



October 6, 2017

Greetings friends,

A few weeks ago I mentioned that Gloria Sampson taught me how to knit this past summer. I've completed a few shawls, but am certainly still at the novice level. As much as I enjoy this relaxing new hobby, I can't say I'm too motivated to go beyond my very basic level of competency. I am comfortable with the stitches required to make two different styles of shawls and that satisfies my urge to create very nicely. Choosing different colors of yarn further answers any need to make something different than the shawl already completed.

A part of me wonders if being satisfied with my personal knitting status quo and not challenging myself to continually learn new stitches and try new patterns is some sort of character flaw. My mom, who is my guide in most things, was a wiz at crocheting all sorts of different projects and was

continually learning new stitches and mastering new patterns. I believe she was a crocheting savant.

Mom could "monitor" a television program, take part in a group conversation and continue to crochet complicated patterns without a hitch, fingers flying. I don't think she had any idea how many stitches she knew or how many prayer shawls, afghans, baby afghans, pillows, coasters, Christmas ornaments, etc. she created over the years. Mom just liked to stay busy – and to create handmade gifts to share with others.

One of the things I love best about knitting is that after casting on, you really don't have to continually count stitches, at least for the patterns I use. Back when Max was just a baby/toddler, I was a counted cross-stitch enthusiast. I made dozens of sweatshirts, framed wall pieces, potholders, towels and other projects. I designed my own patterns as well as followed book patterns. Each of my sisters and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and a few kids of friends wore "Cathy Creations". Max alone sported at least a dozen of my projects in his first 2-3 years on the planet. Then he gave up regular naps and my hobby time disappeared...

I've decided not to feel guilty about sticking with two simple patterns. I know if I choose to, I can learn new stitches and patterns and perhaps even try projects in addition to prayer shawls. For now, though, I'm going to just relax and enjoy knitting. None of my shawls is perfect, but I am improving. I've discovered that after I begin each session with a prayer, I can then listen to the TV, participate in an occasional conversation and knit all at the same time.

Almost like my mom.

This week at Grace – Nate Warwick is back to lead worship this week. He will speak from the Exodus 20:1-4 text. *A Touch of Grace Bells* will play "Hallelujah". Dylan Kahl is our liturgist this week with Tim & Tim Tryon, Amber, Jenna and Isabel Hoskins serving as greeters. Dave & Becky Barclay, Casey, Dylan and Emmerson Kahl will be acting as ushers. As always, worship begins at 9:15. We invite you to join us!

JINGLES FOR JULIE - During the month of October, you are invited to save your pocket change for our friend, Julie Jacobson. Please pick up a small kit including a calendar and small paper sack on a table in the narthex. The calendar is self-explanatory and takes just a bit of time each day. Simply follow the plan day-by-day, depositing your pocket change in the attached paper bag. When the calendar is completed, please bring your bag of change to the church and place it in the large brown bag also located on the table in the narthex. Our goal is to have all our smaller bags back before **Harvest Home Sunday, November 12th** so we may present your gifts to Julie at that worship service.

Thank you to Judy Miller, Sue Bohner, Claudia Pauk and Valerie Hubert for volunteering to represent Grace Church as they serve as the leadership team for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in 2018! We know they'll do a wonderful job and make us proud.

The UMW has set up a fun opportunity for all to get involved with putting together 100 health/hygiene kits for UMCOR and the Thanksgiving Ingathering. See the display on an easel in the narthex and select (take with you) a Post-it note describing the items you agree to supply as a donation to the project. Please check out the clever display and choose to participate! Kit materials are due at the church (there are boxes in the narthex) by October 15th.

The month of October is the time to sign up for Meals on Wheels and to choose the route and day(s) you choose to help. Please be generous with your time to help us. As in the past, there will be no meals delivered on Thanksgiving or the Friday after. A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the Narthex. As you sign up for your volunteer days, don't forget to pick up a "Volunteer Tips and Reminders" sheet also. This sheet should answer any questions you might have. If you still have questions, ask or call Claudia Pauk.

