



GRACE NOTES

A Communications Ministry of Grace United Methodist Church



Gather to Christ
Grow as Disciples
Go to Serve

September 2011

Community Event Commemorates 9/11 With a Focus on "City of Compassion"

By Ralph Keiser

On Sunday, September 11, Naperville will hold a "9/11 Community Event: Remember, Release, Renew" at Wentz Concert Hall on the campus of North Central College. This event invites people in our community to come together to remember and honor those lost on September 11, 2001, to continue to release the pain and hurt, and to renew personal and community commitment to treat one another with respect, regardless of race, sex or religion—to build a "community of compassion."

As representatives from various faith groups in Naperville were planning the event, they became aware of a "Charter for Compassion," a worldwide effort in which individuals, groups, and cities affirm their commitment to "treat all others as we wish to be treated."

In the Christian faith, this commitment is called The Golden Rule. Jesus Christ taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. In any religion, there are similar teachings. Communities around the world are recognizing that and responding accordingly with this "Charter for

Compassion." Pastor Lynn Pries, Chaplain of North Central College, stated: "It's been ten years since the horrors of 9/11, and our community has come a long way in living together peacefully, but we can do more. This event promotes understanding and tolerance, which leads to a peaceful community. When we heard about the 'City of Compassion' and read its charter, we immediately thought this was the right direction for Naperville. We hope that this event will provide a springboard to move forward in building a community of compassion."

The 9/11 community event consists of three segments, and all people are invited to participate in any or all of them. Beginning at 4:00 p.m., a participatory art project will be held in the foyer of Wentz Concert Hall, including various hands-on activities designed for the entire family. Participants will also have the opportunity to read and sign the Charter for Compassion, whereby each individual will affirm a commitment to treat others as he or she would wish to be treated.

At 5:00 p.m., the event will move inside the concert hall,

where representatives from numerous Naperville area Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and other spiritual and philosophic traditions will present readings, music, and a time for meditation and reflection, encouraging everyone to join together as one united voice to affirm our connection to each other, our humanity, and our shared vision of peace.

Participating congregations include: Congregation Beth Shalom, DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church of Naperville, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grace United Methodist Church, Islamic Center of Naperville, Ismaili Community Engaged in Responsible Volunteering (I-CERV), Lemont Hindu Temple, Naperville Buddhist gathering, North Central College, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, St. Margaret and Mary Catholic Church, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, and Unity in Naperville.

The 9/11 event will conclude with a short procession from Wentz Hall to the outdoor



Riverwalk Amphitheater, across from the Naperville 9/11 Memorial. Artwork and banners will be displayed and carried. The Carillon will play hymns and songs of peace, while attendees will reflect upon and renew their pledge to make our community a "City of Compassion."

Please note that the City of Naperville is planning a separate event at the 9/11 Memorial earlier in the afternoon to commemorate those who lost their lives on 9/11. The City of Compassion event is also dedicated to those who lost lives, but focuses on those who remain behind, to help them release their anger and dedicate themselves to building a peaceful world for themselves and their children. Please plan to come and spend the afternoon in remembering, reflecting, and renewing yourselves and your families.

For further information about this event, contact Rev. Lynn Pries at 630-697-1942, or e-mail media@onenaperville.org.

Like everyone else in this country (and world) of a certain age, I will never forget where I was and how I reacted when I learned of the atrocities of September 11, 2001. And while we have made much progress in healing from that horrible day and in bridging the chasms among other nations, faiths, cultures, races, it seems in this time of such vitriolic polarization that we have yet a long way to go. For one day, this September 11, 2011, let us think of our brothers and sisters not as Christian or Muslim, conservative or liberal, black or white, immigrant or natural-born citizen, gay or straight, Republican or Democrat, etc., etc. Let us look upon one another as children of God, equally loved and valued in His eyes. Perhaps if for this one day we see each other as God does, we can stretch that one day into two, three, a week, a year, a lifetime.

—Barb Ceruti



Pastor's Journal

School has started. I see children gathering to board the school bus as a marker of hope for the future. This September is a good time to be reminded of hope.

