



Grace Notes

Building up the church
to the glory of God.

Ephesians 4:12

August 2007

The "Exceptional" Child—In God's Eyes *By Barb Ceruti*

In the Christian Church, children are taught that they are perfect in God's eyes, His unique and wonderful creations. (*To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*—Eph. 1:6).

But every day, our children and grandchildren step outside the welcoming confines of the church into their classrooms, sports fields, testing centers, auditoriums, and worry that they are *not good enough* in a community that emphasizes excellence and superior performance.

As a new school year is upon us, we parents might even be feeling some of that pressure ourselves. How many of us fear that our children won't get into the best college to get the best job to achieve the best life? And when does the worry begin? For some, the stress simmers as early as grade school, when standardized tests are introduced and music auditions and sports try-outs separate the exceptional from the "average." It roils in the multiple activities we cram into our children's lives, believing that more is better, and less is somehow limiting. We buy the eighth "toxin" David L. Goetz identifies

in his book *Death by Suburb*: "I need to get more done in less time!"

Certainly, as Ken Potts (a *Daily Herald* reporter and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist at Naperville's Samaritan Interfaith Counseling Center) points out in his thought-provoking article "The Un-exceptional Child," parents should be proud of their children's accomplishments and supportive of their potential to reach their highest personal heights. God blesses each of us with special gifts, and He wants us to use them for the good of ourselves and others. But sometimes the expectation of excellence can become detrimental pressure. Said Potts, whose office is teeming with children and young adults who can't properly adjust to the demands on them to excel, "Even our 'successful' children can become driven to the point of physical, mental and even spiritual exhaustion by the need to be exceptional; and our normal kids can feel so defeated, so discounted, so devalued, that they struggle

through childhood and enter adulthood with a sense of worth that can be seriously, and sometimes permanently, diminished."

Without exception, the Grace teens I spoke with reported that they feel considerable pressure to excel in school and other areas of their lives.



Said Carley Jungnickel, an A+ student and aspiring actress who will soon be a junior at Naperville Central High: "The pressure is always there to do well. I'm already getting letters from colleges, and I'm not even a junior in high school yet. Right now, I just need the credit to *get* to college!" Carley also remarked that some of her Advanced Placement courses required significant homework over the summer.

Brentley Loufek, who is beginning his freshman year at Lewis University, maintained a 4.0 GPA at Waubonsie Valley High School while participating in two varsity sports. "Yes, there is pressure," Loufek readily acknowledged. "It comes from parents, teachers, even peers, to live up to their expectations." Tad Schmitt, soon to be a freshman at Naperville Central, echoed Loufek in saying that the pressure often comes from parents who expect perfection from their children. Another Grace teen, entering his freshman year at Naperville North, thinks that the extreme overachievement he observes among some of his classmates is "ridiculous." "If you're trying so hard and putting so much pressure on yourself that you're not even happy, it's not really worth it." Said another, "It seems no matter how well you're doing at something, there's always someone there to let you know you could be doing better." Carley agreed: "Even if you're not far behind, you still feel pushed sometimes."

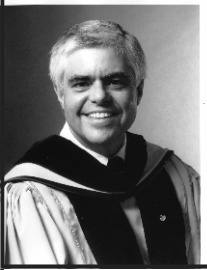
But the horizon is not all gloomy. In visiting the Samaritan Inter-

faith Center to speak with Potts and Development Director Linda Kolaya, I was encouraged to learn that there is a community-wide effort in place to address the problem of stress overload among youngsters in Naperville. Formed a year and a half ago and funded by the United Way, a Collaborative Youth Team consisting of 16 partners from various community agencies, including School Districts 203 and 204, has implemented a community impact project designed to promote and advocate the health and well-being of Naperville's youth.

