



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

June 2013

**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.

**Rev. Daniel Ruen  
Pastor**

pd@graceevanston.org

•

**Mark Bowman  
Music Director**

•

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

•

**Marie O'Brien  
Parish Administrator**

•

**Steve Brunger  
Sexton**

## **Pentecost**

by Mark Bowman



*"In our own languages, we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."*  
Acts 2: 11

Pentecost has become one of my favorite days of the church year. It is a vivid, dramatic story—with rushing winds, tongues of fire and multilingual babble—that one can picture as a popular YouTube video. But, more importantly, our existence as a community of faith can be traced back to this pivotal act of God. Our tradition portrays the followers of the crucified and resurrected Jesus as an uncertain band who gathered behind closed doors to reminisce about their good ol' days with Jesus. But God planned more for this motley crew. God poured out the Spirit to instill vision and power in them to move beyond their comfort to speak publicly about God's works of grace and justice. And, lo and behold, they were heard by many persons from all walks of life and cultural origins. It has been noted that Pentecost was actually more of a miracle of the ear than a miracle of the tongue. The Christian community grew dramatically in breadth and in depth because the Good News was proclaimed and was received.

In her book *Tell It Like It Is* the Rev. Lillian Daniel tells how a congregation was revitalized by reclaiming the practice of listening to congregation members share testimonies about their faith journey. This started simply with someone asking to speak briefly in worship about how God was at work in their life. Over a period of months more and more members were emboldened to publicly share a bit of their faith journey with the community. This telling and this listening greatly deepened the relationships

between persons in the congregation, resulting in a renewed spirit, energy and focus in their ministries.

We have seen God's Spirit visibly at work at Grace as manifest by increased participation in worship and community life, new opportunities for ministry, bold acts of justice, and more. This time of renewal and transformation at Grace is an ideal time to hear our stories

of God's deeds of power. As the Worship Committee was planning for Pastor Daniel's sabbatical, it was proposed that we take this opportunity to learn more about each other and to listen to each other speak about our faith journeys. So during our summer worship each Sunday someone will talk for a few minutes about how God is at work in their life. This won't be another sermon, but instead a chance to step out publicly and share a story about God's activity in our community.

If you feel called to speak about your faith journey with your Grace family, please contact me to schedule a Sunday this summer to do this. One of the pastors or I will be glad to confer with you about shaping your testimony. This can be a blessed opportunity for all of us to listen to different voices and to learn and flourish in our relationships with each other. God is doing great things in our midst at Grace. Let us grow together on our faith journeys as we hear examples of God's works of grace and justice in our lives and in the world.

**Mark Bowman**

markleby@comcast.net 773-316-8892

**SUMMER WORSHIP TIME 10:00 AM**

## ETHS students celebrated among community volunteers

Evanston community members joined the City of Evanston, Evanston Township High School (ETHS), the Evanston Community Foundation, and Northwestern University (NU) to celebrate outstanding volunteers on April 24, 2013. Local organizations and agencies nominated individuals to be recognized at the ninth annual Evanston Volunteer Recognition Reception at the McCormick Tribune Center.

ETHS seniors Rools Jean, Connor Siegel and Jernone Smith were honored this year for their outstanding service. As members of the ETHS Community Service Club, the students have logged hundreds of volunteer hours and have been involved in many different Evanston organizations.

About 80 people attended the reception where Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl praised the community for its active culture of volunteering. Mary Collins, ETHS Community Service Coordinator, is proud to work with the students who were chosen by this year's selection committee for their exceptional efforts.



ETHS Community Service Coordinator Mary Collins (center) congratulates students Rools Jean (left) and Jernone Smith at the 2013 Evanston Volunteer Recognition Reception. ETHS senior Connor Siegel was also honored this year, but was not able to attend the event.

## Summer Worship changes to 10:00am on Sunday, June 2nd.

It will continue for June, July and August, reverting back on the first Sunday in September.

While in the past the time change was linked to Memorial Day and Labor Day, now it's easier to remember the plan: all Sundays in June, July and August will have "summer hours."

The remaining 9 months of the year will have 10:45 worship.



**Summer Solstice 2013 Friday, June 21**



**Remember Your Sunscreen!**

## Leadership at Grace

The Grace Church Council, on behalf of all Grace members, would like to thank Danielle Keifert for her two years of service on the council. She put in many hours of work as Education Liaison and helped lead the way to create Grace's Safety Policy which is being implemented to keep the children in Grace's congregation safe. We would also like to thank John Wright for all of the work he did as the Treasurer for the last two years. As a new administrative year begins at Grace, Pastor Daniel, Les Inch, Jon Flaherty, Nate Johnson, Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor and Laura Wally will be joined by Martha Fry and Jarrod Gaither for the next two years on the church council. Also Russ Kohnken will start a two-year term as Grace Treasurer. We pray that the work of the Grace leadership will be filled with wisdom, joy, and harmony.

