



Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

July-August 2014

**Affirming,
Courageous,
Caring**

**Grace Lutheran
Church of Evanston
1430 South Blvd.
at Wesley
847.475.2211**

**Grace Is An Open
And Affirming RIC
Congregation**

OUR MISSION:

To courageously live out our faith by sharing grace with each other and the communities we serve.

OUR VISION:

All God's people will feel accepted, challenged, and cared for by Grace Church.

**10:00 Worship
Every Sunday**

**Rev. Daniel Ruen
Pastor**

pd@graceevanston.org

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**Mark Bowman
Music Director**

•

**The Rev. Kaari
Reierson, The Rev. Jen
Rude, and The Rev.
Raquel Rodriguez,
Colleagues in Ministry**

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**Marie O'Brien
Parish Administrator**

•

**Jackson DeLeon-Lopez
Sexton**

A Radical Assembly

by Pastor Daniel



For the seven years I've been your pastor it's sometimes a chore to sign up members to attend our yearly synod assemblies. I know why. It's two days out of your very busy schedules to sit through many hours of presentations, workshops and voting procedures. But as I sat there this year, I was reminded of the radical Conciliar Movement that rocked the Christian world prior to the Reformation of the 1500's, and how my presence at this year's assembly was a privileged echo of profound revolution in the church.

In the 14th century the Roman papacy was held in almost total disregard by most of Europe, with three rival popes playing populations against one another in an endless back stabbing political circus. The leaders of the churches came together in frustration and desperation. They took to the scriptures and, using Jesus' famous adage that "wherever two or three are gathered in my name, I am with them" (Matt 18:20) they began to build a rationale for 'people power.'

Although it was not perfect, in many ways what became known as 'the conciliar movement' was a precursor not only to the Protestant Reformation but also to modern democracy.

So: What did we do with our conciliar/synod assembly 'people power' this time around?

Jarrod Gaither and Peg Haar were your congregational representatives. They engaged in the assembly with great spirit and attention. We three spread ourselves out to the various workshops so we could

cover as much ground as possible. Between the three of us we attended sessions that covered church stewardship, the upcoming 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit, spiritual and palliative care, anti-racism initiatives, discipleship philosophy, and adult education.

The keynote presentation was provided by Miko McCracken of ELCA World Hunger. Miko delivered a passionate appeal not only about the need to con-

tinue our cooperative work to Relieve suffering, Educate all people, Advocate for justice and Develop sustainable programs (known in her circles as R.E.A.D.) but to join this with a new, Lutheran-inspired spirit of evangelical outreach.

She quoted Martin Luther's famous dictum that "it is impossible to separate faith from good works." We Lutherans are great with our doing of good works, she said, but where is the ability to articulate and positively share our faith? She repeated the challenging statistics facing our church denomination: 82% of our churches are either maintaining their membership or are in decline (14% are maintaining, 68% are declining). When polled, young and un-churched U.S. citizens say the church is "focused too much on money, opposes science, is not just with women and LGBT persons, and is mostly irrelevant." Is this public image something we are content to let stand, she asked?

Bishop Wayne Miller, in his report to the Synod on Saturday morning, expanded upon Miko's challenge

Continued on next page

Join Us at Millennium Park Picnic and Concert

Join Grace members, friends and families for picnic and symphony concert in Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. Saturday, July 26: 6:00PM gather for picnic; 7:30PM concert. Bring lawn chair and food/drink to share. To find the Grace group in the park, call Mark Bowman (773-316-8892) or Rachel Stark Inch (847-373-4587). Concert program includes music by Shostakovich, Borodin and Camilio. If you have questions or need transportation assistance, contact Mark or Rachel.



Radical, cont.

by asserting that what we mainline liberal Christians are practicing is a kind of 'ankle-deep' Christianity. We have a culture of compartmentalizing our faith into Sunday morning worship and are historically afraid of integrating our faith into every other day of the week. The Bishop's response to the charge that we may risk coming across as judgmental proselytizers is to flip the script: instead of assuming that evangelism is recruiting people to invest in us, what if we approached evangelism as personally investing in others? In this way of thinking, evangelism is a three-part process: 1) Sharing my story, 2) Exploring (not judging or proselytizing against) the faith story of others and 3) Creating a shared faith story together. Jarrod, Peg and I spent much time in the car rides talking about how our IGNITE conversations fall right in line with the Bishop's provocative ideas and questions.

