



# GRACE NOTES

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

## **“Adventures in the City” returns to Grace** **“Celebrating Cultural Diversity” - Caribbean Connections:** **Dominican Republic, Jamaica & Puerto Rico**

Grace will welcome the Christian Activities Council (CAC) for the third straight summer when they bring their five-week program, **“Adventures of the City,”** to our building. The program, which will run from Friday, June 19 through Friday, July 24, is an academic enrichment program for neighborhood children.

For children pre-K through grade 5, the enrichment program includes music, drama, art crafts and other creative activities. Academics include reading, math and language skills. Lunch is provided,

and at least one field trip rounds out the program each week. The weekday program runs from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and there is an extended care program from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Due to generous funding from foundations, churches and supportive individuals, **“Adventures in the City”** is provided at the low cost of \$40 for the first child in each family, and \$20 for each additional child. \$240 is the cost of the five-week extended care program, with \$120 for each additional

child. Registration information is available from CAC at 860 527-9860.

The Christian Activities Council is the urban mission arm of churches in the United Church of Christ and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in the Greater Hartford metropolitan region. While CAC provides staffing for **“Adventures in the City,”** volunteers are always welcome to come in and assist with the program, reading, tutoring, telling stories, chaperoning on trips, or providing snacks.

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## **The Spirit on the Move . . .**

“...A wind from God swept over the face of the waters,” says Genesis 1:2.

The Holy Spirit is moving through Grace these days, too! Have you heard? Thinking outside the box is becoming a way of life, and people are beginning to catch a new vision for Grace. Keep your eyes and ears and hearts open. Stay alert! Expect surprises!



## “Divided tongues, as of fire”

### *Note from Pastor*

“Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind.” Acts 2:2

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It’s summer! My personal calendar says summer begins on the First of June, no matter what Ted and the astronomers advise. For the next three weeks the days will become longer and longer and the sun will begin to blaze. Sleeveless and barefoot I will tramp across the grass in our back yard to hang out our sheets and towels. Nothing in the world smells better than sheets dried in the fiery summer breeze.

The Day of Pentecost comes on the very last day of May this year, and summer begins. Frankly, the picture of those divided tongues of fire landing on the apostles’ heads that day always sounded dangerous to me. Didn’t it hurt? Didn’t it burn? Just as we want to be careful not to spend too much time in the summer sun, maybe we should protect ourselves from those tongues of fire. Isaiah (5:24) speaks of tongues of fire

devouring the stubble “as dry grass sinks down in the flame” to describe God’s judgment on the perpetrators of injustice.

You have to hand it to those apostles. They knew they were supposed to wait for the Spirit, but the truth is, they couldn’t have had the slightest idea what that was going to be like. It would make sense for them to expect some sort of wind, but tongues of fire must have been pretty startling. They did not flinch. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they immediately began to speak in many languages about God’s deeds of power.

In these summer days of Pentecost, we, too, are called to speak about God’s deeds of power as the Spirit gives us ability. We do not need to flinch.

There is an important detail about that story of Pentecost

that is easy to miss: “They were all together in one place” when the rush of wind suddenly came. *They were all together.* This is as good a description of a spirit-filled congregation as I can think of. We come together Sunday after Sunday during this season of Pentecost to read and hear and talk and pray with one another about the workings of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and in our world. Of course, some of us will be taking needed vacations during this time, but our hearts and prayers will not be missing. This congregation – this “coming together” – is where we find the mutual strength to march out again rejoicing, sleeveless and barefoot, into the world wherever the Spirit calls us.

May the peace and love of Christ reign in your hearts.

*Pastor 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.***

## Sustinet receives support from members of Grace

On Sunday, April 26, **Renae Reese** of the Connecticut Center for a New Economy paid a visit to Grace to talk about Sustinet, the health care reform package proposed by the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut and supported by many other concerned agencies and individuals around the state. She explained more about Sustinet during 'Second Hour' and invited people who were interested to write cards and letters to our legislators in support of the bill. Many people in our congregation know - some first-hand - what it is like to be without employment and consequently without health coverage.

