

## **FED BY WORD AND SACRAMENT, WE REACH OUT TO ONE ANOTHER ...**

### **IN PRAYER ...**

For Mary Eifrig, at Gottlieb Hospital, recovering from hip surgery.

For Helen Marcucci, at West Suburban Hospital.

For Harold Spooner, at Swedish Covenant Hospital.

For Mary Anderson, Marilyn and Bob Busse, Kathleen Cartier, Monte Cross, Christopher Davis, Mark Froehlig, Mary Grebner, Marlene Hallman, Karen Halter, Bob Hanson, Ken Heppner, Marj Koenig, Walter Krautstrunk, George Moore, Harriet and Richard Napolitan, Joanne Nelson, Alice Pursell, Betty Watts, Paula Zwintscher, Charles and Marcia Adams (cousins of Ron and Adrienne Rott), Rich Battaglia (father of Anthony, Grace kindergartener), Francesca Bianchi (Ken Heppner's niece), James Brooks (James' father), Clara Dorsey (mother of Jo-Ellyn), Carol Dumpys (Hans' sister-in-law), Mary Farris (sister-in-law of Jill Koski), Doreen Greis (Henry Becker's cousin), Diego Herrera (relative of Randy and Ellie Schnack), Marian Hogue (Merrily Smith's mother), Lydia Janzow (Christine Phillips' mother), Mike Jones (uncle of Erin Ficker), Jay Kerrigan (godson of Adrienne Rott), Vernice Krout (mother of Dan and Susan), Carol Laesch (niece of Eunice Spurgart), David Luisier (Kathy Hale's nephew), Cam Luu (Grace custodian), Sally Mason (Harriette Jersild's niece), Ella Michalek (Susan Schumacher's great-aunt), June Nelson (former Grace member), Frank O'Connor (Georgia Rush's cousin), Cynthia Offermann (Don and Verna's daughter-in-law), Pam Oshobe (James Brooks' sister), Vickie Reuter (sister-in-law of Beth Reyes) Christopher Sisco (son of Scott and Charlene Schwar), and Donald Stephens (Betty Watts' son-in-law).

For Dan Cattau, on the death of his aunt, Delores Ebel.

For Vickie Bouman, whose brother, Paul Bartling, died recently.

For Heidi Hamernik, whose father, Daniel, died last week.

### **PRAYER CHAIN**

Phone prayer requests to Barbara Rinnan or Leona Heckmann.

### **IN CELEBRATION ...**

With Jane Elizabeth, daughter of Tom and Lisa Maxwell, to be baptized August 23.

### **WITH THANKS ...**

From Bill and Marion Brown, who write, "*My grace is sufficient for you.* (2 Cor. 12:9) Pastor Lueking helped the Ladwig/Brown family focus on these words many years ago. It has served three generations since the 1960's. God's grace has manifested itself in many ways during those years and the people of Grace Church have been one of God's messengers through prayer, cards, phone calls, e-mails, hugs, and other generous help. Our whole family thanks you all. Our son-in-law Eric Carlson is with the Lord, and the Lord continues to be with us all, especially with our daughter Lisa and our four grandchildren. From a Pass It On card: "Where the will of God leads you, the grace of God will keep you." We can testify to that."

SAVE THE DATES - The Women @ Grace Annual Fall Sale will be held on November 6th and 8th. If you are interested in getting involved, there are plenty of opportunities. For more information, contact Cindy Koester, Karla Koehne, or Monika Nash.

## WITH HELP ...

The annual Amigas Bake Sale will be held September 13 between services. Proceeds support this ministry to impoverished women and children in Brazil begun by Grace's own Martha Heine. You can help by bringing and/or buying baked items or making a monetary gift. Checks should be made out to Grace Church with Amigas noted on the memo line. West Cook County-Chicago Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide supplemental funding.

Greeting people entering church for worship can be a real service. The Evangelism Committee is seeking volunteer couples and/or families who are willing to welcome people as they enter the building. It is our plan to have greeters present at each of our Sunday worship services. The greeters would be asked to serve a month during one year's time. If you are interested in serving, you may contact Paul Heckmann or Ellyn Levell.

The fourth annual Jessica Freundt Memorial Fund Raiser will be held at Grace on Saturday, September 19 from 6:30-10:30 pm, in Fellowship Hall. Live entertainment by Ed Collins. Tickets are \$25.00. Donations support brain cancer research at Loyola University Medical Center and two scholarships at Timothy Christian High School. For tickets or more information, call Dori Freundt.

