



Grace Notes

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

January 2007

Youth to Provide S.O.S. in Quadruple Trips this Summer

This summer will bring exciting new experiences for Grace as we embark on the ambitious, **multi-generational** "Summer of Service." In past summers, Grace has participated in two work-trips this year the number of trips will increase to **FOUR!!**



The home built by Grace in the Dominican Republic in 2006.

A Brief Trip Description:

1. Side-by-Side

Sunday June, 10th – Sunday June 17th in Clarksville, Tennessee for youth who have finished 8th grade and above, and adults.

Clarksville HFH has committed to building eight homes this year. Grace has a goal of building three of them!

2. Faith Works

Friday July 13th – Saturday July 21st in the Dominican Republic for all young adults who have completed High School and adults.

We will travel to the cities of Santo Domingo, and Nagua. Grace is planning to build one home, but has



been asked to begin construction on two. In order to complete this goal, we will need more people and resources!

3. Camp Hope

Sunday July 29th – Sunday August 5th in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, for all youth ages 16 and older, and adults.

We will head down to St. Bernard Parish to work with the HFH at Camp Hope completing both re-hab and new construction for families who had homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.



Dionocio & Davina. A family from the 2006 Dominican Republic trip.

4. Jr. High "Week of Hope"

Sunday, July 29th – Saturday, August 3rd for youth who have finished 5th grade through 8th grade, and adults.

Come "Roadtrip!" to St. Louis! and help provide the community with "hope" for homeless, hungry and elderly.



A Clarksville Tennessee home

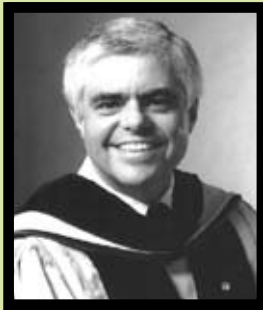
"Summer of Service Kick Off"

February 11 is an important Sunday—Jeff Hartman will speak at all three services to give details on dates, costs and themes for the four S.O.S. trips.

Stop by the Youth Ministries office or contact Jeff Hartman at 355-1748 for more information on any of the trips.

Pastor's Journal

Sabbath Habit



Sometimes it is easier to start over. When there is no room left on my desk to put anything down, I am tempted to box everything up and begin fresh. I have a bad habit of cluttering my workspace with several projects at once: a clutter habit.

There are good habits and there are bad habits. The bad ones get in the way of our relationships and prevent us from accomplishing our goals. The good ones create a framework providing positive structure to life. All habits are, however, simply patterned behaviors that order life.

A Sabbath habit is not only about Sunday morning (as important as I think that is) but also about aligning our lives with the priorities we believe in. "The Sabbath Habit" is the time we set aside to connect our priorities with the things we do.

If I believe in God, where is the reference to God in the daily patterns of my life? Do I have a God habit? If I believe family is important, where is the family in my schedule? Do I have family time that I just can't give up?

Such devotions may feel uncomfortable at first. They are intrusive into an already full life. But, with experience, you will find the right time and place. Instead of boxing everything up, you will engage the most important things in your life.

Worship can be your place of Sabbath rest, a time to re-align your life with the things that are really important. Your community of faith provides the time and place. Come to find focus for your life.



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 gumnotes@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
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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

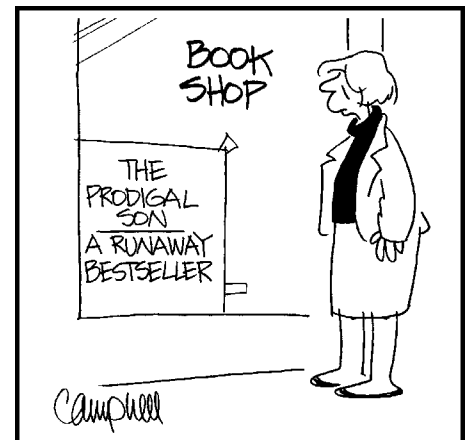
9:30 Chancel Choir sings classical choral music during this traditionally based service.

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 gumnotes@peopleofgrace.org
for your email reminder!

Linking Up to Grace: What Are You Looking Forward to This New Year?



What are you looking forward to in this New Year? This was the topic of my sermon on Dec. 30 & 31, for us to contemplate what meaning the Christmas message, the birth of the Christ, might have for our lives and for our world. Have you thought any more about it? What does Christ offer in your life, for you? What does Christ offer to the world, through you? How can you be walking with Christ, working with Christ in this new year?

