



# LIVING GRACE NOTES

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

## LIVING GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND DAVID E. HARDY, D.D., PASTOR  
THE REVEREND DIRK LANGE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

*Gathered to Celebrate, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve!*

### ***Congratulations to Our Students!***

- Lauren Axel Lauren graduated from Lakeside High School and will attend Georgia Southern University in the fall.
- Avery Balsavage Avery graduated with honors from Laurel Creek Elementary—its first graduating class. He will attend Lanier Middle School in the fall. He is in the gifted FOCUS program and a member of the Chess Club. He is also an all-star member of the baseball and basketball teams.
- Isabel Balsavage Isabel is an Honor Roll student at Laurel Creek Elementary School. She is in the gifted FOCUS program excelling in math and writing. Isabel was nominated to attend a summer writing camp at Mercer University. She is active in Brownies, soccer and tennis.
- Dakota Benner Dakota is a rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade honor student and will attend Bethlehem Elementary School in the fall. He was a Principal's Honor Roll student and received special recognition for his participation in the Duke University TIP (Talent Identification Program) this last school year at Smokerise Elementary School.
- Kelly Bierlein Kelly graduated from Chamblee High School and will attend Georgia State University in the fall.

(Charles Michael)

Dutch Collver

Dutch graduated from Lakeside High School and will attend the University of Georgia in the fall. Congratulations also to Dutch for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout. He took his oath at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony at Living Grace Church on Sunday, 22 May.

Doug Collver

Doug graduated from Henderson Middle School and will attend Lakeside High School in the fall. Congratulations also to Doug for a successful season in lacrosse.

Lyn Conley

Lyn graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Finance from Kennesaw State University.

Taylor Cunefare

Taylor is an Honor Roll student at Henderson Elementary School. In addition, this past year she was also a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> place DeKalb Reading Bowl Team, the 1<sup>st</sup> place Chorus Competition of "Music in the Park," was a three time "Top Cat Awardee," a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and received a Random Acts of Kindness award for donating 11 inches of hair to the Locks of Love, a program which makes wigs for cancer patients.

Erin Cunefare

Erin is a student at Briarlake Elementary School and participated in the DeKalb Math Tournament, received awards in Citizenship, Scholarship and Accelerated Reading. Erin also competed in the Tucker Recreation Center Class Gymnastics Meet and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place floor exercise, 2<sup>nd</sup> place vault, 5<sup>th</sup> place beam, and 1<sup>st</sup> place overall.

Aaron Durrence

Aaron is a student at Barnwell Elementary School. He was on the All A-B Honor Roll and received a Perfect Attendance Award.

Olivia Durrence

Olivia is a student at Barnwell Elementary School. She was on the All A Honor Roll and received a Perfect Attendance Award. She also participated in the T.A.G. (Talent and Gifted) program.

Sarah Fillon

Sarah graduated with a Doctorate of Audiology from East Tennessee State University.

Matthew Hardy

Matthew graduated from U.S. Army Basic Training and has begun his Officer Candidate School training at Fort Benning in Columbus, GA. In August he will be attending Signal Corps Training School at Fort Gordon in Augusta, GA.

Courtney Holden

Courtney graduated with honors from Peachtree Ridge High School. She will attend Breanu College of Gainesville, GA, in the fall. She has earned a HOPE Scholarship, and has received Academic and Dance Scholarships. Her career plans are to teach dance or art at the high school level.

Nikki Ireton

Nickie graduated with honors from Benefield Elementary School and received a Perfect Attendance Award. She will attend Sweetwater Middle School in the fall.