"We asked, 'What is the biggest issue affecting young people today?'," said Kolaya, who, along with Samaritan Interfaith Executive Director Scott Mitchell, is a member of the Collaborative Youth Team (CYT). In order to gain answers to this question, the CYT focused on teens who are not "All-Stars," said Kolaya. "We wanted to hear from the 'average' student," she added, noting that the average student represents 80% of the youth population.

"Over and over again, the data found that kids are stressed to the max."

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Pastor's Journal

Summer Storms

When we lived in a rural area, summer storms appeared on the horizon long before rain and wind lashed the tree limbs. Thunderhead clouds rose up, darkening the afternoon sky, and rolled across the land. Any important change in weather proclaimed itself long before it arrived. And we made plans accordingly, making allowances for what was to be, keeping those around us safe.

Here in the suburbs, weather arrives unannounced, except by a weather reporter with expertise and education. Weather radar scans the skies and reports in colorful patches the presence of an impending storm. Then the television sound goes off, and a disembodied voice proclaims danger.

In our suburban world, we tend not to look out to discern what is about to happen; we look into our computerized projections. We believe the unseen. We distance ourselves from the natural world, expecting every day to be a blank slate waiting for us to compose the theme.

For us, weather is simply something that happens around us, in our neighborhood, on our street, in our community. Weather just "is what it is," and we try to go about our day anyway. Once in a while, the storm blows up that upsets our plans, closes the airport and announces danger. Then everything stops for the weather.

Too often, we treat the important relationships of our lives like the weather. The "are what they are," and we do not make allowance for change. We don't look out and see the storm coming until it arrives, and everything must stop. This vacation season is a good time to check on all the important people in your life. Look around, make amends, and be more than a "fair weather friend."

Grace and Peace,

"The Exceptional Child" continued from page 1...

Rev. Dr. Carol Findon, an ordained minister and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor operating out of Grace's "Springs of Grace" pastoral counseling service, wonders if children and teens have been given the skills to manage the pressure they face. "Are we as parents, communities of faith and schools helping our teens live a more authentic and principled life so that they are better able to respond to life's pressures?"

Currently, the CYT and other groups are looking very closely at that question. The Youth Team is making sure that home and school associations, principals, parents, churches and other groups are aware of its findings and asking each of its participating agencies to address this issue from their par-

ticular perspectives and areas of expertise. Parent University, a partnership of Naperville School District 203 and Indian Prairie School District 204 in conjunction with the CYT, is currently focusing almost exclusively on the matter of excessive pressure on youngsters. And, according to Melea Smith, District 203 Director of Communications and president of KidsMatter (which facilitates the Collaborative Youth Team), "District 203's decision to do away with high school class rank fits right into the CYT's findings."

For his part, Ken Potts has devoted much of his writing in local media to illuminating the issue of stress overload and suggesting ways that parents can reduce its effect on children. "It's okay—even right—to take the pressure to achieve

off of our children, to let them know they're wonderful just the way they are," remarked Linda Kolaya.

Potts, who echoes sociologists' view that the push for more activities and more accomplishments is a result of our consumer culture, said, "A parent's role is key; parents have to teach children how to choose values. Happiness and satisfaction have a lot more to do with the intangibles."

Continued Potts, "The church can present an alternative value system for children. As people of faith, we can encourage our children to trust that God will take care of them." To this end, Grace Pastor Bob Atkins is preparing a sermon series for the typically frenzied months of September and October in which he will distill encouragement for the game of

life, as "coached" by God, from Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul asks, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). In other words, if, through the church, we begin to understand who God is and trust that what happens in our lives and the lives of our children is under His control, then what need have we for the stress and worry so prevalent in our community and others like it?

Grace teens say their church community is a safe haven: "Everyone's always very welcoming at church; you can be yourself more, and you're more accepted for who you are," said Brentley Loufek. "[Coming to] church is my way of winding down," said Carley Jungnickel. "In our church environment, everything is relaxed and calming. There's no failing in church."

"There is no failing in church."

