



Grace Notes

Building up the church to the glory of God. Ephesians 4:12

October 2006

Engaging the Heart to Open Ourselves to Worship

September introduced a schedule change to Grace Church, accompanied by new worship formats. Grace now offers four services featuring fresh messages each hour. Pastor Bob feels as though he is traveling through continuous worship from Saturday evening worship through the 11:00 Contemporary Service.

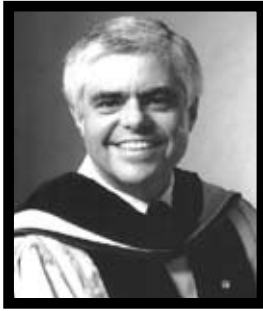
The 11:00 service embraces a contemporary music format, focusing on a “theme” song to reinforce the scripture message. Music guides worship with up tempo praise songs in the opening set; followed by a meditative call to focus on the message. The service is designed to engage the heart with a continual flow of music, liturgy and message that allows worship to seamlessly progress.

A significant inspiration to the 11:00 service is the Praise Team members. The group was originally formed years ago to accompany the “Alpha Series.” Later they were invited to sing weekly for what is now Grace Grill on Wednesday nights. The heartfelt vocals, the instrumental and sound technician skill, scripture reading and meaningful message reflect some of the many spiritual facets in this exciting new worship service. The 11:00 service relies on the spiritual leadership of both clergy and the praise team to guide worship without interruption from music to message and praise to prayer.

Praise Team Members:

Mike Alfrey, Barb Ceruti, Suzanne Compton, Brian & Lori Fahs, Katherine Hedl, Bill Huber, Christopher Isit, Matt Jecha, Lynn Leitzen, Sherri Nagy, Sue Riedinger, Kalon Sarby, Pennie Sawa, Bob Schmitt, Joe Schofield, Joyce Stuart, and Dan Wagner.





Tradition and Meaning

On Halloween each year, an after-school parade of costumed children in our daughter's small Wisconsin town ends at the Catholic Church across the street from her home. She enjoys handing out loads of treats to the crowd that comes to her door.

Halloween is ancient. The ancient Celts celebrated the end of harvest and the beginning of winter on November First. The night before, Samhain or summer's end, was the feast of the dead. Contrary to a popular misconception, Samhain was a festival, not the "God of the Dead." Like the parallel traditional Mexican holiday, Los Dias de los Muertos, Samhain honored ancestors.

Over the centuries, the Church has connected such traditional festivals with its liturgy. For Christians, Halloween is short for "All Hallow's Eve." It is the evening before All Saints Day and the following Feast of All Souls. The Church remembers and celebrates

the lives of those who have gone before us.

As in a small Wisconsin town, people in Naperville celebrate Halloween by dressing up, carving pumpkins and enjoying seasonal treats. These are good things. But, divorced from traditional and religious content, Halloween loses spiritual significance. When we miss the connection between the traditional and the religious, we lose the connection between life and death. We lose our connection with history, tradition and spiritual meaning.

The community of faith remembers and does not forget the context of life and the seasons of change. Come to the place where history, tradition and spiritual meaning remain providing the connection you seek.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Atkins".

Bob Atkins, Preaching Pastor

Grace Notes is published for the members and friends of Grace United Methodist Church. For submission guidelines and deadlines, please contact the Communications Director at 630-355-1748 extension 240 or gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org.

Mission Statement: We the people of Grace are called to build up the body of Christ and our community to the glory of God through worship, education and service.

Grace United Methodist Church
300 E. Gartner Road
Naperville, IL 60540
630-355-1748
www.peopleofgrace.org

Worship Schedule

SATURDAY NIGHT:
5:30 Traditional service with a children's time & music ensembles.

SUNDAY MORNING:
8:15 New Life Singers & Bells accompany a thematic message

9:30 Chancel choir sings classical choral music during this traditionally based service.

11:00 The Grace Praise Team features contemporary Christian music during this energized service.

Sunday School hours
begin at 9:30a.m. and 11:00a.m.

Connections from 10:30 - 11:00
in the Activity Center



Sick of Seeing in Black and White?
Get color Grace Notes on the web!
Email gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org
for your monthly email reminder!

