



GRACE NOTES

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church

**Gather
to
Christ
Grow
as
Disciples
Go
to
Serve**

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Grow as Disciples
Go to Serve

April 2011



Who Else Do You Know That Wouldn't Stay Dead?

Reprinted from a portion of the Afterword of our 2011 Lenten devotions booklet, by Merrill Litchfield and Angela McCurdy:

In our Lenten study for this year, William Willimon's book Why Jesus? took us through a dozen different terms for identifying Jesus. As a way of wrapping up his journey through the different meanings of Jesus, Willimon turned to the idea of "body." Certainly Jesus, being human, had a body. Like all bodies, it needed food, drink, rest, and it got from place to place primarily by walking, though there was an occasional boat ride, and once a brief parade on a donkey. But when He got to the place where most human bodies, and stories, end; when His human body was placed, lifeless, in a tomb, that's where the story of Jesus became unique: it didn't end in death. Why Jesus? Well, who else do you know that wouldn't stay dead?

But the challenge doesn't stop with Easter. Once Jesus had spent enough time with His followers to get the message, "I'm not dead!" across to them, He also said, "I have to go away." And He did. Now, instead of an individual body that could only be in one place at any one time, we see a body of believers, going in many directions, being in many places at once, doing what Jesus had done: teaching, praying, calling people to enter the Kingdom of God.

Please join us in the events and holy days at Grace that celebrate the resurrected Jesus...and all that means for us now and forever. Why Jesus, indeed, but...why not?

Sunday, April 10

9:45am in Fellowship Hall and 11:00am in Worship

Dr. Mark Teasdale



Dr. Mark Teasdale, E. Stanley Jones Assistant Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, will speak to our adult Sunday school classes, small groups, Sr. High Sunday school class, and all interested parties about evangelism and discipleship in today's church. All are welcome! Dr. Teasdale will also preach at the 11:00 worship service on April 10.

Also on April 10

12:00pm in the Fireside Room

Optimizing Quality of Life (see below)

The Grace Church Foundation will host a panel of experts on the subject of quality of life optimization for those with chronic or progressive medical conditions. Come with your questions, as this program focuses on you and the hard choices loving people must sometimes make. A light lunch precedes our program. Contact Ginny Lacy at 630-420-7440 for more information.

Holy Week at Grace

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 17
8:15 and 9:30am Services

Majestic music by children's and adult choirs, with a look ahead to the Passion
11:00am Service

Music from the Grace Praise Team

Maundy Thursday, April 21

7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service

The Chancel Choir offers choral music emphasizing the servanthood and passion of Christ. Communion is served on this holy night commemorating the Last Supper

Good Friday, April 22

7:30 pm "Service of Shadows" (Tenebrae)
The Grace Youth Chorale presents beautiful and mourning Appalachian tunes that punctuate the increasing darkness; readings focus on the challenging "Solemn Reproaches of the Cross"

**Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil,
April 23 in the Chapel**

8:00am-5:00pm; sign up in the office or Activity Center for half-hour prayer slots.

Praying can also be done at home

Saturday Easter Service 5:00pm

In the Sanctuary with Holy Communion and music of Passion and Resurrection from the Grace Chamber Singers with Naperville Brass Ensemble and Organ

Easter Sunday, April 24

6:00am Sunrise Service

Youth-led sunrise service in the Sanctuary with visual projection and music led by His Grace Praise Team, followed by breakfast hosted by Grace Confirmands

8:15am Service

Traditional worship with music led by New Life Singers with the Naperville Brass Ensemble and Organ

9:30 and 11:00am Services

Blended style worship services at both 9:30 and 11:00am, featuring music from the Chancel Choir, Grace Praise Team, Naperville Brass Ensemble and Organ

Note: 9:30am is our most populated service; if possible, worshippers are encouraged to attend other services.



April 10 Grace Foundation Program Explores New Health Choices

By Ginny Lacy

On Sunday, April 10, your Grace Foundation will offer a unique opportunity to learn more about the physical and spiritual treatment of chronic, progressive and life-threatening illnesses. We don't quite know what to call our panel discussion. This is because our society does not like to think about these difficult decisions. But, as we all know, life is tenuous, and our faith is so important in understanding these illnesses and their treatment options. Research and innovative programs are giving us more choices. Come join our experts in learning about this new and exciting health care field.

Our panel will include: Dr. Bob Parker, physician with a medical degree from the University of Virginia and MBA from the University of Illinois; Jane Pelosi-Kelly, Palliative Care Nurse Practitioner with CNS; Carol Madalin, Chaplain with Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care; and Pam Riley, Grace Church Parish Nurse.