Music Notes

Grace Church cordially invites new vocalists and instrumentalists to our Music Ministry's diverse programs for children, teens and adults. Weekly music rehearsals begin this month. Please consider lending us your time and talents, as we begin another wonderful year of worship and praise through music. For more information regarding our Grace choirs and ensembles, please visit our church web site at www.peopleofgrace.org and click on "Church Life>Music." See also www.gumcworship.org. At right is a review of our music programs and rehearsal information. For further information, contact Grace Music Minister Dan Wagner at 355-1748, ext. 232, or any of the directors listed.

Note to Instrumentalists: Instrumentalists are an integral part of our Music Ministry. Practice-ready woodwind, brass, string and percussion players for solo/ensemble settings and seasonal orchestras are encouraged to contact Dan Wagner.

Grace Praise Team-Lynn Leitzen, Director
Rehearsals begin Tuesday, **August 21**, 7:15-8:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Chancel Choir-Dan Wagner, Director
Rehearsals begin Thursday, **August 23**, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Room 161

Youth Chorale-Dan Wagner, Director
Rehearsals begin Sunday, **August 26**, 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

His Grace (Youth Praise Team)-Lynn Leitzen, Director
Rehearsals begin Sunday, **August 26**, 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Children's Choirs: **Cherubs** (Sue Riedinger, Director, Rm. 232); **Angelus** (Renee Roscoe-Morrison, Director, Rm. 231); **Junior Singers** (Lynn Leitzen, Director, Rm. 171); All children's rehearsals begin Wednesday, **August 29**, 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the rooms noted

Children's Bell Ensemble-Angela Sterchi, Director
Rehearsals begin Wednesday, **August 29**, 4:00-5:00 p.m. in Rm. 160

Grace Bell Ensemble-Val Dudley, Director
Rehearsals begin Wednesday, **August 29**, 7:15-8:30 p.m. in Rm. 160

New Life Singers-Sherrie Holdemann, Director
Rehearsals begin Wednesday, **August 29**, 7:15-8:45 p.m. in Rm. 161

A Day to Remember

Davis Family and Fairview Home Bring Wedding Ceremony to Mom

July 27 was a doubly special day for Traci Davis and her new husband, Chris Weilemann. That's because they said their vows to one another twice. Following their afternoon wedding ceremony in the Grace Church Sanctuary, the couple traveled to Fairview Baptist Home in Downers Grove, where Traci's mother, Linda, has been a resident since slipping into a "non-responsive state" after a surgical accident on July 31, 2003. There, in the home's chapel, the young couple renewed their vows before Traci's parents, family members, and most of the Fairview residents.

"The activities director and team at Fairview made this the social event of the month for the residents," said Mike Davis, Linda's husband and Traci's father. "We arrived to decorations, balloons...and an evening dinner made special to be a wedding dinner—they even had a lady who played the organ for the processional and recessional!"

Like any good wedding reception, Fairview's fete also included a sweet table with cookies, cupcakes, punchbowls and bottles of soap bubbles. "They even put together little packets of dinner mints with heart pendants in their craft time," said Mike, who has yet to find a photograph of the event in which he is not crying. The home also made sure that everyone felt included in the special event by displaying residents' wedding photos for all to view.

"It was a beautiful ceremony, and you could see how much the day meant to the residents, most of whom knew neither Linda nor Traci," said Mike. Mike also noted that his daughter and her husband chose Grace Parish Pastor Bill Bryan to officiate their ceremony, because he has ministered faithfully to



The Davis family brought Traci Davis and her husband Chris Weilemann's nuptials to Fairview Home, where Traci's mother, Linda Davis, resides.

Linda throughout her condition these past four years.

While the final event of the celebration was the evening movie, *Father of the Bride*, it was really a day for the mother of the bride. Thanks to Fairview and Linda's family, she, too, was part of the most special day of her daughter's life.