Linking Up to Grace: "I beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling..."

Read Ephesians 4: 1-16

How do we lead a life worthy of our calling to follow Christ? What gifts have we been given to do this? What tools do we need? What are some of the tasks? What is the vision, what is our mission for this calling?

In planning for our first retreat with our confirmation class, this passage in Ephesians came to hand: As Christians, we have a vision: to grow up in unity of faith as the body of Christ working together, into Christ, the head of the body. Our mission is to build up the body of Christ, using our gifts given by Christ, to further share the faith, and equip all disciples for the work of ministry, and to grow in knowledge and maturity of faith, to come to unity of faith in Christ.

With our confirmation students, we are going to look at building up our tools, patience, gentleness, humility, and "bearing with each other in love," as we go through our retreat

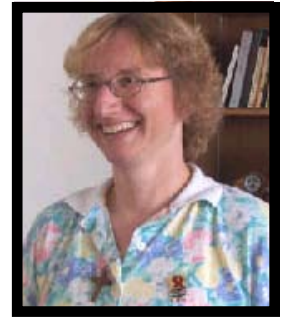
focused on Bible and communication skills. We're also going to begin exploring the gifts Christ has given us, as we encourage one another in Bible research, drama performances, scavenger hunts, and challenge courses. We're going to work on growing our faith as we grow in Bible knowledge, and growing toward unity of Spirit and the bond of peace, as we learn to cooperate and coordinate our various skills and needs. It will be a great practical lab on how to do the mission of Christians in order to achieve the vision of Christians!

As we think about our lives, our discipleship, and Christ's ministry in and through Grace to the world, perhaps we might all think again: What are the gifts Christ has given me to be part of his ministry of building up the body of Christ? How am I using the tools of faith, and helping to witness to the unity of the Spirit by working with others to promote growth, and love in the body

of Christ? Remember, these tools and gifts and mission and vision are not just for Sunday mornings, either! They are for every day, at home, at work, in the world, in the church! The challenge is to **"lead a life worthy of your calling..."** To that end, we need everyone's gifts and tools and love to encourage and support one another! Just as we promised in our membership vows to the church: our prayers, our presence, our gifts, and our service are offered to build up the body of Christ, the Church. YOU are an essential part of the body, needed to help us all grow up into Christ!

Growing up with you,

Rev Lisa E. Selomen



Grace is Worthy

The Grace 2007 giving campaign, "Grace is Worthy" has begun.

As God's children, we are all worthy of the Grace of God.

As an instrument of Christ's love, Grace Church is worthy of our support.

Grace has a full, rich history, and is worthy of our support

Grace is doing new worship, and is worthy of our support

Grace supports outreach and missions, and is worthy of our support

Grace is renewing our youth programs, and is worthy of our support

Grace is Worthy

Grace always will provide opportunities for people to be involved in God's work. We ask you to prayerfully consider, with your family, how important Grace church is to your Christian life. Reflect on the positive impact that Grace Church has had on your life. Finally, ask yourself: "How can I increase my support of Grace Church?"

Many of you contributed to our Capital as well as our General Fund. In May of 2007, our Capital Fund will end. Consider continuing to give some or all of your Capital pledge to the annual General Fund. This may be a simple way to increase your support of Grace and our missions of worship, education and service.

This year, we are continuing to use the Estimate of Giving (EOG) cards. You can find cards in the pews, or the church office. We have developed an electronic EOG card. You can access on-line at www.peopleofgrace.org/stewardship. There will be informational stewardship slides on-line that present our history of giving. November 4th, at 10:30 in the Activity Center, we will present our Stewardship slide show.

Please consider growing in your gifts, and return your EOG card to us. Our Grace is Worthy campaign will culminate on Commitment Sunday, November 12. We will turn in our EOG cards at each service.

Touching Africa, Uniting Hearts...

The Kenya Mission team would like to express heartfelt thanks to all our friends at Grace UMC who shared in welcoming Dr. James Mwiti to Naperville! Our Kenyan friend visited this community from September 10-25. He traveled to visit churches in the UMC Texas Conference in Houston, and also traveled to Pasco, WA, before returning to Kenya on October 5th!

