



GRACE NOTES

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church

**Gather
to
Grow**

Gather to Christ
Grow as Disciples
Go to Serve

November 2011

Coming This Weekend at Grace...

Mistletoe Marketplace!

Sat., Nov. 5, 9am-1pm in Fellowship Hall

- * Hand-crafted holiday items and other gifts
- * Tasty baked goods
- * Silent Auction packages
- * Quilt drawing for hand-stitched, queen-sized "Honey Bee" quilt and other quilted items
- * Great holiday shopping!

Sponsored by United Methodist Women;
100% of proceeds benefit UMW missions



What Would You Do If You LOST YOUR HOME?

That's a question no one wants to think about, but for many it's a reality they must deal with every day. Help raise awareness of homelessness in our area on Saturday, **November 5**, by participating in Bridge Communities' Sleep Out Saturday! Register with our Grace group or make a donation at www.bridgecommunities.org/group/62. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m., then travel by bus to Glen Ellyn for a rally with approximately 1,000 others making the effort to end homelessness. After the rally, we'll return to Grace for activities before "sleeping out," either in our cars in the lower parking lot, tents near the Lighthouse, or on the floor in Fellowship Hall. Don't worry that you haven't raised a lot of money—it's more about raising awareness! Questions? Contact Catherine Page at 630-420-8239 or cpage46@yahoo.com.

All Saints' "Beams of Heaven"

This year, our All Saints' Sunday choral music program will be a service of great joy. Beginning with our traditional remembrance of those departed from our midst over the past year, taking appropriate time to lament, "Beams of Heaven" will swell with joyous celebration of the hope and glory of heaven.

Join us SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, at 9:30/11:00 worship
Featuring: Guest Artist Bill Murk (violin and fiddle)
The Grace Chancel Choir, Gospel Quartet, Bluegrass Trio
For all the saints, and all who love them



All Saints' Memorial Service in The Lacy Garden



Following the 11:00 a.m. choral worship service on All Saints' Sunday, **November 6**, will be a brief Memorial Service in the Lacy Garden (courtyard area). Led by Pastor Bob Atkins, this service will begin at 12:15 p.m. and end with the lighting of votive candles in honor of loved ones buried in the garden, those named in worship, or those who have gone before us who are still very much in our hearts.



Remember your hunger donations for Loaves & Fishes on Sunday, November 6. Monetary donations welcome, too—every dollar becomes \$10 for hungry families!

This newsletter is mailed through bulk mail; we apologize to anyone in receipt of it after the above events have occurred. For the most timely and eco-friendly access to Grace Notes, e-mail gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org and type "online only" in the subject line. You will be notified each month of new editions as soon as they're online—and you'll see them in color! You will also no longer receive Grace Notes via USPS.



Pastor's Journal



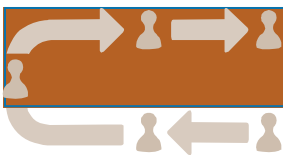
The Trustees of Grace, those responsible for the physical buildings, grounds and assets of the Church, have been examining the needs of our building in the coming years. They have identified four areas of concern: 1) the HVAC system in the original building; 2) the low pitch roof areas of the building; 3) the parking lot surfaces; and 4) certain safety concerns.

The heating and ventilating system in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, and most of our classrooms is now 40 years old and at the end of its expected life cycle. The Trustees employed an architectural and engineering firm to create a plan that defines the scope of work in preparation for a bid process. The same architectural firm estimates the flat roof areas to have a remaining life expectancy of another five years. This corresponds to estimates from roofing companies that have done repair work in the past on our roof. The Trustees have looked at various options related to resurfacing the parking lots around the church building. They are collecting bid estimates for grinding the asphalt surface and replacing it. Additionally, they are looking for estimates for repairing portions of the wooden retaining wall. Certain electrical, plumbing and fire safety projects, especially related to the kitchen, are being examined. For example: the addition of a fire suppression system to the range hood above the kitchen stove and an upgrade to the fire alarm system. The Trustees are also looking at additional video and intrusion alarm systems to protect people in the building, particularly in non-office hours.