Camp Hope: Katrina Victims Tell Grace Team of Survival, Gratitude

Most of the time, the 22 teens and adults from Grace Church who went to St. Bernard Parish, LA, were barely aware of the “Camp Hope” lan-yards they wore wherever they went. But the people of New Orleans noticed, and they wasted no opportunity to express their immense gratitude toward our ambassadors in the hurricane-torn region. “Everywhere we went, people said thank you for what you’re doing here,” said veteran missions participant Jenn Wills. “More accurately,” said Mike Ceruti (who was born and raised in New Orleans), “they said ‘Thank y’all for what y’all doin!’”

For one hot and humid week in early August, the “Camp Hope” team from Grace and churches in Connecticut and Texas roofed, sided, insulated and put in windows and doors on a home that had to be completed in short order. Sponsored by Major League Baseball, the new home was due for some publicity. As our team worked, residents from the area visited the site, sharing their incredible tales of survival during Hurricane Katrina and their



The 2007 Camp Hope Team

heartfelt thanks for the reparation efforts of organizations like Habitat for Humanity and its many volunteers. One group of local men even shared three bushels of blue crabs and 30 pounds of catfish!

“The people of St. Bernard Parish are just awestruck by the overwhelming, unending support they’ve received,” said Mike, who was happy to be doing something constructive for the New Orleans area. “I’ve been dying to do something to help rebuild my home town that I love so much.”

On a tour of the many areas affected by Katrina, including the hard-hit 9th Ward (which has been largely demolished), Mike was thrilled to see that a battered neighborhood he had spent a day cleaning up shortly after the disaster had come back to life. “That made me feel that, with enough time and effort, even the most hopeless situation can be overcome.”

Staying in a former elementary school that was completely underwater during the storm and has since been refurbished for Habitat volunteers, the “Camp Hoppers” spent much of their free time touring the French Quarter. According to Mike, the famous city has also come back to life: “There were musicians on every corner again, lots of people were walking around, stores were open—we even got to see Charmaine Neville sing ‘What a Wonderful World!’”

With the continued efforts of groups like our Camp Hope volunteers, perhaps it truly can be a wonderful world in New Orleans again.

Mother’s Heart for Haitian Children “Never Fuller”

P Instead of getting breakfast in bed from her husband and three young sons, Grace Youth Ministries Assistant Ericka Wagner spent Mother’s Day this year cradling two Haitian babies with life-threatening medical conditions at a hospital in Austin, TX. A month later, she tended another severely disabled baby from Haiti in her home. What began as an interest in adopting a child from third-world Haiti developed into a passion for Haiti’s children that brings Ericka to her

knees in prayer and, often, tears.

“Haiti is definitely on my heart,” said Wagner, who got a graphic look at the plight of Haiti and its abysmally impoverished people when she began researching adoption options on the Web. Photos of grossly disfigured children, whose parents cannot afford surgery for their children, met her eyes and permanently imprinted her heart. “I wondered what, if anything, could be done for these babies here—and soon,” said Ericka, who e-mailed a donations-funded Haitian clinic called “Real Hope for Haiti.” In response to her e-mail,

Ericka was referred to Sarah Gammons Reese, a Seattle-based host mother to medically needy Haitian babies. Reese had found an Austin, TX, hospital willing to operate on two of these babies and soon put Ericka to work tracking down free flights for the babies, car rentals, foster support, etc. One baby, Christella, had a form of spina bifida and the other, Helande, had part of her



Ericka Wagner cradles Ruthlande, a Haitian baby who suffers from spina bifida.

brain pushing out of her head. Both babies received free surgery from an Austin surgeon, and while their conditions are improved, they suffer ongoing

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Outdoor Worship Experience Followed by Inspiring New Saturday Format in Grace Activity Center

For eight weeks this summer, worshipers enjoyed Saturday evening services outside in what was aptly dubbed "God's Cathedral." This service offered flexibility for busy families, weekly communion, time for children, and a casual setting made all the more intimate by its backdrop of summer breezes and sheltering trees. "There were some hot and humid evenings," said Thatch Irwin (who played acoustic guitar worship music at each outdoor service), "but the shade of the trees and the breezes coming through created an excellent outdoor theatre in which to attend worship." Many thanks to Thatch, Margaret Harrison, Pastors Bob, Lisa, Carol and Bill, and all who attended our services in the Lord's sanctuary.

