other moms, and I was doing quite a lot already. So, I signed my children in and walked away.

But in picking up the children, the sign-up sheet nudging me grew more fierce, and my machine gun loaded with excuses as to why I was the wrong person for the job fired vehemently. Then, I stopped. I looked at the scarcely written on sheet and thought, "Okay, Lord, I get it." I cannot say I made this commitment and did cartwheels out to the car. I also cannot

say that I was confident—what if they ask questions I don't know? What if I'm missing something they need to do in the lesson? What if, what if...?

The next week, I spoke with Margaret Harrison. I picked up the lesson book, selected our craft, and got the supplies from the resource room. I was ready—but not really. Of all the "big" things I had done, working and otherwise, I was truly nervous about this, which had to mean I was a bad fit, right? Wrong.

There is often that one impregnable thing, the thing that the Holy Spirit continues to nudge us about. It's not always the same thing, but often it is until it is resolved, meaning until we heed that nudging and walk out on faith alone. I was on a faith tight rope at this point!

Sunday came, and I allowed myself more time to ready my family, myself and the room. I was still applying lipstick in the rear view mirror (but my daughter's face was clean). I walked into the room, began laying out supplies, making sure I could work the T.V. for praise time, and watched my children enjoy themselves with me. My husband was with us and offered his assistance. After a quick kiss and hug, he took our son down to his room and ascended to the sanctuary. I was completely ready—or was I? I had the stuff, my list was checked (twice), and then I knew...my heart still wasn't ready. In that moment, I honestly knelt (which I couldn't remember doing for a long, long

time) and prayed. I prayed that the Holy Spirit would just work through me. I prayed that I not try to be a teacher and have all the answers, but just to be an ambassador for Christ, that His love would show in me, through me, for them. Then, I exhaled.

The moms and dads rushed in, signed in, rushed out...hugs, kisses and have fun! The scurrying ceased and I was left with 15 three- to four-year-old children. The next hour was one of the greatest blessings of my life. I had the honor of loving your children—not from my reservoir or capacity, but with God's help. I had the honor to tell the stories of Christ and His love for us. I had the blessing of soothing fears of separation with Godly activities and songs so that your children may always know that He is with them and loves them, that His love endures forever.

For the first time, I realized what it means when people say that in truly serving, surrendered serving, we ourselves are served. My cup runneth over.

I share this story not to guilt anyone into doing anything, but because I was blind to this blessing. I could have had this peace, this joy long ago, had someone shared their story with me. In any case, thank you for sharing your children with me for an hour on Sunday, so that I can share with them the love the Lord has so freely given to me, at the ultimate cost to Him.

The Men Behind the Lens: Dick Trondsen and Ron Wills

Probably one of the most appreciated aspects of our church among members and visitors alike is the striking gallery of photos that lines the hallway outside of the sanctuary. These photos chronicle our people, our events, our history. Largely responsible for shooting and displaying these beautiful pictures are Dick Trondsen and Ron Wills. Grace Notes wanted to know more about these "men behind the lens," who so faithfully attend our church events and activities to ensure they're photographically recorded. Perhaps we'll think

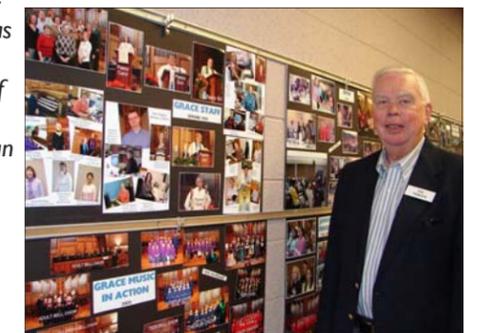


Ron Wills with the instrument of his passion.

out our church. **GN:** How did you get interested in photography?
Dick: Photography has been an avocation of mine since my freshman year in high school (a long time ago). The camera, a Bolsey B2, was a gift from my parents. I have always felt, since those very early days,

that a photograph is indeed worth a thousand words.

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Dick Trondsen beside the photo gallery he and his wife, Ruth, display for our viewing.



COMMUNICATIONS

by Barb Ceruti

Shortly after I became employed at Grace as Communications Director in March of 2007, Grace Business Manager Bob Poland (my supervisor) and I discussed the subject of this newsletter, what it might be lacking and what the people of our congregation really wanted to see in it. We determined that mailing a reader's survey to our Grace Notes audience, asking folks to answer specific questions and rate the importance of various news topics, would be a good step toward understanding what the people of Grace consider worthy of reading.

