



GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

Summer children's program begins June 12 at Grace

ENVIRONMENT: "LET'S GO GREEN" - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – That's this year's theme for *Adventures in the City*, the children's summer program that will be offered for the fourth consecutive year at Grace. The educational and enrichment program, which has been sponsored by Hartford's Christian Activities Council in Hartford for the past 29 years, will be offered from Monday, July 12 through Friday, August 13, 2010. The hours are 9:00am - 2:30pm, with an extended day program available from 7:00am - 5:30pm.

The five-week program enrolls students from Greater Hartford from pre-K through grade five on a first-come, first-served basis. Academics include reading, math and language skills; enrichment features

music, drama, creative arts, library and computer labs and other activities. There will be trips at least once each week. Lunches are provided.

Due to generous funding from foundations, churches and supportive individuals, *Adventures in the City* is provided at the low cost of \$40 per child. (The value of the program is \$325 per child.) The basic program fee covers all five weeks, and the cost is reduced to \$20 for each additional child.

The Extended Day Program Fees for the full five weeks are \$240 for the first child and \$120 for each additional child. These fees include the basic program fees. Parents/caregivers are responsible for transportation to and from the program site.

Members of Grace are encouraged to visit and

volunteer when they can. Come help with snacks, read to the children, hang out with them and help them with their projects, or sign up to chaperone field trips. Our participation makes it clear that this is not just an 'outside program' using our space, but is an important part of our ministry in the Asylum Hill community.

Adventures in the City is also being offered at North United Methodist Church, 1205 Albany Avenue. Children may be registered at each site on Thursday, July 8, between 1:00pm and 3:00pm.

Children may also be registered when they are enrolled on the first day, Monday, July 12. For more information, please call the Christian Activities Council at 860-527-9860.

July-August

Volume 2010

Issues 7 - 8

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Summer Daze

Note from Pastor

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. Mark 13:2

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This note is one the last items on my to-do list before Ted and I leave for our summer vacation. We are *so* ready! Vacations are one of the great gifts of modern civilization, and yet I know only too well that for millions of people there is no such thing. Survival is the only issue.

So I take this little break with gratitude and a deep sense of privilege. It is summer. This past winter and spring have been especially busy. We launched a building fund campaign and surprised ourselves with the response so far; we hosted a major training event for sixty church leaders; we mourned the loss of three beloved members; we welcomed new members and visitors; we stepped up our 'holy listening' to one another and in the neighborhood; and we somehow, miraculously, kept our program budget deficit to less than \$2,000 so

far, against our end-of-year projection of over \$40,000.

It has been a happy time. I am forever grateful for the wonderful surprise party held in honor of my five years of ordained ministry, the happiest five years of my life. Our Sunday School program continues and we watch with delight as our little ones grow 'in wisdom and stature' in our midst. Worship attendance remains steady - it is bound to dip in the summer - and the congregation, which sings so well, dove right into a new setting of the liturgy as if there were nothing to it. A new congregation, this one from the Indian Orthodox Church, is beginning to worship in our building, and First Calvary continues, so that the Lord is praised in all kinds of ways here at Grace. Other groups, too, are finding their way here, notably ICEJ and the education committee of the

Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association. The Christian Activities Council is bringing the Adventures in the City summer program for children here for the fourth straight year.

I could go on. What it feels like is that there are all kinds of tender branches putting out leaves here. I can visit with family on Cape Cod, continue to the Blue Gentian Lodge in Vermont and pretend to read while actually simply staring into space (a/k/a summer daze), and spend a week with a couple of granddaughters back home, and know that all is well at Grace. Pastor Bourret and Lloyd Smith, with the able musical support of Dale Eberhardt, will lead worship. Your prayers and fellowship will continue every day. The Lord watches over us all.

May the Lord bless you this summer. See you soon!

Pastor Steege

Please remember, worship begins at 9:30am each and every Sunday. The psalmist says, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Join us for worship each Sunday.

This is the church, and this is the *steeple*...

The steeple is finished!

Come celebrate with us on Sunday, August 8, when we officially celebrate the completion of all the repair work on our beautiful steeple. It is now safe, solid, and lovelier than ever with the recovery of the disks just above the pillars, each with a softly painted blue cross.

We now have a fitting symbol to tell the Asylum Hill neighborhood that we are here to welcome one and all, to tell the good news of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, and to work in partnership with the whole community in loving and serving one another for Jesus' sake.