Our goal for Dr. Mwiti's visit was not only to provide opportunities for him to share the good work of the Maua community based organization, Brother's Keepers, with various groups, but also to let him witness how God is working in our community.

The mission life of Grace UMC is extremely active and making a difference in the lives of needy people each day! Dr. Mwiti served at Hesed House and Wayside Cross Ministries, he toured Naperville Community Outreach, YMCA, North Central College, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, and rural and urban UMC churches in the Northern Illinois Conference. At each place



of community outreach, he had the opportunity to witness the dedication and commitment of members of Grace UMC to serving others.

As all good Methodists can appreciate, he dined frequently! He dined at the homes of several Grace members, with the church staff, the Rotary Club, Rev. Danita Anderson D.S., UMW, Plainfield UMC, North Central College Gospel Choir, and in Fellowship Hall!

Thank you for continuing to support the church's mission to Kenya, Africa. It was a privilege to host Dr. Mwiti, to continue to learn and inspire each other, and to remind each other to, as written in Isaiah 1:17, "...learn to do what is right, seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the orphans, plead the case of the widow..."

To learn more about the Kenya Mission work at Grace church, please join us at our next meeting, Sunday, October 22, 7:00-8:30pm in Room 224, or contact: Julie Utter, 922-4157, or Annette Swanson, 420-9638.

Crop Walk

Grace had over 30 families and individuals walking in our Naperville CROP Walk this past Sunday, Oct. 15! We are hoping to raise \$5000 or more in this great event, to be used for emergency food relief, here and around the world. Some will be given to Loaves and Fishes locally, other monies to national food emergency relief efforts, and other monies to global hunger relief efforts.

Those who have walked are collecting pledges to be turned in over the next two weeks, so find a walker, and give, so that we can help our brothers and sisters have food to eat. As Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me to eat - even as you do for the least of these who are my family, so you do unto me." We walk, because our hungry brothers and sisters have to walk, many of them, in order to find food to eat, each day. We have this opportunity to make their lives a little easier. Some of our Grace staff, our Junior Singers, and many of our confirmation students will be walking for you, and for them. Find a walker, and make your donation to this worthy fundraiser!



On Sunday, Oct. 29, you have the opportunity to find out more about Grace's mission in Russia! The Russia Team will be serving a light lunch after the 11am worship, and team members from our trips made last year, and over the past 13 years, will be on hand to share their memories and give some direction for our next years of service. There will be a slide show of pictures taken this past spring, to see progress made since our first trips in the

90s to Troitsk. Come and celebrate what God is doing through the witness of Grace—and share the vision of what more can be done, to help God's work in Russia. Sign up now in the church office!

Tutoring Sudanese Refugees, Very Rewarding

-By Ralph Keiser

One year ago, I read an article in Grace Notes about Exodus World Service, looking for volunteer tutors to teach refugees English, as well as teaching the concepts of American history and government required to pass the U.S. Citizenship test. I had just retired and had extra free time, so I called. This is how I began an incredible adventure. I have had the pleasure of learning about another culture, making new friends and admiring the strength of refugees for their trust in God. These are gifts I received from my volunteer work.

When Julie Garrett, of Exodus World Service, introduced me to James Deng Kot, I was immediately impressed by his ready smile, and his life story—which held me glued to my seat.

James, a practicing Roman Catholic, had worked at a good job in a supervisory welding position in Sudan. One day, he was confronted by his supervisor. The company, owned by Muslims, was requiring Christians in the company to convert to Islam. His job was in jeopardy. James had a very strong faith in God—faith that was to be tested in the months and years ahead.

Not willing to compromise his faith, James quit his job. He attempted to search for new work, but his former employers came after him. He went into hiding, not seeing his wife and children for over three months. Desperate to remain out of sight, he once spent two days and nights in the Nile River. Eventually, his pursuers located James. They beat, and left him for dead. By the grace



of God, he recovered and escaped to Egypt where he contacted his family to join him. James eventually found freedom by coming to America through the assistance of World Relief in Egypt.