I admit happily that I underestimated our audience, as we received back nearly 30% of the surveys we sent, which is remarkable, considering that the response rate to most mass mailings is a meager 2%. Our people were very forthcoming and candid, offering lots of good suggestions and giving me and our church staff a much clearer

vision of what this newsletter and other church media should, and should not, feature. Let me take this opportunity again to thank the 294 respondents who replied to that survey. Thanks also to the many of you who offered to serve on a communications sub-committee, should the need ever arise. I still have your names!

I mention this survey because it indicated not only the level of interest and involvement of our Grace family (of which I have been a member myself for nearly 10 years), but it also exemplifies what I hoped—and still hope—to achieve in the ministry of Grace communications: reaching out to our congregation and the greater community in truly effective, meaningful ways. Sure, there's an awful lot I do in this office that has solely to do with marketing, whether it be the marketing of church events, ministries, activities, or the marketing of Grace as a viable option among the many churches in our community at which people can choose to worship. And while much of my

day is spent crafting a flyer, poster, brochure, the weekly Grace in Mission bulletin insert, updating our website (which is something that slips through the cracks more than I'd like—thank you, Marian Cronin, for your constant assistance!), writing press releases for the local media, creating paid ads while wrestling with the age-old question of how truly effective advertising is, compiling annual booklets, corresponding with our members via e-mail (one of my favorite aspects of this job!), my greater goal for this ministry is to provoke you, our Grace Church family. I want to tap into what makes you "tick," what makes you think, what drives you, what concerns you, and to address those things in a deeper, less "church business as usual" manner. Far too often, space in this newsletter is limited—I can't seem to get it under eight pages each month, which is truly a good thing (yes, office staff, it is!), because it means that our people are giving me news on a regular basis, feeding this publication and,

ultimately, sustaining the life of this church. Keep it coming! But if I had another one or two more pages, I'd address the more profound matters that bring any segment of society to a house of worship each Sunday and, for many, more often than that. We live in a time when the mainline church is changing rapidly, right along with the American household. And yet our collective need for stability, purpose, truth, eternal value seems greater than ever.

In my estimation, an effective communications ministry is one that strives to further solidify our most faithful, involved members, encourage our more tentative sector, and attract those potential members who have not yet stepped foot in our door—through thought-provoking, engaging media that beg response. My door, phone and e-mail are always open, and this ministry is continually desirous of your ideas, suggestions and relevant material.

Linking Up to Grace

by Pastor Lisa Telomen

Dear Ones: Thank you so much for your love and prayers, cards, and support in so many tangible and intangible ways. In reflecting and praying through this time of grief, a particular prayer written by a very respected and beloved funeral director whom I worked with in my first appointment some twenty years ago has been very helpful to me. I asked him if I could share it with you all, and Mr. Conley graciously agreed. His funeral home and outreach services in Elburn, IL, have been a lighthouse of hope and comfort to his wider community for years. Pastor Carol, Parish Nurse Pam Riley and I are working with him to secure a "Coping with the Holidays" workshop later in November

to offer a venue for prayerful and thoughtful consideration of how to "celebrate" in the midst of our grief and loss, that can be so fresh again around the holiday times. Wednesday evening, November 19, is our tentative date at this point, but more details will come as plans are finalized. All Grace families who have experienced loss in these past few years are welcome and encouraged to attend this event—mark your calendars now!

Here is Mr. Conley's poem. If you share it with others, please give author and copyright information as well.

"Why"
Why did they die? Why did they live?

Why did they care? Why did they give?
Why do we cry if it's all for the best?
Why wonder "why"? Why can't we rest?
They say there's a plan
Though we can't see it now
But 'till we can see it
We'll remember just - "how".
How they did what they did
in their own special way
How we shared in the good
and the bad of each day.
How no matter whatever
may come now to pass
The memories we hold in our hearts
...will last.
For no matter the answers
to the questions of "why"
If they live on in us...

then they didn't die.
They lived not in vain
but left their life's mark,
They lighted their candles
where once there was dark.
And thus is the Torch
rekindled through Time.
Their lights have been added
to yours and to mine.
Then let us continue
to carry it high
Trusting that someday...
we'll understand "why"
Copyright 1984, Bruce H. Conley
-All rights reserved-
Peace,
Rev Lisa E. Telomen



Here Come the Brides!

by Nancy Staton

The wedding day: excitement, laughter, beautiful gowns and tuxedos, limos, the sanctuary overflowing with flowers, a photographer making sure no detail is lost in this family history event.



