

GRACE NOTES, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

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

IN PRAYER ...

For Helen Marcucci, now at Plymouth Place in LaGrange Park.

Alice Pursell, at Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Richard Hillert, recovering at home.

Evelyn Vocelka, former Grace member, recovering from knee surgery.

For Mary Anderson, Marilyn and Bob Busse, Kathleen Cartier, Monte Cross, Christopher Davis, Mary Eifrig, Mark Froehlig, Mary Grebner, Marlene Hallman, Karen Halter, Bob Hanson, Ken Heppner, Marj Koenig, Walter Krautstrunk, George Moore, Harriet and Richard Napolitan, Joanne Nelson, Harold Spooner, Betty Watts, Paula Zwintscher, Rich Battaglia (father of Anthony, Grace 1st grader), Francesca Bianchi (Ken Heppner's niece), James and Mary Brooks (James' parents), Norma Davis (Laura Clauss' mother), Clara Dorsey (mother of Jo-Ellyn), Carol Dumpys (Hans' sister-in-law), Wayne Ebert (Chrissie Nelson's father), Mary Farris (sister-in-law of Jill Koski), Diego Herrera (relative of Randy and Ellie Schnack), Marian Hogue (Merrily Smith's mother), Lydia Janzow (Christine Phillips' mother), Jay Kerrigan (godson of Adrienne Rott), Vernice Krout (mother of Dan and Susan), Carol Laesch (niece of Eunice Spurgat), David Luisier (Kathy Hale's nephew), Cam Luu (Grace custodian), Paul Manz (friend of many at Grace), Sally Mason (Harriette Jersild's niece), Ella Michalek (Susan Schumacher's great-aunt), June and Bob Nelson (former Grace members), Frank O'Connor (Georgia Rush's cousin), Cynthia Offermann (Don and Verna's daughter-in-law), Pam Oshobe (James Brooks' sister), Stephen Schmidt (son of Gick and Steve), 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 Carol Muriello, on the the death of her mother, Arlene Manny.

For Henry Becker, whose cousin, Doreen Greis, died recently.

PRAYER CHAIN

Phone prayer requests to Barbara Rinnan or Leona Heckmann.

IN CELEBRATION ...

With James Bixby and Christine Medzius, who were married August 26.

WITH THANKS ...

To all who donated school supplies for Holy Family and Our Saviour Lutheran Schools.

To those who donate altar flowers:

August 30 – David and Sandy Lentz, celebrating the marriage of James and Christine.

September 13 – Lori Martin, in memory of Mark Wilmot.

September 20 – In memory of Marjorie Keene, from her daughter, Margo Bonebrake, and her granddaughters, Amy, Alyssa, and Stephanie.

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.

Picture pages and contact information for the new members received in June are available at the front desk. You may pick up a copy to update your pictorial directory.

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.

The Evangelism Committee is seeking volunteer couples and/or families willing to welcome people as they come in to church. It is our plan to have greeters present at every Sunday worship services. The greeters would be asked to serve one month a year. If you are interested in serving, please contact Paul Heckmann or Elllyn Levell.

The fourth annual Jessica Freundt Memorial Fund Raiser will be held at Grace on 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.

Can you and your family/group prepare and deliver 42 sack lunches one Sunday this fall for PADS? (Lunches go to local homeless shelters in Oak Park area) The lunches would be dropped off at Euclid Methodist at Euclid and Washington. It's a great family project that you can do with children or teens, or it would be an easy service project for a confirmand and mentor. You can be reimbursed for groceries, if needed, from the social ministry budget. For more information, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom. The fall dates are September 20, October 18, November 15, and December 20.

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 9, 16 and 23. Food and fellowship at 10, Bible study at 10:30, worship and luncheon on the 16th.

RELIGION IN LITERATURE, September 18, 8 pm, at Phyllis Erickson's. David Heim will lead the discussion on *Lincoln*, by David H. Donald.

ROMEOS, September 15, 8:30 am, in the library. Jeff Cribbs will discuss the current state of the stock market.

It's time to sign up for new **SUPPER SHUFFLE** groups now being organized. 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. 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 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.

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The next issue of *Grace Notes* covers September 24-October 7. The deadline is September 7. Send news items to Jennie Hurrelbrink.

OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest is coming to Grace on Sunday, October 4, beginning with a sing-a-long at 4 pm. Dinner will be served from 5 pm to 7pm. Pre-sale tickets are \$15 for ages 12 and up, \$18 at the door; \$8 for ages 5-11, \$10 at the door. Children under age 5 are free. Proceeds will benefit Grace School.

Oktoberfest fans can join in the fun of preparing for this traditional German festival. Join the "Fest Team" to help cook delicious German favorites, serve food and help clean up afterwards, as well as help with the festive decoration party on Saturday, October 3. Pastries from a German bakery will be served during the decoration party. For the German cooks/kitchen team, contact Marilyn Heimburger; to participate in the decoration party, contact Don Heimburger.

THINKING OF YOU

Advanced Care Planning

There is no easy way to plan for future healthcare choices. It's a process that involves thinking and talking about complex and sensitive issues.

You make choices on a daily basis - choices about where you want to live, who you want to marry, your career, your home, your life. Perhaps one of the most important choices facing you is in your choice for future medical care. Who decides when enough is enough? You do, or least you should. You should decide about the kind of care you want while you are capable of making your own decisions.