Roof, furnace, driveway, fire alarm—these are among the necessary repairs for any 40-year-old building or home, yet they are not things we look forward to doing because they can be expensive. They don't add to a home's value; they merely preserve it. I believe Grace is well worth preserving for the next generation.

Grace and Peace, 

See page 7 for information about our 2012 Capital Campaign in support of these repairs.



Linking Up to Grace

By Pastor Lisa Telomen



It's harvest season! Recently I traveled to Elgin for a conference meeting and discovered very few fields of crops on the way (I was traveling on Highway 25). It was very pretty, but most of what used to be crop fields is now developed. However, the few fields I saw were ripe and ready. God is so good to us! "Sunshine and rain, harvest of grain, watching o'er me day and night, following him I know I'm right, he's my friend!" says our hymn "Jesus is All the World to Me."

This is a time when we are so aware of the abundance God showers onto our lives, when we think of giving thanks and sharing holidays with family, friends, and giving to others in need. Seventeen percent of our church budget goes to mission outreach support outside of Grace, to missions and programs helping others that Grace people are involved in. Your giving to our budget matters so much, to so many! Thanks to all who are giving so generously to the work we do.

I have been so impressed with our Fall

Stewardship book, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, by Bishop Robert Schnase. What a wonderful book that lays out clearly what it means to be generous and extravagant in giving, as our God and Christ are! We give because we want to be part of God's projects in the world, because we want others to know Christ's love as we do, because we want to invest in God's kingdom for our children's children, and for all of God's family in the world. We overcome the world's message of materialism for our lives and, instead, give generously to God's message of compassion for everyone's lives: we love, because God first loved us—extravagantly!

I encourage you to read this book, enjoy the stories of people like us, and challenge yourself to growing in extravagant generosity! Truly, as Bishop Schnase says, tithing is only the beginning (as Rodney and I have discovered), and we so enjoy looking for new ways to give beyond. God has so many wonderful projects to invest in; it is a delight to learn of them and choose where we can make a difference!

ANSWER THE CALL TO KENYA!

Is God calling you to Kenya? Our church is taking a team to Maua and Meru, Kenya, this coming summer, July 19-August 2. We will be volunteering in the Maua Methodist Hospital, helping to build an AIDS orphan home, visiting our UM University in Meru, and helping with Mubichi Foundation mission outreach projects to local schools, the handicapped, and families living with AIDS. We have five persons committed to the trip already, but would like to take five to seven more. We are meeting monthly to learn more about what we will be doing, what to bring, immunizations, etc. We would love to have you join us! The cost of the trip will be around \$3,000, but we can help you with fundraising efforts. Our next meeting is Sunday, **November 13**, 3:00-5:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact me or Janis Cosgrove (630-369-6022).

Happy to give my life away with you,



Pastor Bob Atkins To Receive Ministry Sunday Honor Nov. 13 By Barb Ceruti



Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary (G-ETS), will honor Rev. Dr. Robert Atkins with

recognition of his 31 years of outstanding ministry and a scholarship in his name. As part of the G-ETS Ministry Sunday program that publicly acknowledges persons engaged in effective ministry, G-ETS President Phil Amerson will announce the Atkins Scholarship on Sunday, November 13, during the 8:15, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services at Grace Church. Dr. Amerson will also join Pastor Bob in a sermon dialogue about their journeys through faith.

“Dr. Atkins was chosen for this recognition because he is a leader who has served key churches in the Northern Illinois Conference and is well respected by his colleagues and the laity in the congregations he has served. We can think of no better way to honor Dr. Atkins’ ministry than by establishing a scholarship in his name,” said G-ETS Vice President for Development David Heetland. Said Harriet

McCabe, Ministry Sunday Coordinator, G-ETS Trustee, and the first lay person to be honored by a Ministry Sunday: “I have worked with Bob Atkins in several areas at the Conference level. What I admire most about him is his spirit; he is outgoing, energetic, and an inspiring, intelligent speaker whose sermons convey his knowledge in ways we can all understand. No task is too big, or too small, for him to tackle with equal enthusiasm and tenacity.”