We will meet in the Fireside Room at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served. Make your reservations by calling Ginny Lacy, 630-420-7440, or Bob Poland, 630-355-1748, ext. 250. You may also sign up in the church office.



Pastor's Journal

511111 – Sunday, May First, Grace is trying a new thing for one day only! “We’ve never done it that way before!”

On May (5) first (1), 2011 (11) the 11:00 service (11) – 511111 – is going to worship by being in mission! The Grace Praise Team invites you to be with them at 8:00 a.m. on the Sunday after Easter for a short encouragement and prayer time in the Activity Center. At 8:30, we will head out to pre-arranged mission sites and opportunities.

We are working with Rebuild Together-Aurora and with NCO Youth and Family Services to provide “hands-on” mission activities. Rebuild Together-Aurora requires participants be at least 14 years old. This activity will involve painting or a similar project. The NCO project will be preparing the grounds of a group home for the spring and summer growing season. This project can involve every member of the family. There will also be an opportunity for families to provide a friendly visit and worship service to a shut-in or be involved in a project here at Grace during the 11:00 worship time. Our youth will be delivering mulch that day in preparation for the Side-by-Side mission trip.

To make this all happen, we need people, families and friends to sign up on the Sundays preceding Easter. There will be sign-up sheets and information available at the 11:00 worship service and in the Activity Center all month.

The 8:15 and 9:30 services will continue as usual as well as the 9:30 Children’s Sunday School. But the 11:00 worship team invites you to “Worship with Your Hands” on 511111!

Grace and Peace,



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

By John Bodine
Church Council Chair

The last vestiges of winter are swirling about with isolated snowflakes here in the last of March and early April, while daffodils, cilia, and crocuses are poking their heads up through the mulch and ground cover. It seems incongruous, but the breath of renewal is upon us. The birds sense it too, and they’re busy from early morning, reacquainting with one another and presumably looking for materials for new nests. Our Lenten season is upon us as well with a strong theme of discipleship and evangelism carrying through our schedule and all of our activities. On April 10, Dr. Mark Teasdale of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary will be joining us for a discussion of evangelism and discipleship in today’s church, 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. He will then preach at our 11:00 a.m. worship. All adult Sunday school classes, small groups, Sr. High Sunday school, and interested parties are welcome!

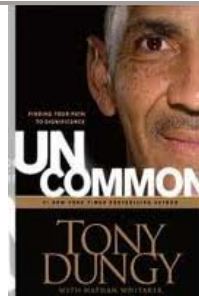
Charlie Gregory kicked off our Grace Discipleship Program on Sunday, March 20, asking all of us how we can make a difference. Letters were sent to all members with a request to pledge a “step up” in our own personal engagement and commitment to being a disciple, either within Grace or in the community. We’ll also be kicking off our first May Month of Mission Sunday,

May 1, when all members can join up with a mission activity outside of Grace. Participating members will meet at 8:00 a.m. May 1 for brief prayers, then mobilization out into the community. Those who attend the 11:00 a.m. worship will be assembling military packages instead of participating in regular worship. It feels like playing “hooky,” but it’s actually being a Disciple!

The Grace Evangelism Committee has completed a video that conveys a message of participation and engagement and suggests ways to become a more welcoming church. This video challenges us all to break out of our comfortable habits and behavioral patterns to make new friends, greet visitors and prospective members, and learn about different ways of thinking and alternate perspectives. To date, the video has been viewed by Church Council, the NOW Council, and the Grace Chancel Choir, with intentions that all will eventually have an opportunity to view it. Along the lines of reaching out, we will also participate in worship and dinner with Congregation Beth Shalom on April 9. This is a great opportunity to share with and learn more about our Jewish neighbors.

Is This About American Muslims, Or America?

For a very important commentary on religious tolerance from author and Interfaith Youth Corps of Chicago founder Eboo Patel, visit our website at www.peopleofgrace.org; click the “Links” tab on the left side of the home page, then click the first link under “Links to Articles.”



**Living the Life
“Uncommon”
Fellowship of
Christian Men
Spring Forum
Explores Path to a
Purposeful Life**

Men of Grace and the community are encouraged to attend Fellowship of Christian Men’s Spring Forum on Friday, **April 15**, beginning with free dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Room 254. The program will focus on sections of former Indianapolis Colts Coach Tony Dungy’s book *Uncommon*. Says FCM member Brian Fahs, “This book is a very quick read from an inspiring person who challenges us to choose to live an uncommon life, a life surrounded by purpose, meaning and inspiration to others. Men, I hope to see you there; ladies, kick your husbands out of the house and get them there!” Books are available for purchase in book stores and readily available in local libraries. Or, you may contact Bob Pacanowski to inquire about borrowing a book from an FCM member. Please RSVP for the event with Bob as well: 630-355-0804 or bobfod@aol.com. Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers. This will be a great night of fellowship and inspiration for today’s Christian men.