Beginning **August 18**, Saturday evening worship services will move to the Grace Activity Center. In this new worship atmosphere and format, set to the stirring music of singer/songwriter Vickie Wagner, we will explore the deeper meaning of Christ in our lives. Join us in a healing, interactive service that will draw us closer to our neighbors, ourselves, and our Lord.

PATH Committee Seeks Mentors

By Linda Bodine

Grace's PATH Committee is currently seeking a few more mentors who would be willing to attend mentor training in September and work with a client. PATH mentoring requires a commitment of approximately one and a half hours per week, with some phone call accessibility during the week, plus a one-hour monthly committee meeting. In addition to Bridge Communities, PATH has a social worker who works with us as case manager, so that we are never left without resources.

I would like to share how my life has been enriched by becoming a mentor. Six years ago, I read a book called *Nickel and Dime*, by Barbara Ehrenreich, which highlighted the fact that low-wage Americans are not getting by in this country, despite all the rhetoric about welfare reform. It was an eye-opener for me, as I wrongly believed that if the working poor would just work a little harder, they would succeed. However, there are four major issues that keep the working poor barely surviving: affordable housing, transportation, child care, and health care. I finished the book wanting to do something to make a difference, but all of these issues seemed so overwhelming.

Several months later, I discovered that Grace Church wanted to partner with an organization called Bridge Communities. I'd never heard of Bridge Communities, and I picked up a flyer to find out more about the program. I learned that it is a transitional housing program designed to provide two years of

housing and mentoring to a homeless family, during which the family can resolve some of the issues that left them homeless. I began as a charter member of the group we named PATH, for People Assisting with Transitional Housing. I attended four weeks of mentor training, and then, with much trepidation, I agreed to be a mentor to our first client. It has now been six years, and I am working with our fourth client. The program is demanding of the client, and it is not for everyone. It's been hard work at times, with ups and downs, and we haven't always been successful. But I do believe we have made a difference, and it has been very rewarding to see a client leave the program, pay off her debt, improve her employment status, prepare to go back to school, and provide a better life for her children. Each client has had her differing issues. Our last client was a refugee, and we worked with her and rejoiced with her when she received her American citizenship. What begins as a working relationship over the two-year weekly meetings evolves into friendship. PATH is there to listen, guide, make suggestions and help our clients learn to budget and manage checking and savings accounts, but we do not tell our clients what to do.

The experience of working intimately with a family is personally transforming. I have become more of an activist and more empathetic with our clients as I struggle to help them deal with the issues that keep them in poverty. Working to change their culture can be overwhelming, but working to make a difference one family at a time is manageable. Please contact Joan Stokely or Pastor Lisa Telomen at 355-1748 if you are interested in making a difference through PATH.

Grace Personal s

Sympathies to the Friends & Families of...

Mike Dolgin, brother of Dennis Dolgin
Jewell and Paul Hanold, mother and cousin, respectively, of Alice Mann
Bob Holloway, father of Robert Holloway and Elizabeth Prine
Neal Leedy, uncle of Ed Leedy
Amanda Stocchero, niece of Matt and Tina Jecha
Richard Wolfe, grandfather of Jessica Wolfe

Marriages and Births

Traci Davis and Christopher Weilemann were married July 27 (*see article on page 3*)
Kay Kellogg and Robert Huth were married July 28
Kendall Elizabeth Fahs, daughter of Brian and Lori Fahs, was born August 6

Baptisms

Naomi Grace, daughter of Michael and Hannah Arzadon, was baptized July 22
Celeste Eveline, daughter of Helbongo and Kelly Malla, was baptized on August 12

“Heart for Haiti” continued from page 4...

complications that may never be resolved. “It took a month to get the girls up here [to Austin],” said Ericka, who was invited by Sarah Reese to visit the babies following their operations. “It was incredible to actually see and hold the babies from Haiti,” said Ericka. “It made it all the more real for me.”