Following graduation with a Master of Divinity from G-ETS in 1977, Dr. Atkins began his ministerial career in 1980 as pastor of Malden UMC, followed by pastorates at Christ UMC in Rockford, LaGrange First UMC, and Trinity UMC in Wilmette. In 2005, Dr. Atkins began his current post as Senior Pastor at Grace. His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Northwestern University in the joint program with G-ETS (1987), a Master of Arts in Design for Theater from Northwestern University, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Elmhurst College. For his doctoral studies, Pastor Bob had the privilege of working with Cambridge anthropologist Mary Douglas,

who created the “grid-group” form of anthropological analysis Pastor Bob utilized in his dissertation on the communities formed by Paul as they can be identified through his letters. Continuing his academic work, Dr. Atkins is the 118th president of the Chicago Society of Biblical Research, one of only two pastors elected to this position in the history of this academic society, co-chair of the Men, Masculinities and Religions Group in the American Academy of Religion, and convener of the Gender Studies, Intersectionality and Justice cluster session in the 2011 national meeting. Pastor Bob is also President of the Board of Directors at the Marcy-Newberry Association in Chicago.

Once it is permanently endowed with \$25,000 (through gifts from individual contributors and the initial \$1,000 donated by G-ETS), the Atkins Scholarship will enable future ministerial students to more easily follow in Pastor Bob’s footsteps. “The Church is changing far faster than in the past century,” said Pastor Bob. “There is growing competition for resources and decreasing respect for the pastoral office in the community. Students graduate with debt

that will take years to pay with limited compensation for pastoral ministry.” Furthermore, according to Pastor Bob, “The challenge for the Church in the 21st century is learning to live peacefully and engage fully in a multi-faith culture. Conversely, the challenge for our culture and our nation is learning to include religion in the understanding and analysis of the way the people of the world interact.”

For his part, pastoral ministry is a calling heard long ago. “I made my commitment to it in a conference youth retreat when I was a junior in high school. I have always been associated with Garrett-Evangelical, and this honor feels like coming full circle.”

Friends, family and colleagues of Dr. Atkins are invited to attend the November 13 Ministry Sunday celebration at the worship service of their choice as well as a reception in his honor from 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the Activity Center. They are also invited to make a tax-deductible gift toward the endowment of the Atkins Scholarship. If you did not already receive information regarding Ministry Sunday and scholarship donations, contact Harriet McCabe at 630-355-4617.



Celebrate the Season Shines “An Octave Above” November 30

Women of Grace and the community are invited to the Evangelism Ministry’s 6th Annual “Celebrate the Season” Advent event on Wednesday, **November 30**, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Following viewing of hostess tables in Fellowship Hall, beautifully dressed in the shimmering splendor of the Christmas season, catered dinner will be served by the dashing men of Grace. The evening will then proceed to the Sanctuary for a wonderful musical program from the multi-talented vocal ensemble, “An Octave Above.” Find out more about this fabulous group at www.anoctaveabove.com! Tickets are \$20 per person, on sale Sundays in the Activity Center beginning November 13 and in the church office November 14. Invite your friends and neighbors—this is a community event! For more information or to host a table, contact Kim Scharafin at 630-369-4734.



AN OCTAVE ABOVE
www.anoctaveabove.com

Our Youth and Our Future *By Scott Oats*



Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:6 NIV

While it is important to view youth as the future of our church and society, we should also recognize that youth are a vital part of our church *today*. Our young people are an integral part of our church, actively involved in our worship services, Sunday school classes, outreach ministries, and our community.

The Grace Church Foundation appreciates our youth's involvement in Grace Church and has a long history of supporting Youth Ministry, its projects, missions and activities.

Some recent examples are the support of remodeling Room 234, summer youth missions, and North Central College scholarships.

If you are looking for a way to support our youth, please prayerfully consider the Grace Church Foundation. You may make a contribution to an existing endowment supporting youth ministries, or you may establish a new endowment. Such gifts are a blessing to our church and community as well as to you and your family. Please contact Ginny Lacy (630-420-7440) or gabby.lacy@yahoo.com. You may also contact any member of the Grace Church Foundation Board for further information. For a list of Board members, visit www.peopleofgrace.org and click the "Grace Church Foundation" tab at left on the home page.