Linking Up to Grace

By Pastor Lisa Telomen



Our Lenten booklet is a great communicator of Grace. Each year I am in awe of how beautifully God works in our lives, and how beautifully our people tell the story! Why Jesus? Because he is so present and accomplishing so much in our lives and our world!

This spring break our family went to Oklahoma to connect with family there. Circumstances of my husband Rodney's illness last year and the illness of one of his sisters severed the links that kept us informed about his mother and family there. We went with some fear of how poorly his mother would be doing from hints received last fall and how we might connect with his sisters. But God was taking care of things, and we found his

mother doing very well in her new home. Rodney's sisters and their families were also most gracious in receiving us and sharing time and meals with us. It was a great reconnection, thanks to the work of God's love in all our hearts, preparing the way and smoothing the rough edges of feelings. This time together brought great relief and great hope for the future through communication and relationships restored.

Our travel time included reading together as a family, doing our "Parent Book" for Confirmation together with our son Jeff, watching/hearing movies together on the road, and playing games and going to parks with Grandma (Rodney's mother Catherine). It was a great time to focus again on the

centrality of God's love in our hearts, in our relationships, and in how we live life in our world. Why Jesus? Because he is the one who shows us this love we want to ground our lives and our relationships in, and whose love is the future for us and our world! From "Despicable Me" and "Megamind" to "How to Lose a Guy in 10 days" and "The Proposal," even secular movies can chart lives changed through the transforming, sacrificial power of love! So then, why Jesus? Because Jesus shows us how to do it best, with ever-lasting effects!

The Monday Sisters' group is finishing up the book *Simply Christian*, and while I have not agreed with everything the author writes, I have found reading it with others and thinking

about the over-arching question, "How do we tell the story of Jesus and share the life of being a Christian?" to be very helpful and compelling. As we think about "why Jesus?" together as a church this Lent, we are faced with this question even more dramatically. Does our faith really make a beneficial difference in our lives? If so, don't we want to share that good news with others who may also need that difference in their lives? And how will we go about demonstrating in our daily living and decision-making that we believe Jesus is our Way, our Truth, and our Life? In Christ's love,

Rev Lisa E. Telomen

What's New With Our Parking Lot Project?

By John Bodine

Investigations were made in 2010 into the feasibility of installing a permeable paver surface in place of asphalt for some of the parking areas around Grace. Asphalt is a relatively toxic material with respect to its impact on our waterways, and there is growing use of interlocking pavers in our area that permit rainwater to percolate into the ground. There are many examples around Naperville, including the Whole Foods Market parking lot on 75th St., Main Street in Warrenville, the Morton Arboretum parking lot, and Winding Creek Park off of Bailey Road. To help defray the costs of removing existing asphalt, Grace Trustees authorized application in July 2010 for Water Quality Grant support from local public agencies. Water quality improvement has been a major national concern since the 1970s, when the Clean Water Act was passed. We applied

and learned in February 2011 that our project was not selected out of the competitive applications to the Illinois EPA; however, we were selected for a 10% grant by Dupage County. Because we had estimated we would require at least 50% support for the project to be viable, we declined the award.

While our application was considered quite competitive due to our proximity to the West Dupage River, our diverse church-based demographics, and our willingness to communicate and champion water quality improvement, there were concerns that we had not yet conducted our capital campaign in order to affirm availability of funds for our part of the costs. We have been encouraged to re-apply.

You may be aware that we have an overall need for maintenance at Grace on our roofing, 30-year-old air conditioning, and parking lots. We have allowed the timing of an associ-

ated capital campaign to drift a bit due to the economic crisis of the last few years. Of course, the longer we wait, the more pressing the need. Current thinking is to prepare a recommendation to Church Council and our District Superintendent in 2011 for a capital campaign to begin in 2012. We can plan for the campaign to cover costs of roofing, HVAC, and resurfacing parking lots with asphalt, recognizing that the cost for funding asphalt resurfacing will be about the same as our share of grant-supported permeable paver installation. Once we have a measure of success with our capital campaign, we can re-apply in 2012 for Water Quality Grant support. If we get sufficient support, we can go forward with permeable pavers. If we don't get support, we will fall back to asphalt. Either way, we anticipate renewing parking surfaces in the 2013-2014 time frame.

