

## Get Connected

By Pastor Cindy Marino

**“The single biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” George Bernard Shaw.**

Grace UMC is blessed and burdened with the variety of ways available to send and receive information. The leadership can think we’re getting the message out, only to hear people say, “I didn’t know about that!” We can’t be content with the “illusion that communication has taken place.” We really do want folks to hear our message.

As we begin this new fall season, we thought we would describe the various ways we use to “get the message out.” Whether you do so by serving, praying, learning, leading, giving, meeting or worshipping, participating in the life of the church is only possible when you’re “in the know.” And participating is too important to be left to chance. Our faith is our life.

We strive to partner with you to provide information that is timely, accurate, accessible and efficiently produced at the lowest cost possible. The one thing we can’t do, is read it for you. **Please read the Communications insert for a listing of our publications and to find out how to continue receiving Grace Notes through the mail after January 1, 2018.** Be watching for them, read them and be “in the know!”

### Grace Connect

In today’s multimedia world, it is important for the church to know how you best receive information: mail, phone call, email, text, social media? Grace Connect is our online organizer and directory serving staff and Grace members. Grace Connect tells us where to find you, how to get you what you need and what most interests you. Staff and leadership have been using Grace Connect for over a year now.

It’s been especially helpful to:

- Notify teams and committees of meetings, send minutes and updates
- Provide a safe children’s check-in and attendance system
- Take class attendance
- Schedule meetings, classes, events and produce room-use calendars
- Provide room setup instructions for our custodial staff
- Send the weekly eblast to your group or class
- Enter and track contributions
- Enter and track worship attendance
- Send sign-up opportunities to serve

In the future, we hope to use it to record other information you might provide, such as your skills, spiritual gifts inventory and availability, so we can better connect you to serving, learning and fellowship opportunities.

## Over 50 Fellowship!



Have you ever wondered what it was like to be a firefighter at Ground Zero after September 11?

Our presenter, Chuck Wehrli, was one of the many firefighters who traveled to New York after September 11 to help at Ground Zero. He will be sharing his

experience on Thursday, September 14, in Fellowship Hall.

Sign-up will be in the Church Office until Monday, September 11, at noon. Lunch will begin at noon on Thursday, September 14, followed by the program at 1 p.m. \$10 cash payable at the door. All are welcome!

## NEW Fast Track Disciple Class!

We are excited to announce that the Thursday Morning Bible Study Class led by Pastor Doug Bowden will be starting a new curriculum called “Disciple Fast Track” in September.



“Disciple Fast Track” is a 12-week adaptation of the original, best-selling “Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study.” It is created to be ideal for busy people who still want to make time to grow in their relationship with Christ.

The first “Disciple Fast Track” Class will meet on Thursday, September 28, 9:30 a.m. in Room 254. Please prayerfully consider joining this small group in their journey to grow in Christ and relationship together.

Contact the Church Office (630-355-1748) or Pastor Doug Bowden (dbowden6@aol.com) to register or for more information.

### If you have not yet accessed Grace Connect, here’s how!

Beginning the week of September 5, we will be sending emails to all persons who have given us their email address. This email will contain a link to activate and create a login for Grace Connect. Again, this is only for persons who have not already had access to Grace Connect. If you have forgotten your password or need a new activation link, please email Pastor Tammy (tammy.scott@peopleofgrace.org).

If you do not receive an activation link during the week of September 5, you may visit ([www.peopleofgrace.org](http://www.peopleofgrace.org)) to request a login. (Steps to request a login: scroll to the bottom of the page and click “Grace Connect Login Here”, then click Sign Up under the login bar; finally, fill in the required information. Please give us 2-3 business days to process your request.) You may also email Pastor Tammy (tammy.scott@peopleofgrace.org) to request a login.

# Celebrating the Ministry of Renee Roscoe-Morrison

On Sunday, September 24, at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, we will take time to celebrate the sixteen-year ministry of Renee Roscoe-Morrison as the Director of the Angelus (K-1st) Choir. The Grace UMC family has been blessed by Renee and her ministry, as she has faithfully shepherded hundreds of children through our choir program with kindness, respect, and love.



Renne Roscoe-Morrison

Looking back on her time as the Director of the Angelus Choir, Renee wanted to share these words of reflection on her years serving God, our children and families, and Grace Church. "It has been my great honor and joy to be a small part of the lives of our children. It really has felt like a sacred trust each week, and about so much more than teaching songs. Being with the children has been so valuable to me. Whatever I gave, I received tenfold! I learned from the children in every area of my life: as a mother, a Christian, a person, and even as a psychotherapist. Having had the opportunity to be with so many children over the years, I've learned a lot about us as creations of God; that we all need positive connection, but how different that can look for each person.

