



GRACE NOTES

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church

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

March 2011

Your Lenten Devotions Booklet Is Coming!

Soon you will be receiving your 2011 "Daily Meditations for the Lenten Season" booklet, which contains the writings, poetry, art, and photography of members of our congregation who felt moved to share with us their thoughts and expressions on our 2011 Lenten theme of "Why Jesus?". This booklet provides personal daily devotions from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, with "double devotions" on the Sundays of Lent, as well as our schedule of special Lenten events, beginning with Ash Wednesday worship on March 9. You're sure to be blessed this Lenten season by this little book, and we encourage you to offer a copy to your friends and family members as well (a donation of \$2 per additional copy to cover printing costs is appreciated; extras are available in the church office). **Online Grace Notes recipients, please note:** due to the "piggyback" bulk mailing of *Grace Notes* and the Lenten booklet, you will receive a hard copy of *Grace Notes* this month, as separating online recipients from our general mailing list would incur additional postage costs. Thank you for your flexibility, and thank you for being green!

Inside Your Lent Book

- SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS MARCH 9-APRIL 24 (PAGES 2-3)
- DEVOTIONS FROM GRACE MEMBERS AND PASTORS (PAGES 5-58)
- FOREWORD AND AFTERWORD FROM LENTEN BOOK EDITORS (PAGE 4, PAGE 59)



March Makes Music!

Saturday, March 12, 7:30pm

The Grace Concert Series presents "Musica Intima," a 12-voice ensemble from Canada internationally known for their warm, engaging stage presence, impeccable musicianship, and unique perspective on ensemble singing. Musica Intima has released five recordings, sharing their powerful harmonies and perfectly blended voices with the world. The critics can't say enough about this group—come see for yourself March 12 in the Grace Sanctuary!



"These singers make eye contact with their audience, creating an achingly intimate, holy moment in each performance...judge for yourself; this description isn't hyperbole!"

Purchase tickets online at www.peopleofgrace.org/concerts or in the church office. Tickets are \$20 general admission; \$15 seniors 65+; students \$10; and reserved Artists' Circle seating \$30.

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30pm

Grace singers and handbell ringers, join together with other United Methodist churches for a very special Lenten service in beautiful Wentz Hall in downtown Naperville. Sign up to participate, whether you're in an established Grace choir or not, at www.peopleofgrace.org/music. Music for this service is available in the church office. There is one recommended rehearsal at Grace with the Chancel Choir on Thursday, March 17, 7:00-7:45 p.m., and also a mandatory combined choir rehearsal at Wentz Hall, 6:00 p.m., on March 23. Participants in massed choirs will not need tickets, and each congregation will be allotted 75 tickets for those who wish to attend the service.



Spread the Word!



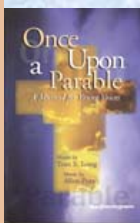
Take cover...March is "Mulch Madness" month, and Grace Youth Ministry is ready to serve all your mulch needs this spring! Order forms for 2 cu. ft. bags of mulch (two types

@\$4.50 per bag) are available in the church office or in the narthex on Sundays throughout March. Pick-up or delivery* dates are Sat./Sun., April 30/May 1, 8:00 a.m.-noon, and Sat., May 7, 8:00 a.m.-noon. \$25/\$50/\$100 gift cards to Sid's Home and Garden Showplace are also available. Proceeds benefit Youth Summer Missions. Place your orders this month!

*Delivery charge \$15 with 15-bag minimum order within a 10-mile radius.

K-7th Graders:

You're Invited!



Children ages K-7th grade are cordially invited to participate in this year's children's musical, "Once Upon a Parable," May 7 and 8. This is a fun musical opportunity for children and families, especially those who cannot commit to weekly choir. Many Wednesday rehearsals, beginning March 9, and all Sunday rehearsals (depending on the choirs called, beginning March 13) are required. Contact Lynn Leitzen at 630-355-1748, ext. 249, or dandleitzen@aol.com.



Pastor's Journal

A Campaign for Discipleship is a simple concept with powerful results. Over the coming weeks, Grace Church will ask every member to pledge over the coming year to take one more step in their walk of faith. When it comes to developing our relationship with God, we all have good intentions. We want to do better in our spiritual life, but sometimes we need a little motivation.