- Melody Ireton Melody is a student at Benefield Elementary School and was a Second Grade A Honor Roll student. She also received a Perfect Attendance Award and won the Second Grade Spelling “Bee.”
- Michael Jones Michael, the grandson of Peggy Martin, graduated from Pope High School in Marietta. He will attend the University of Washington in the fall.
- Adam Kellar Adam is a rising Senior at Druid Hills High School and carries a 4.0 average. He has received an invitation to participate in the National Youth Forum on Technology in San Jose (Silicon Valley), CA.
- Leyla Kellar Leyla graduated from Shamrock Middle School and will attend Druid Hills High School in the fall.
- Olivia Kellar Olivia, as a Sixth Grade student at Shamrock Middle School, received the AAA (Achievement, Attitude and Attendance) Award.
- Christopher Long Christopher, the grandson of Mary Anne Long, is a rising High Honor Sophomore at Chamblee High School. He will attend a three-week study program in nanotechnology this summer at Duke University.
- Sarah Marske Sarah, the daughter of Kingsley Marske, graduated with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- Gaelon Ratel Gaelon is a rising Junior at Avondale High School and carries a 3.0 average grade point.
- Duncan Shirah Duncan is a rising Senior at Lakeside High School. He is an Honor Roll student and is working on his Eagle Scout project. He expects to complete his project and take his oath this fall.
- Logan Shirah Logan is an Honor Roll Seventh Grade Student at Henderson Middle School.
- Marissa Wall Marissa graduated with honors from Henderson Mill Elementary School and will attend Henderson Mill Middle School in the fall. She was a DeKalb County Board Scholar (one of the top five students in her graduating class) and was on the Safety Patrol for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Update on Chip Lockwood—Many will remember Chip as a regular substitute organist at St. Matthew since he was about fourteen. He graduated from Yale in May 2004 with a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy. He spent the spring on a fellowship at the Hague, working for the tribunal handling cases involving leaders of the former Yugoslavia. He has been accepted into the Harvard Divinity School’s Ph.D. program, where, this fall, he will begin pursuing degrees in religion.

## GENERAL NEWS AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### June Birthdays

- 1 R.B. Helmey, Jr.
- 2 Pat Conley
- 5 Courtney Holden
- 20 Lloyd Meese
- 22 Andrew Stickell
- 26 Pat Stowers
- 28 Melody Ireton                      Chris Oys  
Doris McGreevy
- 29 Cate Sulek
- 30 Betty Hitz

### Change of Address

*Colin, Ruth, and James Cressman*, 1972 Sandy Plains Road, Marietta, GA 30066.

*Aaron, Kimberly, Leah, and Ross Whitmoyer*, 4335 Tucker North Court, Tucker, GA 30084-3625

*Michael and Linda (Russo) Cox*, 154 Lambert Lake Estates, Box Springs, GA 31801.

### Facilities Calendar

As many activities are being planned using Living Grace's facilities, please make sure you check the Facilities Calendar on the wall by the office before scheduling an event. If you have any questions, please call the church office. Thank you!

### Announcements for Bulletins

If you have an announcement to be placed in the Sunday bulletins, please let Leanne Beutler know no later than 12 Noon Thursday before the Sunday it is to be printed. You may send the announcement via email to the following address: [lbeutler@aol.com](mailto:lbeutler@aol.com).

### New Church Address

Living Grace's new address at the location in Tucker will be: 1820 Cooledge Road, Tucker, GA 30084.

### New Members

*Kingsley Marske* was taken into membership. We embrace him with love and welcome him into our church family.

### Treasurer's Report

The total offering received through 30 April was \$84,109.06. For the same period in 2004 we had only received \$77,325.00. The good news is that 2005 is 8.77 % ahead of 2004 for the same period. Our 2005 budgeted income should be \$106,978.32.

A complete outline of income and expenses for January through April 2005 is on the bulletin board for your review.

*Dave*

### Rally Thanks—Really!

To: All the Draftees and Volunteers Who Helped With the Campaign Rally:

Many, many thanks to all who helped with the 1 May Rally. There were so many different jobs completed to make it a successful kick off for our campaign. Calls were made, posters and sign-up sheets displayed, plus all the food preparation and countless trips to make purchases to complete the final presentation. Following is an article I recently read that sounds like members of Living Grace Lutheran Church.