## Third Sundays = Breakfast Groceries for Interfaith Action of Evanston

On or before Sunday, June 16, 2013 please bring supplies of groceries for breakfast, or donate cash to buy the groceries. The Third Sunday of every month, Grace Lutheran provides a week's worth of breakfast foods for the Interfaith Action of Evanston Hospitality Center for the Homeless. During "Grace's" week, Susan Murphy and her staff will provide breakfast daily for about 40 guests at the Center.



We shop for and deliver frozen waffles, 5 or more bags of citrus fruit, 60+ yogurt cups, oatmeal packets, 8 loaves of bread, butter, jams, syrup, milk, 6 gallons of orange juice, 6 gallons of other fruit juices, graham crackers, saltine crackers, snack crackers, coffee cans and cream, 6-8 cream cheese packages, teabags, sugar, cocoa canisters..... in quantity, needing enough for over 200 breakfasts in five days. The shopping list usually amounts to \$160 - \$200 beyond whatever non-perishable items are donated.



## Jewel Grocery Cards For CROP Hunger Walk



Jewel Grocery Cards will be available after worship June 16th to benefit the North Shore CROP Hunger Walk. Cards are in denominations of \$25, and can be purchased from the CROP Walk Treasurer, Ms. Hope Little. For every 40 Jewel cards sold, the CROP Hunger Walk will receive \$50 toward alleviating hunger. Even if you are not a "Jewel customer," you still may purchase cards to support the CROP Walk, and we'll take the cards to Interfaith Action of Evanston, Soup at Six, Tuesday Soup Kitchen at Second Baptist or another local hunger charity. The gift can qualify on your contribution statement. Questions? To Helen Yarbrough or Hope Little. Thank you very much for your support and participation.





## Graduates

**Roels Jean** will graduate from Evanston Township High School on Sunday, June 9th, and will be going to Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne, Indiana in the fall to study Information Systems/Computer Sciences & Business.

**Keyon Morris** is among those graduating from ETHS and he will be attending St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa in the fall. He will be playing football and studying engineering.

**Sam Shoaf** is graduating from Evanston Township High School and is planning to attend the University of Nebraska. He is interested in pursuing studies on business administration.

**Rebecca Kohnken** graduated from the University of Wisconsin/Madison with a DVM – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. She starts a Residency in Veterinary Pathology at Ohio State in mid-June. She and her fiancé Josh will be moving to the Columbus area in a couple of weeks, and they will be married at Grace on October 19th.

**Leslie O'Connor** graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in Economics and Finance. Her parents will have 1 more year to enjoy the night life of Nash-Vegas since Leslie will return in August to pursue a 5th year MAcc program that promises students, among other things, ease in passing the CPA exam and gainful employment afterwards. All for a small fee, of course...

## Courage Fund Fundraiser

This fundraiser will help two causes.

Keyon Morris is selling St. Ambrose University Football T-shirts as part of a fundraiser for his college football team. The t-shirt cost is \$15.00. For each T-shirt he sells to a Grace Church attendee, his dad has pledged to give \$5.00 to the Courage Fund.

The sale of the T-shirts is used to offset the price of Keyon's football gear. Your support will help two causes; the Grace Courage Fund and the St. Ambrose Football team.

T-shirt sizes are S - XXXL. The T-Shirts will be delivered to you in July.

Keyon will be in church the next two Sundays to take orders.

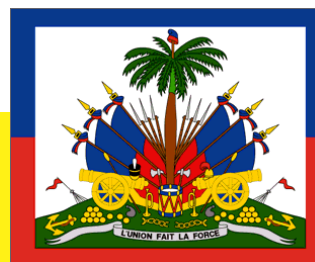
Thanks for your support of this project.

# GRACE NEWS & EVENTS



## 2013 Summer Youth Service Trip

This summer, Jeff Otte and Jarrod Gaither will be teaming up with friends from Trinity and St. Luke's for the summer service trip. We'll be flying out to Colorado on July 28th to Harvest Farm, a residential facility for adults who are in recovery from substance abuse. Our group will participate in the Farm's Youth Servant Project, helping out with the farm, kitchen and any area of need. After our work, we've built in some time for play, and will be spending two days at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in the mountains outside of Denver. We may even be able to squeeze in a white-water rafting outing! We'll be raising funds throughout the summer and thank the congregation in advance for all of their support.