Grace Teen Has Stronghold on Powerlifting *By Barb Ceruti*

"I guess I shouldn't have been surprised that he was carrying two 40-pound packs of shingles at once," said Mike Ceruti of 16-year-old Nick Ameiss, who was on Mike's work site last summer in Pikeville, KY, on Side-by-Side. That's because Nick is not only a powerlifter, but a world champion in his age group at that. He is the raw (lifting without gear) American record holder for the American Powerlifting Federation (APF), lifting 253 pounds in a squat, 209 pounds in a bench press, and 341 in a dead lift. Nick has since beaten those records in a different federation. He also placed first in two categories at the APF Summer Bash, first in the Junior Olympics Games in New Orleans, and first at the world level for the Amateur Athletic Union in Las Vegas.

What began as an aid to Nick's football and wrestling in 7th grade has become his primary athletic focus and his personal passion. "My long-term goals are to break every record imaginable—state, American, intercontinental,

and world records," said Nick.

Training five to seven times per week and packing in between 6,000 and 11,000 calories per day, Nick works fiercely to capture the prize. "To be able to step on the platform and have your hand raised and hold a gold medal or first place plaque in your hand...nothing can beat that feeling ever," said Nick. But the triumphs sometimes come with a price. Still a wrestler, Nick has had knee, back and hand injuries that have set him back from some of his lifting goals. "But when those heal, I just hit the gym harder to try to catch up and exceed where I was when I obtained the injury," said Nick, adding that support from his family and friends is therapeutic as well. "My girlfriend and my parents get me through the tough times and give me the confidence and the inspiration to do the best I can, no matter what happens." According to Nick, powerlifting is one of the few sports that requires diligence and determination of an individual nature, not



Nick Ameiss takes first place Oct. 7 at the AAU world championship in Las Vegas.

raw talent or team back-up on an off day. From lifting, Nick has gained self-confidence, self-reliance, and a walk on the right path, away from bad influences that might otherwise have derailed him. "I know God wants me to put everything I can into doing something that will give me the personal satisfaction and self-esteem He wants every single person to have."



Is Grace a Vital Congregation? We Want to Hear From YOU!

In response to the United Methodist Council of Bishop's call to action to grow vital congregations across the denomination, Grace is embarking upon a visioning and strategy process for our congregation over the next four years. Your feedback is essential! Find out how you can help us be the best Grace we can be by visiting www.peopleofgrace.org and clicking the "Vital Congregations" icon (shown here) on the home page. Or, you may fill out a Vital Congregation Individual Response Form, found in the information racks outside the church office, and return it to the office to the attention of Barb Ceruti.

Animal Attraction!

Send us your favorite animal photos! Whether it's your own pet, a neighbor's, a family member's, or a critter you've snapped, we'd like to feature an animal each month, along with a description (no internet downloads please). E-mail photos and animal "bios" to gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org, or drop in the church office, attention Barb. Photos are published in the order received and will be returned upon request.

Ahhhh....This is Kallie, a most contented feline the Ameiss family adopted from the Humane Society five years ago. She loves to soak up the rays and, despite her owners' efforts to keep her indoors, the fast, agile kitty tries hard to get outside in the sun. Kallie's favorite playthings are string, ribbons, plastic message bracelets, and the covers on the Ameiss boys' ear phones!



Kallie

Many Thanks To...

- All who generously donated items and all who prayed for my recent mission trip to Honduras. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated. I had a wonderful trip and hope to share my experience.
—Barbara Hartman
- Brenda and Paul Carpenter for their gift of a couch and two chairs for Room 250 (the bridal room, adult classroom, and Springs of Grace). We have all greatly enjoyed the new additions!
—Carol Findon and Judi Poland
- Mistletoe Marketplace, which inspired a \$50 gift to Grace from a 93-year-old woman in Germany. Her niece bought her a hand-knitted dishcloth/towel set at our sale last year that she liked so much, she gave us a gift!

