Stewardship Sunday is Reason to Celebrate

Over the past few years, we have had Celebration Sunday (aka Stewardship Sunday) coincide with Reformation Sunday. All this happened on the last Sunday in October. This year, Reformation Sunday will still be there - but Celebration / Stewardship Sunday will happen earlier: on October 5th. This means the Sundays preceding (September 14, 21, 28) will each feature a skit by our ‘Stewardship Players’ during Parish Concerns. The theme this year is “Abundant Love, Abundant Life!”

Our theme’s emphasis is that the abundant love we freely receive by God’s Grace in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus leads us to an abundant life. And the abundant life we have in Christ is not measured by the world’s understanding of abundance, i.e., having more of the things of this life than we already have, especially in comparison to others. On the contrary, God’s abundant love in Jesus Christ inspires us to see our lives as already blessed beyond all measure, so much so that we are free to live a life of generosity, giving back to God what God has first given us!

As is Stewardship’s emphasis every year since it is the heart of what Christian stewardship is all about, we give not out of the Church’s need to receive but out of our need to give!

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
(Psalm 116:12-14)

“The value we place on what we’ve been given correlates to our depth of gratitude for it.”
— Todd Stocker

FROM THE ARCHIVES
by John Kleberg

Generally, archives are depositories for records. In Church archives minutes of meetings, records of membership, pastoral calls, and confirmation classes would be included, along with many other items. In some instances, artifacts, things created for a practical purpose, would also be included. While Grace Archives mostly contains records some interesting artifacts are stored and preserved for use, study or for future generations to have a “light” on the past.

Two varied examples demonstrate. The trowel was used by Pastor Hermann Kuhlmann in placing the corner stone at the current building in 1965. It is in pristine condition and is preserved as a legacy, of sort, in the expansion of the congregation to the new site on Schrock at Otterbein.

A second example is the lectern “hanging” located above the display case in the gathering area. This particular “hanging” is of the liturgical color green and represents the Bible story of the loaves and fishes, the name of the space. Liturgical colors where intended to also teach with the various colors representing parts of the Church year. This hanging is displayed in a hand crafted case prepared by Jack Pfeifer.

Members of the Congregation who might have documents or artifacts from the history of Grace are always encouraged to contribute to the Archives for the benefit of future generation of members.
The above war memorial inscription was inspired by an epitaph written by the Greek lyric poet Simonides to honor the Greeks who fell at the Battle of Thermopylae against the Persians in 480 BC. Originally on a British memorial in India, I saw these words while reading about D-Day on my recent trip with Julie to Normandy. Words cannot express the many emotions that come with a visit to the D-Day beaches and related sites. Such sacrifice and courage in the midst of unimaginable violence and terror! The impact was especially vivid as we stood at the American Cemetery. Row upon row of white crosses punctuated by the occasional Star of David bear mute testimony to the legacy left by those who did their duty and paid the ultimate price.

I couldn’t help but relate it to my life as a pastor in our Lord’s church and His call to all of us to “Follow.” What we are about as disciples of Jesus who call Grace our “church home” is not just about us and our today. It is also very much about “tomorrow” and all those who will come after us. Let’s face it. Unlike our sisters and brothers in Christ in Iraq, no one is forcing us to leave our homes and taking our lives simply because we follow Jesus. Yet, we too, in our abundance and safety are called to give of our “today” for the “tomorrow” of those yet to be.

Sunday, October 5th, is “Celebration Sunday” at Grace. On this day at both services you will be given an opportunity to come forward as an act of worship with your Estimate of Giving for 2015. A catered breakfast follows the 8:15 a.m. worship service and a catered luncheon after our 11:00 a.m. worship service. The words of the Psalmist have long served as an inspiration for my wife Julie and me as we plan our giving: “What can I give back to God for the blessings he’s poured out on me? I’ll lift high the cup of salvation - a toast to God! I’ll pray in the name of God; I’ll complete what I promised God I’d do, and I’ll do it together with his people” (Ps 116:12-14, The Message).

I invite you to prayerfully consider between now and October 5th what percentage of your financial resources you will return to the Lord through your Estimate of Giving for 2015. “Together, we give today so the gospel of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed tomorrow in word and deed to the glory of God!”.