Grace is stepping up to help by doing two things. First, the Church will offer the opportunity to make a commitment to do one thing toward a more robust spiritual life. No one is expected to become Mother Theresa overnight. Setting a goal that is well beyond our current practice and capability inevitably results in failure. The goal we set for ourselves should be achievable this year. For example, if a person typically attends church on Christmas and Easter only, making a commitment to attend once in the summer is a 50% increase in discipleship! Second, the Church will check in with you periodically during the year to ask how you are doing and to offer classes or other opportunities as they are appropriate to your goals. For example, if there are a number of people who make a commitment to pray more often, the Church may offer a special class in types and strategies of prayer.

Charles Gregory, head of our Campaign for Discipleship, will be sending a letter this month explaining this campaign and its challenge. Then, in April, you will receive a letter with a pledge card for you to fill out and return to the Church on Palm Sunday, April 17. It is as simple as that. We can all do something more to further our walk with Christ.

Grace and Peace,



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

By John Bodine,
Church Council Chair

Church Council reviewed final estimates of 2011 giving based on pledge cards that continued to trickle in through the first months of 2011. We are comfortable with the planned budget and, though it's still early in the year, we anticipate a balanced budget at year's end. Church staff and committees will continue their careful approach to spending as we watch the pattern of receipts each month. January was reported as below budget on receipts, but spending is below plan as well, leaving us in a positive cash position.

We are continuing to schedule speakers from our membership who will step up and share their testimonials, as we did during the Stewardship Campaign last fall, and encourage you to consider telling your story of Grace as an inspiration to our members. So much is going on at Grace in so many diverse areas that most of us remain un-

aware of the impact we and our church have on one another and the community. Let your stories be heard!

Our Discipleship Campaign, designed to promote deeper engagement of our members in church activities and our mission, will begin in early April with a mailing to all church members. With the increased emphasis on Missions and Programs this year, there has been a growing interest in highlighting Grace's mission activities. As a result, May has been designated "Miracle Mission Month" at Grace. There will be weekly speakers in worship to describe Grace Mission linkages, their impact, and opportunities to contribute financial or human resources to missions.

Thank you for your continuing engagement and support. If you see an opportunity to bring your talents and energy to bear, consider signing on for a "step up" through our Campaign for Discipleship. Your gifts are greatly needed and will be as fulfilling for you as for any who receive them.

Reflections on 2010

From Julie Kronbach, Stewardship and Finance Chair

2010 is behind us, and although it was a year of challenging finances, it brought much to celebrate. We ended the year receiving 96% of our budget, which underwent drastic reductions as we implemented rigorous expense management practices. Despite these reductions, however, we were still able to meet 95% of our commitments to missions here and around the world. More cause for celebration are the many lay leaders who stepped up to fill gaps left by staff reductions, igniting new ministries and initiatives with energy and creativity. Additional joys include the newly baptized and confirmed Christians within our fellowship, totaling 29 baptisms (two confirmands, three adults and 24 infants); 41 confirmed 8th grade students; and 88 new members, including the 41 confirmands. Our work in building up the Body of Christ continues in 2011 full of challenges, but overflowing with opportunity and promise! May we be found faithful stewards.



Guess Who's Invited Us to Dinner?

Congregation Beth Shalom has invited our congregation to dinner on Saturday, April 9, 7:00 p.m., preceded by a worship service at 6:15 p.m. Let us take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to become better acquainted with our friends at Beth Shalom. Please RSVP in the Grace Church office by March 18.

Open Doors Ministry: A First Step

By Jim Powell

Grace's Open Doors Ministry (ODM) held its first "Meet and Greet" session on Sunday, February 13, introducing the group's primary goal as supporter and facilitator for families with special needs children and young adults. After a ministry overview, including recognition of the ODM's commitment to confidentiality, there was vibrant discussion of the kinds of activities and services the ODM may undertake: Periodic, likely quarterly, get-togethers with a program topic, followed by discussion and socializing among parents, guardians, caregivers, and ODM members; targeted educational support for special needs individuals tailored to individual and family circumstances, particularly pertaining to Sunday school and confirmation classes; other activities for special needs individuals and families, and possible church services highlighting young people in the church, both the special needs population and others.

Among the suggested get-together topics were: Family support programs and advocacy; Individual Educational Program (IEP) development and maintenance; sibling support and issues; marriage support and issues; and legal issues (e.g., special needs trusts and new rights/regulations).