#### A HELPING HAND

*During a hike in the woods a troop of Boy Scouts came across an abandoned section of railroad track. Each, in turn, tried walking the rails, but eventually lost his balance and tumbled off. Suddenly two of the boys, after considerable whispering, offered to bet that they both could walk the entire length of the track without falling off. Challenged to make their boast, the two boys jumped up on opposite rails, extended a hand to balance each other and walked the entire section of track with no difficulty whatever.*

There, in a nutshell, is the principle of working together. We do things better, we produce more, and we live better by helping each other. We recently had one of our very own make Eagle Scout, of whom we are all so proud. Granted we cannot all be Eagle Scouts but we can all work together. This was most certainly demonstrated with all the help that was received in preparation for our Rally. I thank each and everyone of you for all your help and for all who attended our festivities. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

*Ruth Scott*

## ***Praying for Members, Family, and Friends***

### ***Members***

David Allen; Charlie Althafer; Walter "Wally" Bartling; Bill Crawford; Tom Droege; Stan Gere; Martin Gruber; J.W. "Jay" Hohenstien; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Julien Lange; Robert Solheim; Joan "Jo" Richards; Edna Waring; Frank Waring

### ***Family and Friends***

#### **Helen Bass**

Phyllis Prunty's sister-in-law

#### **Leslie Rotureau**

Sue Benner's sister

#### **Donald Carigan**

The Gere family's friend

#### **Carol Balsan**

Jane Simmons's sister

#### **Frances Webb**

Jane Simmons's mom

#### **Bill Markham**

Frieda Joiner's friend

#### **Marian Seckinger**

JoAnn Durrence's sister

#### **Bert Wege**

Jeff and Patti Axel's friend

#### **John Zurkammer**

Jerry Prunty's nephew

#### **Sharon Colten**

Phyllis Prunty's sister-in-law

#### **Janet Garber**

Connie Holley's godchild

#### **Connie Talbot**

Vic and Lorraine Koeves's daughter

#### **Kimberly Le**

Peter Phan's friend

#### **Melvin**

Evelyn Woosley's brother

#### **Bill Weaver**

Dot Beaver's brother

#### **Judi Tanner**

Dot Beaver's niece

#### **Virgil Waylor**

Martin Gruber's friend

#### **Hulda Stock**

Grandmother of Allison Bordnick-Stock

#### **Matt Rossen**

Father of Stephanie Cunefare and grandfather of Taylor and Erin

## ***Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) News***

### ***Fall Cluster Meeting***

Fall Cluster Meeting will be held on Saturday, 15 October, at Rock of Ages Church, Memorial Drive, Stone Mountain.

### ***Coming Events***

#### **Sew-N-Sews**

Monday, 13 June, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon at the church.

#### **Quilting Group**

Saturday, 11 June, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon and on Thursday, 23 June, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon at St. James Church.

#### **Heifer Sunday**

Heifer International Sunday is 19 June.

#### **Soap Sundays**

12 June, 10 July and 14 August have been designated as Soap Sundays. Please bring new wrapped bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief. This will help us reach our annual goal of 25,000 pounds of donations.

#### **Triennial Gathering**

The Triennial Gathering will be held 5-10 July in San Antonio, Texas. Go

to the web site *womenofthelca.org*—triennium graphic—for additional information.

General Meeting A General Meeting will be held at the church on Saturday, 10 September, beginning at 12:00 Noon. The truck for collecting our donations for Lutheran World Relief will be at Living Grace on Friday and Saturday, 9-10 September.

WELCA Convention The WELCA Convention is 16-19 September at Falls Creek State Park in Pikesville, Tennessee. Pastor Hardy has agreed to drive the church bus to the convention. We will be taking our soap, health kits and other donations and combining them with other donations from the entire Southeastern Synod to meet or exceed our goal of 25,000 pounds of donations.