On the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, we need to be reminded of the power of hope. The terrorist intends to create fear and instill feelings of hopelessness. Anger, resentment, hurt, and rage are powerful feelings that break bonds of trust, leaving only middle walls of partition. Fear of the "other," the one who is different, who now seems dangerous, becomes a danger in itself.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I was in a meeting with police, fire and civic officials from New Trier Township in Cook County. Religious leaders, school leaders, hospital administrators, social workers, counselors, and community organizers were meeting that morning to discuss how our multiple and diverse communities might be better organized to respond to a "mass casualty event." Our first indication that something was not right that day was the simultaneous buzz of pagers. Every sworn officer, fire and police, from every department and municipality, stood up and left. They left a community getting ready for the unexpected to serve a world unprepared for tragedy. We live in that world, still reeling from the aftershocks of that day.

As farmers begin the harvest and children go to school, it is good to notice the signs of life, hope and the future around us. Perhaps we ourselves might become one of those signs of hope. Perhaps we might make a resolution to stand in the face of the terrorist, to break down the barriers of fear and restore bonds of trust this 9/11. By reaching beyond our comfort zone, by stepping up to create community, by simply greeting another as human beings, we will infuse a resiliency in our world so that pagers will not have to buzz in chorus again. Join our city's interfaith effort to "remember, release and renew" on September 11, 2011, 5:00 p.m. at Wentz Concert Hall on the North Central College campus.

Grace and Peace,



Church Council Update

By John Bodine, Church Council Chair

Welcome back from your summer days! The NOW Council has reported a wealth of events and activities to flood your calendars as we start up the new church year. Make sure you check out what's on the schedule at www.peopleofgrace.org so you don't miss out!

Church Council was delighted to find August a good month for receipts, leaving us in a very healthy condition at summer's end. We have decided to ensure that all budgeted Missions gifts for the first half of the year are paid out, and we will review in September what can be accelerated or lifted above budget to help out those in need. Most of our Missions partners have been in desperate need of funding over the last couple of years, so when we are in a position to help out, we certainly want to be there.

We are gearing up for our 2012 Stew-

ardship Campaign with a focus on Biblical Generosity and a nice little pocket reference of Daily Readings, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*. We'll plan to distribute background materials in advance of the Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards as well as implement a series of Stewardship speakers to connect "generosity" with our own worship community. The target date for the return of EOG cards is November 6.

A challenge has been issued by the UMC Council of Bishops to each of its member churches. That challenge is to set goals for addressing the issues we all face regarding growth in membership, reaching out to the unchurched (an extension of compassionate giving) and, yes, "generosity" to our community and the world around. We have many great examples of good things being done already at Grace. We have only to look at some of the videos of our Side-by-Side and Hope@Home labors to see the vitality of our youth

program, and our outreach for the interfaith 9/11 event stands tall in leadership to our community. We can do more, however, with a generous spirit that is accepting of those outside our immediate circle and ready to recognize needs that aren't being met. They are all around us.

We continue to encourage you to bring your talents to bear and channel your skills and energy through the coordinating influences and activities of Grace to make a difference in the world. Live your life to the fullest, be generous without fear or hesitation, with appreciation for what you receive and what you can give. Spread your joy!

Editor's Note: I would like to take this opportunity to personally and publically thank John Bodine for his faithful service to Grace over many years, in many capacities. He is one of our finest examples of bringing talents to bear, channeling energy and skills, making a difference, and spreading joy. Thank you, John!

Recently, I had occasion to lay read at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday worship in the Activity Center. I had never attended this service before, as my husband and I typically spend Saturday evenings "on call" for our teenaged children. After attending this service, however, I am inspired to do it again. While I have written often of the Saturday evening service being an intimate "circle of worship," I was pleased (and maybe even a little surprised) to find that it is truly a special experience. Because seating is arranged in a semi-circle, worshipers cannot help but look at one another, rather than at the chancel—or

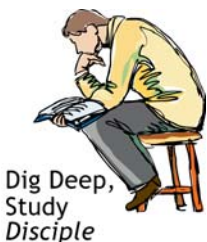
the back of someone's head. This immediately encourages an environment of openness, a willingness to really "see" one another. Facing a backdrop adorned with candles and a prayer kneeler, worshipers are more keenly aware of the invitation to present their petitions to God. Twice per month, Saturday evening worship offers anointing oils to those who come to their knees in prayer.

Led by Vickie Wagner, whose pure, sweet soprano voice is accompanied by the keyboard she plays, the music at 5:00 worship is figuratively and literally close to parishioners' hearts. Most people sing

along and, often, Vickie's solo offerings are stirring songs she has written herself. Sermon messages too seem "closer" to the heart, as the pastor is nearly within arm's reach of the congregants.