SUPPORT JAPAN RELIEF

From Bishop Jung

...In these moments of great tragedy and loss, we, as people of faith, are reminded not only of our common humanity but also of our common destiny and our need to respond compassionately to the pain and suffering of our neighbors in need...We ask United Methodist congregations to respond in a variety of ways...

Give Online

www.peopleofgrace.org
(Click the link at the top of the home page)

Give By Offering

Donate to the offering plates on Sunday; make checks payable to GUMC, noting "Japan" on the memo line

Give Directly to UMCOR

(United Methodist Committee on Relief); Send a check payable to UMCOR to: UMCOR · P.O. Box 9068 · New York, NY 10087

Give By Credit Card

Call toll-free (800)-554-8583

**You can be assured that
100% of your gifts will
go to relief efforts**

Grace Library Shelves Full of Great Easter Reads For Children

By Angela McCurdy

In just a few short weeks we will be celebrating Easter. There are several books for children of all ages in the Grace Church Library, from simple board books to chapter books. Some are on display and others are on the shelves, but all are marked with a sticker on the spine of the book to help you locate them more easily. We also have books for children on Pass-over as well. These are a few that caught my eye:

In *An Easter Alleluia*, Anita Reith Stohs retells the story of Easter as a song, sung to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." She also includes suggestions at the end of the book for parents and caregivers to celebrate the season of Easter with young children.

Kate Geenaway Medal winner Brian Wildsmith retells the events of Holy Week from the point of view of the donkey Jesus rode on Palm Sunday in *The Easter Story*. Wildsmith says, "It is the world's greatest story, burning with history, passion, and tragedy. I decided that the best way of expressing this epic drama was to treat it like grand opera, to create the sets and place the characters within them, capturing the symbolism of the Crucifixion and Resurrection in color, shape and form."

The Very First Easter is written by historian Paul L. Meier and illustrated by Francisco Ordaz of Industrial Light and Magic. Ten-year-old Christopher, the son of a forest ranger, wants true stories, not fairy tales. While dyeing Easter eggs together, the family begins a discussion of the true story

of Easter. Together they read from the gospel of Luke, answering Christopher's questions as they retell the story. This one is recommended for children five to ten.

Walter Wangerin, Jr. fans will enjoy *Peter's First Easter*, illustrated by Timothy Ladwig (*Mary's First Christmas*). In ten short chapters, Peter recounts the events from the Last Supper to the resurrected Jesus' forgiveness of Peter. Please stop in Room 223 and see what catches your eye! Books circulate for two weeks.

BOOK GIVEAWAY APRIL 10!

Stop by the Activity Center April 10 between services, when the Grace Library will be giving away books that are either extra copies or too large for our collection. If you can give these books a new home, they're yours! Come take a look!



Grace Nursery Staff Serious About Quality Childcare

By Barb Ceruti

"I'm pretty picky about who I hire," said Child-care Coordinator Jill Mieszala, who has provided care to Grace youngsters for the past 12 years. "I have to look at these children's parents and know I picked the best people." A former nanny and mother of three young children, Jill is joined by a staff of five other women who are either parents, grandparents, early childhood professionals, or all of the above.

"Our job application asks people why they want to work with children," explains Jill. "I think that is one of the most important questions, because I don't want someone to apply just because they need the money. I prefer that they've had experience with kids." Adds Kathleen Powers, a mother of a two-year-old and former early childhood teacher who has been a childcare provider at Grace for the past eight years, "You

also have to have compassion and love; that's the most important thing."

According to Vanessa Caicedo, hired two years ago, "You need to treat the children like they were your own." Vanessa works in a day-care center during the week and is studying to be an early childhood teacher. She also babysits for the three Fahs children, "regulars" in the Grace childcare program whom Jill and her co-workers have fondly watched grow.

"I can't believe how the kids we've watched over the years have changed!" says Jill. This sense of family toward their charges, as well as one another, is immediately apparent among the women in the two nursery rooms. "It feels like the kids and their parents are our family," said Kathleen. Said Vanessa, who moved to this area from New York, "I feel like I'm not even at a job

on Sunday mornings. I feel so blessed to have met these people; they're like family." Jill (whose culinary and domestic skills have earned her the moniker of "Martha Stewart") hosts a Christmas party each year for her staff. "I just appreciate them so much." The feeling is mutual among parents. Said Lori Fahs, "Our nursery staff is wonderful. They always greet the children by name and seem genuinely excited to see them."

