



June 16, 2017

Greetings friends,

I'm about ready to adopt a new puppy. It's been a struggle to get over losing my beloved Daisy, but I think I may be ready. A couple of things have happened in the last few weeks to help me realize this:

1. My sister, Kelly, has been staying with us as she recovered from surgery on both of her feet.
2. Cora stayed with us last weekend.
3. Both Kelly and Cora have returned to their own homes.

The presence of both these ladies in our home reminded both Mark and me how much we like taking care of loved ones. Neither of our special guests was completely helpless, but they both needed special looking after and Mark and I revel in the role of caregivers. No, we don't mind fetching and toting ice or extra pillows or drinks or snacks. No, we don't mind being more careful about preparing balanced meals and keeping more regular meal times. No, we don't mind picking up toys or the contents of lower level drawers that have

been strewn about the house as a one-year-old explores a less familiar environment. To us, it has all been joy as it is evidence that we were needed. We do our best work as a team and we've had a ball!

As we're helping Kelly transition back to independence and leave her on her own at her house for longer periods of time, it's a bittersweet experience. We are pleased to help her, but sad to lose her delightful daily company. When we put away Cora's highchair and saw all the little bits of food she'd dropped, I was reminded of her best doggie pal and how he loves to clean up after his "little miss." It was in these moments that everything began to come together for me.

I need a little friend who will stay with us beyond a couple of weeks. I need a little friend who we can lavish with attention and who likes scavenging little bits of food. I need a little friend who greets me with a happy smile and a degree of delight that causes her whole body to quiver with joy when she sees me. Yes, yes, it's true, I do get all of that with Mark, but he objects when I brush his hair and scratch him behind the ears. He's also not too keen on having me tie a sporty little bandana around his neck after a haircut...

So, I do believe a puppy is required. The search is underway...*

*I wrote this on Tuesday. Yesterday (Thursday) I met and brought home a new little sweetheart. Meet Trixie, the newest member of the Hermanson family!



This week at Grace – With Pastor Fred on vacation this weekend, Jerry Spencer will again lead the service for us. His message, "It Builds Character" is inspired by Romans 5:1-8. Kent Meier (Judy and Carroll Brekke's son-in-law) will share special music and Gloria Sampson will serve as liturgist. Mark & Joan Barrett and Alex & Amy Franco will be our greeters and Duane & Sharon Matson and Dale & Lynn Henricks are our ushers this week. G.R.A.C.E. Team "E" will host a time of Coffee Fellowship immediately after the worship service this week. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

We do want 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@storycitygcc.com.

The Story Theater is proud to present the faith-based film, *The Case for Christ*, the weekend of Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 23-25. It's rated PG and show times will be each evening at 7 p.m. with special matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 4 p.m.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer:; Denny Michel; Leota Berg; Vivian Whitmore; Barbara Wheeler; family of Beverly Highland (Donyel Caruth's friend); Chuck Jewell; 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, June 18

9:15 AM Worship

10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship hosted by Team "E"

Sunday, June 25

9:15 AM Worship

**Faithfully,
Cathy**