Nancy Staton (left) with engaged couples at a Wedding Music Seminar at Grace.

Does this sound like a setting for a mission project? In reality, the serious intent that makes this day so important, the preparation for leading two people along a path to a life-changing moment, makes this an important ministry, not only to the member families of Grace, but to our entire community. Grace United Methodist Church performs up to 20 weddings per year, and 50% of these are with non-members. Once the couple decides to have their wedding at Grace, there are many ways that they become introduced to the caring and family-centered worship life of Grace.

Judi Poland is our Wedding Coordinator; assisting her are 11 wedding hostesses (usually two at each wedding), who volunteer their time to ensure a very special day. Judi represents Grace in discussing the wedding plans, covering both the rehearsal and ceremony. It is the role of the hostesses to maintain an atmosphere of order and calm during what can be a hectic time, when the unexpected is sure to happen. Prior to the rehearsal, the hostesses will give the wedding party a tour of the church, noting specifically our dressing areas, restrooms, etc. At the rehearsal, the hostesses will take notes on the procession of attendants and chart the seating of honored guests and parents. They also inform the ushers of their specific duties. On the day of the wedding,

the hostesses are at the church early to greet the wedding party, help carry personal items to respective dressing areas, set up the narthex with programs and other material requested by the family, pin boutonnieres on all men in the wedding party and assist the bride and her attendants. They synchronize time with the minister, ensure that all honored guests are seated in the proper order at the appropriate time and that the wedding processional begins on time in the proper order. This interaction promotes a feeling of comfort with Grace Church.

The Church considers the Christian wedding a covenant-making service, in which the bride and groom not only declare their faith in Jesus Christ, but also pray for God's blessing on their new relationship. Preparation for making this covenant is accomplished in counseling interviews, which provide opportunity for dialogue about issues of faith and all aspects of marital life together. This premarital counseling is led by one of our five pastors and begins four or five months before the service. Also available are premarital counseling workshops: 1) Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center; and 2) Pastor Carol Madalin at Grace.

One component of the wedding service that is always important to the couple, as well

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GRACE PERSONALS

Sympathies to the Friends & Families of...

- Peggy Bentz, wife of Joe Bentz
- Katherine Forbes, grandmother of Katherine Hedl
- Gerald H. Goethe, former Grace Church pastor
- Wilma Hampel, grandmother of Christopher John
- Josefina Kiellibrew, mother of Ruben Kanhai-Zamora
- Harland O. Krell, father of Pastor Lisa Telomen
- Phyllis Lowe, aunt of Carol Bidrawn
- Eleanor Mueller, mother of Barb Lanman
- Beverly Shepherd, aunt of Joan Williams
- Mabel Slaby, mother of Don Slaby
- Vida Workman, mother of Harold Workman

Baptisms

Graham Michael, son of Michael and Nancy Nervick, was baptized on September 28

Celebrations

Keira Quinn, daughter of Glenn and Karrie Khant and granddaughter of Bobbie and Al Khant, was born on September 26
Evan Michael, son of Michael and Rachel Harrison and grandson of Margaret Harrison, was born on September 29

Letters of Thanks

My Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart, for all the loving words, cards, prayers, and the extra help our Grace staff, friends and families have been showering upon me and my family at the death of my father, Harland Krell, on September 11. While the grief will continue to come and go, your constant love and care has been such a blessing, and carries me through the rough patches. You truly have brought God's grace into my life in this time of need.

Thank you,

—Pastor Lisa

Dear Family at Grace,

Much gratitude and appreciation is felt by myself and my extended family when we look back at how all of your prayers helped in bringing my mother home. She continues to heal through therapy to strengthen her balance and endurance after her fall. She insists angels helped her up the stairs and to a phone to dial 911. May we all continue to believe in the miracle of Jesus and the power of prayer.

Many blessings to you all,

—Annette Swanson

Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers and concern during my recent illness. They, along with the hospital visits from Pastors Don and Bill, truly helped in my recovery. I feel blessed to be a part of such a caring community.

—Barbara Hartman

If you have personal news or a letter you'd like to share with our family of Grace, please contact Barb Ceruti at 630-355-1748, ext. 240, or gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org. You may also drop off letters or news to the church office, ATTN: Barb.