Beginning with friendly chatter amongst worshipers before the service begins, 5:00 worship ends on a social note as well. After the Benediction and Sending Forth, tasty refreshments await worshipers in the Activity Center lounge. What a wonderful way to close out the week; I strongly encourage our Grace families to experience Saturday evening worship for themselves!

Walking the Disciple Path By Merrill Litchfield



Dig Deep, Study Disciple

I've been asked, as one who has taken several Disciple Bible Study courses, to share with you something of why you

might consider signing up for this kind of a learning experience. I'm awfully glad I wasn't given this challenge/opportunity some years ago. I grew up as one of those twerps who thought he knew *all* the answers; faced with a question like this, I'd have tried to tell you why you really should study the Bible (and you'd have known, right off, how little I knew about you). But since a thoughtful pastor tipped me off to the difference between "Answer" churches (or Christians) and those who regard our life adventure as a "Journey," I've come to realize I cannot hand you my answer and expect it to work for you. You may be on a different stretch of your journey, one I've never walked.

One reason I wanted to take a Bible study is a fair streak of curiosity in my make-up: "What does the Bible (better yet, Jesus) really say? And how does that change what I should be thinking or doing?" I knew a little from my idle paging through the Bible, but I could and did grow more from a directed study, taken

with others alongside me. But there was another benefit that I never guessed beforehand: I got to watch our group grow in trust, respect and, yes, love for each other, as well as for the Scriptures, as we progressed from people too chicken to say anything (for fear of being wrong) to a warmth of fellowship, willing to share our thoughts, some solemn considerations, and more than a few laughs.

If you happen to be at that point in your journey where all you want to be is a "camouflage Christian" (coming to church just often enough to look like one, but hiding in the bushes when there's something to be done), then a reason like mine won't make sense to you. But if you're at a point where you'd like to take a step (even if it's just a small step) forward on your journey to and with Jesus, then Disciple Bible study—this experience of exploring and sharing Scripture—is a good step to take.

How far will that journey take you? I don't have an answer to that, either. But someone I trust once wrote to a new Christian, "A glimpse is not a vision. But to someone on a mountain road by night, a glimpse of the next three feet may be worth more than a vision of the horizon." Please consider walking with us.



By Angela McCurdy

Grace Library Rich in Bible Resources

As we begin our new year of Sunday school and group studies, please be aware that there are several resources available in the Grace Church Library to assist you as you explore the Bible and the Christian faith. Newer titles include James L. Kugel's *How to Read the Bible: A Guide to Scripture Then and Now*, Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist's *History of the World Christian Movement*, J. Michael Matkin's *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Early Christianity*, Mark A. Noll's *The New Shape of World Christianity*, and the 50th anniversary edition of Huston Smith's *The World's Religions*. The reference collection includes *Abingdon's Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, several Bible dictionaries (including the four-volume *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*), *The Harper Collins Concise Atlas of the Bible*, and several commentaries as well. *The New Interpreter's Bible* is a twelve-volume set produced by Abingdon Press under the editorial leadership of Leander Keck, which includes the NIV and NRSV translations of the books of the Bible, with critical notes and extensive commentary, as well many general and topical essays by an ecumenical roster of contributors. This roster includes both well-known, established scholars and newer voices alike. An outline and an annotated bibliography for each book (including the Apocryphal or Deuterocanonical books) and numerous charts, maps and timelines are also included. *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Studies*, edited by J.W. Rogerson and Judith M. Lieu, is another newer resource in the reference collection. There are also resources for children and younger readers. The library is open every Sunday morning and during the week when the church building is open.

Everyone's Included! An Open Doors Invitation to All



Grace's Open Doors Ministry (ODM) has worked diligently over the

past year to create an environment in which *all* people feel genuinely welcome at Grace, particularly those with special needs, be they physical, emotional, cognitive, or other. Over the past several months, the ODM has hosted various gatherings to bring together the families and caregivers of those with special needs and to equip them with the tools and strategies needed to facilitate the healthy functioning of the

family as a whole. These meetings and events are steeped in the overriding philosophy that everyone—everyone—is an asset to the Grace congregation.