Funds for our *Build Us Up, Lord!* campaign are coming in steadily. Nevertheless, it was necessary for us to borrow again from our own endowment funds in order to complete payments to Advanced Construction in a timely way. If you have made a pledge, the best way to celebrate this milestone is to make sure your contributions are up to date. Whether you have pledged or not, your generous gifts are what we need to make this campaign a success.

Still before us are the front steps, the parking lot, lightning protection, and our beautiful organ. The hope is

to begin work on these as funds become available.

Meanwhile, August 8 looks like a good day for a celebration!



...Open the doors, and see all the people!

First Calvary Church worships at Grace

First Calvary Church is the new name of the congregation, formerly known as New Hope Christian Community, that has been worshiping at Grace on Sunday afternoons for several years. First Calvary has been reconstituted as a congregation of the Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention and the

National Baptist Convention. Their pastor is the Rev. Dr. Boise Kimber, who also leads a congregation by the same name in Waterbury. Ms. Maggie Mobley is president of their board, and Brother Joseph Austin is vice president. Brother Joseph is the one most familiar to most of us as he sets up for their congregation's Bible study and

worship after noon on Sundays.

We remember our brothers and sisters in Christ in our prayers as together we boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in our words and deeds, rejoicing in the powerful presence of our risen Lord.

“Offering of Letters” at Grace yields 22 letters supporting help for hungry children and their families

As the U.S. Congress prepares to debate anti-poverty legislation aimed at helping hungry children and their families, 19 members of Grace have raised their voices by offering 22 letters to their senators and members of congress supporting efforts to work toward an end of hunger in the country.

The “Offering of Letters” sponsored by the ecumenical anti-hunger organization *Bread for the World* this year supports legislation that would reauthorize child nutrition legislation (including funds for school breakfast and school lunch programs) and strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit for working families. Defeat of the bill would leave more than 17 million children hungrier than before.

With only 40 people attending worship on June 13, almost half gathered in the Community Room after the service to express their views

to legislators on the measure. Some used a sample “two-minute letter” offered as an example by *Bread for the World*, but most put their views into their own words.

The Offering of Letters, publicized in last month’s *Grace Notes* and two previous Sunday bulletins, took place following a special litany and prayer of blessing and a short mission dialogue by Jody Wynn Rodiger and Ted Steege.

“There’s plenty of food to go around,” said Ted; “We just need to work together to get it to people in need, and to help people sustain themselves for good.”

Jody added, “This is not just charity but justice. How can we let people starve when we have plenty?”

Bread for the World, founded by German Lutherans in 1974 and now headed by a Lutheran pastor, the Rev. David Beckman, works with

Christians of all denominations and with other not-for-profit organizations to develop and support comprehensive approaches to end poverty and hunger both abroad and at home.

On Monday, June 14, ten letters each were hand-delivered to the offices of Sen. Chris Dodd and Rep. John Larson (CT Congressional District 1); two each went to Senator Joe Lieberman and Rep. Chris Murphy (C.D. 5). Hand-written letters are still one of the most powerful ways of communicating with legislators. However, since the anthrax scare in 2001, letters to Congressional office in Washington are delayed 4-6 weeks while being irradiated in Dayton, Ohio. Hand-delivering them to local office assures that they will be promptly read and communicated to Washington by legislative staff.

Ted Steege

*By the grace of God, we are a Lutheran congregation,
diverse in worship, Christ-centered in fellowship,
committed to prayer, deepening of faith,
and the stewardship of the gospel and God’s world.*

Visioning

Holy Listening

- What do you like about the community?
- What concerns you about the community?
- How do these concerns affect you personally?

Last summer, the Visioning Steering Group began a three-part process of Holy Listening. We are listening to God's Word, we are listening to each other, and we are listening to the community. Three questions guide our listening as we continue to discern God's call for us in this place.

We all share in this listening process. Each of us in our daily lives interacts with the community, even if only

through television and newspaper reports. If you don't spend time in the Asylum Hill neighborhood, maybe you are visiting other areas of Hartford or have neighbors who do. You are part of this listening and discerning process and part of this community. As you listen to stories about Hartford and Asylum Hill, ask yourself: what is God's Word, what concerns do I hear, and how do those concerns impact me?