All Invited To Myatt/Jungnickel Wedding



Eric Jungnickel and Jill Myatt invite the entire Grace family to their wedding ceremony on **Saturday, November 26** 2:30 p.m. in the Grace Church Sanctuary

OUR PEOPLE

Sympathy to the Friends and Family of...

Laurel Ann Barbour, mother of Alexis Barbour Florczak
Ferd Fromholz, brother-in-law of Bobbi Khant
Ryan Kyle McCowen, son of Jorene McCowen
Alan Noerenberg, son of Darlene Noerenberg Schille
Helen Wilkins, mother of Mary Anne File

Celebrations and Congratulations

Darlene Noerenberg and Joseph Schille were married on September 30
Sarah Matzdorf and Zach Allen were married on October 1
Tara Jackson and Mike Doman were married on October 9
Julie Chee and Ben Lin were married on October 15
Natasha Sisen and Brandon Street were married October 22
Coby Michael Kalish, son of Cliff and Heidi Kalish and grandson of Don and Roberta Kalish, was born on October 24
Alyssa Lyn McBride, daughter of Nancy and Mark McBride and granddaughter of Melody and Gary Reese, was born on October 25
Bruce and Karen Derylo celebrate 50 years of marriage on November 11
Alfred Hoekstra celebrates his 91st birthday on November 17; please send greetings to 1029 Page Ct., Naperville, IL 60540

Baptisms

Alayna Rose Loechel, daughter of Christopher and Jeanette Loechel; **Payton Mary Nowak**, daughter of Dan and Sarah Nowak; and **Alice Ann Palmer**, daughter of Paul Scott and Ashley Palmer, were baptized on October 9
Sean Campbell, son of Brian and Jenna Kraskiewicz, was baptized on October 30

Letters

Dear Friends at Grace Church,

I wanted to thank you all for the wonderful hospitality shown to the band on Saturday, October 8, on the occasion of the Peace Concert. We felt welcomed from the time we started to unload the equipment until the last note of the songs was still resonating in Fellowship Hall. It was a meaningful evening for all of us, as I trust it was also for you. The poetry of the children made us realize how much still needs to be done to secure a future of peace for the world. But I am grateful to God that your congregation provided an avenue for this to happen. As a result of your hosting this event, we were able to collect \$560 between tickets and the sale of the CDs. As you know, 80% of that amount will be divided equally among the two schools, Hope Secondary School in Beit Jala and Suenitos in Buenos Aires. I am also grateful for your invitation to speak on Sunday morning, both to the Sunday school classes and during the service. I want to specifically thank Pastor Bob and Pastor Lisa for their warm hospitality. I also want to thank Leslie Rogers for organizing the sale of the tickets and taking care of last-minute details for the concert. And I don't want to forget Lynn Leitzen for her direction of the wonderful children's choir, which added so much to the program, and Barb Ceruti for her amazing talent in producing the publicity for the concert and lecture. I hope our paths will cross again some day as we engage in the construction of a better society following the example of the One who blessed the peacemakers and considered them children of God.



—Osvaldo Vena

Children's Books Reflect Thanksgiving Themes of Gratefulness, Generosity

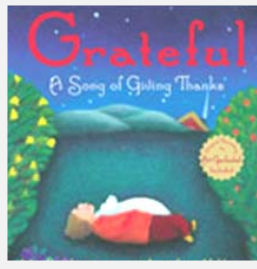


By Angela
McCurdy

Thanksgiving
will soon be

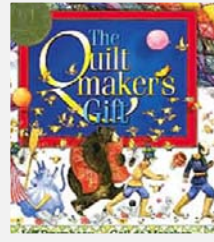
here! Young children (and those who love them) may enjoy *Grateful: A Song of Thanksgiving*, by John Bucchino. Bucchino is the composer of the score for Dreamworks' *Joseph, King of Dreams*, and his songs have been performed and recorded by pop, theatre, cabaret and classical artists, including Liza Minnelli, Judy Collins, Yo Yo Ma, Patti LuPone, The Boston Pops, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Grateful: A Song of Thanksgiving is illustrated by Anna-Liisa Hakkarainen.



It received a Parent's Choice Gold Award and was selected for the Julie Andrews Collection. Sheet music and a CD with a performance by Art Garfunkel are included.