The following two Sundays, **Judy and Janet Dudek**

brought to church a whole kit of sample letters, cards, pens, and stationery and invited people to write letters or sign cards to send to the Capitol. They gathered up 14 letters, and then in the afternoon of May 10<sup>th</sup> Judy came back and met our friends from New Hope who worship at Grace on Sunday afternoons, and gathered 13 additional letters.

On Wednesday, Judy, Ted Steege, and Pastor Steege joined over 500 red-shirted *healthcare4every1* **Campaigners** at *SustiNet Day @ the Capitol* to deliver 4,314 postcards and letters signed by Connecticut residents telling our Connecticut Representatives and Senators that we can't wait. Hundreds of conversations took place in the nooks-and-crannies of the Capitol building as

constituents pushed their elected officials to act. The end result? Over the course of day, some key legislative leaders strengthened their resolve to act boldly.

**There is a long way to go. A House vote on SustiNet was expected as early as May 19 (after Grace Notes press time) and the bill will then have to proceed to the Senate.** Legislative leadership has worked with *Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut* to strengthen the bill and position Connecticut to be action-ready for expected federal health care reform legislation.



## Joyce Taylor

We remember with thanksgiving Joyce C. Taylor, who died peacefully at her home April 25, 2009. She was born as Joyce Naomi Curtis on October 14, 1943, in Bristol, CT. Her dedication to the Lutheran Church started as a teenager at Zion Lutheran in Bristol, where she served as president of the New England Synod Luther League. After moving to

Hartford with her husband, Michael, Joyce was deeply involved at Grace, her church of 30 years. She was a key member of the Choir, Bell Choir, and Altar Guild. Her love for music and talent for planning shone in her role as chairperson of the Worship Committee. Besides her husband, Joyce is survived by her daughter, Michele Taylor McMullen and her husband,

Matthew, of Billings, Montana, and their two daughters, as well as her son, David, of Evanston, Illinois. A memorial service was held at Grace April 30.

Donations may be made to the Animal Rescue Foundation, P. O. Box 538, Thomaston, CT 06787, or the American Lung Association at <http://www.lungusa.org>.

## June is Torture Awareness Month

June 26th is United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. A few years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the United States declared the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month as a way to provide greater visibility to this issue and provide an opportunity for coordinated actions across the country.

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture is organizing a major religious public witness at the White House at Noon on Thursday, June 11 to help launch Torture Awareness Month and bring a strong message to the President about the need for a Commission of Inquiry.

At Grace we will again see our banner in front of the

building for the month, and on June 14 there will be special prayers. Following worship those who are interested will have an opportunity to view and discuss a video, "Ending U.S.-sponsored Torture Forever." There will also be an opportunities to prepare letters to send to our congresspersons.

## 50 Days of Prayer

### Preparing for the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly: Prayers for Wisdom in Discernment

For the 50 days leading up to Aug. 17, this church is invited to pray for wisdom in discernment for the ELCA and voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. Prayers, scripture readings and hymns are posted at the Church's website, [www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org). At Grace our prayers will include **Lloyd Smith**, who is an elected member of the Churchwide Assembly.

"I invite you to join in 50 days of renewed and focused

prayer around the Scriptures that will be used at the assembly, when your co-workers in the Gospel are daily gathered, centered and sent into mission," wrote Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson in a letter to all ELCA congregations.

For seven weeks leading up to the assembly, congregations are invited into prayer for the ELCA, for the voting members who will gather in Minneapolis and for wisdom in discernment. The guide

includes suggestions for daily prayer starting June 29, and weekly prayer, with scripture readings taken from the daily lectionary of the assembly with reflection questions, a prayer and a reflection hymn. Sunday prayers will include a petition for the Prayers of Intercession for the Sundays from June 28 - Aug. 6 and one for each Aug. 16 and Aug. 23.

## Council Corner

### *Highlights from the May 9, 2009 meeting*

Council approved a recommendation from the Outreach Visioning Group to authorize hiring a Synod mentor to lead a workshop about using the Synod's visioning tool kit. Cost will be \$500 plus expenses. Council members, committee chairs, and interested members of Grace will be invited to participate.