## **Outreach Committee**

### ***Annual Flea Market and Blood Drive***

This annual event was held on Saturday, 14 May 2005. Special thanks to David and Sue Benner, Merrill and JoAnn Durrence, John and Agnes Nelson and Vi Main for their able assistance. \$550 was raised for Outreach projects.

### ***Tucker Day Celebration***

Most sincere thanks to Lesley Campbell-Akamo for her leadership in making sure Living Grace was represented at the festival that was held on Saturday, 14 May 2005.

## ***Notes and Reminders***

Cartridge Recycling Please continue to collect empty inkjet cartridges for recycling and place them in the box located in the Narthex.

Food Pantry Remember to bring canned items (soup, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, powdered milk, cereal, canned vegetables and canned meats) for the food pantry of Toco Hills Ministry.

### ***Becky Frye Retires!***

After a fulfilling career at Literacy Action, Becky Frye has decided to join several of the rest of the members of Living Grace enjoying retired life. My only caution to Becky is to learn to say “NO!” when all those folks ask you to work at something or to volunteer full time to some cause. It is O.K. to say no . . . and it is O.K. to agree to do what you want to do and what you feel you will really enjoy.

*Congratulations Becky!*

## ***Lutheran Services of Georgia News***

### ***Upcoming Events***

#### Lutheran Night at the Braves

Be sure to get your payments in by the due date so that you can enjoy fellowship and see the game between the Braves and the Washington Nationals on Wednesday, 27 July, at 7:05 p.m.

***Volunteer Opportunities  
With Refugee Resettlement Services***

**Special Immediate Critical Needs**

- Clerical/administrative assistance, 2-3 days per week, 4-5 hours per day, assisting our IDA program at our Kensington office located on Memorial Drive.
- Clerical/administrative assistance, 2-3 days per week, 4-5 hours per day, with at least a six month commitment to help our Matching Grant program process incoming refugees.

**Ongoing Needs**

- Helping with apartment set-up and decorating
- Providing transportation to the Health Department, Social Security Office, medical appointments, grocery store, etc.
- Help register children for school
- Assist with employment search
- Clothes Closet at Rock of Ages needs men's shoes and clothes; tennis shoes for men, women and children (new or slightly worn shoes – not worn out)
- Drivers-On-Call—licensed, insured drivers to be available ***on short notice*** to pick up/deliver donations, transport to appointments, etc.

**CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE**

PARISH NURSE  
*Each Tuesday and Friday, 10-2*

CARE AND PRAYER GROUP  
*Tuesday, 21 June, at 7:30 p.m.*

S.M.I.L.E. GROUP  
*Saturday, 4 June, at 12 noon*

**SEW 'N SEWS**

*Monday, 13 June, at 10:00 a.m., at the church*

**BARNABAS BREAKFAST**

*Wednesdays, 7 a.m.*

**HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**

*Saturday, 11 June, at 1:00 p.m. in the nave*

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL**

*Sunday, 5 June, at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room*

**BIBLE STUDY**

*Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.*

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Saturday, 4 June, at 10:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall*

**HEALTH MINISTRY MEETING**

*Saturday, 18 June, at 10:00 a.m.*

***DEADLINE FOR JULY/AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
19 JUNE. This will be a combined issue and will need  
to include any activities you plan through Labor Day.  
Rally Day—"Catch the Spirit Sunday"—will be  
11 September.***

**SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE**

**Wednesday, 1 June**

*Healing Service, 6:00 p.m.,  
a light supper precedes the service*

**Sunday, 3 Pentecost, 5 June**

*Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30  
Sunday School at 9:30  
Summer Choir Warm-Up in chancel at 10:00  
Children's Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.*

**Sunday, 4 Pentecost, 12 June**

*Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30  
Sunday School at 9:30  
Summer Choir Warm-Up in chancel at 10:00*

**Sunday, 5 Pentecost, 19 June**

*Holy Communion at 8:15  
Sunday School at 9:30  
Summer Choir Warm-Up in chancel at 10:00  
Confirmation and Holy Communion at 10:30*

**Sunday, 6 Pentecost, 26 June**

*Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30  
Sunday School at 9:30  
Summer Choir Warm-Up in chancel at 10:00*

## ***Health Ministry***

The first week in June is recognized as International Volunteers' Week and I would like to take this opportunity to write to you about Service and the Life of a Christian.

