



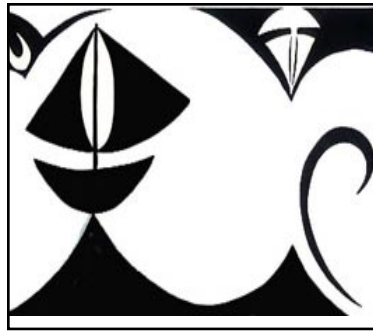
Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

July/August 2009

Courage Fund Update

By PD



Dear sisters and brothers in life and faith,

Last week the AVP (Advanced Planning) group met to discuss how congregants may use the Courage Fund to seed their own inspirations for helping others during these hard times.

It just so happened Eric Utech had posed this question to us weeks before, and as we met he had to interrupt the meeting in order to borrow some keys from me.

A wonderful back and forth with Eric ensued concerning his previous question. We finally decided if congregants have dreams, the Courage Fund should seed them if possible. We voted overwhelmingly to seed Eric's UNICEF drive with \$500 of the \$6000 already raised. Eric plans to match that amount, and gather more funds from others. Then UNICEF will add more, totaling over \$2000 given to international aid. Unicef will provide Eric and Grace with documentation of all funds and services.

On Tuesday night members of the AVP met with Pastor Don Baker of Y.O.U. (Youth Organizations Umbrella) who has worked tirelessly for 38 years to provide services for at-risk youth in Evanston. In all those years, he told us, he's never seen things this bad. His budget could be cut as much, or more, than \$200,000.00. He's already had to lay off staff as the news worsens.

Yet there we were, dreaming up new partnerships and leaning on God's promises. The AVP intentionally listened as Don told his story, shared his feelings, and offered some ideas. He told us how they have to close certain Y.O.U. sites because of the coming budget cuts (Grace would not be one of

them), and the hardest thing to do is start a site up again after it's been removed.

However, if Y.O.U. had a skeleton crew at one of their sites, with Grace sponsoring volunteers one day a week and providing a meal, we might keep it alive until the funding returns. We told him we'd

like more details so we might consider it with the congregation. 1st Methodist in Evanston has already agreed to help with another site which may be in need.

Then we asked Don: would you be willing to plant a garden near ours, and have your youth grow vegetables for our Interfaith Action soup kitchen? Don said it sounded like a wonderful partnership, and he would like to talk more about it.

We all agreed that the Courage Fund focus is about breaking down our outdated, one dimensional client/patron model of social services. We want to learn from those we're serving. We want to partner for mutual ministry so we can serve one another.

On Thursday, June 18th I sat in my living room with Bob and Gail Lamont along with the Executive Director of the Stillpoint Theater company, Lisa Wagner-Carollo. For fifteen years, Stillpoint has conducted programs of weekly creative dramatics workshops with developmentally disabled adults. They are currently working with groups at six Chicago-based agencies: Esperanza being one of them.

Stillpoint's critically acclaimed touring show, 'Haunted by God: The Life of Dorothy Day' will be coming to Grace this Fall as the Lamont's Courage Fund-raiser. We were meeting about logistics and planning for the event, when Lisa realized how we

Cont. Inside

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Church of Evanston
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at Wesley
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Grace Is An Open
And Affirming RIC
Congregation

Rev. Daniel Ruen
Pastor
pd@graceevanston.org

Terence Blain
Director of Music

Rev. Kaari Reiersen
Colleague in
Ministry

Chloe Martinez
Office Manager

Steve Brunger
Sexton

Vision

To Be God's
Kingdom Bursting
Open in the World.

Core Values

We Value:

The Gospel of Jesus
Christ

Putting Faith into
Action Courageously

Diversity

Peace

Faith Development

A Caring Community

Experiencing God

Weekly Worship



JULY 19 IS THE GRACE ANNUAL PICNIC!

Immediately following the regular worship service.

There will be food, fun, fellowship.

Courage Fund, Cont.

might assist them with their workshop for disabled adults at Esperanza.

As with Y.O.U.'s predicament, budgets statewide are being slashed in ways not seen for decades. Esperanza told Lisa that Stillpoint couldn't return to finish out their year for fear of being unable to pay them. But here were Bob and Gail in my living room, writing out a check to cover the cost. They used \$200 from the Courage Fund seed money to add to their amount so Stillpoint might continue their ministry of art and healing at Esperanza. Lisa was stunned. She was built up in spirit, smiling with wonder, and excited to go out and spread the message of Grace's 'crazy hope.'