The Quiltmaker's Gift (by Jeff Brumbeau, illustrated by Gail de Marcken) explores the themes of extravagant generosity and the transformative power of giving. When a king who loves nothing more than receiving gifts learns of a quiltmaker who makes the most beautiful quilts in the world, he is determined to have one for his very own. And, yet, the quilts are not for sale for any amount of money. The quiltmaker secretly gives each quilt to a recipient of her choosing. "I give my quilts to those



who are poor or homeless...They are not for the rich." The king is determined to have one of the magnificent quilts: "It might be the one thing that finally makes me happy," he says. Is obtaining a quilt really the key to the king's happiness? Just how far is he willing to go in his efforts to gain a quilt? Come check out these wonderful Grace Library selections, and more!

If you would like to support the purchase of new materials for the Grace Library, you can do so by making a contribution to the church's special library fund. Please indicate "Special Library Fund" on your check and offering envelope. You may deposit these contributions in the church office or in the collection plate in worship.

"Visit the Library to grow in the knowledge of your faith."

The Russians Might Be Coming, The Russians Might Be Coming!

From Julie and Dave Kronbach

As we go to press, we are praying that Pastor Vladimir from Hope UMC, our partner church in Volgograd, Russia, and his mentor and translator, Pastor Valerie of Transfiguration UMC, will be with us in Naperville November 10-25. Their arrival is contingent upon successfully obtaining a visa on the invitation of Grace's Russia Initiative team. We anticipate receiving confirmation of their visa status on November 5.

We know you will want to hear more about our Russia mission church, and there will be many opportunities to meet with them and hear about their ministry to approximately 100 United Methodist parishioners in a city of more than one million citizens. Pastor Vladimir will be sharing his ministry in the adult Sunday school hour on November 13 and preaching on November 20. Both pastors will be joining the People of Grace in local missions during their stay.

If you would like more information or to spend additional time with them, contact Dave or Julie at 630-369-0503.

GLBT GROUP LEADS WITH LOVE

Join Us Again on November 20

From Revs. Don Niswonger and Carol Findon



Sunday, October 16, was the first meeting of the Families and Friends of the GLBT Community in our home. It was a time of sharing stories and asking questions about our experiences with sons and daughters, sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, and other persons who had come out to us or to people we know. How did we feel about it? What would it mean if "other people" found out? What should we do? How could we reconcile this with what we had been taught about sexual orientation? And is this a matter of concern to Jesus? At this meeting, we enjoyed a time of sharing and a new realization that there are others who have faced situations similar to ours. Thus, we determined that we wanted to meet again and talk more, in a safe place of inclusiveness, open hearts and open minds. We will meet again on Sunday, **November 20**, at 4:00 p.m. in our home (608 Hyde Park Lane in Naperville). In preparation for this meeting, all interested persons are encouraged to watch a film free of charge online, entitled "Lead With Love," at www.leadwithlovefilm.com. The message of this important film is: let your affection show; express your pain away from your child or loved one; avoid rejecting behaviors; do good before you feel good. Please join with us in this part of our spiritual journey as "followers of the way of Jesus."

close · intimate ·
healing · social ·
inspiring music ·
meaningful messages ·
tasty refreshments ·
everyone welcome!

evening
Saturday worship
5pm in the Activity Center

Plan For a Capital Campaign in 2012

From Steve Peters



2012 Capital Campaign

Grace United Methodist Church is currently developing plans for a Capital Campaign in 2012 to fund the following major capital projects:

- Replacement of our 40-year-old HVAC equipment that heats and provides air conditioning for the older portion of the church building.
- Re-surfacing of the church's driveway and parking areas.
- Replacement of the church's flat roofs.
- Replacement of the aging wood retaining wall along the back driveway.

The Grace Trustees commissioned an architectural firm (Ruck Pate Architecture) to survey and critically assess the existing HVAC systems as well as provide budget pricing for the HVAC replacement and repairs. In addition, during the past year, the Trustees obtained pricing for the three other capital projects noted above. Church Council plans to seek approval at the December 11 Church Conference to proceed with organizing a Capital Campaign Committee. The objective will be to manage and to further develop the scope and cost estimates of this campaign. In early spring 2012, we plan to seek approval from the congregation.