OKTOBERFEST is coming to Grace on October 4. Oktoberfest fans, join the fun in preparing for a traditional German festival. Join the "Fest Team" to help cook those delicious German favorites, serve food and help clean up afterwards, as well as help with the festive decoration party the day before on Saturday, October 3. Pastries from a German bakery will be served during the decoration party. For the German cooks/kitchen team, contact Marilyn Heimbürger. To participate in the decoration party, contact Don Heimbürger.

If you are an employer with positions to fill, please contact Paul Erickson and your need will be shared with the Grace Job Club at our weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Our members have a variety of skills that can help you fill your position.

## IN COMMUNITY ...

**CORNERSTONES**, September 2 and 9. Food and fellowship at 10, Bible study at 10:30.

**RELIGION IN LITERATURE**, September 18, 8 pm, at Phyllis Erickson's, 203 N. Kenilworth, Apt. 3D, Oak Park. David Heim will lead the discussion on *Lincoln*, by David H. Donald. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not attended before.

It's time to sign up for new **Supper Shuffle** groups being organized in September. Supper shuffles are made up of 8-10 adults (singles or couples) who meet in one another's homes for food and fellowship. The host provides the main dish and others bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert. If you would like to participate, there is a sign up sheet at the reception desk, or you may call 366-6900 or email [gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org). If you are a new member or not so new member, this is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners.

**UPLIFT MINISTRY**, September 12 and 26, 9-10:30 am, in the library. Please note the new starting time and the date changes due to the Labor Day holiday weekend. You are invited to attend when you have experienced any kind of loss and need some encouragement and uplifting. Contact Jackie Jungemann for more information.

+++

The next issue of *Grace Notes* covers September 10-23. The deadline is August 24. Phone or email news items to Jennie Hurrelbrink.

## **GRACE NOTES VIA EMAIL**

Beginning in October, Grace's bi-weekly church newsletter, *Grace Notes*, will be distributed via email to individuals and families for whom the business office has an email address. People who receive *Grace Notes* by email will no longer receive a paper copy via U. S. mail, unless they request it.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **How do I know if I will receive *Grace Notes* via email?**

Every Wednesday, individuals on Grace's email contact list receive *Sunday Is Coming* via email. If you are receiving *Sunday Is Coming* via email, you will also receive *Grace Notes* via email.

#### **How can I be sure that *Grace Notes* will arrive safely in my email?**

Be sure that Grace Church ([gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org)) is listed in your email address book. This tells your internet service provider that you want to receive email from Grace, that Grace email is not spam and should not be filtered off into a junk-mail folder.

#### **Can I still get a paper copy of *Grace Notes*?**

To continue to receive a paper copy of *Grace Notes* via U. S. mail, send a note or an email to Grace ([gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org)). Or you can pick up a copy of the current issue of *Grace Notes* at the reception desk in Grace's atrium.

#### **What if I don't use email? What if I don't use a computer?**

If you are not currently receiving emails from Grace, you will not receive *Grace Notes* via email. You will continue to receive a paper copy of *Grace Notes* in the regular mail.

**I'm not sure—I may be receiving *Grace Notes* at an email address I no longer use.** Call or email Grace to update or check your contact information (708-366-6900; [gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org)).

#### **Why the change in the way *Grace Notes* is distributed?**

Three reasons: First, distributing *Grace Notes* via email gets news from Grace out to members and friends of the congregation faster and in a more timely fashion. Second, sending *Grace Notes* via email to many members will save the congregation a significant amount of money on paper and postage. It is a wise use of resources. Third, many people (though not all) find email to be a more convenient news source than paper.

#### **How do I update my email information at Grace?**

Send changes in your email information to [gracechurch@graceriverforest.org](mailto:gracechurch@graceriverforest.org).

## LOOKING FOR WHAT TO READ NEXT?

Carol Clover

Books featured in the display case during August will appeal to young and adult readers seeking to escape during the final days of summer.

*The Librarian of Basra* by Jeanette Winter is for children ages 6-7 years. It is a true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books in a war-stricken country where civilians, especially women, have little power.

*Listening for Lions* by Gloria Whelan is for children ages 9-11 years. This historical fiction takes place in British East Africa in 1918 where a young girl named Rachel is left orphaned after the influenza epidemic. The heroine becomes involved in a deceit-filled plot to assume a deceased neighbor's identity in order to travel to England, where her dream is to return to Africa to rebuild her parents' mission hospital.

The *Blind Faith Hotel* by Grace's own Pamela Todd is a coming of age book that will appeal to both teens and adults. The author takes readers on a journey not only across the country, but also into the life of a young girl forced to leave behind the father she loves and the only place she's ever felt at home. It is a story filled with emotion as well as the beauty of nature.