On Friday, June 19th I sat in the office of Pastor Gloria, the new pastor at Chicago Uptown Ministries. She told me of their struggles, as their sources of support are also under great stress. I told her about our Courage Fund activities, and she was filled with delight, herself. We plan to meet with her and the new Executive Director over the summer, to see how we can dialogue and dream together.

This is all part of the Spirit's work. The Courage Fund is more than money, obviously. It's an opportunity to meet with others and make connections. What's happened at these meetings are only small examples—the delightful 'multiplier effects' of God's dreams and hopes. As Bob Carroll has said, 'When these kinds of things are happening, how can we not see that this is our work as a congregation?'

Part of the AVP's deliberations has included an emphasis on transparency, so below you'll see a list of how we've allocated the \$6,000.00 already raised.

We're also trying to limit the amount of 'in-house' fundraisers so we don't exhaust our small congregation. For instance, we'll be marketing heavily outside of Grace for the Dorothy Day show this Fall. I have pledged to raise \$5,000.00 for the Courage Fund through CD sales and concerts, all of which will be raised outside of Grace.



And to repeat for anyone who may not have heard, already: The Advanced Planning Team has formally decided against seeking a loan on the church property to help us meet the needs of our communities and members. We have already raised or gifted almost 15% of the initial \$75,000.00 goal on our own in about five months—who needs a loan, anyway?

Of the \$6,000.00 the AVP committee raised:

- \$1,500 has gone to seed Grace's own fundraising ideas (what we're planning on calling 'Seeds for the Harvest,' an initiative sponsored under the Courage Fund umbrella), everything from homemade salsa sales to a banquet crew to multiplying funds through UNICEF.
- \$1,500 has gone to support Grace's emergency fund for members in need
- \$3,000 remains for more Seeds for the Harvest, emergency funds, or to go outside Grace to directly help others, such as we've already done with Y.O.U. Would you like to take a Seed for the Harvest with you as you travel this summer? Make a request to the Courage Fund!
- \$5,000.00 has been gifted to Y.O.U. by the Grace council in the form of 3 months rent relief, and we met with Don Baker this last Tuesday to hear his story and brainstorm more partnerships together.

Currently, the AVP is considering a plan to send \$100 checks to various churches and organizations nationwide (Seeds for the Harvest), asking them to join with us in spreading the message of Crazy Hope. They would send no money back to Grace, simply let us know the amount they raised, plus info on their projects. The ultimate goal is to infect our world with wonder and courage during these times.

Please speak to PD with any questions or ideas.

The Courage Fund will be headed by Bob Shoaf and Bob Carroll. The Anniversary Planning Committee will be led by Anne Laurence and Ginny Ayers. They will be looking for ideas and workers. Any Grace member with an idea for using seed money should please contact PD or Bob Shoaf or Bob Carroll. Thanks be to God for you, and for your faith.

PD

Bike Hike Planned for August 30



Last year's bike hike was a success, so it is returning by popular demand!

We will leave after church on Sunday, August 30 and make our way to the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe. Riders will have several choices.

Those who wish to ride the full way can leave from church and make their way to Harms Woods and the North Shore Trail; round trip will be about 30 miles. Others may park at Harms Woods and ride from there, for a round trip of about 20 miles. Still others might meet the group at Willow Road and ride ten miles round trip.

Friends and boosters who don't care to ride can meet the bike riders at the Botanic Garden for lunch around 1:00 pm.

Save the date, and get your legs in shape!

New Grace Website

PD and Council have developed a new site for Grace, using a service known as Clover, which specializes in church web design. Please go to: graceevanston.org and see the new look! The site is in Flash, which means it has subtle but striking animations as pages load. The template we've purchased is easily altered for new info, photos and media. We are able to download sermons and documents with ease. The new calendar function gives you home-access to the Grace calendar in the office so you may plan events and meetings. We plan to have a couple forums on the site later this summer and early in the fall. If there are any questions please contact PD.