With you blessed to be a blessing,
Pastor Will

Confirmation – Affirmation of Baptism – 2014-2015

As the rhythm of life transitions from summer to fall, it’s also time for Grace’s ministry of Confirmation to begin again. Confirmation is for youth in the 6th thru 8th grades. There will be a Confirmation Orientation Meeting for parents and confirmands on Sunday, September 28th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Important information will be shared concerning the year’s calendar of learning, serving, and fellowship. The first Confirmation learning session is Sunday, October 5th in the Fellowship Hall, 5:30-6:30 pm. If you have any questions or concerns about this important ministry and your child, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Will (614-882-3026; w.hartfelder@grace43081.org).
Ruth Circle Begins with PRAYER

Ruth Circle meets the second Monday of the month in Rose Garden Room #1 at 1 p.m. The first meeting will be September 8th. The book they will be using is entitled “Prayer.” Following September, the scheduled dates are October 13 and November 10. On December 8th the Circle will dine out at a restaurant.

If you have questions, call Joyce Strung at 614-523-3663

Katharine Circle

Katharine Circle commenced meeting in Rose Garden #1 on September 2 with Jean Shugart leading the lesson: How Not to be Religious, from the Study “Sermon on the Mount.”

On October 7, Jan Breen will lead the lesson: A Pattern for Dynamic Prayer.

Katherine Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month in the Rose Garden. Everyone is Welcome!

SEE YOU AT GRACE!

Supper Club in September

Thursday, Sept. 18th at 6:00 PM (instead of 6:30)
House of Japan, 8701 Sancus Blvd.
Sign up at the Hospitality Desk.

We must wait until everyone arrives before being seated.
So don’t be late.

Please let us know if you have to cancel a reservation so the restaurant will have an accurate account.

Questions: call Rosemarie Litzinger -895-3568 or Bev Grubb - 899-6737

Dartball with Grace begins September 11th!

Join us every Thursday evening for fun and fellowship. Our season is set to begin on September 11th at 6:30 P.M., and we will be meeting at the church.

No experience is necessary, players AND cheerleaders welcome!

If you are interested, or if you have questions, please call the Team Manager, Robert Bassett, at 419.236.4293 or rgbasstiii@gmail.com.

The secrets of the teddy bear lady

Most of the people at Chicago’s Children’s Hospital did not know her name. They just knew her as the sweet elderly lady in the vivid red suit who wanted to make sure that every sick child had a teddy bear to hug and caress. She kept bringing the stuffed animals, purchased with her own money, to give to ailing children. That is why she was simply called The Teddy Bear Lady.

Her name was Gladys Holm, a retired secretary for an insurance company, who lived alone in a tiny apartment in Evanston. It wasn’t that she couldn’t afford better, although ... no one except her attorney and stockbroker knew she was quite wealthy.

When she died at age 86, she had a portfolio worth over $18 million. She had never married and had no heirs. Her will simply directed that the bulk of her estate be given to The Children’s Memorial Hospital. Her gift was to go to medical research so that new methods of treating sick or disabled children might be developed.

The hospital authorities were absolutely shocked by the news. No one had the slightest idea that the tall happy woman delivering teddy bears to ailing children had such wealth. As they began to piece together more of her life’s story, they discovered something else. They learned that the gifts of teddy bears were really a ruse. She gave away teddy bears to learn more about the financial resources of the families of the children. When she learned that parents did not have hospitalization or enough to cover medical expenses, she very quietly had taken care of their bills.

One wonders if Gladys Holm was simply putting into practice what the One known as the Great Physician had recommended: ‘When you give ... sound no trumpet before you . ... When you give ... do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift may be in secret ...’ (Matthew 6:2-4).

At the hospital’s memorial service for Gladys, someone had put a teddy bear on every chair.

-Katharine Circle

- Arizona Republic, August 3, 1997
Because

I used to think that God's gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the more easily we should reach them. I find now that God's gifts are on shelves one beneath the other and that it is not a question of growing taller but of stooping lower, and that we have to go down, always down, to get his best gifts.

-F.B. Meyer

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**Changing Lives**

‘Honor the Lord with your substance and the first fruits of all your produce.” (Proverbs 3:9)

From a poem by Rita Bennett: “W.A.R.M. changes lives, infusing warmth, hope in times of ‘cold dismay’.