When the Steering Group met in June, our devotions were 1 Peter 3:8-9:

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult

with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

In the past few months, the role of Grace as a meeting place has increased. We hosted 60 Christian leaders for a mediation skills week-long training program. Last week, we were the neighborhood site for information, testing, and education on AIDS and HIV. Each month, the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association education subcommittee meets at Grace. It is one thing to be hosts for neighborhood gatherings and another to build relationships. To which has Grace been called?

*Sue Carey, Co-chair
Visioning Steering Group*

Attention Parents!

Grace Academy, an **all girls**, tuition-free private middle school, will open this fall in Hartford in South Congregational Church at 277 Main Street. Grace Academy provides a quality, faith-based education that allows girls to excel academically, develop a strong sense of personal responsibility, and become

leaders in their families and community. An intentionally small school with small class sizes, and an extended day and extended year program, Grace's goal is to graduate young women who are prepared and supported for high school and college. Grace Academy is a member of the highly successful

NativityMiguel school system; a network of 64 inner-city schools with a proven record of educating underserved students for higher education. Grace Academy is accepting applications for incoming 5th and 6th graders. Learn more by calling (860) 819-0702 or email GraceAcademyHartford@gmail.com.

HIV & AIDS Awareness Day hosted at Grace

One Love ... what a great theme for this year's HIV & AIDS Awareness Day hosted at Grace by the African American Caribbean Care Team of Hartford.

On Tuesday, June 8th case workers from 8 different agencies came to Grace Lutheran with Caribbean fare to share with our community and talk realities about the risks of AIDS & HIV in our Greater Hartford community! I have been sitting on boards and attending meetings for the past 6 years to hear the voices of people effected and affected with HIV and AIDS to see where I might share Christ's Love to our neighbors in need.

Four individuals were tested and know their status and have been counseled and educated to help themselves and others to stay safe. We hope that they will be

inspired to spread the word to help others.

The statistics are not good and the future trends are dim, but the service workers and leaders here in CT are fighting to keep the little funding that is available and dwindling every year and to tell the stories and share the truth to legislators and residents.

Today we face growing numbers in seniors, black and Latino women, and gay men who are infected by HIV or AIDS. The campaign for people to get tested and know their status is being spoken in all communities. Connecticut has one of the highest rates of new cases of HIV and AIDS in the country, but the many agencies are working hard to share the message! Get Tested and Be Safe!

The best part of the day for me was our table talks with Danielle and Marla from the

CT Children's Medical Center. I learn something new and heartbreaking every time I sit down and talk to the field case workers. On this day I heard about the new mothers and families with small children who are still being reported with HIV and AIDS.

Here are just some of the agencies that came to Grace to help educate and care for our neighbors of Asylum Hill: Connecticut AIDS Resource Coalition - CARC, Area Health Education Center - AHEC, The Zizzo House at 184-186 Homestead Ave, AIDS Legal Network for CT at 999 Asylum Ave, Hispanic Health Council, Connecticut Children Medical Center, Latino Community Services and more ... Thank you Grace Family!

Faithfully in Christ !

Jody Wynn Rodiger

Women's newsletter now online; convention Sept. 10-13 in West Hartford

"*Nellie's Notes*," the quarterly newsletter of the New England Women of the ELCA, is now online at <http://www.nesynod.org/Women/NelliesNotes>. In the May issue you will find registration forms and other information

for the Seventh Biennial Convention of the women's organization, scheduled for Sept. 10-12 (Friday through Sunday) at **Holy Passionist Retreat Center**, West Hartford, Conn. (<http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/>).

Scholarships are available. For more information contact the registrar, Nancy Wogman, at nancywogman@aol.com or Paula Rosenbeck, convention chair, at teetee108@yahoo.com, or see Pastor Steege.

New England Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Seventh Biennial Convention - September 10-12, 2010

“The Earth is the Lord’s”

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT

The 2010 New England Synod Women of the ELCA convention will take place at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center, 303 Tunxis Road West Hartford. This is a terrific and convenient opportunity for women of Grace to get to know other women in our synod. Let’s get a group going this year – it will never be easier!

The convention theme is “The Earth is the Lord’s,” based on Psalm 24: 1. The convention chair is Paula Rosenbeck, former member and president of the New England Women of the ELCA synodical board. The convention chaplain and keynoter will be the Reverend Nancy Wright, Ascension, South Burlington, VT. The Rev. Elaine Hewes, Redeemer, Bangor, ME, will be Bible Study leader and preacher at the closing Eucharist. (Pastor Hewes presented a stunning sermon at the Synod Assembly in June.) Nancy Stone, former synodical board president, will serve as Parliamentarian for the plenary sessions; Denise Puisto, Ascension, South

Burlington, VT, will be convention musician; Sharon Machuga, St. Paul’s, Torrington, CT, will be song leader; and Kathe Bruno, member of Ascension Lutheran Church, South Burlington, VT, will serve as the worship coordinator for the weekend event.