Grace Picnic

The annual Grace Church picnic will be on Sunday, July 19, immediately following the regular worship service. (Picnic attire is entirely appropriate for church.) There will be food, fun, fellowship – did I mention food? Tables and grills will be set up on the church lawn. Please bring the following if possible:

- Lawn chair(s)
- Meat for yourself (Feel free to grill it there.)
- A dish (salad, side, or dessert) to share
- Beverage if you want something other than lemonade



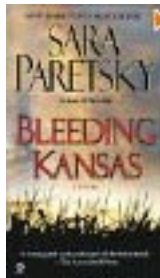
We will provide plates, utensils, glasses, condiments, lemonade, games, smiles, eggs for the annual raw egg toss. Bring family and friends. Everyone is welcome!

Because the picnic is right after church, it will be possible to attend Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries benefit later in the day.

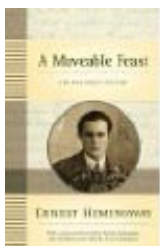
Questions? Contact Carolyn Utech at 312-441-9631 or davecarolyn@juno.com.

Grace Book Club

Our next meeting will be July 12th, 3:00 - 5:00, at Carolyn and Dave Utech's home, 165 N. Canal St., #1329, Chicago 60606, 312-441-9631. We will discuss *Bleeding Kansas* by Sara Paretsky, a Chicago author known for her mystery series featuring V.I. Warshawski. In this novel, the author steps away from Chicago to her Kansas roots to portray families deeply affected by religious fundamentalism, the war in Iraq, and Wiccan practices. *Bleeding Kansas* has been compared to Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. It includes dark family secrets and prickly social issues.



Then in September (exact date to be determined) we will meet at the home of Les and Rachel Stark Inch and we will discuss *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway.



Anyone who has read the books under discussion is welcome and encouraged to attend. The July gathering will feature treats from Bob Shoaf and his band of compatriots who are raising money to give away, using seed money from Grace's anniversary fund.

New Worship Planning Team

A new worship planning team has been formed. In addition to PD and Terence, the new team will be served by Connie Wood, Martha Fry and Laura Wally. We plan to have our first meeting in July/August.

GRACE NEWS



Farmers' Market Bake Sale On October 10th.

Grace will have a bake sale booth at the Evanston Farmers' Market on October 10th, and we need you to help make it a successful enterprise! The more we bake the more we make, so start looking through your recipe collection for those favorite home-baked goods. We also need people to help price items the evening before the sale, and of course an enthusiastic sales force on the day of the sale. Watch the weekly bulletins for more details, or talk to Anne Laurence if you have questions.



Student News

Keith Ericksen, a freshman at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights, was at the top of his class in his first year. Keith was also confirmed at Grace on Pentecost Sunday. Congratulations, Keith!

During the rest of the summer, Keith is also looking for a little volunteer job. He is available about 10 hours a week in the afternoon or anytime on Fridays.

If anyone has news of Grace members, please let the Harbinger know and it will be published.



Grace's Glass "Trivets"

A number of Grace members have recycled the glass lenses from old lighting fixtures in the education wing and are using them as trivets or parts of new lamps. Fred Nagelbach recently wrote a cautionary note to the Harbinger about using these lenses in this way:

CAUTION: The recycled Grace glass lenses being used as trivets and on the lamps that were auctioned recently are neither tempered nor laminated glass. Their thickness lends some strength; nevertheless, they are the weakest form of glass and if they break dangerous shards can result.

Please be cautious if you are using these old lenses in a way that might cause them to break.

Websurfing for Grace.

Grace is now registered on GoodSearch, a search engine that donates half of its revenue to the charities and schools designated by its users. You use GoodSearch exactly as you would any other search engine; it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get proven search results. The site also includes GoodShop, an online shopping mall of world-class merchants dedicated to helping fund worthy causes across the country. Each purchase made through GoodShop also results in a donation to the user's designated organization. All the money generated through GoodSearch will go to Grace's Courage Fund.

The more Grace users use Goodsearch as their search engine, or purchase items through Goodshop, the greater the check Grace will receive each year from Goodsearch.

Try www.goodsearch.com and save it as one of your Favorites, or as a desktop icon.

New Members

Grace welcomed ten new adult members, plus five children, on May 3. The Harbinger will feature these families and individuals in this and the next issues.

Peggy Reineking

Peggy is originally from Milwaukee, and she has relocated to the Chicago area after living in Maryland. Peggy spent time in the military as a physical therapist in the Air Force, and was also a military wife. She recently retired from the Blue Cross Plan in Washington-Baltimore, and came back to the Midwest to be near her siblings. In Chicago, Peggy now works for the national Blue Cross Blue Shield company in Clinical Affairs. Her daughter lives near Boston, and her son lives near Richmond, VA.