**July 4**  
**Evanston Haitian**  
**Community Festival,**  
**James Park, Evanston**  
**Time: 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm**  
**Bring a picnic basket**  
**and have fun**  
**Contact Gerald for**  
**information and please**  
**donate 773-226-4996**



## June Birthdays

- 06/02 Keyon Morris**
- 06/02 Danny Brown**
- 06/02 Kristin Mawk**
- 06/04 Steve Albers**
- 06/08 Joseph Mayne**
- 06/12 Alison Laurence**
- 06/14 Roels Jean**
- 06/18 Will Yarnall**
- 06/21 Elizabeth Mayne**
- 06/21 Sam Shoaf**
- 06/30 Malachi Cornelius**



## Grace Book Group

Our next book group will meet on June 23rd, 3:00 - 5:00 at the home of Carolyn and Dave Utech, 165 N. Canal St., #1329, Chicago, 60606, 312-441-9631. We will discuss **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson.

Then in August/September we will discuss Billy Lynn's **Long Halftime Walk** by Ben Fountain. Place and date to be arranged.

# JUNE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## June 2

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Raquel Rodriguez  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Raquel Rodriguez  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Joe Flint  
**Lector** ..... Anne Shafer  
**Cantor** ..... Jan Blackburn  
**Acolyte** ..... Cecilia Galicia  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Rina Campbell, Peter Spies  
**Altar Care** ..... Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchel  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jill Flaherty

## June 9

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Kaari Reiersen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Kaari Reiersen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Ron Graef  
**Lector** ..... Joe Mayne  
**Cantor** ..... Stephanie Kulke  
**Acolyte** ..... David Thacker  
**Ushers** ..... Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Nancy & Mark Mathyer  
**Altar Care** ..... Sydel Reeves & Ann Stevens  
**Nursery Care** ..... Deb Mitchell  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Ann Stevens

## June 16

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Jen Rude  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Jen Rude  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Rosario Thacker  
**Lector** ..... Randy Warren  
**Cantor** ..... Kelly Hackett  
**Acolyte** ..... Julia Shoaf  
**Ushers** ..... Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Anne Laurence, Nancy Schubert  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels  
**Nursery Care** ..... Dee Johnson  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Ann Stevens

## June 23

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Raquel Rodriguez  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Raquel Rodriguez  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Kim Brown  
**Lector** ..... Bill Blackburn  
**Cantor** ..... tbd  
**Acolyte** ..... Zinzi Steele  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Russ Kohnken, Christine Collins  
**Altar Care** ..... Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nancy Schubert/Cecilia Galicia  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn

## June 30

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Raquel Rodriguez  
**Preaching** ..... Jarrod Gaither  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Connie Wood  
**Lector** ..... Nancy Mathyer  
**Cantor** ..... tbd  
**Acolyte** ..... Logan Spies  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Kari & Randy Warren  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty  
**Nursery Care** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn



## Summer Worship Music

The Grace choir will take a break for the summer and different singers and groups will provide special music each Sunday. If you are interested in singing or playing a solo or singing with an ensemble one Sunday, contact Mark at [markleby@comcast.net](mailto:markleby@comcast.net) or 773-316-8892.



## Choir Picnic

Saturday, June 22, 5:00 p.m. at the home of Christine Collins and Russ Kohnken (8724 E. Prairie Road, Skokie). Grilled items and drinks provided; bring appetizer, snacks, side dish, dessert and/or additional beverages. Family members welcome. Confirm number of persons coming with Christine at [christine.collins@abbvie.com](mailto:christine.collins@abbvie.com).

## Gathering

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons and families of Grace are invited to gather on Sunday, June 16, at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Bob Carroll (733 Brown). This is time for getting better acquainted, supporting each other in ministry, and planning for Reconciling In Christ Sunday worship. Grilling food provided; bring food/drink to share. For more info, contact Bob Carroll (847-508-1536) or Mark Bowman (773-316-8892).

## Worship Survey

Thanks to the many persons who provided helpful feedback on the worship survey circulated in May. If you've not yet completed a survey, get a copy (yellow paper) in the narthex outside the sanctuary. Return it to the box on the organ or the church office as soon as possible.

## Threads of Grace

First, Thank You to everyone who supported Threads' small but useful bon voyage gift for the Ruens and produced a fond-wishes-and-signature-filled card! If you were out of town, your names appeared under a hearty "Bon Voyage!"



