



July 14, 2017

Greetings friends,

I attended the UMW breakfast meeting the other day and had such a nice time. The food was, as always, excellent; the welcome by Marilyn Webster delightful and Raejean Bickelhaupt's whimsical program was fun, too. These ladies have such a gift for hospitality and it is always a treat to get together with Grace women to just visit and catch up on one another's news. Thank you for inviting me.

My sister, Kelly, became a first-time grandmother (Mimi) last weekend when daughter Jessi delivered a beautiful baby girl. It will be a couple months before I get to go down to meet little Avery, but I'm very nearly as thrilled for her arrival as I was for her mother's birth, decades ago. At that time, my mom (and Kelly's) was working and didn't feel she could take time off to go spend a few days with the new mommy and newborn. Enter

Aunt "Cak" (it was a couple years before toddler Jessi could manage the "th" sound in Cath). Our brother, Brett, and I went over to LaMotte (near Dubuque) to spend a few days caring for Kelly and Bruce (cooking, cleaning, doing laundry) so they could spend their time getting acquainted with Jessi without mundane distractions. It was a blessed time in all our lives, filled with precious memories of the first few days with "our" first baby.

You all know how thrilled Mark and I were to become grandparents. That Kelly is experiencing the joy of grandparenthood as she takes care of Jessi and Jon, makes me so happy for her. Bruce would have been "over the moon" with the arrival of his first grandbaby. I imagine he's celebrating in heaven with as much joy as all of us are here on earth. I'm sorry I missed witnessing his sure-to-have-been utter pride and absolute delight. But, having been present in the early days after the birth of each of his three children, I have a pretty good idea of how joyfully he's celebrating. New life is a special blessing in any family. We're grateful to welcome precious Avery Elizabeth into ours.

This week at Grace – Pastor Fred's message this week, "Tending the Heart's Garden," is inspired by Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. **Claudia Pauk and Fred will make their debut as duet artists with us this Sunday as they sing, *We'll Understand It Better By and By*.** Gloria Sampson will serve as liturgist. Caleb Michel and Lorijo Lounsberry will greet on Sunday morning and Gini Michel and Stephanie Fournier will be our ushers. Following the service, Team G will be serving some home-baked goodies at Coffee Fellowship. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

A reminder - newsletter articles for the August *Grace Church Visitor* are due in the church office by Thursday, July 20th.

The Roland-Story School Supply Drive is underway. Grace Church has been invited to assemble kits for 16 school children this year, Supply lists can be found in the narthex. Kits are due back at the church by August 8th.

We do want to continue to keep the need for Sunday school and youth fellowship leaders in front of you this summer. Classes begin September 10th and we need about 6 people to fill the positions. You've seen, you know what wonderful children we've been blessed with here at Grace. Please consider being a part of their Christian education experience for this coming school year.

The Story City Carousel is open for the season and the Story City Chamber is searching for volunteers to help keep it running. They were wondering if we have any groups, youth groups, or

committees who might be interested in volunteering some time? They only do a 2 hour shift split up throughout operating hours to help keep it a small commitment. Do we have any groups within our church family who would be interested? Please call the Chamber at 515-733-4214, or email them at info@storiycitygcc.com.

Al Rau, Dorothy Appelgate, Chuck Jewell, Jeanne Hohneke and Vivian Whitmore are all at Bethany Manor. This has been a big change for each of them and I'm sure they'd each love to have visitors. Please keep them in mind when you're out and about and have time for some visiting.

Geneva Chelsvig recently moved into a nursing home in Ankeny. I'm sure she'd also love to hear from old friends:

Sunny View Care Center
410 NW Ash Drive
Ankeny, IA 50023

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Chuck Jewell; Denny Michel; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Julie Jacobson; Leota Berg; Vivian Whitmore; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Rich Iverson (friend of Kurt Carlson); Cooper Leeman

News You Can Use

Sunday, July 16

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship

Wednesday, July 19

9:00-3:00 PM Summer Stretch Youth

Sunday, July 23

9:15 AM Worship

Faithfully,
Cathy