Peggy found Grace church through an agency matching housing needs. Marilyn Mason interviewed Peggy and helped her find a place to stay with an elderly woman who needed companionship. In the interview, Marilyn learned some of Peggy's background and interests ("a lifelong Lutheran and politically liberal") and suggested she try Grace. Peggy describes Grace as "small and unique" with a pastor who is "joyful." She appreciates the church's involvement in social ministry, and she likes the diversity of the congregation.

Peggy invites anyone to join her in some of her other interests, including bridge, yoga, tennis, bicycling, and Ebay. She would like company as she explores Evanston and Chicago neighborhoods. Long-range travel plans will take Peggy to India next October, and in the future she hopes to go to China, Lapland, or Turkey. She's looking forward to making some good friends at Grace.

Bob Bannister

Bob and his wife Laura live in Evanston, but plan to relocate to the Boston area in the Fall of 2009. Laura telecommutes for her job (the firm is actually located in the Pacific Northwest) and is eager to be closer to family in the East. Bob hopes to find work that will be less stressful than his daily commute to the far south suburbs of Chicago.



Bob grew up in the western suburbs, and spent a number of years as a social studies teacher in the large school district that include Elgin and its suburbs. Staff reductions forced Bob to look for other employment, and he has worked for the past five years for a company that deals in construction supplies.

Bob's knowledge of history was apparent last spring as he added comments and insights to Pastor Daniel's short course in Christian history. He and Laura have just started getting involved in the activities at Grace, and we will be sorry to see them leave so soon.



Gerald Daye, Sr. and Karla Daye, Gerald Daye, Jr.(age 18), Joanie Daye (age 6), and Ava Daye (age 5)

Gerald is Haitian and moved to Evanston from Haiti at the age of 13. Karla grew up in Chicago's south suburb of Flossmoor. When they married ten years ago, Karla moved to Evanston.

Karla has been a first grade teacher in the Chicago Public Schools for 15 years. Gerald Sr. is a musician and a dialysis technician.

As a family, the Dayes enjoy music festivals, dancing, going to the beach or pool, soccer, and reading.

About six months ago, Karla set out to visit all the Lutheran churches in Evanston. She enjoyed all her visits, but found Grace to be the welcoming, progressive community where her whole family could feel welcome. The following Sunday, Karla brought all the family, and they felt "that same welcoming, powerful vibe." They all plan to be more involved at Grace in the future.

Council Capers

By the time you read this we'll know if the Illinois legislature has proved to be responsible to the tens of thousands of citizens who rely on the services that community- and faith-based organizations provide with such passion and expertise. I cannot fathom the turn our society will take if "we don't care" becomes the new state motto.

That is why two of Grace's core values - being a caring community and putting faith into action courageously - are at the same time comforting and challenging to me. Comforting because I know how committed our congregation is to loving our neighbors. Challenging because we have so many neighbors.

But we also have many allies. Council has joined Pastor Daniel in an exploration of local and larger agencies and organizations that serve our neighbors so well. You've met many of them at temple talks, adult education, and revivals. We hope that Grace can form a purposeful partnership with one or more of these excellent organizations. If you have ideas or questions about our proposed efforts, please talk to Pastor Daniel or a council member.

One of the excellent organizations needing our support is our tenant, YOU. They have been severely impacted by the recession, and six fine employees had to be released this week in anticipation of the July 1st state cutbacks. At our May council meeting we voted to forgive YOU's rent for the months of June, July and August, as a small respite from their financial woes. Don Baker, YOU's founder and executive director, told us that our gesture was a much-needed boost for his staff.

So let's not be afraid to turn over the money-changers' tables (if you've ever set up our heavyweight tables in Fellowship Hall, you could do that with one hand tied behind your back!), or create whatever havoc is necessary to put our faith into action courageously.

*Wishing you God's peace and joy,
Anne Laurence, Council President*

Bike Racks Installed

Big thanks to Gaylord Otte and his crew of Martin Inch and Bill Blackburn, who did a fantastic job of installing 2 bike racks at the south end of the parking lot.

Gaylord planned the installation project, procuring materials, renting equipment and working along side his crew. Over 8 hours (x3), spread over 2 days was required to get the job done.