In June, Ericka was blessed to care for another Haitian baby, Ruthlande, who had received free surgery at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, IL, for spina bifida that had manifested into a ruptured bubble on her back. While another Illinois family fostered

Ruthlande, Ericka’s family offered the host family some rest and free time by taking Ruthlande into their home for a day. “My boys fell in love with her,” said Ericka. “She was just such a joy.” Ericka’s family also donated backpacks and other school supplies to Ruthlande’s siblings in Haiti, where they attend school, a rare opportunity for Haitian children.

Helande, Christella and Ruthlande will all soon return to Haiti, and Ericka worries considerably about them there. Ruthlande will probably never walk, and she did not receive a shunt for her spinal leakage because there would be no adequate care for her in

Haiti if the shunt should fail.

“Death of children is part of the culture in Haiti,” said Ericka. “But there are also incredible stories of hope.” Ericka, and others like her, are a huge part of that hope. “People have to be led,” Ericka remarked. “What really changed for me was when I prayed for God to come into my life and help me help others—what are the chances that four months later, I’d have a little one from Haiti in my home?”

But Ericka’s outreach is not finished, not by a long shot. Inspired by Ghandi, who said, “You have to be the change you want to see in this world,” and Annette

Swanson and Julie Utter’s Seeds of Grace organization aiding Kenyan women and children, Ericka has never felt her heart more full in her life, and she is anxiously awaiting more doors to open. “We are called, as Christians, to reach out. You don’t have to go out on a limb or survive a harsh environment, but if can help just one child or one family, that goes a long way.”

To learn more about Haitian children in need, visit www.xanga.com/haitinurse4life. To learn more about hard-to-adopt children in need of families, visit www.untilallhavehomes.org.

Grace Teens Serve St. Louis in Inspiring “Week of Hope”

“This was a life-changing experience,” said both Claire Leitzen and Rachel Doll of their “Week of Hope” in St. Louis July 29-August 3. Along with great new friends from

churches, care facilities and service agencies in the St. Louis community. Some, like Kevin Patterson (who made nametags for a local Vacation Bible School), assisted community programs.

So, since when do teenagers call such work “life changing”? Since experiencing first-hand how service to others can add depth and meaning to their

relationships with God and one another. “It was really great to see the difference we made in people’s lives,” said Rachel. Claire, who admits

she initially did not want to go to “Week of Hope,” did not want to leave when the week was over. “We helped paint an elderly facility, and they were just so happy we were there,” said Claire.

Group Workcamps Foundation, the organization that runs “Week of Hope,” has a history of bringing inspiring, interactive worship services, activities, video and drama to its mission trips throughout the world. One evening, the group watched a film about a boy who had to die in order to save the rest of the world. “There wasn’t a dry eye in the place,” said Lynn Leitzen, whose crew spent their week sprucing up a storefront urban church. The film’s symbolism of Christ was not lost on the children. “Even the boys cried,” said Lynn. Evening worship activities centered upon various Christian attrib-

utes, such as forgiveness. Incidentally, as Grace Assistant Youth Director Gaye Lynn Loufek discovered, our group in St. Louis was focusing on forgiveness the very same night another “Week of Hope” group who came to Aurora, IL, were.

“[Group Workcamps] was so organized—they really know what they’re doing,” said Rev. Carol Madalin, who, along with Claire and other teens, spent her week painting a senior center. “[The center] really appreciated what we were doing. We got the nicest comments!” said Carol.