A common thread of the February 13 session was that by working together and supporting each other, we will best maximize the potential of all members of God's family and make this journey as successful as possible. To that end, we invite families who were unable to attend the session to contact either Laurel or Mark Fleming, Co-chairs (630-983-6624; laurelfleming@aol.com or markwflemi@aol.com) or Pastor Lisa Telomen (630-355-1748, ext. 226, or lisatelomen@peopleofgrace.org) to discuss the ODM mission and your family situation, or to participate in this important work.

April 10 Panel Highlights Quality of Life

From Ginny Lacy

Over the past few years, the Grace Church Foundation has offered the congregation a series of educational programs, including the latest information on wills and trusts and, last year, discussion of the Five Wishes program. All of our programs feature a complementary roundtable of experts and encourage a lively discussion featuring *you* and how you can manage the hard choices that loving people must sometimes make.

This year, we continue our series with an opportunity to learn more about improving the quality of life for those with chronic or progressive medical conditions. As our country continues to focus on wellness and prevention, many programs optimizing quality of life have been integrated into our medical care. On Sunday, **April 10**, the Foundation will feature an outstanding panel of experts who will share with us all that is happening in this arena as well as answer your questions. This event begins with a light lunch at 12:15 p.m., followed by our program to be completed by 2:00 p.m.

Please put April 10 on your calendar, and watch for more details. For questions, please contact Paul Carpenter at 630-717-1363 or Bob Poland at 630-355-1748.

Of Bells and Boomwhackers By Angela Sterchi

Ten members of Grace's Youth Bell Ensemble (YBE) and Children's Bell Ensemble (CBE) and three adult chaperones traveled to River Forest, IL, on February 5 to attend a day-long Young Ringers handbell festival at Grace Lutheran Church and School. The



event was sponsored by the Illinois chapter of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) and featured guest director Michael J. Glasgow, a handbell composer and minister of music at North Raleigh UMC in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The morning began with a massed rehearsal of all participating ringers working with Mr. Glasgow to prepare for the closing concert, which was open to the parents and families. Many of the parents were able to attend the concert and appreciated hearing over 60 youth ringing at the same time. There were three divisions of ringers, and each prepared their own pieces of increasing length and difficulty. The beginner and intermediate division also attended classes in rhythm and boomwhackers (plastic tubular tuned percussion instruments).

From CBE, Mark Froelich, Brandon John, Libby Ramm, and Sophia Scharosch rang in the beginner division; Kristen Basgall and Kristen Riedinger rang in the intermediate. From YBE, Hayley Wiskari was an intermediate ringer, and Michelle Riedinger, Rachel Sterchi and Amber Watkins participated in the advanced division.

The children and adult chaperones had a wonderful day of ringing and fellowship together, and at the end, although very tired, all agreed they enjoyed the day and learned something new. Many thanks to our parent drivers and chaperones and to the Grace Music Ministry for helping to fund this wonderful educational workshop for our young ringers!

Stained Glass Windows Return to Grace

From Winnie Graver

Organized in 1890, Grace Church was blessed with beautiful stained glass windows in its original building on Benton and Loomis Streets. In 1909, these windows were removed and placed in our second building on Ellsworth and Van Buren Streets. All windows in this structure were of stained glass, with several of them given as memorials.

When North Central College purchased our second building, Grace requested and was granted first opportunity to select any stained glass windows when they were removed. In early 2007, a task force was formed at Grace to select these windows and determine how and from whom they should be given. Wixon and Associates of Glen Ellyn presented a plan to Pastor Bob Atkins for properly renovating the windows. Progress was delayed, but the project was recently approved by the Grace Board of Trustees and Church Council. Watch for a brochure and donation form regarding this historical project. Your gift can be given in memory or honor of a person(s) and will be recorded in the Grace Book of Memory.

Sympathy to the Friends and Family of...