These racks will be used mostly by kids coming to the Y.O.U. program that functions out of Grace's lower level. Plans are underway for an additional rack, to be located near the Education Wing entrance, which will be more convenient for those attending worship and other events at Grace.

*Well done, guys!
Jan Blackburn,
Property Chair*



Annual Meeting Recap

Our annual congregational meeting was held on May 3, 2009. Another delicious Grace potluck facilitated fellowship and table conversations about "what I would do if someone gave me \$xxx to help me raise money for a cause I believe in."

All ministries, groups and individuals had the opportunity to talk about the reports they had submitted, and to answer questions from the membership. Thank you to everyone for your comprehensive reports!

The play money in everyone's annual report packet that had generated lively exchanges over lunch was eclipsed by the real bundle of \$100 bills in Pastor Daniel's pocket, which he proceeded to hand out to members who had ideas on how to grow the seed money they would receive. There was applause aplenty for the plans that were being hatched, and for the money that the ad hoc committee had raised to jump-start Grace's 75th anniversary Courage Fund.

Action items included approval of the minutes of the January 2009 budget meeting, and the election of Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Nancy Schubert and Larry Yarbrough to second 2-year terms on the church council. I accepted re-election as council chair and congregational president.

Those were easy.

Not so easy was the consideration of an amendment to Grace's constitution that would change the protocol for our consideration of clergy candidates. The current language in Grace's constitution, as dictated by the synod, states that only candidates from the ELCA roster are acceptable for our consideration. Grace's Micah 6:8 ministry requested and Grace's council recommended that the congregation include "the roster of a generally recognized alternative source for Lutheran clergy," so that we would be able to consider qualified clergy who are in committed same-sex relationships. While Grace is not planning to be in the call process anytime soon, it is time to nudge, maybe jab, the ELCA toward a more just stance.

That constitutional amendment, if ratified at our 2010 annual meeting, would place Grace in principled non-compliance with the greater church, although the past practices of our synod reassure us that there would be no material consequences to our action.

Our original amendment language was borrowed from a Chicago ELCA congregation that had preceded us in this initiative, and in the course of our meeting we discovered some flaws in their wording. Maybe, because we were willing to put our neck on the line for this important cause, we wanted to be sure that there was no ring around our collar; thus a collegial sparring ensued, resulting in excellently crafted language that was unanimously approved! Thank you to those who persevered through this somewhat painful but ultimately positive process!

It is a joy to be part of this wonderful congregation, and my privilege to serve on your church council.

*Respectfully submitted,
Anne Laurence*

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 5

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister: Mary Mathyer
Lector: John Pederson
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Sam Shoaf
Ushers: Sydell Reeves and Ann Stevens
Greeters: Dominique and Marjorie Baptiste
Nursery: Kara Sokol
Altar Care: Nell Ferguson and Pat Brunger
Coffee Hour: Kim and Danny Brown

July 12

Presiding Minister: Rev. William Hutchison
Assisting Minister: Dave Utech
Lector: Bob Carroll
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Keyon Morris
Ushers: Larry and Greg
Greeters: Bob and Gail Lamont
Nursery: Marjorie Baptiste
Altar Care: Ann Stevens and Nancy Mathyer
Coffee Hour: Joe and Vicky Mayne

July 19

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister: Paul Bailey
Lector: Joe Mayne
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Keith Ericksen
Ushers: Larry Yarbrough and Greg Otte
Greeters: Eric and Ali Schwarz Utech
Nursery: Ann Stevens
Altar Care: Ann Stevens and Nancy Mathyer
Coffee Hour: Chloe and Virginia

July 26

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister: Dominique Baptiste
Lector: Christine Collins
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Rools Jean
Ushers: Russ Kohnken, Mary Mather and Nate Brown
Greeters: Judith and Keith Ericksen
Nursery: Nancy Mathyer
Altar Care: Helen Yarbrough and Nancy Stewart
Coffee Hour: Jan and Bill Blackburn

PD's Summer Schedule

- 7/10 – 7/18: Off to Lanesboro, MN, where Clare and I will attend Amalia Vagts' wedding (ELM Exec. Director), stay at my parents' farm house, and perform at the Commonweal Theater's 'Over the Back Fence' on Sunday, July 12th (<http://www.commonweal-theatre.org/backfence.html>) where we'll highlight Grace's Courage Fund.
- 8/1 – 8/10: At Holden Village with Grace members from August 2nd to 9th.
- 8/19 – 8/27: Vacation at Clare's family's place in Copper Harbor, MI.
- 9/21-9/25: I've also been asked to present at Holden again in late September as a part of their LENS conference, a regional retreat weekend for pastors.
- Pastor Kaari and Pastor Bill Hutchinson will be covering PD's Sundays during the summer and early fall.