Second, How many miniature booties, hats, sweaters, kimonos, and blankets can we produce in the next six weeks? Many parents who receive a premature baby are not expecting one. Consequently, their baby often seems to disappear inside the gift clothing from their baby shower. This is why Care Wear patterns help us send appropriately-sized gifts to the Infant Care Unit at Evanston Hospital.

If you or someone you know (in your extended family, at work, or school) are interested in working on this project and need a pattern packet, contact Gail Lamont. If this family member or friend is out of town or across the country, suggest that they choose a free pattern at <http://www.carewear.org>. This non-profit supplies patterns in the appropriate size range. If yarn is used for items it must be washable (not wool).

The deadline and Blessing of these items will be June 30. Because this deadline is very soon, there will be a Threads of Grace meeting on June 5 at 7:00 pm at the church. Enjoy your progress. Encourage a friend.

If you have any questions, contact any Threads of Grace member at Coffee Hour. Next Threads group is June 5.

## CROP Walk builds interfaith community, trains leaders, supports missions and is fun!



**The North Shore CROP Hunger Walk, in affiliation with Church World Service, raises awareness and funds to fight local and global hunger**

**JOIN US!**  
We provide all the training & materials that you need!  
Call, email or go online to learn more.

**25% of the funds raised go to five local non-profit groups:**

- A Just Harvest
- The Ark
- Interfaith Action
- Soup At Six
- Tuesday Soup Kitchen

**75% of the funds are distributed by Church World Service to meet international emergencies.**



**WALK DAY - OCTOBER 20, 2013**  
EVANSTON, IL

**NORTH SHORE 5K CROP HUNGER WALK**  
Go to: [WWW.NORTHSHORECROPWALK.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHSHORECROPWALK.ORG)



# 3 Reasons Interfaith Efforts Matter More Than Ever



*In the wake of last week's tragic events in Boston, interfaith efforts are more urgent than ever. As stories of Islamophobia continue to break, we recognize that the voices of religious intolerance are growing louder. That's why this is a crucial time for interfaith leaders to say loud and clear that the bridges we build are stronger than other people's bombs.*

*Be vocal. Be seen. This is our time to speak out against religious intolerance.*

**Eboo Patel of the Interfaith Youth Core**

## **As outlined in his Huffington Post Blog:**

In the wake of the Boston attack and manhunt, I've been getting a lot of messages about how interfaith efforts matter more than ever, and I've sent out a volley of tweets expressing the same sentiment myself. So, does this view hold up to analysis, or is it just a surface salve for a really deep wound?

At the risk of promoting a cause in which I'm deeply involved, I think that there are several good reasons to strengthen and expand interfaith efforts. These are true even during normal times; what the events in Boston have done is highlight their importance. Before launching in, let me state the obvious: Interfaith programs are not a miracle solution. Their primary purpose is neither to root out potential terrorists nor solve every social problem. But they do matter. Here are three reasons why:

### **1. Interfaith helps harmonize people's various identities.**

In America, just about everyone is some sort of hyphenated hybrid of race, religion and ethnicity/nationality. Irish-Catholic-American, African-American Pentecostal, Jewish-American secular Humanist, and so on. As Walt Whitman said, "I am large / I contain multitudes."

When interfaith cooperation is done well, it not only helps people from different faith and philosophical backgrounds get along, it creates space for the diverse identities within each of us to become mutually enriching rather than mutually exclusive. When interfaith events raise the question, what do I have in common with people of different religious and national identities, the natural internal dialogue that ensues is: What do my own diverse identities have in common with each other?

Religious extremists try to separate people's various identities and pit them against each other. The extremists that got to the young London 7/7 bombers somehow convinced them that their Muslim identity was at war with their British identity, and the former had to destroy the latter. While the facts are still

coming in, this may also have been the case for the Tsarnaev brothers. It was a clash civilizations in their souls.

In a nation of hybrids, it's important to have loyalty to both sides of the hyphen. What if the Tsarnaev brothers were involved in discussions with people from other backgrounds about how their faith identity was mutually enriching with their nationality and citizenship? Perhaps they would have been less susceptible to the divide-and-destroy tactics of extremists.

### **2. Interfaith efforts help us to separate the worst elements of communities from the rest.**

One of the most interesting findings in Robert Putnam and David Campbell's "American Grace" is that Catholics are among the most favorably viewed religious communities in America -- a stunning change from just two generations ago. The study was done in the mid-2000s, when the Catholic pedophilia crisis was frequently in the news. So not only had people's views about Catholics dramatically improved, but they had done so at a time when the evening news was carrying stories of Catholic priests being arrested for doing despicable things, and some in the Catholic hierarchy hiding them.