Throughout his trials, James was in continual prayer to God asking to have his life and the lives of his family spared. James was no stranger to hardship, he had already lost his father, two sisters, and two brothers to on-going fighting in Southern Sudan and yet his faith remained steadfast. To this day, he continues his prayers for the safety of his two sisters and one brother who remain in Sudan.

A year later, James' wife and children joyfully joined him. Today James, his wife and eight children live in a small home in Wheaton.

I hope this story will encourage others to volunteer for Exodus World Service by contacting Julie Garrett at



Exodus World Service 630-307-1400. Or call Ralph Keiser at 961-0869 for assistance. You will receive a training packet and the name of the person/persons you will tutor. A training session will be offered to train and inform about the tutoring process.

I believe I have learned more from these volunteer encounters than my refugees have learned from me. I have a understanding of how much these refugees suffer before they arrive in the US. I have learned that through this suffering, their faith in God has strengthened.

Futures at Grace

Gaye Lynn Loufek

Assistant Director of Youth Ministries

Nothing you do for a child is ever wasted..." I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Assistant Director of Youth Ministries at Grace. Growing up in Southern Illinois, I come from a "small church mentality—everyone knows everyone." Working with the youth of Grace will afford me the opportunity to know them and their families, with this "small town" feeling as we grow together spiritually.

My primary role in Youth Ministries will be a focus on Junior High. We have a strong group of leaders in our 6th-8th grade classes among the parents and students. I am eager to begin building a program with them. In addition to the Junior High focus, I will help Senior High through Bible Study, YF, field trips, lock-ins, retreats and Side by Side.

My volunteer commitment to confirmation will continue. Participating in this Christian journey with the children of Grace is a blessing.

I share my commitment to Grace with my own family. Grace is our "common ground." When everything else is pulling us in too many directions—Grace is the place we call "home" for spiritual enrichment and support.

I look forward to helping the youth grow, and growing myself as we walk this journey together. These young people are the future...in our communities and in our church. Thank you for the opportunity to share in the lives of the children of Grace. Together we'll do great things through the ONE who strengthens us.

Confirmation Update

Our students are completing their studies of the Bible this month, including a wonderful retreat "Body Building with the Bible" Oct. 6 & 7. They will have spent time learning about the Old & New Testaments, major stories, themes, kinds of literature, and practiced finding different Scripture texts. They should have all memorized the Lord's Prayer and the Doxology by the end of October. You will have met many students helping out with church and community service projects by now – tell them thanks, and encourage them to keep on putting together faith and service for Jesus Christ!

Our parents class continues to meet weekly, and beginning mid-month, will be welcoming a series of speakers to talk about various social, health, and emotional issues of teenagers: from



internet to sexuality, alcohol to depression, etc., classes will present information and communication tips, and offer time for questions and or discussion. All parents of confirmation students are encouraged to attend this 6-week series beginning Oct. 22 and continuing through November. Other parents of teens are welcome to attend as well. The class meets in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am.

Last year's class of confirmation students may still pick up copies of the student essay booklet from the church office. Sign for your copy, and leave a \$3 donation if you are able, please!



Grace Grill is back, and we'll be sharing food, faith and fellowship together on Wednesday nights again, beginning October 18. Chef Lisa has some wonderful menus for us again; supper is at 6pm. This year, cost per adult is \$7.50, children under 12 are \$5.00, family cost is \$20.

Pastor Bob will lead a brief worship time after supper. We have three wonderful study options: Pastor Bill will lead a book study on *Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World*, by Rebecca Pippent. This book will

be available to participants from the church office, at a cost of \$15 per book. Pastor Carol will lead a discussion group on "Parenting your Teenager," a Bible Study DVD series featuring Dr. Les and Leslie Parrot. Our Stephen Leaders are offering a series on Christian Caregiving, with topics ranging from Self-Care, Caring for the Caregiver, to Parenting our Parents. The last two studies are no cost to participants.

Please sign up for these series at the church office, or in the Activity Center during Connections, 10:30-11am on Sundays. Grace Grill will continue for 5 weeks, concluding on Wednesday, November 15.



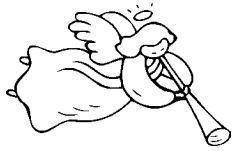
Mistletoe Marketplace

Please place Mistletoe Marketplace crafts and auction donations in the Office Lounge box by October 30.