As with all synod assemblies, we took up resolutions. Two were considered and passed. 01-14 was a resolution that asked all churches to take more seriously the charge of addressing hunger and poverty, resolving to 'recommit to the eradication of hunger and poverty,' and it passed overwhelmingly. The second, 02-14 called for preventing mistreatment and oppression of LGBT persons in Africa. This resolution was also adopted but the vote was close, but not because anyone seemed to disagree with the basic premise of the resolution. Many representatives at the assembly believed the way the resolution may be received by some of our African Christian sisters and brothers would do more harm than good in some contexts.

We also met with our Northeast Conference of parishes and considered a radical restructuring of the way we are organized. We had good conversation and ideas flowing, and we also elected a possible candidate for the next national churchwide assembly. Our own Jarrod Gaither was nominated for an initial vote by Pastor Tim Brown from Trinity in Evanston because of Jarrod's great work with four local ELCA congregations.

Peg, Jarrod and I did our best to represent Grace's values of Affirmation, Courage and Care, voting in ways we felt you would approve of while sampling as much as we could from different people and conversations that might assist our ongoing IGNITE (transformational change) conversations. Please thank Peg and Jarrod when you get a chance. They were fantastic representatives of your faith community. If you have any other questions, please feel free to send them on to any of us!

Pastor Daniel



AS OFTEN AS YOU DID
IT FOR ONE OF MY
LEAST BROTHERS, YOU
DID FOR ME.

Save The Dates For Soup Kitchen:

Grace will be hosting the soup kitchen at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
1004 Greenwood in Evanston on the following dates in 2014:

July 27th • September 7th • October 12th

Music Ministry at Grace

Grace Children Sing!

The talented children we have at Grace are learning and singing songs in worship this summer. All Grace children are invited to come and sing together on Saturday mornings, July 19th and August 23rd, from 9:30 to 10:30AM. Grace music director Mark will be teaching and leading the children in song. Encourage your children to join in the singing on Sunday mornings even if they can't come to the Saturday sessions. Contact Mark (773-316-8892) with any questions.

Ann Stevens Honored by Oberlin College

Ann Stevens was recently inducted into the Oberlin College Athletic Department's Heisman Club Hall of Honor. It was created as a means to recognize those individuals who have helped advance the goals of the athletics and physical education department regardless of their personal athletic achievements. Its goal is to recognize distinguished alumni and past and present staff and volunteers for their contributions to student athletes and campus community. Ann gears her gifts towards making sure all students have an opportunity to develop a healthy body and mind

Thrivent Financial Update

Earlier this year, Thrivent Financial made several statements related to changes in Thrivent funding programs. Individuals who had designated Thrivent Choice Dollars to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries received letters saying our organization was no longer eligible for funding from Thrivent because we were considered "too divisive." ELM had been approved for Thrivent Choice Dollars in February of 2013 and received \$2,985 in funds last year. Reconciling Works was also impacted by these changes.

Emily Eastwood and I [Amalia Vagts] met with Thrivent officials on April 10 in hopes of finding a workable solution. Unfortunately, the only suggestion that Thrivent had for us was to encourage our supporters to direct their support to a congregation who could then send it to us. We feel this proposed "workaround" is disingenuous and unhelpful for those of us working so hard in support of Lutheran ministers and congregations.

Thrivent – please WORK WITH, not around, our ministry.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION

- + If you are a Thrivent member, contact your Thrivent Representative and CEO Brad Hewitt (brad.hewitt@thrivent.com) about the important work of ELM and Reconciling Works and ask them to restore support of our ministries.
- + Pray for Brad Hewitt and the Board of Thrivent.
- + If you make a gift to ELM in response to Thrivent's actions, please put "Thrivent" in the memo line.



From Mark Bowman to our Grace singers on 6/16:

Thank you, thank you so much for the work, energy and spirit all of you put into the singing of the Gospel Mass in worship yesterday. It was outstanding—joyful and quiet praise, subtle prayer—full of passion and spirit. It was a joy to both watch and hear you. You all really connected with each other and with the music and let it flow from your mouths and hearts. I'm sure you heard from many people who were there about how amazing you all sounded (and I got a few "darn, I wish I would have been singing with you all"). You can all certainly feel proud and satisfied and now take a deep breath and enjoy a break from choir.

Yesterday was certainly one of the best choral/musical presentations I've been part of for quite a long time...certainly a memorable experience that all of us shared together.