On Thursday, October 12th beginning at 7:30, the congregation is invited to a special CHARGE CONFERENCE to *vote on approving the ministerial candidacy of one of our own members* (someone is ready to begin formal training to become a pastor)! Following that, D.S. Gillespie will be available to answer any congregational questions concerning the Pastoral Appointment process.

The Worship Committee is pleased to invite you to a Soup Supper on Sunday evening **OCTOBER 15th beginning at 5:00 p.m.** Brian McNamara will provide our evening's entertainment with stories of his Model T Alaskan Adventure from this past summer. You don't have to bring a thing other than yourselves and curiosity about Brian's special trip! Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

The Finance Committee plans to submit the 2018 Budget at the October Church Council Meeting on October 23rd, rather than at the Charge Conference this year. This will allow us to adopt it as a *working budget* which can be amended at regular Council meetings. If we approve it at the Charge Conference it becomes an "official budget" which can only be altered through special called charge conference action. Finance Co-Chair, Tim Tryon, reports the 2018 budget of \$208,278 is less than a 1% overall increase from the 2017 budget. If you have questions or would like a detailed copy of the proposed budget, please contact Tim. **FUN FACT:** Did you know that ANY GRACE CHURCH MEMBER can attend ANY of our monthly Grace Church Council meetings? You can! Only members of the council may vote, but ANY MEMBER can attend, ask questions and participate in discussions.

Pat Danger has several wonderful books that she is giving away as she prepares to move. She has them on a table in Fellowship Hall. Please help yourself!

All members of Grace are invited and encouraged to attend with voice and vote our annual church/charge conference to be held on Sunday, November 5, at the Boone United Methodist Church, 703 Arden Street, Boone.

The conference will begin at 2 pm and finish by 4:30 pm. This year's church charge conference is with our neighboring United Methodist Churches in the southern 3 counties of the North Central District. This is a special way to meet together for fellowship, prayer, and discernment of God's way together.

The Story Theater will present the inspiring, faith-themed *A Question of Faith* Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Oct. 13, 14, 15, with showings at 7 p.m. each evening, plus matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 4:30 p.m. Admission is only \$4 and it's rated PG. For more information call 733-4551 (to leave a message) or 733-4319 (during theater hours).

The Story City Lions Club invites you to a Pancake Supper at the Story City Legion on Thursday, October 19th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please see the poster on the narthex hallway bulletin board for details.

St Petri Lutheran Church in Story City will be hosting their 28th Annual Turkey Supper on Saturday, October 21st from 5-7. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. The supper is served family style and includes roast turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, sweet corn, coleslaw, cranberry relish, dinner roll and homemade pie. St. Petri is handicap accessible by entering the north door on the parking lot. Carry outs are also available at the north door. Please join us that evening at 804 Grand Ave.

As you pray this week, please remember these friends and hold each up in special prayer: Sara Dappen; Gloria Sampson; Denny Michel; Sharene Lykins; Ron & Darlys Orth; Julie Jacobson; Sharon Matson; Parker Witthuhn; Helen Gates; Norman Patti; Claudia Pauk; Marjorie Gookin; Pam Hillis; Jeanne Hohneke; Ray Hults; George Sellers; Lois Johnson; Al Rau; Jordan Gertsen; Cooper Leeman; Taylor family in Africa mission

News You Can Use

Sunday, October 8

- 8:00 AM Trustees
- 9:15 AM Worship – Nate leads
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school

Monday, October 9

- 5:30 PM SPRC
- 7:00 PM Worship

Wednesday, October 11

- 1:30 PM UMW
- 7:00 PM Choir
- 8:00 PM Bells

Thursday, October 12

- 6:30 PM CDT Q & A with DS Gillespie
- 7:30 PM Charge Conference I with DS Gillespie

Sunday, October 15

- 9:15 AM Worship – Linda Poore leads
- 10:15 AM Coffee Fellowship
- 10:30 AM Sunday school – Confirmation field trip
- 5:00 PM Soup Supper and Alaska Adventure Story with Brian McNamara



**Faithfully,
Cathy**