



July 28, 2017

Greetings friends,

My goodness, July has once again just flown by! Mark and I were commenting just last night that the days are getting noticeably shorter. As much as I love autumn, I wish summer didn't fly by so quickly. We're enjoying it!

I've been thinking more about our deep well of good folks at Grace...

Velda Frette comes to mind whenever I put together the monthly newsletter. For years she was in charge of the once fairly complicated process of getting the newsletters folded, sealed with stickers, sorted and mailed. With the change to emailed *Visitors* and new postal regulations, the task has been simplified considerably. We appreciate that Velda was

our "Go-to Gal" for so long. She also co-chaired the Funeral Lunch Committee for a long time - I relied on her impeccable filing system of Funeral programs to cover some information gaps when I began as secretary in 2015.

Priscilla & LeRoy Johnson is another couple who we've relied on for all kinds of help over the years. LeRoy served faithfully and competently for decades on various church committees. Priscilla continues to quilt and actively participate in UMW. She played in the bell choir for 40 years, helped with Sunday school, co-chaired the Funeral Lunch Committee and teams up with Patsy Jensen to give the church kitchen a good cleaning twice a year. Both LeRoy and Priscilla have been loyal volunteers whenever a call for help sounds.

Shelley Hart is a blessing. The Hart family actually belong to Mackey UMC, but have been attending here very regularly so their boys can participate in our educational programs with their school friends. Shelley is an enthusiastic volunteer for VBS, Sunday school, the youth program, and for helping with odd jobs around the church. Shelley always arrives and serves with a smile.

Gene & Marjorie Dale and Leota Berg built a legacy of faithful service at Grace. Sisters Marjorie and Leota were raised at Grace and their cheerful hospitality is remembered with great fondness. Gene sang in the church choir for decades and always served on various committees with good sense and a twinkle in his eye. Marjorie quilted for years and could always be found lending her special culinary talents in the church kitchen. Leota, too, sang in choir and helped out wherever help was needed. Did you know she regularly volunteered to wash the windows (inside and out) at the parsonage on church cleaning days for many years?

Stephanie Fournier generously shares her talents as often as she is able. She has helped with the Sunday school and youth for years and has been shadowing Lorijo as her assistant with Financial Secretary duties for several years now.

Jeanne Hohneke has always seemed to really enjoy volunteering as a woman of Grace. She has been quite active in UMW, happily helping out with their various ambitious projects and concerns. She learned to knit so she could serve on the Prayer Shawl team. Jeanne is another joyful presence in our church family.

This week at Grace – Pastor Fred is away this week and we are pleased to welcome Nate Warwick back to the pulpit. His message, *The 'Real' Final Frontier*, is inspired by Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. We're pleased to have Judy Andrew share the song, "He" as our special music this week. Gini Michel and Jim and Alyce Wirth will be our ushers this week. Caleb Michel and Raejean Bicklehaupt will greet this week. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

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

Our All-Church potluck picnic is coming up on Sunday, August 6th! An email was sent a week or so ago with an electronic sign-up sheet for what you plan to bring. Here is the link again:

<http://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=UPIK6381&v=3d36302b46>

As a part of our worship service that morning, we'll be recognizing the special efforts the Congregational Development Team put forth on all of our behalf since the fall of 2015! Their dedication and hard work and determination to listen to and represent all our voices in their work has been appreciated and we want to celebrate their completion of the Congregational Study and the Action Plan our committees have already begun to implement. This potluck is part of our celebration.

The potluck is being coordinated by members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and volunteers. We hope you'll come together with us to enjoy delicious food, wonderful conversation and an opportunity to say "thanks" to some special fellow members of Grace.

If you'd like a copy of the Congregational Study and the completed Action Plan that will guide our work going forward, please let the office know. The raw data from the surveys we did in the spring is also available upon request. We'd be happy to send you an electronic copy or to print out a hard copy for you.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Claudia Pauk; 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 30

9:15 AM Worship

Sunday, August 6 – Communion, Congregational Development Team Recognition

9:15 AM Worship

11:00 AM ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC

**Faithfully,
Cathy**

Pam (Hillis) Horan, who grew up in this church, recently took a tumble and severely injured her whole left side. She has also been battling cancer for years. Patsy provided her address at a care center in West Des Moines for any who might like to send words of encouragement:

**Pam Horan
Edgewater/Blue Stem
9220 Cascade Avenue
West Des Moines, IA 50266**