I've had some of the most realistic, creative, practical, and humorous theological discussions with them. And I always enjoyed each and every hug, and smile, and snuggle, and hand-wanting-to-be-held for 16 wonderful years. I thank Grace United Methodist Church for giving me this incomparable opportunity and all the parents throughout the years for giving me the gift of their children's presence in my life. They will always be a part of me."

As difficult as it is to say goodbye, we do so with prayers of continued success for Renee as she takes more time to focus on her family and her career in psychotherapy. We are excited that she plans to stay involved with the Music Ministry by lending her beautiful voice to the Chancel Choir, as well as searching to find new ways to serve the church.

Please plan to join us in worship at 9:30 a.m. on September 24, as we celebrate Renee's ministry. There will be a reception, hosted by the Children's Music Ministry, in the Activity Center immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service.

cramped, dimly-lit crossroad for worshipers coming and going, the new gathering area will be a roomy space filled with light for socializing and relationship building throughout the week. A coffee bar will be prominent in the gathering area, no longer only on Sunday and requiring a trek to the Activity Center on the other side of the building. We have planned an upgrade of fixtures in all of our restrooms and installation of Handicap/Family restrooms on the upper level near the Sanctuary and the lower level adjacent and on level with Fellowship Hall, as well as a renovation of the Grace kitchen.

No less important in the Master Plan is a redesign of the function and décor of our Children and Adult educational spaces. This includes development of a reception/check-in center, installation of more effective cubbies and shelving for storage, brighter colors, LED lighting throughout, and updated furniture and toys. Signage and wayfinding will be upgraded, both inside and outside of the building, to be inviting and make it as clear as possible where to enter for different purposes and how to get from point A to point B.

Additional descriptive information will be posted on the Grace website and available in the Church Office following the August 20 Town Hall. Thanks to the work of our Projects Team to bring this effort to fruition.

## Master Plan Update!

By John Bodine, Grace Project Team Chair

Two Town Hall gatherings are scheduled to review features of the Master Plan for Grace; the first on Sunday, August 20, and the second on Sunday, October 8. The Master Plan is the result of assimilating survey and interview input from Grace members and working with the Grace Projects Team during the first half of 2017. The main thrust and goal has been to establish a more welcoming environment and better enable programs for Children and Young Families. An effort has been made to carefully address major concerns and needs, while integrating improvements together to enable phased, rational implementation. We've learned through the process of visiting other churches and working with the architects that, while our facility is well maintained and has evolved prudently and served us well over the years, we are now faced with pressures to adapt less to the growth of Naperville around us and more to the changing needs, interests, and life styles of our members and community.

Key features of the Master Plan involve opening up our Narthex by the main entrance and Sanctuary to create a broad gathering space with seating and views out over the central courtyard, the Lacy Garden. Rather than a

# Youth Summer Missions 2017

By Gaye Lynn Loufek

**"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10 NIV**

The summer of 2017 provided much opportunity for our youth and adults to be God's hands and feet.

In June, 74 youth and adults traveled to Birmingham, AL, to partner with Habitat for Humanity to refurbish and build homes. God and the Holy Spirit were ever present! Friendships were made; tears were shed; laughter abounded; and work was done!

During the week, we had the blessing of not only working with our hands but filling our hearts. We heard stories from the homeowners, met people in the community through a local church day camp for children, listened to a pastor share his faith journey, and were fed and celebrated by a local church and gospel choir.

Our Side x Side theme was Change, based on the Scripture, 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here." While we hoped to travel to Birmingham and make a change for the people there, we can't help but realize how Birmingham changed us!

2017 Mission Trip >>

In July, 28 junior high youth and adult mentors brought hope to our own community working with Feed My Starving Children, Fox Valley Habitat, Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, and visiting with "pillars" of Grace and learning history of Naperville and Grace Church.

Our theme for Hope @ Home was A.S.A.P. While in the secular world that means As Soon As Possible, to us for the week it meant, Always Say A Prayer (or Always Stop And Pray). We talked and learned about many different ways of praying, complete with finger lights helping us to pray the 5-finger prayer. We discovered that while the world might view the acronym as stated above, we as Christians should pay heed. If in all things we Always Stop And Pray (or Always Say A Prayer) As Soon As Possible, God will lighten our load and, together with Him, all things are possible.

Hope @ Home offers the same opportunity as Side x Side for relationship building, laughter, hard work and God sightings. We know these opportunities would not be possible if it were not for our Church family. We THANK YOU for your unending support through prayer, monetary donation, fundraising support, and love.

God is the constant in a world of change. He will carry us through that change, A.S.A.P.