The Property Committee reported that two additional building repair companies will be looking at the steeple. A building fund drive may be necessary to pay for repair work.

The Evangelism Committee is concerned about Grace contacting visitors and staying in touch with them. Pastor

Steege said it would be helpful if either the Evangelism Committee or the Council organize and train a group of members who could sit with visitors during worship and get their names, addresses, and telephone numbers.

Bruce Klotz

## Thank you!

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for sending us to ConfirCamp Weekend at Camp Calumet (April 17-19).

My favorite part was playing "Capture the Flag." It was really fun to be active. Another thing I liked was being with people from other churches. It was a nice experience to meet other people who were similar to me. - *Austin Colbert*

My favorite part was playing all the games. I'd like to go again next year. - *Trevor Merrill*

My favorite part was meeting new people. It was fun to make new friends who share the same religion, because it gives you something to talk about. Also, I don't know many kids my age who are Lutheran. Another thing I liked was mealtimes, because the food was delicious! - *Elise Phelan*

My favorite part was playing the games, too, especially basketball. - *Kevin Yigle-Kaljob*

And my favorite part was spending time with four beautiful young people while they not only bonded together as a group, but made friends in an unfamiliar place with a whole lot of people they didn't know before. I was proud of them! - *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.**

## People of Grace

### Congratulations to our Graduates!

*Phyllis Thompson* received her Master's of Science degree in Communications and Information Management from Bay Path College in Longmeadow, MA on May 17. She will continue her public health career with the March of Dimes national office where she is applying her Master's degree expertise to promote their national campaign of reducing the incidence of premature births. Phyllis also has secured some important partners for the March of Dimes to expand to a global level with the campaign. In addition, Phyllis was recently appointed an adjunct faculty professor at Bay Path College, teaching non-traditional women undergraduates in their 1-day a week Saturday program for various majors, including business,

communications and information technology and nonprofit management and philanthropy.

Phyllis credits her Grace family and her immediate loved ones – Chad, Dwan, Anna-Lee, Catherine, Shirley and Phillip Williams (her parents) and Cathy and Mel Thompson (her in-laws) for giving her all the incredible love, support and prayers she needed during her Master's studies. During Phyllis' studies she surmounted news of declining health of her parents and in-laws, a major family attempt to move across country to GA, a change to a new employer/new job, resettling back in New England; then a return to a former employer/new job – all while being a wife and mom – raising a teenager, a toddler and a baby at the

time. Please join us in congratulating Phyllis.

*Seth Phelan* graduated from Tolland High School and has won a scholarship to Emmanuel College in Boston, MA.

*Vera Yigle-Kaljob* graduated with honors from Conard High School in West Hartford and has been accepted at the University of Connecticut.

*Lloyd Smith* has completed a two-year course with the first class of the New England Synod's Lay School of Ministry and will be honored at the New England Synod Assembly in Sturbridge at the end of May. The School of Lay Ministry is designed to educate and equip lay people for enhanced participation in congregational and synodical life through personal spiritual development, biblical enhancement, and life-long learning.

### New e-mail addresses

**Chet and Glenna Brodnicki's** new e-mail address is [chetglenna@comcast.net](mailto:chetglenna@comcast.net).

**David Eberly** is now on line. His e-mail address is [davideberly@comcast.net](mailto:davideberly@comcast.net).

## Food Pantry for West Middle School

Although we're coming close to the school year, we continue to need food supplies for the children who have benefitted from your donation of food during this school year. Please keep the supplies coming so that we can get through June with food for these needy families.

Chet Brodnicki

## Pastor David H. Rinas and Doreen Rinas to Mark Jones, April 2009

"Greetings! We share some good news! In the latest reports of ELCA World Hunger and Stand With Africa from 2008, our New England Synod has been credited with \$163,717.71 offerings from 118 congregations. This is a 27% increase from 2007, in which 117 congregations were reported to give \$129,029.55."

This sum did not include disaster giving. In a handwritten note, they reported that our church's giving for 2008 "was reported as \$1,778.37," placing us as #29 in the Synod. The Rinases thanked us for our generous giving.