Gospel Mass Videos

Following were videos taken from the congregation by Nina Alvarez of the various movements from the Gospel Mass. Unfortunately the last one was cut off abruptly, but these videos will give you an idea of what we sounded like on Sunday, June 15th, and if you were there it will remind you of the experience of being part of this event. We are grateful to Nina for taking these videos.

Marilyn Mason, ed.

Kelly Hackett & choir - Gloria: <http://youtu.be/d4xhgpMiZxM>

Grace Choir – Acclamation (Hallelujah): <http://youtu.be/FUVwYzoLwqo>

Claudia Perry & choir - Credo: <http://youtu.be/g1Vi8W-rKJE>

Nate Johnson & Choir - Sanctus: <http://youtu.be/2iGr3jeOktc>

Reggie Bruce & Choir – Lamb of God: <http://youtu.be/gRcZWlVfUml>

Please consider joining participants in the upcoming three-session education offering on "Families and Economic Justice" led by Rev. Peg Otte, ELCA, formerly a Grace member, sponsored and hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church at 3637 Golf Rd, Evanston, IL 60201, on July 9, 16 and 23.

GRACE NEWS & EVENTS


July Birthdays

Mary Mathyer (7/2)
 Kaari Reiersen (7/2)
 Vicki Mayne (7/3)
 Isaac Tallon Ruen (7/4)
 Emma Mosco Flint (7/5)
 Norman Sielig (7/5)
 Bonnie Gunzenhauser (7/6)
 Kyle Murphy (7/11)
 Eun-Kyu Koh (7/13)
 Cassidy Boon (7/15)
 DeeAnn Johnson (7/16)
 Marvin Scroggins (7/16)
 Dave Thacker (7/16)
 Tim Schannep (7/17)
 Jill Flaherty (7/18)
 Holly O'Connor (7/24)
 Madison Caban (7/28)
 Jonathan Graef (7/29)
 Anastazia Martinez (7/29)
 Jonathan Luis Encarnación (7/31)

*July
and August
Birthdays*

August Birthdays

Nate Brown (8/3)
 Steve Brunger (8/5)
 Bill Repsold (8/8)
 Rosario Thacker (8/9)
 Lara Galicia (8/13)
 Nell Ferguson (8/18)
 John Pedersen (8/20)
 Alice Wilson (8/21)
 Jeffrey Otte (8/22)
 Sadie Vinson (8/31)




Families and Economic Justice

Rev. Peg Otte, ELCA

TRINITY trinityevanston.org

*Sponsored & Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Evanston
Co-Sponsored by Interfaith Action of Evanston*

- » Study and response/conversation on sacred texts regarding economic justice and the dignity of work (*from First and New Testaments, writings of Baha'u'llah, Quran*)
- » Introduction to current economic disparities, minimum wage analyses
- » Process for Seattle/Tacoma enacting minimum wage increase
- » Stories of family life on minimum wage; impact on education, healthcare, well-being
- » Strategizing, budgeting and purchasing necessities for 1 week, using minimum wage earnings amount (*information resources provided, participant pays for on their own*)
- » Conversation points in talking with others about economic injustice
- » Advocacy strategies for people of faith to respond to economic injustice as well as increasing the minimum wage



July 9th, 16th & 23rd - 7:30pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
3637 Golf Rd., Evanston, IL 60201
For More Information contact: Office@TrinityEvanston.org 847 673-8564

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 6

Presiding	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister	Joe Flint
Music Director	Rachel Stark Inch
Lector	Zora Tallon Ruen
Cantor	Jan Blackburn
Acolyte	Emma Mosco Flint
Ushers	Sarah Carson, Nancy Schubert
Coffee Hour	Nancy Schubert
Altar Care	Danielle Keifert & TBA
Nursery Care	Nina Alvarez
Flowers	Jan Blackburn

July 13

Presiding	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister	Kim Brown
Music Director	Rachel Stark Inch
Lector	Janet Wright
Cantor	Bonnie Gunzenhauser
Acolyte	Cecilia Galicia
Ushers	Sarah Carson, Nancy Schubert
Coffee Hour	Ann Stevens, Gai il Lamont, Bob Lamont
Altar Care	Christian Lantry, Nancy Mathyer
Nursery Care	Nancy Schubert
Flowers	Ann Stevens

July 20

Presiding	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching	Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister	Carolyn Utech
Music Director	Mark Bowman
Lector	Scott Payton
Cantor	Caitlin Sellnow
Acolyte	William Thacker
Ushers	Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf, Cecilia Galicia
Coffee Hour	Clare Tallon Ruen, Karla Daye
Altar Care	Ann Stevens, Nancy Mathyer
Nursery Care	Deb Mitchell
Flowers	Ann Stevens