Joining Jill, Kathleen and Vanessa are Onalee Taylor, Maralee Green and Santosh Gupta, the "grandma" in the Grace childcare family, whose Hindu lullabies have calmed a number of fussy babies over the years. When children cannot be consoled, a pager system is employed. "Fifteen minutes is our rule of thumb; if we can't calm a child after that amount of time, we page their parents," said Jill, who

also supplies parents with a Nursery Handbook explaining policies and practices. "We recommend that parents play in the room with their child for a while until they know they're comfortable." In

addition to making sure youngsters are happy, the staff is also aware of any special needs, allergies, etc. they may have. Snacks are not allowed, so as to eliminate any risk of food allergies.

While Grace childcare providers are paid staff, they are happy to accept the help of parent volunteers as well as youth, who often help out at larger events such as "Kids Camp In," when children come for an evening of fun while their parents go out. "I hope parents are aware that



(seated) Jill Mieszala; (back row, from left) Kathleen Powers, Onalee Taylor, Maralee Green, Vanessa Caicedo, Santosh Gupta.

we are here and that our services are free," said Jill. "I encourage them to come and see what we're all about."

CHILDCARE 101

Grace nursery hours are 8:15 a.m.-12:00 noon on Sunday mornings in Rooms 130 (infants) and 131 (toddlers). There is also free childcare provided during all events at Grace.

Please make reservations 5-7 days in advance. This is very important! Reservation forms are in the church office, or call Jill Mieszala at 630-499-9391.

Animal Attraction!

Send us your animal photos! Every month, we'll feature a photo of your pet (or a friend's, family member's, etc.) or animal shot taken by you or someone you know (no internet downloads or otherwise "anonymous" animal photos, please). E-mail them to gumnotes@peopleofgrace.org or drop them in the church office, ATTN: Barb, to be scanned (originals will be returned to the owner upon request). Please include your name, the animal's name, and anything you'd like us to know about the animal or photo. Photos are published in the order received.



Mongo

Mongo makes his home with the Tschirhart family, who rescued him from the ADOPT (Animals Deserving of Proper Treatment) shelter two years ago. He is thought to be largely Maine Coon. The oldest American cat breed, Maine Coon cats were alleged to be a cross between raccoons and cats. Maine Coons are large, good natured cats with long hair, a "ruff," and ear tufts, and tend to have very dog-like personalities. A respectable 17 pounds, Mongo loves to snuggle and seems to have an instinct for knowing who needs his attention the most. He certainly enjoys posing, here with the Easter lilies!

Letters

Dear Grace Church Family:

Many, many thanks for all the prayers, kind thoughts, and condolences during my father's sudden illness and subsequent death. Thank you also for the beautiful prayer shawl given to us by our Grace family. It was so comforting to be embraced by our family of faith, and both John and I feel truly blessed.

—Love, Linda and John Bodine

Dear Grace Church:

Please join me in prayers of thanks and joyful celebration. I am a child of God, I have the wife and children I want, and I feel especially blessed with God's gifts to me. I would like to share my prayers of thanks and celebration with others.

—Rodney Telomen

Dear Friends in Faith,

Great things are happening at Grace Church, and our Grace Foundation is responsible for offering and supporting the opportunity. Grace youth were fortunate to move back into the building and out of the Lighthouse. Thanks to all, we not only got to move in, we got to move in with style. The renovation of Room 234 has brought only positive feedback and has given our youth a new sense of ownership and a comfortable place to gather, learn, worship, and fellowship.

We are forever grateful for your most generous gift and your unending support. Thank you!

—Blessings, Gaye Lynn Loufek

OUR PEOPLE

Sympathy to the Friends and Family of...

Ken Arends, husband of Jolene Arends
John Davis, friend of Joe and Sue Schofield
Phyllis Dubson
Roger Fritz, husband of Kathryn Fritz
Ruby Gorrell, mother of Linda Hunziker
Dan Sabao, friend of Sue Ellen Stewart
Harold and Mary Schrader, parents of Bob Schrader
Ralph Sieben, husband of Ruth Sieben
Ethel Sitter
Mark Young, brother of Cindy Stonecipher

Celebrations and Congratulations

Caitlyn Marie Murray, daughter of Laura and Hunter Murray and granddaughter of Bob and Margaret Schmitt, was born on March 24
Jessica Gant and Darren Williams were married on March 26
Rob Poland and Angela Gautschy were married on April 3
Courtney Speaks, daughter of Reed and Bekki Hamilton, received her Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.), cum laude, from the Chicago College of Pharmacy, Midwestern University, on March 4. She will begin residency in Ambulatory Care at Phoenix VA Health Care System on July 1.