Let There Be Light

Dear Members of Grace Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Evanston Interreligious Sustainability Circle, we would like to congratulate the members of Grace Lutheran Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church on your strong participation in the Let There Be Light competition.

It was a significant achievement that you have made. We understand that St. Paul's Lutheran had 32 families committed to participate in the program with 16 that reached the goal of 50% CFL bulbs installed in their homes. Grace Lutheran had 22 families that changed 50% of their light bulbs to CFLs.

We would also like to tip our hats to you members of Grace for installing new light fixtures and CFLs in your Education Building. It's a saving in energy and financial resources for the years to come. You are a shining example to the rest of us here in Evanston.

In conclusion both of you congregations have taken important steps in lowering your carbon emissions and dealing with global warming. Keep up the good work of taking care of Mother Earth not only for yourselves but also for the generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

*Stephen A. Perkins, Ph.D. and Rodney Erickson
 Center for Neighborhood Technology*

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 2

Presiding Minister:Kaari Reiersen
Assisting Minister: Carolyn Utech
Lector: Jan Blackburn
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte:Jeff Otte
Ushers:Russ Kohnken, Mary Mather and Nate Brown
Greeters: Bob and Gail Lamont
Nursery: Kara Sokol
Altar Care: Yarbrough and Stewer/Yarnall
Coffee Hour:.....Connie Wood and Nancy VanBrundt

August 9

Presiding Minister: Bill Hutchinson
Assisting Minister: Kim Brown
Lector: Sue McDaniels
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Emily Mathyer
Ushers: Steve, Daniel and Ben
Greeters: Eric and Ali Schwarz Utech
Nursery: Marjorie Baptiste
Altar Care:Anne Laurence and Schannps
Coffee Hour: Paul Bailey

August 16

Presiding Minister:..... Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister: Connie Wood
Lector:Bob Lamont
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Sam Shoaf
Ushers: Steve Brunger, Daniel and Ben Shoaf
Greeters: Helen Yarbrough and Anne Laurence
Nursery: Ann Stevens
Altar Care:Anne Laurence and Schannps
Coffee Hour:..... Mark P. and Jenny L.

August 23

Presiding Minister:..... Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister: Ron Graef
Lector: Ann Stevens
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte:Keyon Morris
Ushers: Sydell Reeves and Ann Stevens
Greeters: Tim Schannep and Anne Laurence
Nursery: Nancy Mathyer
Altar Care: Kara Sokol and Janet Wright
Coffee Hour: Anne Laurence

August 30

Presiding Minister:..... Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister: Mary Mathyer
Lector: Larry Yarbrough
Music Director: Terrance Blain
Acolyte: Keith Ericksen
Ushers: Sydell Reeves and Ann Stevens
Greeters: Dominique and Marjorie Baptiste
Nursery: Kara Sokol
Altar Care: Kara Sokol and Janet Wright
Coffee Hour: Lonny Miner

July Birthdays



August Birthdays

<p>07/02 Chris Brown 07/02 Mary Mathyer 07/02 Kaari Reiersen 07/03 Vicki Mayne 07/04 Isaac Tallon Ruen 07/05 Norman Sielig 07/06 Bonnie Gunzenhauser 07/11 Kyle Murphy 07/13 Eun-Kyu Koh 07/17 Tim Schannep 07/24 Holly O'Connor 07/29 Jonathan Graef Anastazia Martinez</p>	<p>08/03 Nate Brown 08/05 Steve Brunger 08/08 Bill Repsold 08/08 Don Wendland 08/13 Lara Galicia 08/18 Nell Ferguson 08/20 John Pedersen 08/22 Jeffrey Otte 08/25 Florence Talwane 08/31 Henry Owen (3rd)</p>
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Some members of Threads of Grace deliver preemie items to Evanston Hospital (l-r) Phyllis Buck, Helen Yarbrough, Nancy Starkman, second from the right, Linda Hickman, Evanston Hospital, Coordinator of Volunteer Activities, last on right, Threads member, Paula Wendland. Photos by G. Swantko Lamont