Toward that all-inclusive end, the ODM is hosting a half-day seminar on Saturday, **October 8**, 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Activity Center, entitled "Opening Doors through Spiritual Education for Special-Needs Children and Youth," led by Barbara J. Newman. Ms. Newman is Director of Church Services in the Christian Learning Network, the author of several publications on the inclusion of special-needs persons in the activities of church organizations, a fre-

quent speaker at educational and church conferences nationwide, and a specialist in early childhood education and development delay. Register for this event on Sundays in the Activity Center or online any time at www.peopleofgrace.org/opendoorsseminar. This seminar is open to families of special-needs children and youth, teachers, youth leaders, church staff, social service organizations, congregations of all faiths, and community members. For further information, contact ODM Co-Chairs Mark or Laurel Fleming at 630-983-6624 or markwflemi@aol.com or laurelfleming@aol.com.

New Adult Ed. Opp's Begin This Month!

Beginning Sun., Sept. 11...

• **Questors Class, 9:30am Room 254** Every Sunday, all year! Sept. 11 - "Summer Youth Missions; Sept. 18 - "Evolution, Creation and Aliens; Sept. 25 - "Four Gods"

• **"Beyond Theology" 11:00am, Room 254**

Study and discussion of 10-part PBS series, exploring the evolution of consciousness and its challenges

Beginning Mon., Sept. 12...

• **Disciple I, 7-8:30pm, Rm 233**

• **Disciple II, 7-8:30pm, Rm 234**

• **"Living the Questions"**

Orientation (first class begins September 26), 7-8:30pm

Room 254 Asks the tough questions thinking Christians have; goes beyond rote traditions and theology

• **Monday Sisters Study, 1-2:30pm, Room 254**

Studying *Do What You Have the Power to Do*, an exploration of six New Testament women

Beginning Thurs., Sept. 15...

• **Disciple I, 9:30-11am Room 254**

Beginning Wed., Sept. 21...

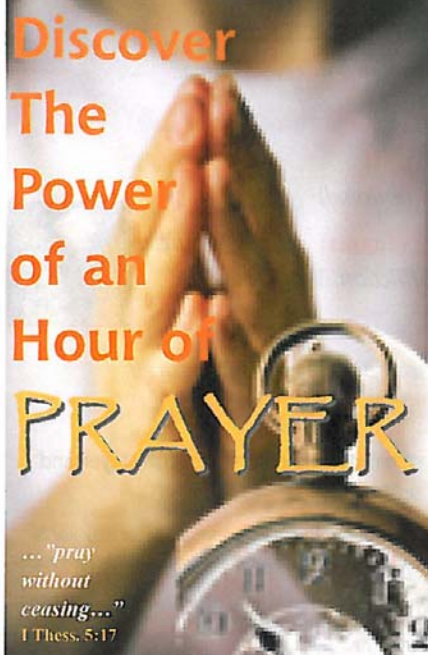
• **Beth Moore Study, 7-9pm Fireside Room**

"Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent"



LAST CHANCE TO JOIN DINNERS FOR EIGHT!

Make new friends at Grace outside of the church walls—join Dinners for 8! This fun, lively group of eight people meets Oct./Nov. through April/May every two months for dinner and sparkling conversation. Members host in their homes only once; at others' homes, they bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert. Couples and singles welcome—**sign up by September 11** with Ann Walczak at 630-357-7741 or annclassen@wideopenwest.com.



Men in our society are often expected to accomplish it all, provide for all, bear any amount of strain, completely on their own. But God calls us to depend upon His guidance and intercession in our lives. Prayer Time for Men at Grace, 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Chapel, allows men to break away from the demands of life, clear their minds to focus on prayer, meditate and experience God at a higher level. This infor-

mal, non-intimidating prayer time (only 0.6% of your total week!) includes a brief time of sharing joys and concerns, a scripture/devotional reading, and petitioning of God's hand in the concerns of the family, church, community, nation, world, and our personal lives. Our prayer setting follows this basic format:

- Welcome and Time for Sharing
- Candle Lighting
- Prayer Bowl Pick for Intercessory Prayers (family, church, community, nation, world, guidance, affliction, work, etc.)
- Listening Time
- Prayer Time (personal or other intercessory needs)
- Closing: The Lord's Prayer

There is also an optional invitation to prayer by laying on of hands at kneelers or silent prayer and meditation in the Chapel or Sanctuary until 9:00 p.m. Prayer Time for Men is very flexible; weekly attendance is encouraged, but we understand this may not be possible and invite all men to attend as they can. Resource material on prayer is available outside the Chapel. Contact Charlie Volz at 815-609-2567 with questions or for further information.