*The Book of the Dun Cow* by Walter Wangerin will appeal to adults and children who are attracted to fantasy. The book is a combination of a classic fairy tale and a stylized character study that stands alongside such classics as *Watership Down*, *Lord of the Rings*, and the *Neverending Story*. This fantasy is set in the animal kingdom around a chicken coop. Chauntecleer, the rooster of the coop, is in charge of all the animals in the surrounding forest. Their peace is broken when Wurm, monster of evil, long imprisoned beneath the earth, tries to break through the dominion of the world. Chauntecleer and the other animals use their faith and the spiritual exercises they practice in order to fight back the powers of Ultimate Evil.

*The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd is an enduring Southern story that begins during the summer of 1954 in South Carolina following the passage of the Civil Rights Act. The narrator, Lili Owen, shares her journey of overcoming the loss of her mother while discovering discrimination, the dangers of social inequality, and the base human elements that bind us to each other despite color or class.

---

## HYMN STORIES

Carlos Messerli

On Sunday, August 30, we will hear in the second lesson (James 1:17–27) the command: **“Be doers of the word and not merely hearers.”** Later, in the Holy Gospel Jesus lays out principles for a holy life. The **Hymn of the Day**, “O God, My Faithful God” (LBW 504), reinforces these thoughts with advice for daily living, all set to memorable poetry and a venerable tune. The four stanzas of the hymn focus on our total reliance on God and provide a prayer for strength to love and serve others in specific thoughts and actions. The hymn provides strong daily motivation for living out the Gospel of Christ. The original hymn text contained eight stanzas. The stanzas omitted in LBW describe how a dedicated Christian life naturally leads to a peaceful death in Christ.

The text was written by Johann Heermann (1585–1647), a German Lutheran pastor who suffered greatly during the ravages of the Thirty Years' War, even to losing his personal possessions three times. The present hymn reflects his great faith and strength of character in the midst of adversity.

The composer of the hymn tune is unknown, although the melody first appeared in a hymn collection edited in 1679 by Ahasverus Fritsch. Pastor Fritsch was another German Lutheran pastor who suffered greatly in the Thirty Years' War, but through the early guidance of a persevering mother received a good education and ultimately became the Chancellor of the University of Jena. The LBW tune may be familiar to some because it was sung to the words “What is the World to Me” in *The Lutheran Hymnal*.

## ADULT EDUCATION

The new adult education season begins September 6 with classes on several timely topics, a new series for parents to be coordinated with the Sunday School calendar, and a field trip to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. All information for September and October will appear in the next issue of *Grace Notes*, but here are a few details:

September 6 through November 22 – The ongoing Bible study, led by Phyllis Lucht, will explore *The Heart of David*, based on the Psalms and other Old Testament texts.

September 6 – Slides and commentary on the new wing of Chicago's Art Institute and its exhibit of modern paintings, presented by the ever-popular Rhea Sprecher.

September 6, 13, and 20 – *The Christian in the Digital Era*, presented by Read Schuchardt of Wheaton College. Professor Schuchardt will discuss the new environment created by mass media and the unique challenges and opportunities that Christians face within this environment.

September 13, 20, 27, October 4 – *In God We Trust: Money Matters*. Several presenters will explore making responsible personal financial decisions in today's economy, effective and intelligent charitable giving in stressful economic times, and God-pleasing stewardship.

September 19 – A tour of the Gruber Rare Books Collection in the library at LSTC, led by Dr. Ralph W. Klein, a favorite guest presenter in the Grace adult education program. The collection includes Luther manuscripts and other Reformation documents, and Bibles from the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Information can be found at <http://collections.lstc.edu/gruber/> - a web site developed by Dr. Klein. Car pool from Grace, leaving at 9:30 a.m., or meet the group in the LSTC lobby at 10:30. Please sign up at the front desk if you plan to go.

September 20 – The kickoff date for CAFÉ: **C**offee, **A**dult **F**ellowship and **E**ducation, sponsored by the Board of Parish Education. CAFÉ will be a series for adults that coordinates with the Sunday School calendar and time slot. Starting September 20<sup>th</sup>, CAFÉ will begin at 10:00 and end at 10:40, so parents can worship with their Sunday School children at 9:45 and meet them at their classrooms at 10:45. It will be located in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classroom in the northeast corner of the upstairs commons. The discussions will be led in rotation fashion by the pastoral team (awesome!) with some special guest stars. Knowing that participants might need to come and go, the sessions will be very casual. Stop by and join the conversation!

September 27 – The first in a season-long series of classes to be held on Cantata Sundays. In the first session, Carl Grapentine and Michael Costello will present "Bach 101."