THE CENTENARIAN CLUB: 100!
Dorothy Butler celebrates her 100th birthday on April 12. Please send greetings to 1334 Wilshire Dr., Naperville, IL 60540
Doris Nance celebrates her 100th birthday on April 27. Please send greetings to Community Nursing & Rehab Center, 1136 N. Mill St., Naperville, IL 60540
Ruth Ladd celebrates **107 years** on April 28. Please send greetings to Pine Ridge, Apt. 502, 1320 Wisconsin St., Hudson, WI 54016
You may also sign greetings to our centenarians in the narthex April 10

Welcome, New Members!

Bold face indicates new members

Steve and Gretchen Connors and daughters Avery and Myla
Mike and Gay Craig
Marilyn Palmer
John and Kim Rumrey and children Katie, Ellie and Nick
Jen Schalk, husband John and daughters Emily and Molly
Andy and Sarah Stout
Bill, Elizabeth, Matt and Anne Wesley
Ethan and Heather Moore and sons Jake and Luke

With Thanks

Thank you to any and all who participated in any way in Youth Ministry's Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction. Whether you were in the kitchen, part of the set-up/clean-up crews, provided items for the auction, provided a dessert, attended the dinner, or were bidders at the auction, we truly appreciate your support. We are so very fortunate to have a congregation who supports our youth so graciously. —Grace Youth Ministry



Grace Summer Missions Impact Duke Student

Lauren Kottis, a mechanical engineering student at Duke University, was one of five 2011 Sammie award winners for her efforts leading Habitat for Humanity in Durham. Says Lauren, "Every summer I'd travel with my church group to Clarksville, TN, to help build houses. We'd go back year after year, and it was really exciting and gratifying to see how the experience affected the people there, as well as me." Lauren plans to study architecture, develop affordable housing, and work on sustainability issues.

A New Beginning: One Woman's Journey Through Loss and Love

By Barb Ceruti

When Sherry Schmidt looks in the mirror, she sees a woman who is 55 pounds lighter than she was just over a year ago. She also sees the reflection of past roots in the future that is forming before her. In 2007, Sherry's husband of 24 years, Joe, passed away suddenly of an aortic dissection. She and her two children, Joey, now 23, and Paula, 21, felt as though their "right arm had been cut off." Says Sherry, "Their father was their best friend... life changed directions, and they struggled to find their niche." As for Sherry, the sudden loss left her feeling not only blindsided but, as the years passed, lonely and somewhat lost. "I had started to slide; I was active, but there was always something missing. I needed to step forward."

Early in January 2010, a neighbor asked Sherry what her New Year's resolution was. "2010 is going to be a year for me," she responded. "I was done wallowing and letting life go by without advocating for myself." Noting that saying it aloud helped her to commit to it, Sherry began a regimen of running, yoga, and a "bird

Before



seed diet" of walnuts, almonds, sunflower seeds and cranberries throughout the morning and afternoon hours, followed by a sensible, healthy dinner. "This was a diet according to Sherry," she jokes, but the results have been very convincing. By August of 2010, she had lost 55 pounds, and she has kept it off.

As impressive as her weight loss and svelte figure are, it is what Sherry has gained in the process that is truly significant. In addition to a newfound sense of confidence, vitality, and the ability to move more easily as she blazes around the world on a weekly basis as a flight attendant with United Airlines, she has been able to show her children that she could do something for herself and that she is going to not only survive, but thrive. "My children were very afraid for me for a while, but they see now that mom is okay; they don't have to cod-

dle me anymore." And if the breathtaking diamond on Sherry's left hand doesn't say it first, the glow about her betrays the biggest gain in her life of late: a new fiancé—in a dear old friend.

In the wake of her husband's death, Sherry called upon someone from her church family at Fellowship Reformed Church in Lombard, IL, where Sherry's family and another, the Noorlags, were charter members and very active in making the church community grow. David Noorlag became one of Sherry's best friends, and it was him she called upon to offer some guidance and support to her son in the absence of his father. Two months later, Sherry received a call from David's brother Joe, who was also a good friend of Sherry's brother. Joe Noorlag had become a widower after his wife of 33 years and mother to their four children lost her battle with cancer. Sherry was expecting his call, as David's wife, Michelle, relayed to her that Joe thought of Sherry as the "love of his life" who got away when he was in college. Sherry told Michelle to tell Joe to call another

day. He called ten minutes later, and the rest, as they say, is history. Amidst shared "coincidences" between the two that Sherry

At a Mother's Day gathering among the extended families last year, Sherry's future sister-in-law told her, "It's like you're just supposed to

Now



Sherry Schmidt and her fiancé, Joe Noorlag, plan to marry in March of 2012.

considers signs of new beginnings (e.g., the day Joe called Sherry was her husband's birthday), whirlwind transcontinental romance, and deep childhood bonds come full circle, Sherry has found a new beginning rooted in what she calls the "building blocks that were put in place while our families were immersed in building God's community." She adds, "I made a commitment to get stronger; I asked God every day to help me. Then Joe came into the picture. I really believe this was God's timing."

be here." Saying this, Sherry's smile twinkles nearly as much as her diamond.