Threads of Grace Update

The Blessing and Delivery of Preemie Clothing and Blankets to Evanston Hospital

At the completion of a project, the members of Threads of Grace gather the quilted, sewn, crocheted, and knit items before the altar and request a prayer and blessing for the items and for those who receive them. On Sunday, June 7, Pastor Kaari Reiersen, Presiding Minister, asked that God's blessing travel with these items and strengthen the children and parents who use them. A generous gift of hats from the Mad Hatters of Immanuel Lutheran Church was included. When the Mad Hatters heard about our project, they offered a collection of their baby hats to the work. All included, there were



- 4 sets of quilts with kimonos to match, 7 additional kimonos, 2 knit blankets, 13 pairs of booties, and 55 hats.

On Friday, June 12, available members of Threads of Grace managed a communal delivery to Evanston Hospital. Linda Hickman, Coordinator of Volunteer Activities, received the items. All handmade items require an additional specialized cleaning by the hospital before they are introduced to the preemie unit. Ms. Hickman explained that on that day there were 60 babies in the Infant Special Care Unit.

Any of our large-sized items will be utilized in the clinics connected to the hospital. Threads of Grace found Ms. Hickman through Care Wear. This nationwide non-profit provides extensive patterns and helps needlework groups know the specific preemie items that are needed by hospitals in their area.



In front of our Pentecost Altar the hand made preemie clothing and blankets are gathered.

Samaritan Center Looking for Board Leadership

Have you ever wondered about your congregation's support of the Samaritan Counseling Center? Would you like to have a more hands-on role in bringing help to those in our communities who are struggling? The Samaritan Counseling Center Board of Directors is looking for caring, committed people to join the Board and assist the Center in its rewarding work in support of individuals in need in our local communities. If you would like more information about joining the Samaritan Counseling Center's Board of Directors, please email, Margie McInerney, margie@margiemcinerney.com, or Susan Hicks, srmh@comcast.net.

Uptown Ministry Still Needs Food

"Summer for schoolchildren should be a happy, stress-free season, but for many of the Chicago Public Schools' 405,000 youngsters, the next three months are likely to be a hungry time.



During the school year that ended Friday, about 84 percent of Chicago public school students received free or reduced-price breakfasts and lunches, meaning that with summer's arrival, nearly 342,000 children are no longer receiving the meals each day in their school cafeterias." *Chicago Tribune, June 15, 2009*

Please continue to bring non-perishable items for uptown's food pantry during the summer. Put them in the box by the coat room and they will be delivered to Uptown regularly.

Grace Will Sponsor Benefit for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries

Grace church is one of five Chicago-area congregations sponsoring "Dazzling Bouquet," a benefit on July 19 for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. The benefit takes place at Chicago's LGBT Center, The Center on Halsted at 3656 N. Halsted, from 3:00 until 4:30 p.m. Limited parking is available at Lakeview Lutheran Church, 835 W. Addison Street, Chicago.

ELM has worked for twenty years to expand ministry opportunities for pastors of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the Lutheran church, beginning in San Francisco. The organization's headquarters recently moved to Chicago. Nearly 50 Lutheran congregations have called or supported ELM pastors, and there are currently 45 members on the ELM roster.



Tim Schanep is chairing the event, and Tony Garcia is on the Host Committee. Both are Grace members. The invitation reads, "Mine is the church where everyone is welcome...and I know it's true, 'cause I got through the door. We are a dazzling bouquet of every kind of flower. Jump in the vase; we've got room for more!" Appetizers and a cash bar will be available at the fund-raiser, and many one-of-a-kind items will be sold via live and silent auctions.

This benefit is on the same day as the Grace church picnic, but there will be enough time for Grace members to enjoy both events. A donation of \$50 (\$35 minimum) is suggested for attendance at the ELM benefit.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA

22nd Annual Synod Assembly (June 5-6, 2009)

**Delegates, Ginny Ayers and Tim Schannep
for Grace Lutheran Church**

ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM

Tim and I were very honored to be chosen as Grace's delegates to the Assembly, and we worked hard to get ready. We had our 60-page "Essential Documents" printed out: we had skimmed the other 210 online pages; and we met with Pastor Daniel for counsel on what to expect at a synod assembly.