As we at Grace strive to help W.A.R.M. in their “re- storing dignity and hope by offering a hand up, not a hand out…”, thanks goes to the Day Camp participants who contributed 89 pounds of produce that was taken to W.A.R.M. after the week of Vacation Bible School and Day Camp in July. Thanks also to all who have been regularly providing nonperishable products, hygiene items, fresh produce and/or monetarily to Grace’s important First Fruits Ministry.

Please continue to cut out each month’s grocery list, purchase an item or two, check their expiration dates and place all nonperishable items in our grocery carts at church during each month. After the first Sunday of each month (First Fruits Sunday) all items will be delivered to W.A.R.M. at its new address of 150 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, Ohio.

**September grocery list:**

Canned: Pinto Beans, Baked Beans, Whole Tomatoes, and Fruit in Juice;

**Hygiene items:** Toothpaste and toothbrushes, diapers (sizes 4, 5, and 6) and any hotel/motel toiletries acquired during your travels.

REMEMBER - Now you may also check the Westerville Area Resource Ministry website under Food Drive for updates on grocery needs. If you prefer to donate monetarily, please make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church with a notation to W.A.R.M.

**August 3 First Fruits Contributions**

Food/Hygiene = 97.60 pounds

(plus 89 lbs. from Day Camp)

Y.T.D. 1,858.6 pounds

Monetary = $240

Y.T.D. -- $2540

Contact Jill Morrison at 614-882-5445 if you or your family and you would like to participate on one First Fruits Sunday at the worship service of your choice.

Next First Fruits Sunday: September 7 and then October 5.

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**Crop Walk**

**Aims to Reduce Food Insecurity**

The annual Westerville CROP Walk will be Sunday, October 12th at 1:30 PM. The start location will be at Heritage Park. The focus of this year’s CROP Walk is food sustainability - around the world and locally in the United States. Food insecurity affects 1 out of 5 kids in America. Funds raised in the Westerville walk will benefit those around the world and those most in need in our own community. Westerville Area Resource Ministry (W.A.R.M.) receives 25% of the donations. The goal of this year’s walk is to raise $9000. Please prayerfully consider participating as a walker or sponsoring a walker at the CROP Walk display in the Gathering Space. You can also sponsor a walker online at www.cropwalk.org and choosing the “Grace Ev. Lutheran Church” team. For more information, contact a member of Social Concerns or Linda Hoch at 740-879-3617 or by email at: lkgraf102078@earthlink.net

Thanks Everyone! Linda

**September 7**

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

For preschool through high school/college age youth

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**The bottom shelf**

I used to think that God’s gifts were on shelves one above the other and that the taller we grew in Christian character, the more easily we should reach them. I find that it is not growing taller lower, and that to go down, always to get his best gifts.

-F.B. Meyer

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The VOICE of Grace  September 2014 - Page 4
WHY ESTIMATE GIVING?

Because I need to make plans at least once each year to grow in my giving and manage to the best of my ability the dollar resources with which God has blessed me.

Because God gives me the grace to give, and that grace moves me to make a firm commitment to my church -- contributing a portion of my time, talents and financial blessings for our Lord's mission and ministry.

Because in estimating my giving I make an effort to show just how much God is the God of my life, and in growing in my commitment each year I give external evidence of my internal priorities. I put God first, I risk in faith. I trust in God to provide.

Because God has asked for my commitment -- not just that I give -- but that I be committed to justice and mercy and faith in all the world. As a Christian, my estimate of giving is foundational to all ministry and helps my church plan for and provide such programs of ministry.

Because God is important in my life and my personal support of our Lord’s ministry is a way to make a difference in the world.

Because Christians lead by example. Jesus set the example for me to follow in stewardship. If Christ was not afraid to be nailed to the cross for me, I certainly am not afraid to affix my name to an estimate of giving for his work. It is an outward expression of my love for him.

Because I know that the discipline of making an estimate and sticking to it is in direct response to a loving God who paid his life to me, in full, on Calvary.

Because the programs for ministry that Grace Lutheran and the church at large provide for me and my family are important in our life, and anything so important takes planning and commitment.

Because I do not believe that any Church Council can make meaningful decisions concerning ministry without first knowing what can be expected in support of those ministries.