I hope you're already part of a Bible study, Sunday School class, or fellowship group – that is a great way to learn to walk more closely with Christ, each day.

Another great way to meet Christ, and to work with Him in the world, is to be part of a group effort to care for others: whether it's your neighborhood pulling together to

help a neighbor in need, or our Grace Home Visitors program, or our Hunger Saturday Food Drive, our 2nd Tuesday Hessed House serving, Side by Side, or Kenya Mission Team...the opportunities to share Christ's love with others are many! We'll be sharing more about these opportunities on HOT Sunday (Feb. 4), during Connections in the Activity Center. –and we're going to serve some of our famous HOT chili as well as serving up the Good News of people serving Christ and neighbor in need!

I hope you have resolved this new year, for THIS to be the year where you see Christ more clearly in others, where you love Christ more dearly in your life, and where you follow Christ more nearly in study and in service, and in fellowship with your friends and family at church.

I look forward to sharing more of your walk with Christ through the missions and ministries of Grace in this coming year. I look forward to reading some of your stories of how you have been touched by God's grace (perhaps at or through Grace UMC!), in our Lenten booklet.

I pray that all of us will see Christ's glory, many times over, in our personal lives and in our world, as we study and serve together. It will be a blessed adventure!

In Christ's love,

Rev Lisa E. Selomen

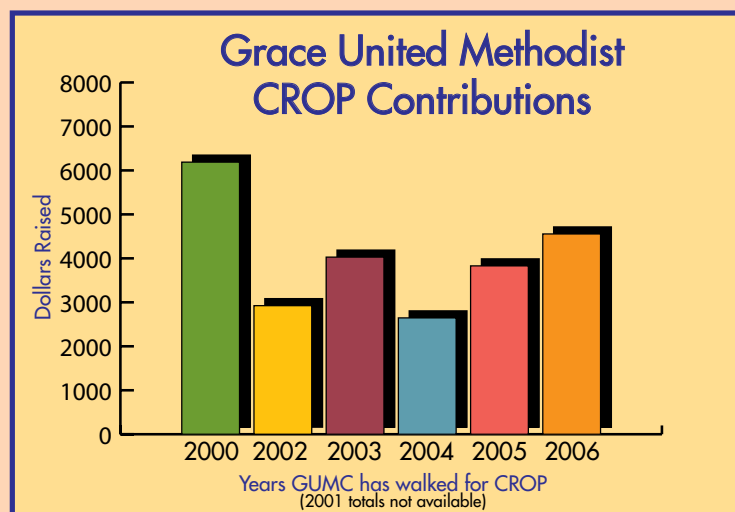
Pastor Lisa

Crop Walk 2006 a Year to Remember.

Thank you to all the walkers and supporters for the 2006 Naperville Crop Walk. This year's walk was the best in years. We had 82 walkers and raised \$4,555.50 in donations. This was more than \$700.00 above last year's donations. Our best year was in 2000.

For the past four years we have grown in our participation and dollars raised. Hopefully, this year in 2007, we will set a new record of participation for Grace United Methodist Church. Thanks to all who helped!

Below is the Grace contribution history for the Naperville Crop Walk:





Kenya Corner... A Christmas Message for the New Year from Florence Mubichi

Christmas is a time for sharing and giving. It is also a time to focus on peace, love, hope and goodwill among human kind. Christmas is the greatest festivity in the Christian World – rightly so, for through it, we celebrate the birth of Christ, our redeemer. It is also a time of great wonder and joy, of generosity and peace that binds family and friends together in celebration. It is these virtues that give Christmas its character of celebration and joy. It is a time for us to forget the negative things that have divided us during the course of the year and to celebrate the things that binds us together as the children of God. Let it be a time for hope and renewed promise, of joyful expectation for young and old alike, a time for the giving and receiving of gifts, especially the greatest gift of all, Christ, God’s greatest gift to us.

We believe that it is the moral responsibility of adults of the world to prevent and or rescue children at risk or in peril and provide for them the opportunity to experience the

fullness of God’s blessings as they grow into adulthood.

This reality makes many of us to feel afraid and at times helpless and heart-broken, especially when we see innocent children suffering because of all the evil that face humankind. As Christians, we have an opportunity to offer to them our support and prayers.