Holy Family has lovely grounds for walking and/or relaxing. There is an outdoor labyrinth and gardens for your enjoyment. Wear comfortable walking shoes if you plan to enjoy the outdoors. Also, you are encouraged to dress comfortably for the convention. “Dress up” is not necessary! It will be late summer so it could be very warm in the daytime and cooler in the evenings. After all, this is New England! A bookstore, complete with cards, books, music, and gifts, is on premises for your convenience. Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is easily accessible from Route I-84. Driving directions will be sent with your confirmation letter.

Sign-in begins at 3:00pm on Friday. The Festive Closing Eucharist will end at about 2:15pm on Sunday.

**REGISTRATION
 DEADLINE IS AUGUST 20,
 2010**

Early Registration Fee (if postmarked by July 1st) is \$74.00. The registration Fee after July 1st is \$99.00 ; Single day registration is \$50.00.

Lodging/Meals: for those registering for both nights, six meals are included. For those staying only one night, four meals are included. Friday \$150. Saturday \$150. Both Nights \$192.

Commuter meals are \$135 for commuters coming for both days, five meals included; \$95 for Saturday commuters, who will be served three meals.

Questions can be directed to the convention chairperson: Paula Rosenbeck – 860-567-9505 or teetee108@yahoo.com, or to the registrar: Nancy Wogman – 860-635-2623 or nancywogman@aol.com. Call the office at Grace, 860-527-7792, for registration forms.

The 23rd Annual Assembly of the New England Synod

The 23rd Annual Assembly of the New England Synod, ELCA, has closed after a wonderful three-day experience June 3-5, 2010. The total attendance of 571 included 481 voters – 209 clergy and 272 lay members, and 90 non-voters (guests and staff). Representing Grace as voting members were **Barbara Ruhe, Vera Yigle-Kaljob, and Pastor Steege**. **Ted Steege** was also in attendance as development officer for New England for the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and **Mavis Smith**, who attended as a very busy volunteer. **Lloyd Smith** was also planning to attend, but needed to stay home because of illness.

The Assembly heard reports from Bishop Payne and the directors of various agencies of the Synod, as well as inspiring presentations from theologian, teacher and hymn writer Dr. Susan Briehl. Members also attended a variety of workshops about church life and ministries.

In Assembly actions, the Assembly voted:

- To offer public witness of energy stewardship by its use of Synod buildings and grounds and encouraging energy audits by congregations (Grace has already done this),

to report congregational efforts to the Synod, and to memorialize the ELCA in its 2011 Assembly to challenge all congregations and expressions of the Church to reduce energy-related greenhouse gas emission by 5% per year to reach a goal of 25-40% by 2020;

- To endorse the Kairos Palestine 2009 document and provide copies of it to every congregation, and to send our written endorsement to our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The document calls for Christians around the world to advocate for a political solution that will be just, secure, and peaceful for both Palestinians and Israelis.

- To support and encourage congregations to support and uplift youth and young adults to participate in congregation and synod-level leadership activities and work toward budgeting the financial support for young people to

participate in these activities, and to ensure that the Synod Council work to increase the number of youth and young adults serving on special committees of the synod. In this connection, congregations were encouraged to include young adults (under age 30) and at least two youth on their councils.

In elections for Synod Council and other positions, **Lloyd Smith and Pastor Steege** were both elected members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, 2011. Grace is honored to have not one but two members representing the New England Synod at the assembly.

Next year's assembly will be June 3-5, 2011, at the Mass. Mutual Center, Springfield, Mass. The Friday-Sunday schedule is new, a result of action proposed by members from Grace three years ago for the purpose of making it easier for working people to take time to attend the Assembly.

If you would like a DVD of assembly highlights, contact Sister Virginia E. Strahan at sisterv@nesynod.org or 508-791-1530 x103 by June 19. Cost is \$22.

Trivet with picture of church donated to Grace



Grace is very excited to receive a beautiful commemorative trivet that has been donated by a former member, Margaret Welmers Bertolami. Mrs. Berolami offered it with the beautiful letter printed below.