## Grace Library Wish List

Are you a book lover? Do you enjoy passing on your passion for books to other people? If you said "yes" to these questions, then you are on the same page as the Grace UMC Library! The Library Committee is always researching possible books to be added to our collection, but with a limited budget, the selection process always means leaving out excellent books. This is where the Grace UMC Library needs your help.

The Library has produced a "Wish List" of books to add to our collection. Our "Wish List" can be found online ([www.peopleofgrace.org/gracelibrarywishlist](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/gracelibrarywishlist)) or in hard copy on the front door of the Library.

wishlist

There are two simple ways to donate books from the "Wish List" to the Library:

1. Pick a title and simply order the book online using Amazon Smile (make sure to select Grace United Methodist Church of Naperville, IL, as your charity). This is a "win-win;" the Library gets a much-needed new book for the collection, and Grace UMC gets a charitable donation from Amazon.

2. Pick a book and write a check to Grace UMC to cover the cost of the book. We will then buy it for you. If you write a check, please include the specific title you would like to donate and "Library Resource Fund" in the memo line.

Thank you for considering helping us increase our collection and sharing our love of books with the congregation.

# Communications at Grace

## What are the Grace UMC publications?

### Monthly Communications:

**Grace Notes** is the monthly 4-page newsletter printed and mailed, currently reaching 1400 households. This publication covers broad news of Grace UMC, the general church and occasional in-depth stories of interest.

The deadline to submit items is the first Tuesday of the month. All submissions are to be done online ([www.peopleofgrace.org/publications](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/publications)). **Starting January 1, 2018, Grace Notes will only be mailed by request through the Church Office.**

### Weekly Communications:

**Grace in Mission** is the weekly supplement inside the worship bulletin each week. This publication features current information for church-wide events on a weekly basis. Inside is a calendar and a short description of upcoming classes and opportunities in which to get involved.

The deadline to submit items is 14 days before (the Sunday) you would like to see the item published. All submissions are to be done online ([www.peopleofgrace.org/publications](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/publications)).

**Grace Worship Bulletin** is available in worship each week. It offers the worship theme, order of service, names of persons leading, and a list of persons requesting prayers. The bulletin does not typically include event announcements.

**Weekly Friday Eblast** is a brief glimpse of what is going on in worship for the upcoming weekend and highlights a few major events, needs, or fellowship opportunities that are happening in the coming week. There is also a “What’s New” column that will give you a quick glimpse at the upcoming month with links to the website for more information, as well as to Grace in Mission, Sunday Bulletins and Grace Notes.

### Online & Social Media Communications:

**Blog Posts** are stories written by staff or congregation members as a personal narrative account of things going on in the life of Grace and how you can get involved or support those ministries or events. Blog posts are archived on our website ([www.peopleofgrace.org/blog](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/blog)). They are also posted to the Grace United Methodist Church of Naperville Facebook page and sent out in the weekly Friday Eblast.

**Facebook** is a social media outlet that allows Grace to share things that are going on with its members and also the community of Naperville and beyond. If you haven’t already taken time to LIKE Grace United Methodist Church of Naperville on Facebook, please do so. Facebook is a great way to stay up-to-date on all things Grace and share them with your friends.

# How to submit information to be included in a publication?

## Submission Process:

**All submissions** are to be done online ([www.peopleofgrace.org/publications](http://www.peopleofgrace.org/publications)). If you have photos or graphics to go along with your written submission please email them to Ashley Pierce ([ashley.pierce@peopleofgrace.org](mailto:ashley.pierce@peopleofgrace.org))

## Submission Deadlines:

**Grace Notes** deadline is the first Tuesday of the month.

**Grace in Mission** deadline is 14 days before (the Sunday) you would like to see the item published.

**Friday Eblast** deadline is the Wednesday morning of the week you would like to see the item considered for publication.

---

## To Receive Grace Notes in Print:

**For those who have no access to electronic communication: YES! You can still receive Grace Notes on paper in your mailbox!**

We will still mail printed copies of Grace Notes (the monthly newsletter); however, you will need to request that Grace Notes be mailed to you! To make this request, please contact the Church Office (630-355-1748) and give them your name and current mailing address. You can also come into the Church Office and complete the request form. The print edition of Grace Notes will also be available for pick-up outside the Church Office.

**After December 31, we will only be mailing copies to those who have requested them.** We want you to receive them, so please get your request in as soon as possible! We hope this will save dollars in postage and printing costs and make good use of the funds you provide for the church.

---

**Grace Notes Request Form** (Please complete this form and return to the Church Office before January 1, 2018 to continue to receive Grace Notes in print.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_