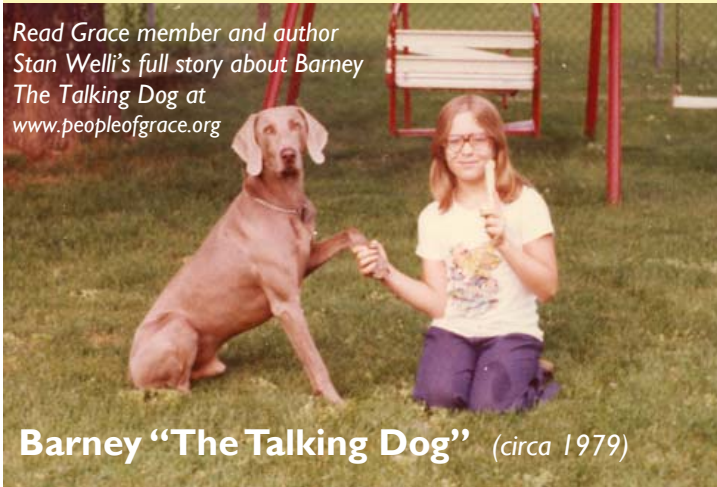
mal, non-intimidating prayer time (only 0.6% of your total

Animal Attraction!

Bring Your Pets to a Blessing of the Animals October 1

All well-behaved, leashed or caged animals are welcome to a unique service of blessing and celebration of our beloved pets on Saturday, October 1, at our 5:00 p.m. worship service. Weather permitting, this service will take place outdoors.

Read Grace member and author Stan Welli's full story about Barney The Talking Dog at www.peopleofgrace.org



Barney "The Talking Dog" (circa 1979)

This is the late "Bar None" Barney, an AKC-registered, obedience-trained, show-winning Weimaraner which Stan Welli and his former wife, Karen, acquired at a garage sale in the late 1970s. Well, not quite like that—the woman holding the garage sale was moving to an apartment and couldn't keep Barney. If Stan, Karen, and their two daughters promised to let Barney live in their home as part of their family, the woman offered to give them her beautiful dog. They happily agreed. In addition to Barney's pedigree and showmanship, he soon revealed another plus: he could talk! In a voice Stan calls "one part Scooby Doo and one part Mr. Ed," Barney "told" his new family what a good dog he was and how much joy he would bring them. And, doggone it, he was right!



Mike Spravka Transforms Lacy Garden Into Place of Peace and Love

From Ginny Lacy

Many of you have noticed the wonderful changes in the Rodney Gene Lacy Memorial Garden, courtesy of Mike Spravka. He is the creative genius behind its new flower stands, unique flowers and bushes, and picturesque views. Mike is a certified arborist, naturalist instructor, plant health care specialist, photographer, and all-around fabulous designer. He has a remarkable way of looking at our garden space and imagining its potential as a beautiful, radiant, inviting memorial. Every Saturday, Mike is in the garden, redefining and reorganizing its spaces to show off the beauty of the plants and trees. In admiring his expertise this year, I have come to realize that in Mike, God has given us not just a man of expertise, but also a man of faith. His task is to memorialize our loved ones in a manner that speaks to our faith. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul speaks of the Gifts of the Spirit. Mike has the gift to "work miracles," as he has transformed Rod's Garden into a place of peace and love. Thank you, Mike!

OUR PEOPLE

Sympathy to the Friends and Family of...

Shirley Benson, wife of former Grace Pastor Howard Benson

Marilyn Busacca

Rev. Sally Chipman, friend of Pastor Lisa Telomen

Mary Jo Crocker, sister of Jim Taylor

Rev. Robert B. Haight

Mary McCarthy Hall, mother of Steve McCarthy

Sid Hoekstra, father of Lee Hoekstra

Laurie Holmgren, friend of Susan Siebert

Bill Visher, father of Jim Visher

Jackie Vogt, friend of Tom and Jean Roche

Yeo Chul Yoon, relative of Cheryl Ameiss

Celebrations and Congratulations

Rev. Bill and Erma Bryan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 19

Les and Elaine Pauls celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on September 2