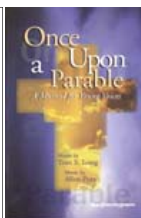
Do You Have A Success Story?

If you have a story about a significant, positive change in your life that you would like to share with Grace Notes, please contact Barb Ceruti at gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org or 630-355-1748, ext. 240. "Success stories" do not have to be about weight loss; they can be about any turnaround in your life, particularly one that involved a reliance on God. Let us hear it!



Holy Socks!

Our 4th grade Sunday School class collected 880 pair of socks for Hesed House in February. Great job!



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL A MOTHER'S DAY TREAT!

Over Mother's Day weekend, **May 7 and 8**, the Junior Singers, Cherub and Angelus Choirs will present their annual musical, "Once Upon a Parable," the humorous re-telling of many of the best-loved, most familiar parables in the New Testament. With simple costumes, minimal props, and very witty delivery, the children will bring new life to age-old stories. Join us **May 7, 5:00 p.m., and/or May 8, 11:00 a.m.**, during worship. What a treat for mom!

Grief Group Support in April/May

Revs. Lisa Telomen and Bill Bryan, along with Parish Nurse Pam Riley, are leading a grief support group on Saturday mornings, 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Room 224, **April 9-May 21**. Conversations will be centered around readings in the book *Traveling Through Grief*, available in the church office for \$10 per copy. This support group is intended to ease the pain participants feel, help strengthen spirits, and bring hope for the new future God will provide. If you are interested in joining this group or finding out more about it, please contact Pastor Lisa Telomen at 630-355-1748, ext. 226, or lisatelomen@peopleofgrace.org.



Annual Hamball Luncheon April 29

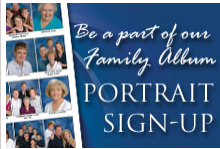
Don't miss United Methodist Women's annual Hamball Luncheon, this year on Friday, **April 29**, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This much anticipated luncheon features a menu of delicious hamballs, German potato salad, assorted cold salads, variety of pies, rolls and beverages. Call the church office at 630-355-1748 for tickets (\$10 per person, benefiting UMW missions); table reservations can be made for five or more. Public welcome—invite your friends and neighbors!

Make Vacation Bible School Part of Your Summer Plans!

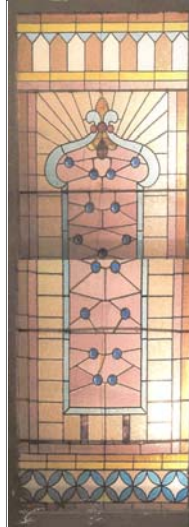


Shake up your child's summer by registering him or her for Vacation Bible School 2011, **July 11-15**, 9:00-11:30am at Grace. Themed the "Shake It Up Café," this year's VBS will be cookin' up some great fun in the sun! Register on Sundays in the Activity Center or download registration and volunteer forms at www.peopleofgrace.org/vbs. We need LOTS of help from teachers, leaders, teen apprentices, prayer partners, and more! Contact Margaret Harrison at 630-355-1748, ext. 241, with questions or for further information. Mark your calendars for VBS today!

Get In the Picture!



Grace is producing another pictorial membership directory this year, with photo session dates in April and May: Tuesday-Friday, April 26-29 and May 3-6, 3:00-9:00 p.m., and Saturdays, April 30 and May 7, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Register for a photo session with Phyllis Pepiot at the church office (630-355-1748, ext. 222) or online at www.peopleofgrace.org. Click the Lifetouch icon (shown above) on the home page. Non-members are also invited to be photographed during these sessions. Call Phyllis if you have address, phone, or family member changes; even if you aren't going to be pictured, your information will still be published.



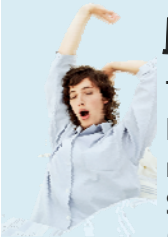
Stained Glass Window Update

From Sue Schofield

Recently, all Grace members were sent a brochure and donation form regarding the Stained Glass Window project at Grace. The task force for this project is requesting that you please place donations in an envelope marked "Stained Glass Windows." Donations forms and envelopes are available in the pews and in the office. To date, the amount given to this project is \$24,380, and the library window (pictured here) is now fully funded. Each week, there will be an update to the amount raised. No work will be done on any window until it is fully funded. Work is currently underway for the library window. We are anxious to fully fund the Veteran's window and the Jesus and Mary Magdalene window in the Sanctuary, which are next to be renovated. Thank you for your generosity in helping to fund this very special project!