Because in my estimate I commit freely and openly. It is neither legal nor legally binding. It expresses my hopes and cares for the programs of ministry that proclaim Christ’s love for the world.

And BECAUSE it enables me to be truly intentional about my own personal stewardship. I can prayerfully consider what God is calling me to give to the ministry of Christ’s Church and make a conscientious decision about my response.

Little Blessing Preschool

Little Blessings Preschool has begun! Our teachers are excited to have a great group of students to teach! They always enjoy getting to know their students and families. Our awesome teachers this year are, Diana Ellison, Gina Ginikos, Melissa Zimmerman, Mary Ellen Berher, Patty Van Hassel, Nikki Steele, Jennifer Lewis and Julie Sibley.

A huge THANK YOU to Scouts of Troop 007 for weeding and mulching Grace's playground. The help is very much appreciated. And to Mark Will for coordinating this with the Scout Leaders. The playground looks great!

Thank you also to Mike Shuman for checking the very old equipment, pounding nails and changing boards when needed.

A friend is a gift you give yourself.
Robert Louis Stevenson

Class begins September 3 for 9 weeks. The classes will meet at 7:00 PM. For more information call Merlin Breen at 614-418-7184 or check with the church office.
09/01  DEANNA STEVENS
09/02  JOYCE FOX
09/02  KATHRYN HOLMES
09/03  ROBERT AYERS
09/03  JUSTIN MATHESS
09/03  BRITTANY HANNUM
09/03  LEAH PLACE
09/04  DOROTHY SCHOLZ
09/04  STEPHANIE SHUMAN
09/05  KAREN HOLMES
09/05  LENNY WARNCKE
09/06  JENNY PLEMEL
09/06  KAITLYN MAKI
09/08  STEVEN ROSS
09/09  SHARYN IHDE
09/09  CYNTIAH MYERS
09/09  KEVIN O'NEIL
09/09  MARSHAL GIUMENTI
09/11  KATHY KEMP
09/11  LINDA REASONER
09/12  GAIL ROBERTSON
09/12  BRIAN BLAKLEY
09/12  ERIN GEST
09/12  ADLER DIETZ
09/13  VICKY TANLER
09/14  LOTTE BREDEMANN
09/14  JOYCE STRUNG
09/01  JANET AND RICHARD WALSTON
09/02  KATHY AND RON MICHEL
09/08  KATHY AND LEE KEMP
09/10  LINDA AND MICHAEL BERTSELEN
09/12  BARBARA AND PETE SCHULTZ
09/12  DENISE AND RANDY SPROUSE
09/12  ANNE AND CHRIS GOODMAN
09/16  KAREN AND PAUL GRANT
09/17  KIMBERLY AND NATHANIEL HAYNES
09/20  BECKY AND LARRY BECKWITH
09/20  TAMARA AND STEVE PARISIO
09/20  AMY AND DEREK HECKLER
09/01  DELANEY PODRACKY
09/02  ELMER STAUCH
09/02  CAROLYN GIBBONEY
09/03  MIRANDA MARTIN
09/03  BRANDON GOGHENOUR
09/04  GEORGE HARTIG
09/04  MICHELLE RIEDEL
09/04  BRITTANY PACE
09/05  DAVID PACE
09/05  MITCHELL SHOMBER
09/05  GINNY VARNER
09/06  CATHERINE HARTMAN
09/07  LARRY BECKWITH
09/07  ANDREA SWEET
09/07  TRACY WEAVER
09/08  MADISON YANICHKO
09/09  CHRISTINA HAHN
09/09  JACK NICKOLI
09/10  RONALD EBERLY
09/11  DEBBIE ZIMMERMAN
09/11  DAVID FRITZSCHE
09/12  RACHEL GANGESTAD
09/12  JOCELYN SHUMAN
09/12  PATTI-SUE SIMPSON
09/13  STEPHEN MILLER
09/13  AJ HOCKSTOK
09/14  LINDA AND ANTHONY MORELLI
09/15  JANE AND KEN HAGEN
09/15  SARA AND RONALD MITH
09/16  JAIME AND JAYSON RUSSELL
09/16  LAURIE AND LUKE MOORE
09/16  CONNIE AND STEPHEN HIMES
09/16  SHIRLEY AND JOE MOLENO
09/16  MICHELLE AND ATTILA NAGY
09/17  BECKY AND TRAVIS MILLER
09/17  LEANNA AND GEORGE HARTIG
09/18  JAN AND JACK PFEIFER

The VOICE of Grace  September 2014 - Page 6
Parents please note: As an effort to ensure the safety of all the children participating in any form of programming, as well as follow best practices, we request that each youth/child have emergency health and contact information on file. Forms can be found on the website under “children” and turned into the child’s Sunday School teacher. Thank you for helping us maintain best practices.