Alice Ann Palmer, daughter of Ashley and Scott Palmer, granddaughter of Kim and Doug Scharafin, and great-granddaughter of Alice and Gary Silke, was born on August 11

Aubry Ann Morrel, granddaughter of Pam and Darrel T. Carpenter, was born on August 21

Lee Hoekstra received the Eliza Garrett Distinguished Service Award on May 12 for his outstanding service in overseeing the renovations of Loder and Stead Halls on the campus of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Peggy Shepard celebrated her 91st birthday on September 1; send greetings to 250 Village Drive #138, Downers Grove, IL 60516

Clifford Harris celebrates his 92nd birthday on September 13; send greetings to 615 Morningside Place, Elgin, IL 60123

Chris Carpenter, son of Mike and Jan Carpenter, was safely reunited with his family on August 30 after eight days of being missing; please pray for continued healing for Chris and family

Ross Helberg Receives Grace Church Foundation Scholarship

From Merle Clewett

Earlier this year, North Central College student Ross Helberg was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship through the Grace Church Foundation. These funds were available in part because of a generous donation to the Foundation from Anna Stephenson. Tripling the scholarship honor, Ross' scholarship was matched by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation as part of its scholars program and by North Central College for a total scholarship of \$3,000. Please join us in congratulating Ross and wishing him well as he continues his studies at NCC.

If you are looking for a way to serve God through an endowment or memorial, please consider following Anna Stephenson's example in providing scholarship funds for Grace members who are North Central College students. Such gifts are blessings to our church and our community as well as to you and your family. Please contact Ginny Lacy (630-420-7440) or any member of the Foundation Board for further information.

Grace Invited to 40th Anniversary Celebration of Samaritan Counseling Center

By Ginny Lacy

In 1969, the fast-growing, highly transient community of Naperville was emerging from the cultural revolution of the '60s and moving into a period of enormous growth. Many families lacked roots and stability and were under stress in job, home and school life. Members of Knox Presbyterian, Our Savior's Lutheran and St. Raphael Catholic Churches in Naperville recognized that the resulting stress on marital and family life was a significant concern. Existing counseling services had six-month backlogs for service, with little or no preventive education.

In 1983, the Samaritan Center became affiliated with The Samaritan Institute of Denver, Colorado, becoming Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center. Samaritan has outgrown three facilities

over the past 40 years, with more than seventeen other congregations having joined the original three in support of this important mission. Grace is one of those supporting congregations.

Samaritan Interfaith is considered to be a unique resource to the community for several reasons:

- Samaritan is a faith-based counseling center grounded in faith in God.
- Samaritan's professional staff is committed, caring, and highly credentialed.
- Samaritan can provide counseling at an affordable cost for those who are unable to afford the care they need.



Experience a fabulous dinner and an outstanding, entertaining musical performance created by the School of the Performing Arts featuring songs from *Rent*, *Songs for a New World*, *Company*, *Guys & Dolls* and more. And you just might recognize a few familiar faces on stage!

For information or to order tickets, contact (630) 357-2456 x-22.
 To register online at www.samaritancenter.org

Samaritan Interfaith's
40th Anniversary Celebration
6:00 p.m. Saturday,
September 17, 2011
 at
Celebration!
Community Life Center
919 Washington Street, Naperville

Tickets: \$100 Tables of 8: \$750

Our Grace congregation has been a staunch supporter of Samaritan Interfaith for several years; Samaritan Director Scott Mitchell has spoken often to our Sunday school classes and assisted our Stephen Ministry program. This year, the Samaritan Center is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Saturday, **September 17**, with a "Ruby Event" in honor of those 40 years.

Above is an invitation to our entire congregation. A drama cast with local talent will present the idea of the "hope and healing" Samaritan Interfaith offers to each of its clients. For additional information, contact Ginny Lacy at 630-420-7440.

OCTOBER BRIEFS

Blessing of Animals Oct. 1 (p. 7)
ODM Workshop Oct. 8 (p. 4)
Dr. Vena Oct. 8-9 (back page)
Harvest Home Oct. 12 (p. 7)
CROP Walk Oct. 16 (p. 7)
FCM Fall Forum Oct. 28 (p. 7)
Fall Festival Oct. 30 (p. 7)

If you think you know homelessness, think again.