July 27

Presiding	Pastor Jen Rude
Preaching	Pastor Jen Rude
Assisting Minister	Rachel Stark Inch
Music Director	Mark Bowman
Lector	Nina Alvarez
Cantor	Reggie Bruce
Acolyte	Logan Spies
Ushers	Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf, Cecilia Galicia
Coffee Hour	Bill Blackburn, Jan Blackburn
Altar Care	Jeanine Brownell, Deb Mitchell, Ann Stevens
Nursery Care	Ann Stevens
Flowers	Ann Stevens

Worship Team Notes

The Grace Worship Team has been hosting intentional conversations about recent changes for many months. Since we've implemented seasonal worship teams and endeavored to actively create a more multi-cultural worship identity at Grace there have been strong emotions on all sides. Our team recognized early on that we could not move forward unless we first learned to deeply listen to one another. During the winter we set up a dinner meeting where we broke into one-on-one conversations across traditional/transformational worship inclinations. We then came back to a large group and shared what we had heard. We also spent time asking one another about things that fed us in worship, how we saw others being fed, and how we were left hungry.

While we did not find resolution toward a more unified worship philosophy that will please everyone, we did agree to keep at this process with generous hearts and open ears. At this meeting we also generated the idea of congregational 'heartsongs' as a way to address peoples' feelings of not being fed by certain songs and styles. This has been very successful, with many people enjoying others' beloved hymns and arrangements.

Since then, the team has met twice more to consider how IGNITE conversations will continue to inform future worship discussions. At our last meeting we listened to a recent presentation by Pastor Nadia Bol-

Weber about how her church has re-imagined worship in striking ways (democratizing the space so there is no separation of worship leaders, asking anyone who arrives on a Sunday to help speak the liturgy instead of only having two people do so, not separating the choir from the congregation and challenging themselves to consider the difference between being 'friendly' and truly 'welcoming'). Since the IGNITE conversations are meant to be the centering crucible for the future of our identity and form, the Worship Team plans on being attentive to that process as it unfolds so worship reflects the overall mission and intent of Grace. In the meantime, we are moving through seasons with a similar mix of traditional and experimental styles. For Advent and Lent we call upon new and different voices for seasonal worship teams, remaining open to new configurations and inspirations; for other seasons we return to standard liturgical settings. Your current worship team leaders are: Sue Graef, Christine Collins, Rachel Stark-Inch, Pastor Raquel Rodriguez, Reggie Bruce, Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Pastor Jen Rude, Pastor Kaari Reiersen, Director of Music Mark Bowman, Pastor Daniel Ruen and Council Liaison Taina Encarnacion-Rodriguez. Please feel free to speak to any of us with any questions or ideas.

Pastor Daniel

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 3

Presiding Pastor Kaari Reiersen
Preaching Pastor Kaari Reiersen
Assisting Minister Connie Wood
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector John Pedersen
Cantor Russ Kohnken
Acolyte Joanie Daye
Ushers Sydel Reeves, Ann Stevens
Coffee Hour Martha Fry, Bob Shoaf
Altar Care Jeanine Brownell, Deb Mitchell, TBD
Nursery Care Nina Alvarez
Flowers Jill Flaherty

August 10

Presiding Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Preaching Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Assisting Minister Rosario Thacker
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Randy Warren
Cantor Dominique Baptiste
Acolyte Alice Wilson
Ushers Sydel Reeves, Ann Stevens
Coffee Hour Rina Campbell, Peter Spies
Altar Care Caitlin Sellnow, Janet Wright
Nursery Care Nancy Schubert
Flowers Dee Ann Johnson

August 17

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Taína Rodriguez Encarnación
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Colby Sellers
Cantor Nate Johnson
Acolyte Zinzi Steele
Ushers Jon Flaherty, TBD
Coffee Hour Nancy Mathyer, Mark Mathyer
Altar Care Caitlin Sellnow, Janet Wright
Nursery Care Deb Mitchell
Flowers Jan Blackburn

August 24

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Jarrod Gaither
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Sarah Carson
Cantor Russ Kohnken
Acolyte David Thacker
Ushers Jon Flaherty, TBD
Coffee Hour Christine Collins, Russ Kohnken
Altar Care Susan Graef, Nancy Schubert
Nursery Care Ann Stevens
Flowers Ann Stevens