This Veteran's Day, It's Good to Know Grace Is a Military-Friendly Church

What is a military-friendly church? It's a church like Grace, which is welcoming of those in active military service, veterans, and their families. We are committed to providing spiritual support and practical care to all military members and seek to exemplify Paul's command to his friends in the young church in Rome: *"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves...Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality."* (Romans 12:10-13)

In addition to satisfying several of the criteria that make a church military-friendly, as identified by Military Outreach of Greater Chicago, Grace is also encouraging our Stephen Ministers to train as support volunteers within the national Operation Homefront organization's HEROES program (Homefront Enabling Relationships, Opportunities, and Empowerment through Support). So, this Veteran's Day, November 11, let us celebrate our veterans—and our church!

Thanksgiving Eve Service Wed., November 23, 7:30pm

Led By Pastor Don Niswonger and
Featuring:



Beloved hymns of Thanksgiving and the opportunity to give thanks to God for His provision, providence, and guidance.

December 4 Sale Benefits Artisans (and Shoppers!)

On Sunday, December 4, the Grace Church & Society team is sponsoring a sale in the Activity Center of products from Ten Thousand Villages and the Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) organizations. Purchase of these items ensures that the artisans in underdeveloped nations who craft them receive a fair portion of the sale proceeds (in the case of SIFE, artisans receive proceeds directly, with no middle man). What a perfect shopping opportunity! Some of the SIFE items that will be available from crafters the world over include textiles (table decorating items), accessories (scarves, bags, etc.), woodwork (kitchen items, napkin rings, etc.), ceramics (bowls, saucers, candlesticks, etc.), and paper products (including notebooks, journals, cards, etc.). Save some of your Christmas shopping for December 4 between services in the Activity Center!

Fair Trade Coffee Sale Dates: Church & Society will also be selling Equal Exchange coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, etc. in the Activity Center on November 13, November 20, December 4 and December 11.



News Bites:

Order **poinsettias** in the narthex Nov. 6, 13, 20...Pick up packing labels and information brochures for **Operation Christmas Child** outside the Activity Center...Turn in **Christmas cards for incarcerated women** to the box in the office by November 15...Help spruce up our church grounds at the Trustees' **Fall Clean-up Day** on November 12, 8:00am-12:00pm...Support youth summer missions at their **Soup and Pie Luncheon** November 20, 10:30am-1:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

News deadline for the December issue of *Grace Notes* is:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Submit news to gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org, call 630-355-1748, ext. 240, or drop in the church office, ATTN: Barb



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
300 E. Gartner Road Naperville, IL 60540
630-355-1748 · www.peopleofgrace.org



Grace United Methodist Church
300 E. Gartner Rd.
Naperville, IL 60540-7424

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TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL ON PAGE 1—OPEN NOW!

A Thrill of Hope
Presented in worship by the
NEW LIFE SINGERS,
Grace Bell Ensemble
and Instrumentalists.
Saturday, December 10, 5:00pm
Sunday, December 11, 8:15/9:30am
A Christmas Musical by
Joel Raney

"A Christmas Gift"

Benefit Concert for Homelessness

Sunday, December 18, 4:00-5:30pm

This year, the Grace Concert Series offers us an opportunity to give in the true spirit of Christmas by attending a benefit concert to combat homelessness. Join us for a program of grand choral singing, featuring:

The Grace Chancel Choir and Junior Singers, soloists and ensembles

And Musical Guests...

Rebecca Davis, leading soprano with the Opera San Jose

5th House Ensemble, cutting-edge music and media artists
(Get a glimpse at www.fifth-house.com)

Philip Spencer, concert organist

And 28 musicians from the Chicago Civic Orchestra

Adults \$18/Seniors 65+ \$13/Students \$7.50; tickets available soon in the church office and online at www.peopleofgrace.org. After Thanksgiving, tickets will also be in the Activity Center on Sundays. All proceeds benefit Hesed House in Aurora. Contact Dan Wagner regarding sponsors' benefits and reserved seating.