Added Lynn, “It was so cool for our kids to meet other kids who have committed their lives to Christ. They were all great friends by the end of the week.”



Grace “Week of Hope” participants spend some free time in the St. Louis Arch.

Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois and Missouri, Grace teens and adults crewed up to paint, clean up, weed, clear landscape, and generally beautify

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLOOD DRIVE BOOK CLUB SUNDAY SCHOOL DINNERS FOR 8
OVER 50 LUNCHEONS WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES "LIGHT THE NIGHT"
YOGA SERIES HARVEST HOME GRACE MEN'S/WOMEN'S EVENTS
SUPPORT ILCAAAP

Blood Drive Aug. 20

Donate blood Monday, **Aug. 20**, 3:00-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. To donate, contact Parish Nurse Pam Riley at 355-1748, or sign up Aug. 19 in the Activity Center.

Book Club Meets Aug. 22

Grace Book Club meets Wednesday, **August 22**, 12:45 p.m., in the home of Marian Widmoyer.

Back to School, Back to God!

Just as school is starting for children again soon, so are Grace's **new Sunday School classes**, beginning on Sunday, **August 26**. There will be classes for children aged 2 (by Sept. 1, 2007) through fifth grade. Two-year-olds will participate in "Faith Play," learning cooperation, self-worth, trust and responsibility. Ages 3 through first grade will "Live B.I.G.," learning the three big truths that God is a great big God; God loves us with a great big love; and we are part of God's great big world. Grades 2-5 will explore and discover their faith through hands-on activities that will help them really "dig into the Bible."

Don't Be Late for Dinners for Eight!

If you're interested in food, fun and fellowship, sign up for "Dinners for Eight" by Sunday, **September 9**. Registration forms are in the information racks by the church office. We will meet four times for dinner in groups of eight, from October to May. Participants are assigned to a different group each dinner, with a person or couple serving as host one time only. Host determines date, type of meal, and provides meat or main dish, while others supply dessert, salad and vegetable. *Dinners for Eight is not a couple's only function; singles are welcome, too.* Contact Judy McGoogan at 420-1312 or jmcgoogan@yahoo.com.

Over 50 Luncheons Resume September 13

Over 50? Join us Thursday, **Sept. 13**, in Fellowship Hall for lunch and a photo show of Landon and Louis Goad's trip to Peru and the Galapagos Islands. Tickets are \$5, payable at the door. Please reserve by noon on Sept. 11 in the church office. October's luncheon will be **October 18**, featuring "Time in Steins." Contact JoAnn Stuart or Ruby Allen for more information.

Sisters of Grace/Beth Moore Bible Studies Begin Sept. 17

"Sisters of Grace" Bible study sessions will begin Monday, **September 17**, with weekly Monday afternoon classes 1:00-2:15 p.m., led by Rev. Lisa Telomen and Candyce Krumwiede, and Wednesday evening classes 7:00-8:00 p.m., led by Sandy Bray. Kick off our "Sisters of Grace" season with a *Day of Prayer and Remembrance* with our Muslim and Jewish sisters on Monday, **Sept. 10**, at Grace. On Saturday, **Sept. 15**, we'll set off from Grace at 8:00 a.m. for a day retreat of Christian discovery at Fran Himel's lake home. A **Beth Moore Bible Study** will also begin **September 17**, led by Julie Utter and Annette Swanson. Watch Sunday bulletin inserts or contact Lisa Telomen at 355-1748 for more information about any of these Bible studies.

"Light the Night" to Help Fight Cancer

Join Julie Schlegel in the fight against the kind of blood cancers that claimed the life of her husband, Tom, last October. On **September 23**, she and others will walk 2-3 miles in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night" Walk, beginning at the Lisle Community Park at 7:00 p.m. Contact Julie by August 31 through the church office (355-1748) if you would like to join her in walking or donating funds to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Yoga Continues!