### Practical Ideas

Check out the discounted breads, vegetables, fruits and meats. I go there first and usually if one stops early in the day, there are some good values. Stores really vary and I find I get the best discounts at Shaws. \$3 loaves of bread for \$1. Other baked goods may be 50% off. Often you will find deli cheese and meat ends at a reduced price as well as meats that are marked to be sold that day, or the next, have \$1-\$2 off. All of these can be put in the freezer to be used later. A few seconds in the microwave or a steamer will freshen up bread

They next reported one national activity that you may want to follow and/or be a part of:

"Three pastors of the West Virginia-West Maryland Synod are passionate about raising awareness and money for our very effective ELCA World Hunger Program. They will be traveling through the U.S. over 1,300 miles to each of our Synods on a 'triplet,' a 3 seat bamboo bike. They hope to raise \$5 million so that the ELCA World Hunger Program will meet its goal of \$25 million. You can get more information from their website: <http://www.tourderevs.org>.

"From the New York Metro Synod, these pastors, whose

that has gotten dry.

Keep a box of dried milk on hand. It is much less expensive than fresh milk and very handy to mix up when cooking items that call for milk such as puddings, French toast, pancakes, or cream sauces. It is even good for drinking or on cereal if mixed ahead of time and kept cold in the refrigerator and this eliminates those quick runs to the store for milk.

Make your own soups. It is so easy and not only saves money but is also very

average age is 60 & who have 70 years of combined leadership, will bike into Torrington, CT on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Specific New England Synod congregations hosting them will be St. Paul, Torrington and Zion, Waterbury. On the afternoon of June 13<sup>th</sup>, they will be coming into the Worcester, MA area where they will be greeted by many people including their host congregations: Christ, Foxborough and Trinity, Chelmsford. Each of these churches will be having an activity where one of the three pastors will be visible and be presenting information about world hunger. More information will be forthcoming at the Synod Assembly . . ."

healthy. A base of a bag of lentils, split peas or barley (less than \$1 a bag) put on to simmer and then add onions, celery, or carrots. I add some meat if I have leftovers and other vegetables - green beans, corn, spinach, kale or tomatoes. Add salt and pepper and other spices to suit your taste. The soup goes into small containers and into the freezer and are all set to take out for lunch, or to take to work, or a hearty supper with a salad and bread.

Nancy Urban

## Muffins or Mini Loaves

Have you checked the price of store bought muffins lately? Almost a dollar a muffin and they are filled with fat, sugar and processed flour. Here is an inexpensive and healthy alternative. You can leave plain or add almost any fruit. I have made these with whole cranberries, blueberries, grated carrot, crushed pineapple, coconut or smashed up over-ripe bananas or peaches. If you don't like raisins, use plain bran flakes. I have also substituted pumpkin for the apple sauce but I prefer the apple sauce version. Kids like these as well and they are so easy to pop into the lunch box or a quick and healthy breakfast snack.

Mix together:

- 6-7 cups raisin bran cereal
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 7 cups flour (can use 2 cups whole wheat)
- 5 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 cup wheat germ (optional)

In a separate bowl mix together:

- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 quart buttermilk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups apple sauce

Add wet ingredients to dry ones and mix together. Put in greased muffin tins or mini loaf pans. Bake in 350 degree oven. Bake muffins for 12 - 15 minutes and mini loaves for 25 - 30 minutes. (It all depends on how much fruit and what kind was added). Toothpick in center should come out clean.

This recipe makes three dozen muffins plus 5 mini loaves - or about 6 dozen muffins. They freeze well.

Nancy Urban



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## Church Staff Directory

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Onita Chambers, Parish Assistant  
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Gail Lindstrom, Vice President  
Bruce Klotz, Secretary  
Gertrude Kanwischer, Treasurer  
Barbara Calogero, Assistant Treasurer  
Sally Nolen, Grace Notes Editor

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

*The submission deadline for the July-August 2009 edition of Grace Notes is June 15th.*

*Please forward information to Sally Nolen ([sallynolen@live.com](mailto:sallynolen@live.com)) by this date. Thank you.*