Matta Lou Buescher, mother of Corey Buescher
"Dutch" Don Conniff, father of Jennifer Conniff
Marjorie Dressler, mother of Marilyn Duncan
Dayton Gorrell, father of Linda Hunziker
Hildegarde Grysh, aunt of Paul Grysh
Jackie Holloway, sister-in-law of Glenna Holloway
Jan Lehman, wife of Rev. Ken Lehman
Paul N. Miller, uncle of Pam Riley
Martin Perry, father of Linda Bodine
Laura Ralf, mother of Mark Fleming
David Shotts
Betty Yensho, mother of Becky Hornbeck

OUR
PEOPLE

Births and Baptisms

Ryan Bear O'Halloran, son of Richard and Samantha, grandson of Joy and Greg Gilmer, and great-grandson of Jim and Judy Sanders, was born on February 7
Phoebe Olivia Macaluso, daughter of Alexis Dunne and Steve Macaluso and granddaughter of Chip and Pat Dunne, was born on February 15
Addison Kate, daughter of Jacob and Christine Kitchel, was baptized February 20
Logan Michel, son of Justin and Nicole Ring, was baptized February 20
Mason Daniel, son of Aaron and Alison Mlot, was baptized February 27

Letters

We want to thank all of our dear friends at Grace for all of your prayers during our health problems and for the many birthday cards we received for our special birthdays on January 29 and January 30. Blessings to you all! —Dorotha and Jo Ellen Bender

Congratulations, Hope UMC Pastor Vladimir Ilyukin!



Our student pastor, Vladimir Ilyukin of Hope UMC in Volgograd, Russia, has just graduated from Seminary! Through the support of Grace, he has been able to attend seminary as a distance learner with a brief time in residence at our UMC Seminary in Moscow. He is deeply engaged in authoring and praying about a thesis he is to defend in June which will, if accepted, create a manual for United Methodist churches in Russia on evangelism. Because of the rigors of his thesis, Pastor Vladimir's trip to Naperville has been deferred to a later date. Let's join in prayer for his final seminary work and in congratulating him on his graduation!

To My Dear Friends at Grace:

My heart is full of love and appreciation to you for remembering me with the beautiful prayer shawl, your cards, thoughts and prayers after my accident. Thanks to you, I have progressed nicely, and I am doing very well. I hope to be back on the "active" list soon! With my blessings to each of you...

—June McCluskey

Marjorie Dressler was on Grace Church's shut-in and visitation list for the past 11 years (since my father, Bob Dressler, passed away in 2000). Our family is so very appreciative of all the visits, candy, cards, drawings from Sunday school kids, etc. that you have brought her over the years. Even though her eyesight and memory continued to fail, she always knew that she was loved and cared about. May God richly bless you for ministering in this way.

—Marilyn Duncan



Lumpi

Animal Attraction!

This is Lumpi the "Leprechaun," a 13-year-old miniature long-haired Dachshund and beloved companion of Barbara and Al Hoch—and the many patients she visits at Edward Hospital, where she is a therapy dog. According to Barbara, Lumpi likes to tell folks at the hospital that her grandmother was an Irish Setter, which is why she likes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! Who'd have guessed?

Little One Has Big Heart For Sick Kids

What do most young children want for their birthday? Presents! Not six-year-old Lizzie Patterson, a Grace youngster. For her sixth birthday party, Lizzie asked her



Six-year-old Lizzie Patterson presents Edward Hospital's Meghan Moreno with the \$175 she collected for the hospital's KidsCare Campaign.

guests to bring dollar bills instead of birthday gifts. In total, she collected \$175 for the KidsCare Campaign toward the renovation of Edward Hospital's newborn and pediatric intensive care units as well as the addition of the first in-hospital Ronald McDonald House Charities Family Room in Illinois. "When Lizzie was younger," said her mom, Holly, "we would drive by Edward Hospital and she would always ask if there were sick kids in the hospital. She seemed very concerned." For Lizzie's fourth birthday, she and friends collected \$150, which they presented to Edward Hospital CEO Pam Davis. This year, Lizzie decided to raise money again, and when Holly inquired about a current fundraising campaign specifically for kids, Edward Foundation Director Meghan Moreno suggested the KidsCare Campaign. "I wanted to make kids feel better and make sure their families could be near them, so I thought the Ronald McDonald Family Room was very important," said Lizzie. "When I give something to someone it makes me so happy because they appreciate it so much. It makes me smile and feel good inside. I want to have a lemonade stand to raise more money for sick kids. Or a kid's craft stand."



GREAT NEWS!

Our 4th grade Sunday school class collected over 860 pairs of socks for Heses House! Wow, that's a lot of socks!

March Hunger Collection March 6;
April Collection April 4