Rev. Adrienne Ann Ilseman would like to offer an eight-week Sunrise Yoga series (6:30-7:30 a.m.) here at Grace, beginning in September. If you're interested in this opportunity, please contact Rev. Carol Madalin at 355-1748. Rev. Ilseman will also conduct two back-to-back yoga series on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:00 p.m., **Sept. 4-Oct. 9**, and **Oct. 16-Nov. 20**. Cost is \$48 for the series, or \$10 per drop-in session.

Save Date for Harvest Home!

Mark your calendars now for this year's Harvest Home on **October 10**.

Grace Men's Event

Mark your calendars also for an inspiring event Friday, **October 26**, here at Grace, featuring the noted and dynamic Dr. Norval I. Brown, who will explore what it means to be a man of God in today's world. Co-sponsored by Fellowship of Christian Men and the Grace Evangelism Committee, event includes dinner served by the women of Grace.

Grace Women's Event

The 2nd Annual "Celebrate the Season" event (hosted by the Grace Evangelism Committee) is scheduled this year for Wednesday, **November 28**. Join us for this inspiring evening, and tell your friends and family!

Support ILCAAAP's Fight Against Addiction

Join the Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to preventing problems caused by the abuse of alcohol, drugs or gambling. Pick up an ILCAAAP brochure in the information racks by the office to find out how you can help.

E-mail news submissions for September's *Grace Notes* by **August 30** to gumcnotes@peopleofgrace.org, or contact Barb Ceruti at 355-1748, ext. 240.

Faith-based Resources Help Those in Career Transition

Job stability is not what it used to be, and networking has never been more important. Grace Church offers the following two channels of effective career networking:

Workforce Ministry



"Answering ads and recruiting is not the way to go anymore," said Grace

member and business developer Thatch Irwin. "People constantly have to re-invent themselves." Toward that end, Thatch is serving as Grace Church's facilitator of a faith-based career transition resource called "Workforce Ministry." Working through Thatch, those in need of a job or career change are entitled to a free one-year subscription to this online resource, founded by Downers Grove-based Steve Sellers and Al Arends. Created to help church congregations work together to find or change jobs, this tool links members to thousands of job boards, companies, staffing agencies, state employment agencies, newspapers, job fairs, and more. It also provides free access for businesses in our community to list jobs

available to Workforce Ministry members as well as access to career coaches, live career networking events, career-related newsletters and tips via e-mail. What's more, members get secure tracking of their own career activities, expense logs, resumes, reference lists and other useful information, plus opportunities to network with others within our church, community and beyond.

For more information about Workforce Ministry, contact Thatch Irwin at 961-3278 or tirwin@wideopenwest.com. *Note: This resource is free of charge only by going through Thatch; otherwise, yearly membership is \$60.*

Career Transition Workshop



Last April, Grace Fellowship of Christian Men hosted an eight-week Career Transition Workshop for job seekers and career decision makers, offering practical, down-to-earth information integrated with scriptural insight. Led by career consultant Dr. Robert Parker and other career experts, the workshop used a tested curriculum developed by Dave Cox, a professional career consultant

and executive coach. Here's what one participant of the Career Transition Workshop (CTW), Grace member William Gavin, had to say about this valuable resource:

"[CTW] is an absolute must for anyone who is currently in career transition, is concerned that they may soon be in transition, or is considering a career change. The sessions are very professional in their approach, the many speakers are knowledgeable and empathic in regard to the trauma being experienced by the attendees, and 'spot on' in the recommendations they make. While I have not yet landed a new position, I will soon be considering offers from two companies. I feel that the tools that were provided during the CTW training were instrumental in helping to bring my job search to a positive resolution."

*The next Career Transition Workshop will run **September 29-November 17, 8:00-10:00 a.m.** at Grace. Registration brochures are available in the church office or the Activity Center. Contact Dr. Robert Parker at 630-717-6050 or rparker@enablingsi.com for more information.*