We were not only both first-time delegates, but we were also first-time submitters (with Pastor Daniel and John Ulmquist of Ebenezer) of a Memorial (resolution) to the Assembly. This memorial on Human Sexuality was expected to be one of great controversy. We four signers were asking the assembly of delegates from 205 congregations to urge the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August to adopt the proposed Social Statement on Human Sexuality, to adopt the Recommendations on Ministry Policies, to commit the resources necessary for implementation, and to reinstate ministers excluded previously from the ELCA roster. We were asking the church to acknowledge and accept same-gender relationships among both congregants and ministers.

Tim and I both prepared statements to defend our memorial – Tim spoke eloquently during one of the hearings, as did Pastor Fred Reklau. I was in line to speak at the floor debate, but the question was called (to cease debate and get down to the vote) before my turn. It passed with a strong majority in favor. Thanks be to God!

Other business at the assembly included:

- Memorials to:
 - Establish Round-Robin Congregational Auditing
 - Reduce Carbon Footprints (at congregational level)
 - Promote Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation in the Holy Land
 - Encourage Participation in ELCA Anti-Hunger Efforts
 - Encourage Suicide Prevention and Response
- Election of the MetroChicago Synod Vice President (Nanette Dahlke) and Secretary (Rev. Steve Srock) and other offices
- An eloquent and sobering report by Rev. Denver Bitner on the consequences to programs of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois due to the state's financial crisis
- Passing of the 2010 Synod Budget of \$3,751,0537.

In place of reports, there were incredibly thought-provoking Bible lessons led by Bishop Wayne Miller, Rev. Stephen Bouman of the ELCA, and Bishop N. P. Phawana of our sister synod in South Africa. There were three wonderful worship services with inspiring sermons by the same three ministers and rousing hymn singing by the 505 delegates.

This was a great experience – thank you for sending Tim and me as Grace's delegates.

Report submitted by Ginny Ayers

We Broke A World Record!

At Grace's Revival on May 9, we held a Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Coffee Break to try to break a record for the World's Largest Fair Trade Coffee Break.

Nearly 5400 Lutherans in 28 states participated in events to help break the record for the World's Largest Fair Trade Coffee Break! More than 64,000 people across the United States took a break for World Fair Trade Day, surpassing Finland's record of 32,000 in October, 2008.

Grace Lutheran Church received a Certificate of Appreciation from Lutheran World Relief to commemorate our help in breaking the record. The certificate is on display in the church narthex.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated! Help us keep up the good work by buying Fair Trade coffee, sold once a month during coffee hour.

Rachel Stark Inch

News From Pastor Stefan

Pastor Daniel recently received a note from Pastor Stefan Rickman, his predecessor at Grace. Pastor Stefan noted that his Minneapolis congregation was preparing to take a vote to become a "Reconciling in Christ" congregation, as Grace did a number of years ago.

Pastor Stefan also reported that Pastor Phemba Buthelezi, a former member of Grace, was recently elevated to the position of bishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Africa. Pastor Buthelezi, his wife Gretta, and their daughters Mbali and Ziphelele, were members of Grace while Pastor Buthelezi completed his doctoral studies at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He worshiped at Grace once in 2002 and immediately decided, "This will be my family's home congregation in the U.S."

Pastor Stefan recalled that when Grace celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2003, the Buthelezi family organized a fundraiser, bringing friends from the Hyde Park African community to lead a fabulous program of singing and dancing. Pastor Buthelezi's leopard-skin Zulu garb stole the show!

Pastor Stefan's note included some photos of the Buthelezi family. Those Buthelezi girls have grown up to be stunning young women!



July/August Calendar

Every Sunday 10:00 Worship followed by the coffee hour

Chloe out of the Office July 5 through July 11.

July 12 Book Group

July 19 Grace Annual Picnic
Interfaith Grocery Collection
3:30pm ELM Benefit

July 25 Outdoor REVIVAL
3pm: Sunday School Summit
5:pm Beer, Bible & BBQ

Chloe out of the Office August 2 through August 8

Pastor Daniel out of the Office August 2 through August 8 for the Holden Village trip.

Aug. 16 Interfaith Grocery Collection

Aug. 22 10:30am Revival Meeting in Lounge

Oct. 18 CROP Walk

Grace Church Council

Anne Laurence, Chair, Pat Brunger,
Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Sue Graef, Nancy Mathyer,
Nancy Schubert, Larry Yarbrough

Grace

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