May Hunger Collection Sunday, May 1 Benefiting Loaves & Fishes

Fill a grocery bag and return it to the basket in the narthex, or make a monetary donation to the "Love Loaf" or the offering plate (checks payable to GUMC; note "love loaf" on the memo)



No More sleepy Sundays!

Think worship is just for Sunday morning? Here at Grace, our Saturday evening service offers families a unique opportunity to end their busy week focusing on God as well as an alternative to Sunday morning services. Saturday Evening Worship meets in an informal, circular format at 5:00 p.m. every Saturday in the Activity Center, offering weekly communion, a monthly healing service, original music from music leader Vickie Wagner, and inspiring messages from Pastor Bob Atkins. If you have never been to Saturday Evening Worship, maybe it's time to come see what it's all about!



Register for Summer Missions!

This summer, Grace Sr. High youth (entering grade 9 and up) and adults will be traveling to Pikeville, KY, the week of June 12-18 for the Side-by-Side mission trip. Register and download packet materials at www.peopleofgrace.org/youth_ministry, or contact the youth office at 630-355-1748, ext. 234 (Gaye Lynn Loufek). Jr. High youth (entering grade 6 and up) and adults will be offering "Hope At Home," serving the Chicagoland area July 19-21. Download and print out Hope@Home registration packets at www.peopleofgrace.org/youth_ministry. Online registration is available for the Side-by-Side (Pikeville, KY) trip only.

News deadline for May Grace Notes:

Monday, April 25

Submit news to gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org or call 630-355-1748, ext. 240

Grace United Methodist Church

300 E. Gartner Road
Naperville, IL 60540
630-355-1748

www.peopleofgrace.org



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Grace Members Faithful Participants In Rebuilding Together-Aurora



On Saturdays, **April 30 and May 7** of this year, Grace Church will once again participate in the Rebuilding

Together-Aurora mission by refurbishing a Hope For Tomorrow home at 469 N. Lake in Aurora, IL. Hope For Tomorrow is a non-profit facility that provides housing for veterans and individuals struggling with chronic substance abuse, mental health issues, and/or pathological gambling disorders. Their mission is to encourage individuals to “build their lives around recovery instead of building their recovery around their lives” by providing educational relapse prevention services, in conjunction with a highly structured supportive living environment.

This year’s Rebuilding Together project will focus on transforming the basement of this facility into community meeting rooms and remodeling upstairs bedrooms. Skilled and unskilled volunteers from Grace, along with others around the community, will be engaged in installing flooring and sub-flooring,

painting, installing new stairs, drywall, and demolishing the current basement in preparation for its conversion into meeting rooms. Again this year, a team from the University of Mount Union in Ohio is planning their college reunion around the Rebuilding Together-Aurora event. “How great is this?” says Thatch Irwin, who has coordinated the Grace Rebuilding effort for the past several years. “If it works out, this will be the third year in a row they’ve elected to spend their college reunion volunteering their time and talent to the Rebuilding Together-Aurora event. I’m impressed!”

Thatch is also impressed by the continued dedication of Grace volunteers over the years, many of whom have already committed to the project this year as well: Scott Abderhalden, Richard Bray, John Bushnell, Mike Doll, Larry Hartman, Julee Lockard, Andrew Mangus, Lindsay Sassa and the Mount Union team, Susan Marseille, John McCurdy, Bob Pacanowski, Tom and Chelsea Ryan, Mark and Char Schwabero, Tom Smart and friend, Steve Southworth, John

Stuart, Dayna and Harlan Tarr, and George Wilson. Many others from Grace will also join this project, and all are welcome, skilled or not. To be sure, there is much to do for folks who have no building skills—elbow grease goes a long way! Youth 14+ accompanied by an adult are also welcome; contact Thatch Irwin at 630-961-3804 or tirwin@wideopenwest.com to volunteer or for further information.

5/1/11: MAY DAY Mission Madness!

Sunday, **May 1**, is all about missions, and all are encouraged to get involved! The Grace Praise Team will kick off the day with a short service at 8:00am in the Activity Center. From there, the team and all who wish to join them will take off for various service sites suited to various ages and skill levels (including the Hope For Tomorrow site mentioned in the “Rebuilding Together” article on this page; see Pastor Bob’s letter on page 2 for more about mission sites). **Please note:** Those who attend the 11:00am on May 1 will work on assembling military care packages. We’re all on a mission—come join us!