Technology today has advanced to a point where patients with little or no hope of recovery can be kept alive indefinitely. That has made it more important than ever for people to express how they feel, and discuss what kind of care they would want if they would become unable to make their own decisions.

Think about the kind of treatment you would want, and talk about it with your loved ones and your healthcare provider. Talking about these issues may not be easy; there may be resistance, even denial. Many people are uncomfortable talking about living at the end of life. Yet putting loved ones in the position of having to make decisions for you can be most difficult. Discussing your choices now can help. Talk about the kind of care you want and then put it in writing. Making your choices known is a **gift** to your loved ones. Research shows that loved ones usually go for **more treatment, not less**, when they don't know the person's choices.

Notice, it says **talk first, then put it in writing**. For years we have encouraged people to have advanced directives (the legal form of making your wishes known and appointing a healthcare agent). However, we have found that once people get the form done, they forget about it, don't know where they put it, have not updated it in years, and sometimes don't even tell their agents that they have been appointed.

To remedy this problem, Pastor Modahl and MaryBeth Buschmann, Parish Nurse, have been trained in helping people work through this process. Please do not hesitate to contact one of us for help in taking action **NOW**.

Training supported by a grant, "Someone Who is Trusted," to Advocate Healthcare by "Respecting Choices" of Gunderson Lutheran Medical Foundation.

GRACE NOTES VIA EMAIL

Beginning in October, *Grace Notes* will be distributed by email to the individuals and families on Grace's email contact list. If you are currently receiving the weekly *Sunday Is Coming* newsletter and other emails from Grace, you are on that contact list and will automatically receive *Grace Notes* only by email. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy via the U. S. mail, please let the business office know, either with a note or an email to gracechurch@graceriverforest.org. If you do not currently receive email from Grace, you will continue to receive *Grace Notes* via U. S. mail.

HYMN STORIES

Stacy Deibler

The Hymn of the Day for Sunday, September 20, "Children of the Heavenly Father" (LBW 474), recalls the rich Swedish heritage of the Lutheran Church.

Karolina Wilhelmina (Lina) Sandell-Berg (1832-1903), who wrote the words, was the daughter of Jonas Sandell, a Lutheran pastor in Froderyd, Smaland, Sweden. A poet and devout Christian, she dedicated her life to spreading the Gospel. Known as the Fanny Crosby of Sweden, Sandell-Berg wrote hundreds of hymns, many later brought to this country. The heartfelt words of "Children of the Heavenly Father" flow from I John 3:1 ("Behold what matter of love the Father has bestowed on, that we should be called children of God!"). The hymn was translated into English by hymnal editor Ernst W. Olson (1870-1958), a Swede who'd emigrated to America. It was first published in 1925.

Sandell-Berg's hymns owed much of their popularity to the efforts of Oskar Ahnfelt (1813-1882), known as Sweden's "Spiritual Troubadour." Ahnfelt composed or arranged the music for all of Sandell-Berg's hymns. "Children of the Heavenly Father" is based on Swedish folk melody. Ahnfelt traveled through Scandinavia singing Sandell's hymns, accompanying himself on a 10-string guitar.

The hymn is often sung at baptisms and funerals in Sweden and the U.S. Legend has it that Sandell-Berg wrote the touching text following the tragic death of her father in a boating accident.

I once sang the bass line of 'Children of the Heavenly Father' in a room with about 3,000 Lutherans in it, and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other. – Garrison Keillor

MUSIC MUSIC MUSIC

Grace Adult Bell Choir rehearsals resume September 3, 6:30-7:30 pm. There's room for at least one more ringer in this friendly ensemble – no previous experience necessary. Contact Lisa Wolfanger.

Youth Choir for young people in grades 7 through 12 resumes September 13 following the 11 o'clock service. Rehearsals last until 1:30 or 1:45, and lunch is provided. The choir will sing on September 20, so everyone should attend the first rehearsal. Questions? Contact Lori Bormet.

Joyful Voices, a choir for children in grades 1-4, meets from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The choir sings for six or seven worship services during the school year, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. In addition to practicing music for church, we also use rehearsal time to work on musical skills and learn about God and worship. New singers are welcome at any time during the school year, but September is an especially great time to come and join the group. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Joyful Voices director Gwen Gotsch.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

Pastor Kelly K. Faulstich

While the words "Continuing Education" may lead you to think about courses, retreats, or lectures related to your job, I'd like to invite you to think about "Continuing Education" as part of your life as a Christian. Confirmation was not graduation from church, although some see it this way. It would make me sad to think that all you had to learn was learned by age fourteen. It would make me sad to think that you have finished learning about God and God's activity in this world.

As I relate to the Adult Education and Children's Religious Education committees here at Grace and visit with the teachers and students at Grace School, I am thankful for the many education opportunities within our Grace community. Sunday mornings aren't just for children. Teens and adults choose from up to five different Adult Education offerings each week. Women of all ages gather for different Bible studies on Thursdays and Saturdays. Every Wednesday morning, our retired folk gather for Bible study and fellowship.

We are never too young or too old to learn. Members from birth to those well into their nineties make the most of our education programs. So, before your fall routine becomes too set in stone, I encourage you to continue your Christian education here at Grace.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction (Proverbs 1.7).