We hear the angel say, “Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...” (*Luke 2.10*). With that message of courage, we realize as believers that we are never alone. We have been claimed by God and made a part of the household of faith. So we join with the whole Church on earth, lifting our voices with renewed hope. In so doing, we join the grand anthem:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king....

Merry Christmas!

Florence Mubichi & Family

Winnie Graver, Accepts 175th Anniversary Picture Donation

Winnie Graver, Grace church Historian accepts the Naperville 175th Anniversary Celebration Picture, donated to Grace in her honor by Ollie and Ellen Burrows. One of the postcards featured in the picture is the Grace Church building, built in 1909, when Winnie’s late husband, Grant Graver was pastor. He continued his ministry

in the present building. The picture will hang in the chapel with other historical memorabilia.



Grace Pastoral Counseling

Grace Church has had a long connection with Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center of Naperville. We will remain a “contributing congregation,” The Grace pastoral staff makes many referrals for longer term and crisis counseling to Samaritan Interfaith. We frequently make referrals to other pastoral and secular counselors in the area when we find it appropriate.

Counseling requires a special set of skills and credentials. Often a person works through a problem by praying and discussing the situation with a pastor at Grace. We often offer help by connecting them with a licensed counselor.

Dr. Carol Findon, a licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, is an ordained clergy person in our conference of the United Methodist Church. She recently retired from the staff of Samaritan Interfaith. She plans to continue her pastoral counseling practice on her own time in her retirement. The Church Council approved a proposal to allow Dr. Findon office time and space at Grace to do pastoral counseling as an extension of our ministry here.

Rev. Carol is married to Pastor Don Niswonger on our pastoral care staff. She sings in our Chancel Choir and substitutes for Nancy Staton at the pipe organ.

We welcome Dr. Carol Findon to Grace.

Evangelism Thanks the Grace Women

“Celebrate the Season” was a success! The evening was a sell out with 23 decorated tables adorning the Fellowship Hall, and over 200 in attendance. Bob Atkins and Don Niswonger served punch and the Old English Carolers sang as women mingled amongst the Christmas themed tabletops. A catered



meal from Clara’s was served eloquently by the Fellowship of Christian Men. After the meal *The Woman Jesus called Mother* was performed by Maggie Rowe. The perfect closing to the evening was *Mary Did You Know* sung by Lynn Leitzen and Joyce Stuart. The evening was also a celebration of faith, honoring the life and witness of Tom Schlegel who was a member of the Evangelism Team and wanted this program to succeed at Grace. In Tom’s honor, donations from the evening were given to the Tom Schlegel Children’s Trust at Harris Bank.

The Evangelism Ministry Team would like to make “Celebrate the Season” an annual event for the women on Grace to enjoy fellowship and begin the Advent Season.

Christmas was beautiful at Grace



Bill Abe Honored by Foundation

On December 6, the GUMC Foundation honored the service and leadership of Bill Abe. Since the inception of the Foundation in 1992, Bill has served as Chairman/President since the Foundation’s inception in 1992. He was recognized by past and present Board members, and the Stewardship and Finance committees. Pastor Bob Atkins presented Bill with a crystal etched representation of the new sanctuary.

A “Proposal to establish the Foundation in trust for Grace United Methodist Church” was presented to the Charge Conference and approved on June 10, 1992. The first Board of Directors were William Abe, Herman Lindholm, Winnie Graver, David Shotts, Rita Harvard and E.P. Levering. The 1992 report included 16 memorials and special gifts amounting to



\$24,554.55. Those initial funds have increased to over \$1 million in assets for the Foundation to manage.

Winnie Graver, Grace’s has served on the Foundation reflected on the its growth. Julian Voss who has served as the Foundation’s Treasurer since the beginning was also recognized for his valuable contribution along with the support of our senior pastors.



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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 you realize the hands on the gold watch from your retirement party move more slowly than you imagined.

...after the nursing home director says, "Welcome to your new home."

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 please contact,
**Freda Whittle 585-7996 or
Pastor Carol Madalin 355-1748.**

Heartfelt Thanks

I feel blessed during my time of healing for the love of your many calls, cards and meals, and the joy in knowing I have a wonderful Church family. I thank you for your kindness and the faithfulness of your prayers that surround me.

Judi Poland