---

## **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT TO BENEFIT VETERANS**

For his Eagle Scout service project, Troop 66 Boy Scout and Grace member Charlie Thompson is leading the installment of and fundraising for a commercial grade swing set for the Intergenerational Park at the Hines V.A. Hospital in Maywood, Illinois. The swing set is being installed for the hospitalized veterans' visiting children and grandchildren, and also so the veterans can interact with the hospital's preschool class. The project cost is \$2000 and donations are needed and appreciated. Please contact Charlie. You can get all the information about this project and pictures of the site at Charlie's website: [www.hinesvahospitalproject.info](http://www.hinesvahospitalproject.info).

---

## **GRACE CLASS OF 1979 REUNION**

Classmates who graduated from Grace School in 1979 are having a 30<sup>th</sup> reunion the weekend of September 11, 12 and 13. Events planned include an informal gathering Friday night, and boat cruises and a gala buffet dinner at the Belmont Harbor Yacht Club Saturday afternoon and evening. Class members plan to attend church together on Sunday. For more details, contact Diana Wilkie or Debbie Berghaus Conley.

---

## **GRACE SCHOOL NEWS**

Grace School opens August 25 with a half-day for grades 1-8. The opening worship service is at 9 o'clock – parents welcome.

Early childhood class visits will be August 27, 10:30 a.m. to noon, and early childhood classes begin Monday, August 31, at 8:30. The new pre-school class for 3-year-olds has an enrollment of 16 children. Christie Pascavis is the pre-school teacher.

Installation of faculty members will take place Sunday, August 30, in the 11 o'clock service.

An open house for all school families is scheduled for September 14, beginning at 6 p.m.

---

## **THINKING OF YOU**

Back to School: Safety First

Ackli Howell

As we get into back-to-school mode, we should remind ourselves and our kids that safety is part of going to and from school every day. Students need to watch out, not only for cars and trains (if you live near the train tracks), but also uneven sidewalks and street construction sites. Remind them again (even if it's the thousandth time) to wear helmets if they ride their bikes to school, pay attention to the crossing guard, don't assume cars will stop, and buckle up that seat belt when riding in any car. But, as parents and drivers we need to pay attention, too. Expect the unexpected. Yield to pedestrians in cross-walks -- it's the law. Bicycles and pedestrians are vulnerable, so give them some room. Later on, in winter, make sure as best you can that your sidewalks are free of snow and ice.

There are many statistics about how many kids are injured or killed each year while walking or riding to and from school. Instead of dwelling on numbers, focus on good safety practices at home and while driving. Make sure the kids know that safety is important. Caution, common-sense and respect for others go a long way to preventing injuries.

---

## **PAULA STORIES, Third of Three**

(Paula Zwintcher's memoirs, edited by Pastor Lueking)

**(Having begun her work in Washington in 1933, she continues). . .**

I WAS REALLY enjoying this job in the Department of Agriculture when suddenly I had a telegram that Mother was very ill. She died just as I reached the house after the train ride home to Minnesota. A terrible loss that left Dad alone. I was the only one among my siblings to take care of him (on his pastoral retirement income of \$25 a month) so I moved home from Washington and was fortunate to find a Social Security office job which began my career with the agency. Dad, who kept active in retirement by visiting the sick and shut-in, was struck by a car and died of the injuries. After that I moved to Baltimore and then to Chicago where I became the district manager of the regional Social Security office.

ALONG THE WAY of my career advancement I was fortunate to be able to complete my M.A. degree. My brothers got an education paid for because they attended Lutheran schools. We girls in the family were on our own and were told "After all, you can marry a farmer." I should mention that I also served for three years in the Navy in New Orleans, which helped pay for my education. Speaking of matrimony, my two sisters had a double wedding. We wanted it to be fancy, so the night before the ceremony we filled nut cups, but spilled them while carrying them several blocks to the church. We picked up what we could and the people never knew the difference. Frieda and I sang for the wedding. But why in the world we didn't rehearse but once I'll never know. We did a miserable job, which makes me laugh to think of it. . .

I WANTED TO TRY EVERY activity, mountain climbing (in Nepal, with ropes), hiking (the Appalachian Trail), horseback riding (in Mexico, at the foot of an active volcano), row boating (in the Everglades) and archery – but I never hit the mark. Once, when climbing a mountain in Colorado with my friend, Gladys, we were caught in a sleet storm and would have frozen to death were it not for a guide who helped us inch our way down. Never did a hot shower feel so good!

**(Paula's journey of 93 years to date includes much more, including her three years in Ethiopia to set in place a retirement program for clergy, and similar work in the Philippines and Cambodia).** Her full autobiographical account ends with this sentence: When you read this, I hope you won't say what a second grade student said when he rose to give a book report: "This book contains more information than I care to know about."