7 courageous women share their stories in a powerful new documentary...

a documentary by Laura Vazquez and Diane Nilan, 60-minutes

OFFICIAL SELECTION
NAPERVILLE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Naperville Independent Film Festival
Premiere Screening
Monday, Sept. 19, 8:20 pm
Ogden 6 Theaters, Naperville, \$5

MEET
 Director Laura Vazquez (NIU) & Producer Diane Nilan (HEAR US)
FREE GIFT TO ALL ATTENDEES!

ON THE EDGE

...because you need to know.

www.hearus.us Nomad Productions 11/10 Official website: www.ontheedge.niu.edu (view trailer)

Homelessness Documentary Comes to Big Screen

As part of the 4th Annual Naperville Independent Film Festival, a film from NIU Professor Laura Vazquez and Diane Nilan (whom many of us know from her former position at Hesed House and her visits to Grace) will screen at Naperville's Ogden 6 Theaters on **September 19, 8:20 p.m.** "On the Edge," a 60-minute documentary, follows the stories of seven homeless women. Nilan herself has, for the past six years, forsaken a permanent residence in an effort to "give voice and visibility to homeless children, youth and families." Please make an effort to attend this important screening (\$5 per person) on September 19, followed by a Q&A session with Nilan and Vazquez.



Diane Nilan

Remember Your October Hunger Donations!

Sunday, **October 2**, is our first-of-the-month Hunger collection for Chicago's Common Pantry. Please deposit your grocery items in the narthex or the bin by the kitchen. Monetary donations welcome—due to pantry buying power, every dollar becomes \$10 for hungry families!

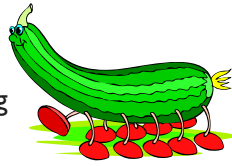
4th Grade Sunday School Class Collecting Coats, Snow Pants

Once again, Grace's 4th grade Sunday school class is collecting clothing items for those in need. This time, it's gently used, clean and mended coats and snow pants in all sizes for children and adults. Please deposit these items in the boxes in the Narthex and the Activity Center, now through October 30.



Our Garden Still Reaps!

The Grace vegetable garden is still reaping its tasty rewards! Be on the look-out in the Activity Center for garden-fresh veggies for sale, benefiting Naperville's Loaves & Fishes food pantry. Also, if your own garden has an abundance of produce, please consider donating to the basket in the Activity Center.



E-Giving is E-as-y and E-fficient!

Grace continues to offer E-Giving (electronic giving) as an easy, efficient, and completely secure option for paying your pledges, contributing to a special project or mission, or purchasing tickets for a Grace event, including concerts. Visit our website (www.peopleofgrace.org) and click the brown E-Giving logo (shown here) on every page of our site to get started. Please contact Bob Poland at 630-355-1748, ext. 250, with questions or for further information.



Blessing of the Animals October 1

All well-behaved, leashed or caged animals are welcome to our 2nd Annual Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, **October 1**, at the 5:00 worship. Weather permitting, this service will take place outdoors.

Ending Hunger One Step at a Time

Again this year, Grace will be the kick-off point for the annual Naperville Area CROP Walk, this year on Sunday, **October 16**. Save the date! Sign-ups to walk will begin in the Activity Center on September 18. If you cannot participate in the Walk, please consider sponsoring someone who is. **Please note:** On Monday, **September 26**, Noodles & Company will hold a CROP benefit from 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Tell the restaurant you're there for the benefit, and they'll donate 25% of your purchase to the Naperville CROP Walk.

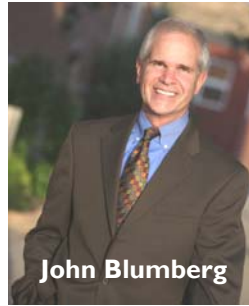
Annual Harvest Home Celebration

A Grace tradition over 100 years old, the Harvest Home Celebration is a festive opportunity to celebrate God's great bounty and enjoy fellowship with our Grace family. Held this year on Wednesday, **October 12**, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Harvest Home features a potluck dinner (turkey provided), music from Naperville Central's Choremelles, and recognition of our newest members as well as those who have been Grace members for 50+ and 75+ years. We will also present the Harvest Home service award to a single recipient. Tickets are \$3 per person (children six and under are free) and on sale in the Activity Center on Sundays, September 25, October 2 and 9. Proceeds benefit Samaritan Interfaith Center.