Dear Pastor Steege and congregation,

You are receiving this note because I would like to send you a trivet which has been in our family since the 1950's, and I would like to know whether you are interested in it.

We attended Grace Lutheran when our family lived in Hartford from 1955-1960. After we returned from the mission field in Liberia, where my father had been sponsored by the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church as I recall, we settled in Hartford. Dad taught at the Hartford Seminary Foundation before moving on to teach at UCLA in 1960, and my brother and I attended Noah Webster. I have many fond memories of attending Church, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and other kids events, and Church Suppers, where sometimes my folks showed slides and spoke of their work in the mission.

My folks were quite active in the Church, and somehow my mom acquired this trivet (wall hanging) which I have since inherited. She displayed it in her china cabinet, and I know it brought her great memories through the years; I have done likewise for many years.

I found you on the internet. Your website is great, and so must be your continuing ministry. The building looks so familiar, though the picture is from a different angle than shown on this plaque, and the cherry blossoms are magnificent in the picture.

So, if you can use this small gift on behalf of the William Welmers family, please consider it yours; just let me know.

Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Steege, and all your works are in my prayers.

May the Lord's blessings continue to enrich the lives of all you touch.

Warm regards,

Margaret Welmers Bertolami
mjbertolami@aol.com
Homosassa, FL

People of Grace

Congratulations to sixth-grader **Jayden McAdams**, pictured with his mom, **Petre McAdams**, and grandmother, **Mavis Smith**. Jayden won First Place in the State of Connecticut for his achievement in mathematics.

Meanwhile Jayden's grandpa, **Lloyd Smith**, received a special award from Catholic Charities - Archdiocese of Hartford on June 17th for his outstanding service as Past Chairman of its Black Family Enrichment Program.

Welcome to **Janice Potter**, a longtime member of Grace, to her new position as Financial Assistant. She has saved the day by stepping in for Marilyn Flaherty, who has moved to Arizona.



The congregation bid Farewell and Godspeed on June 13th to **Barbara Van Fleet**, who has moved to Fremont, Ohio, the town where she grew up. Her new address is 106 Kaylee Drive, Fremont OH 43420. At this writing we do not have a new phone number for her, but her e-mail address remains the same: bvan12@juno.com.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

Our three seniors have graduated from high school and are on their way to college!

Melissa Brown and Belinda Yigle-Kaljob graduated from Conard High School in West

Hartford. Melissa will be attending Mitchell College in New London, and Belinda will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic.

Tim Reiher graduated from Windsor High School and will be attending Cornell University in Ithica, NY.

We send them on their way with all our love, prayers, and blessings.

High Tea Rescheduled for July 25th at Grace

The Christian Education Committee, all parents of Sunday School children, and everyone who cares about the faith and spiritual nurturing of our children are invited to High Tea in the Community Room at Grace on Sunday, July 25th, from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Hosted by Committee Chairs Phyllis and Chad Thompson, we will enjoy an elegant tea party and share all your ideas for making the 2010-2011 Sunday School year the best ever!

This event has been rescheduled from the one originally planned for June 27.

Please RSVP to the Thompsons 413.827.9434 by July 22. They also will need a couple of volunteers to help serve the tea.



Happy Birthday!

July

1	Ana-Lee Thompson
3	Carl Lindstrom
10	Chet Brodnicki
14	Brian Phelan
18	Belinda Yigle-Kaljob
19	Jody Wynn Rodiger
21	Kelly Nolen
24	Deborah Weed
26	Edith Mamet

August

1	Andrea Sokolowski
3	Alex Mathura
9	Seth Phelan
10	Kevin Yigle-Kaljob
12	Ted Steege
14	Irene Kirschner
21	Susie Brown
27	Nancy Urban
31	Taw Nay Moo
31	Cephus Nolen



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Church Staff Directory

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Onita Chambers, Parish Assistant
Miriam Miller, Sexton

Mavis Smith, President
Emma Coleman-Carr, Vice President
Bruce Klotz, Secretary
Gertrude Kanwischer, Treasurer
Barbara Calogero, Assistant Treasurer
Sally Nolen, Grace Notes Editor

PLEASE NOTE:

The submission deadline for the September 2010 summer edition of Grace Notes is August 15th. Please forward information to Sally Nolen (sallynolen@live.com) by this date. Thank you.

www.graceistheplace.org