Why didn't more Americans associate all Catholics with the actions of the handful of pedophiles? The answer is simple: Most Americans had positive, meaningful relationships with other Catholics, and associated the broader Catholic community with those Catholic friends, neighbors and colleagues.

This is a crucial social science insight that is applied in any good interfaith program: Developing a positive meaningful relationship with someone from another religious community improves your attitude toward the entire community, making it less likely that you will view a whole group of people through the actions of its worst elements. This becomes especially important at a time like this, when the Muslim identity of the two Boston Marathon terrorists has cast suspicion on Muslims as a whole.

### **3. Interfaith efforts remind us America is about welcoming the contributions of all communities and nurturing cooperation between them.**

The interfaith ceremony that took place three days after the marathon bombings in Boston was a reminder that not only is Boston a city of many religions, but that a variety of faith and philosophical traditions are sources of hope and healing at times of grief. At the ceremony, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and Greek Orthodox leaders offered solace from their traditions to their city and the country. (For the record, I think groups like Humanists and Buddhists should have been invited as well.)



Continued on next page

The Muslim who chairs the New England Interfaith Council, Nasser Wedaddy, speaking on behalf of the city's Muslims, referenced both Jewish and Muslim texts when he said. "Whoever kills a soul, it is as if he killed mankind entirely. And whoever saves a life, it is as if he saved all of mankind."

An interfaith prayer service is only one place to see multiple traditions coming together to heal a community. Imagine how much interfaith cooperation there was in the operating rooms of Boston hospitals last week, where medical professionals of all faiths were working together to save lives and limbs.

These times require all of us to be interfaith leaders, to signal clearly that the worst elements of every tradition represent nobody. The murderers of all communities belong only to one community: the community of murderers. We have to expand our knowledge base of the various contributions diverse communities make to our nation and world, to bring into mutually enriching discussion not just people from different backgrounds but diverse identities within individuals.

If you need some inspiration, check out how college students running Interfaith Youth Core's Better Together campaign are making this a reality.

After Boston, we all know just how much is at stake.

**Eboo Patel**



## Ecumenical Prayer Service – June 9

The 13th Annual Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity will be held at St Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Cathedral on June 9th.

Opening reception is at 4pm, Prayer Service begins at 5pm.

The speaker will be the Reverend Deborah Paton, 2013 Moderator, Chicago Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

St. Thomas is located at 5000 St. Charles Road in Bellwood.

This event is sponsored by Ecumenism Metro Chicago (EMC), which is comprised of 19 faith communities, including the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod.



## CSA from Mother Carr's Organic Farm

Are you looking for a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for this summer and fall? Would you like your CSA to reflect your spiritual values and commitment to the earth? Faith in Place is proud to be working with Vernon Park Church of God to support their ongoing process of forming a large farm at their location currently under construction in Lynwood, Illinois. The farm will be offering a CSA that will run approximately from the end of June through November. The CSA will include an array of 20 different veggies!

The Farm just purchased their first tractor and set up an apiary (bee keeping) on the property. All water used on the farm is drawn from their own plot, increasing the sustainability of their venture. In addition the farm is the only African American congregationally owned farm in the Chicago area.

This is a great opportunity to support your fellow people of faith in caring for the earth while practicing sustainable agriculture. For more information and to buy a CSA share please contact Farm Manager Deacon Anthony Williamson at 773-319-0575. We hope you will join us in supporting this great new initiative from the faith community!

Here is a YouTube link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCID0j9S8QI>



## June Calendar

Every Sunday 10:00 Worship followed by coffee hour

---

June 9 PSA Gathering\*

June 23 RIC/PRIDE Sunday

July 14 PSA Gathering

Outdoor Worship & Church Picnic

Aug 11 PSA Gathering

\*PSA (Pastoral Sabbatical Anxiety) meetings are informal gatherings that meet at 9am in Fellowship Hall to talk about how things are going during the sabbatical.



Find us at [GraceEvanston.org](http://GraceEvanston.org)



### Grace Church Council

Les Inch, Chair,

Jon Flaherty, Martha Fry, Jarrod Gaither, Nathan Johnson,  
Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Laura Wally

# Grace

Grace Lutheran Church of Evanston  
1430 South Blvd.  
Evanston, IL 60202  
Voice: 847.475.2211  
Fax: 847.869.9442