Munchkin Ministry will resume at both services on Sunday, Sept. 14. This is a ministry for children aged 2 through kindergarten (as a courtesy to the children participating and Munchkin leaders, we ask that only children in this age group attend). The children, accompanied by a Munchkin leader and assistant, will go down to the youth room for a Bible story and related activities.

For Young People Not in the Youth Choir
The Gathering will begin on Sept. 14. Fifth graders and under who opt not to participate in the Youth Choir meet with Lisa Kuhar in room 201 at 9:25 a.m. Sunday mornings for a brief Sunday School gathering. At 9:45, children in the gathering will go to their respective Sunday School classrooms.

The Theme for Rally Day is “Return to Jerusalem” (same as last year) – we will go back in time to discover the life and times of people living in the time of Jesus (ex. What was the job of the money changers? What is a shofar? How did shepherds live?)

Just a reminder. Information/medical forms are available on the website. We ask that new forms be completed each year and given to adult’s leading their child’s class.

Thank you to the following teachers who have volunteered to lead Sunday School this year:

PRESCHOOL (room 207)
  – Christine Heilmann, Molly Oakleaf
KINDERGARTEN/1ST GRADE (room 204)
  – Bob Ayers, Linda Fichtelman
2ND / 3RD GRADE (room 201)
  – Kathy DeLozier Greer, Randy Stoll
4TH / 5TH GRADE (room 203)
  – Tami Banks, Kim Haynes
6TH / 7TH / 8TH / GRADE (Rose Garden 1)
  – Dan George, Carrie O’Neil
9TH - 10TH - 11TH - 12TH - COLLEGE (Youth room)
  - Teachers TBA

2014 Church Council
President: ..............................................Bill Kulju
  Ph: (614) 937-5974 .......... kuljub1@gmail.com
Vice President: ...............................Lisa Kuhar
  Ph: (614) 565-7396 .......... lisakuhar@gmail.com
Treasurer: .................................John Hicks
  Ph: (614) 264-6317 .......... johnmh3@gmail.com
Secretary: ..............................Joanne Figge
  Ph: (614) 207-1061 .......... jcfigge@gmail.com
Senior Pastor: ............................Will Hartfelder
  Ph: (614) 882-3026 .......w.hartfelder@grace43081.org

Members at Large:
Jeff Brenning .....................................jbrenni@att.net
  Ph: (614) 218-7977
Amy Quinn ..............................amy.sweet@phoenix.edu
  Ph: (614) 203-0014 (prefer text)
Kevin Thuman .........................kthuman@att.com
  Ph: (614) 531-1941
Randy Stoll ..........................rstoll3@columbus.rr.com
  Ph: (614) 882-2962
A Joyful Noise opens its sixth season in September with **Arnett Howard and Friends**!

Join us for “A Joyful Noise!” as Grace Lutheran Church begins its sixth concert series by offering performances in a variety of musical styles to both the Grace Family and the wider community of Westerville.

The series consists of eight performances, with one performance each month in our worship space. We offer a reception following each event.

The Joyful Noise Concert Series offers a variety of music. For example, in the 2014-2015 series, **Arnett Howard and Friends** will open our season with Motown/Memphis/New Orleans Rhythm and Blues with a splash of Reggae.

**Scioto Valley Brass** always livens the worship space in their British Brass Band style.

**The Singing Buckeyes** celebrates the art form known as barbershop music. And the toe-tapping Dixieland Jazz music from the **High Street Stompers** will also create a Joyful Noise!

A Joyful Noise is a not-for-profit organization. This means that every event has been planned, orchestrated, and run exclusively by volunteers. If you are interested in serving the Westerville community with great music like this, call the church office (614-882-3026) for details on how you can be a volunteer or donor.