Family Fall Festival!

Don't miss the fun for the whole family at Grace on Sunday, **October 30**, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on the Grace grounds. We'll have bushels of fun fall activities, including hay wagon rides, scarecrow building, hay bale maze, trunk-or-treating, and more! Watch for further information to come—save the date!



John Blumberg

FCM Fall Forum Challenges Men to the Core

All men are encouraged to attend Fellowship of Christian Men's Fall Forum on Friday, **October 28**, featuring guest speaker John Blumberg, Certified Speaking Professional and author of the best-selling book *Silent Alarm* as well as a new

book, *Good to the Core: Building Values with Values*. Mr. Blumberg's fast-paced, high-energy presentation will link personal values, others' values, and organizational values to create *lasting* value. His powerful "call to action" will challenge men to the core and bring greater depth to their relationships, the motives of their minds, and the way they choose to look at work. Sign up in the church office to attend the October 28 forum, which begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, followed by the program at 6:30. You may also purchase a copy of Blumberg's *Good to the Core* in the office for \$15; please place your payment in the envelope provided (checks payable to GUMC), and be sure to indicate your name on the sign-up sheet. Contact Bob Pacanowski at 630-355-0804 for further information. Invite your friends!

September is Wear Your Name Tag Month!

"You wanna be where everyone knows your name."

Grace staff members have all been issued new name tags, which they are wearing every day. This is not to

show you how important they are (though they are!), but to set an example for all of us to wear our name tags at church. You lost your name tag, you say? You never had one in the first place? No problem! Throughout the month of September, you and your family may order name tags at the church entryways on Sundays—FREE of charge! Usually, name tags are \$5, but if you order yours this month, you don't pay a thing, and Grace will become that place where "everyone knows your name."

Coming in Mid-October...**FAITHBUILDERS!**

A daytime small group for young mothers, including Bible Study, book discussions, workshops, guest speakers, and more! Contact Vanessa at vcoffey01@gmail.com.



News deadline for the October issue of *Grace Notes* is:
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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



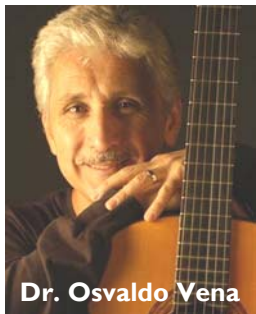
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New Testament Professor Brings Music and Global Perspective to Grace



Dr. Osvaldo Vena

Next month, on **October 8 and 9**, the Grace Adult Education Council brings us Dr. Osvaldo Vena, Professor of New Testament

Interpretation at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Dr. Vena will preach at the 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening worship on October 8 as well as the 11:00 a.m. service on October 9. At 9:30 a.m. on October 9, Dr. Vena will speak to our adult, college, and senior high Sunday school classes, small groups, and anyone interested in "Understanding Scripture from a Global Perspective." A writer of articles, sermons and books in both English and Spanish, Dr. Vena loves to get

people excited about the Bible. "I believe the Bible's text is not a static artifact that can be studied objectively but rather a world that invites, indeed necessitates, our participation in order to bring forth meaning," says Dr. Vena. Everyone is welcome to attend his lecture on October 9, 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

But wait, there's more!

Dr. Vena is also an accomplished musician with an all-volunteer band called "Still A Dream," which performs music Dr. Vena set to the art, poetry and songs of Jewish, Arab and Argentine children living in Israel, Palestine, and the hidden shanty town of La Ciudad Oculta, Buenos Aires. He believes passionately in the power of the arts to bring peace to the world. Following Saturday evening worship on

October 8 and an Italian beef/potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, Dr. Vena's "Still A Dream" band will perform a benefit concert at 7:00 p.m., also in Fellowship Hall. Concert tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 maximum per family. Dinner tickets are also \$5/\$20. Families attending dinner should bring a dish to pass; Italian beef will be provided. "Still A Dream" CDs will be available for purchase at the concert, with 80% of proceeds benefiting the schools that serve the children who inspire Dr. Vena's music.

Purchase dinner and concert tickets in the Activity Center on Sundays or the church office during the week. Contact Leslie Rogers (630-325-0169) or Pastor Lisa Telomen (630-355-1748, ext. 226) for further information. Find out more about the "Still A Dream" band at www.stilladream.com.