Visit the Mistletoe Marketplace on November 4 from 9-1:00pm. Enjoy a delicious brunch, crafts, quilt drawings, silent auction, baked goods and more!

Call Margaret Harrison
630-355-1748 for more information.

Celebrate the Season



On November 29 at 6pm,

celebrate, socialize and re-connect. Grace Women are decorating tables for a Christmas dinner and program in Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be on sale in the church office and in the Activity Center on November 5. The program will be Maggie Rowe's interpretation "Mary," the mother of Jesus. This will be an excellent way to awaken your Spiritual awareness of the Christmas season!

Work Day



Fall Grounds
WORKDAY

Saturday,
November 11, 8:00 -
11:30am, people are
needed to rake, trim
bushes, clean up
trash, etc. Volunteer

the whole family! Stay as long as your busy schedules allow! Please bring wheelbarrows, leaf blowers, rakes, branch trimmers, large tarps, limb saws. Sign up & information, available in the church office, 355-1748.

2006 FCM Fall Forum
Friday October 27, 6:00-9:00pm, Grace Church, Room 234
Dinner and Program

"Developing Men's Spirituality"
Guest Speaker/Facilitator: Rev. Dr. George D. Beukema
Please come and bring a friend!

Dr. Beukema has recently joined the counseling staff at Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center. Dr. Beukema holds a Doctor of Ministry from Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, and a Master of Counseling Psychology from the Adler School of Professional Psychology, Chicago. He is a seasoned church consultant, active speaker and published author.

Dr. Beukema provides couples counseling as well as individual counseling for men and women. He specializes in providing support to men who are dealing with mid-life adjustments, women and couples experiencing the strain of "empty-nesting," and clergy in need of coaching and encouragement.

Weekday Children's Center

The preschoolers at Weekday Children's Center have begun a new school year. They've started attending class—sometimes with parents in tow; and are settling in to new routines. They are painting, gluing, building with blocks, listening to stories, studying letters, and practicing social skills.

Our Full Day Child Care program for 3-5-year-olds runs year round, but every fall feels like a new beginning. The program for children attending full days includes the same experiences as our preschool; the schedule varies to meet the needs of working families. Openings remain in this class and registration is ongoing.

The Board of Directors, administrators and staff of Weekday Children's Center remain grateful for the ongoing support of Grace Church for this outreach ministry. This year children from 70 families will experience the care and education Weekday Children's Center provide. Call Erin Cetera at 355-5495 or visit www.weekdaychildrenscenter.org for information.

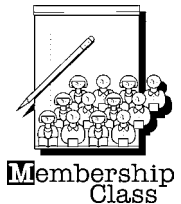
Thank You Grace

Paul Hoogerwerf sends his appreciation to Grace church for their prayers during his recent surgery. The support of the church has been very much appreciated.

Jodi Pugh would like to express her appreciation for the prayers, cards and expressions of concern during her illness. She is recuperating at home and sends her Thanks to Grace.

New Members Classes

November 5
Class & Lunch
10:50am - 2:00pm



November 12
New members join
at the service of their choice

If you have questions or need information about Grace's New Member classes, call Pastor Carol Madalin at 355-1748.

We look forward to welcoming you to Grace Church!



Grace Notes

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

Non-Profit Organization
PERMIT NO. 75
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Naperville, Illinois 60540



Stephen Ministers, The After People

Frequently friends will ask, "I know you're involved in Stephen Ministry. Can

you tell me exactly what a Stephen Minister is?" I like to explain, Stephen Ministers are "After People"

...after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever dreamed possible.

...after you find the pink slip

inserted with what is now your final paycheck

...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in..." We have many opportunities to respond to Jesus' great love by showing that love to others. Stephen Ministry is one way our congregation shows that love to people who have deep needs for care.

For those who are experiencing a

difficult time, Stephen Ministers are the "After People." We are ready to come along side you, or your friends, neighbors, co-workers or relatives and provide comfort and support for as long "after" as we are needed.

For more information about Stephen Ministry please contact,

Freda Whittle 585-7996

Pastor Carol Madalin 355-1748.