August 31

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Kim Brown
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Craig Gonder
Cantor TBD
Acolyte Julia Shoaf
Ushers Sarah Carson, Nancy Schubert
Coffee Hour Kari Warren, Randy Warren
Altar Care Susan Graef, Nancy Schubert
Nursery Care Nina Alvarez
Flowers Jan Blackburn

IGNITE Thoughts and A Basic Roadmap

After our very successful IGNITE retreat this last spring the Grace council is hopeful we can maintain positive momentum going into next year. The council is taking names of interested people who would like to be on an IGNITE Visioning Team. We already have a list that covers a wonderful cross-section of Grace members and attendees. The basic roadmap is to host some initial meetings where the council and Visioning Team will attempt to harness the spirit of the retreat and craft some initial proposals for transformational change. Then, we will host another congregational retreat in the fall. Look forward to more info as we get closer to that event and, in the meantime, if you would like to be part of the IGNITE Visioning Team conversations, please email Council President Les Inch at linch679@gmail.com.

Helen & Larry Yarbrough - Over 40 Years at Grace



Larry and Helen Yarbrough

From Marilyn Mason

As many of you know, Helen & Larry Yarbrough moved to the Boston area to be near their daughter Gwen, her husband Evan, and their yet-to-be-born grandchild due in Mid-July. I've asked many of you to write comments about what they've meant to you, and I'm starting with my own comments. I deliberately did not include anything about their leaving in the June issue although they left town on June 10th because they wanted to keep a low profile about their leaving. We did have a special coffee hour in their honor on Sunday, June 8th, their last Sunday at Grace before their move.

I understand that Helen started coming to Grace when she and Larry were engaged but not yet married, in 1971 or 1972, which means that they were part of the Grace family for more than 40 years. During the time that I've known them I've seen their work along many avenues. I appreciated Helen's extensive work with the CROP Walk, being one of the co-leaders for many years and getting Grace more involved with the group as a result. Helen told me that Larry said he was Treasurer for 16 years, which is a long time for anyone to hold such a position, especially as a volunteer, and he did it well. Larry also sang in the choir for several years and served on the church council for many years. He also served as an usher and was active in the Men's Club whose main function was to serve breakfast on Palm Sunday each year.

Helen was part of the Community of Care Committee from the beginning of Grace's involvement about 17 years ago and often reminded us of things we needed to do in connection with that committee. Her feedback to me as Harbinger editor was quite valuable as she would mention different issues that needed to be covered, for which I was grateful. She preferred to stay in the background and at various congregational meetings we could usually find her in the kitchen doing what needed to be done, cleaning up after a meal. Helen was very helpful to me in arranging rides for John

Pedersen, and very often she and Larry brought John to the extra services during Advent and Lent. It's taken many, many people to replace them in making sure that John got to church for each service. In fact, it will take many people to fulfill the roles they filled while they were here.

From Pastor Daniel

Before I write anything else I first want to thank Helen and Larry for being the Christians that they

are: humble, courageous, dedicated and grace-filled. They acted behind the scenes so much of the time, as I know was their preference, but while doing so they provided crucial leadership, organization and motivation while maintaining Grace's foundational ministry initiatives.

I won't soon forget Larry's love of all-things-France, his fire for social justice issues, and his incredible years of steady service as our Grace treasurer. I will also hold in my heart Helen's unflagging attention to everyone's pastoral care needs by helping to bring meals, send cards or offer kind words of support. Her work on hospitality, altar guild, CROP Walks and so many other ministries makes my head spin. I also am very, very thankful for Helen and Larry's care and concern for me over the years. Helen was always quick to ask how I was doing or if I needed any support. I think her deep awareness of what it takes to run a church made her more empathic to the job of being a pastor.

This brings me to my main point about these two disciples: Helen and Larry were a shining example of Martin Luther's radical formulation of the 'priesthood of all believers.' Grace's ministry was their ministry. They tended it with great consistency, faith and humor. They were and are pastors of God's message of grace. They are already greatly missed. I look forward to hearing stories of their new life out east, and am excited to hear about how their faith will impact a new community. Remember, Helen and Larry: the Spirit of God's grace and the spirit of this congregation are with you.

Pastor Daniel

From Pastor Kaari Reiersen

Larry and Helen did and were more than anyone could put into words. They did every job, plugged every leak, and always saw what needed to be done. All of this happened without fanfare, and they always downplayed their immense contributions to the Grace community. Their kindness and thoughtfulness are infinite, and I feel so fortunate to have been blessed in knowing them.



From Russ Kohnken

When I took over as treasurer, Larry served as an valuable resource. While I understood the premises of accounting, much of the details and 'tricks of the trade' were not in my repertoire. Among the things that I got from Larry is this line: When in doubt, create a contra-account.

Larry spent too many summer afternoons with me last year figuring out what to do, and figuring out how to repair what I had done. He was always patient and clear. I hope, when the time comes, that I can serve whoever follows me as well.

On a different note, I remember that Larry and Ron Graef were shepherds with Phil for our Bending towards the Light production. As you may recall, Phil had to sing a solo and do some amount of acting (star gazing, looking awed, standard shepherd stuff). Larry and Ron were good at guiding Phil through his role.

From Joe Flint

Helen and Larry graciously welcomed my family to Grace. Helen remembered working with me in supporting Grace's community of care family 10 years before when I was with AIDS Pastoral Care Network. Their comforting, quiet support of our "faith in action" initiatives was always impressive to me.

From Ginny Ayers

Helen Yarbrough and I have worked side by side for the past few years to organize the Grace Archives. Helen really is "the font of all knowledge," at least regarding Grace Lutheran Church. Over the many hours, days, weeks, and years we worked together, she always knew the history and details of every major event of the congregation. When she wasn't sure (seldom), she pursued the correct information with perseverance and ultimately success.

I will continue to work in the archives (a job never finished) with Helen's guiding presence always by my side, and when I am puzzled (often), I know she will answer my phone calls and emails. It was great to work with you, Helen, but I give you a "peaceful release" to go on to a new and higher calling.



From Marie O'Brien, Parish Administrator

When I started at Grace early last year, Helen was one of the first congregants I met. She was often around the office, doing archive and other organizing work. Helen was very welcoming and appreciative—which I soon learned was the *modus operandi* at Grace—and I remember her kind encouragement as I learned the ropes.

Helen was committed to many volunteer roles at Grace. She continued to do archive work through the year, culminating in a huge 2-week push to create a fabulous visual history for Grace's 75th anniversary celebration. I think she was in the office more than I was toward the end! She spent many hours going through old photos and doing everything she could to identify the people/date/events depicted. If you attended our anniversary weekend, you'll remember the myriad displays in the back of the sanctuary. And many will remember the photos of 'pastors through the ages' that we kept for a while in the hallway after the 75th weekend was over. All this was thanks to Helen's hard work and commitment to recognizing the human history of Grace.

But while history was of interest, Helen was not stuck in the past. She was aware of current needs in our community. Most know Helen was chief organizer for our "Third Sunday" Breakfast Grocery Collection for the Interfaith Action Hospitality Center. Helen would always send me enthusiastic reminders to run in Gracenotes and the Bulletin for this important ministry at Grace. She tried new ways of making all aware of the literal hunger in our midst, and encouraged all to pitch in as they could. She also proposed the idea that we add these monthly donations to our worship collections, highlighting these gifts and helping all to remember the real and present needs of our sisters and brothers.

I had less opportunity to get to know Larry, but remember a time when he was incredibly helpful to my work last summer. Our bank had made some changes—unbeknownst to us—which meant they no longer recognized some of our check signers. With the main check signers on vacation, former treasurer Larry was able to help out and ensure that bills and paychecks were paid on time. Through that experience I learned that Larry had been treasurer for quite a long time. As in many, many years [16, according to Larry – ed.]. His committed volunteerism is emblematic of a strong spirit of engagement and participation among Grace congregants.

I wish Helen and Larry the best as they build a new home on the East Coast. And I look forward to hearing about the new communities they connect with as they settle in. I fully expect they will soon be volunteering their energies to help those in their new community. Helen and Larry are the types who can't help but help out.

We Will Miss You!

July & August Calendar

Every Sunday 10:00 Worship followed by coffee hour

- July 1 Women's Breakfast Club
- July 4 Grace Office Closed for Independence Day
- July 9, 16
and 23 "Families & Economic Justice" at
Trinity Lutheran Church
- July 13-19 Grace Hosts Iowa Youth Group
- July 19 Children's Choir Practice
- July 26 Millenium Park Picnic & Concert
- July 27 Soup Kitchen.

Grace Church Council

Les Inch, *Council President*

Taína Rodriguez Encarnación, Martha Fry, Jarrod Gaither,
Nate Johnson, Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Laura Wally



Find us at:

GraceEvanston.org • facebook.com/graceevanston

Grace

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