### Blessed to Be a Blessing!

Our Lord created us in His image and enables us to share our gifts with one another. The word used in the New Testament for service describes a personal commitment promoting individual and community development and is accomplished by God's power and to His glory. Jesus elevated service from a lowly, powerless state to a lifestyle that reveals God's interest, mercy and involvement in our lives. We are encouraged to live out our love for one another out of gratitude for what Christ has done for us.

### Why Be a Volunteer?

There are many great reasons for including service in our lives. These can also be considered to be blessings of sharing ourselves with others. Some of my favorite blessings are listed below. Being involved with service allows us to:

- Offer tangible help to others in need
- Share our love for Jesus
- Experience personal satisfaction that we are able to make a difference
- Feel more connected to other people
- Live a lifestyle to which Jesus has called us
- Witness to family and friends what we value and offer a positive role model

### Just Do It

Fifty percent of Americans volunteer two or three hours per week to help others. Much of this volunteering is done through church and related organizations. If you are a volunteer, I would like to thank you for all you do and encourage you to continue to "Be a Blessing." We are blessed with so many members at Living  
*June 2005*

Grace who give of their time and talents to minister to others. If anyone is interested in getting involved, I would like you to consider the following stated below. As always, if I can be of any help to you, please visit with me. I look forward to ministering with you!

- Start with prayer, and ask the Lord to enable you to be blessing to others
- Consider your knowledge, talents and abilities (these gifts could range from mowing the lawn, basic car care, writing letters, or simply being a friend). Are there any persons you know of that are in need?
- Contact your Parish Nurse, if you would like more information, or need assistance in getting involved.
- Enjoy the benefits of sharing Jesus' love with others!

For those who live in the Lawrenceville area, you may be interested in the following:

Congregational Health Ministry Night at the Pike Street and Howell Station Chick-Fil-A, Thursday, 23 June, from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Support the Parish Nurse Program! Bring your whole family, invite your neighbors and friends! Come enjoy the great food at Chick-Fil-A! A percentage of what you spend will go to benefit Gwinnett Hospital System's Congregational Ministry for Health and Wellness. Did you know that in the last year, 56,889 individuals were served by the Health Ministry in Gwinnett and surrounding communities? Come be part of it! Be sure to sign in as a Gwinnett Hospital Health Ministry participant at the registers and drive through.

We are affiliated with the Gwinnett Parish Nurse Program and Chick-Fil-A does have good food!

Wednesday, 1 June—Healing Service, at 6:00 p.m., with a light supper at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 18 June—Health Ministry Meeting, at 10:00 a.m.

Keep the trip to Niagara Falls in your plans for 3-8 October. We have some commitments already so come join us!

Yours in Christ,



Jan Levensgood  
Parish Nurse/Health Minister



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC AT LIVING GRACE

### *Living Out Our Baptism*

#### **Hymn of the Month**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”  
to be sung on 5 June

*This is my 160th and final article in this column, wherein we have explored how we sing what we believe. Through our hymns, we sing our faith, and it has been a joy to explore 160 of these songs, old and new, with you over the years. Remember—just like every one of us on a journey of faith—every hymn has a story, and many of these are fascinating. Every favorite hymn was once a brand new hymn. Let us forever be open to the movement of the Spirit and willingly sing God’s praise.*

*I choose to think it is the work of the Spirit in leading me to select this hymn for this month. The hymn bridges the Lutheran/Episcopal traditions, in that both versions which we will sing appeared in the Episcopal Church’s Hymnal 1982, and there is a version at LBW 290, which we’ve rarely sung! As we have mentioned throughout this column’s history, many hymn texts are in search of the proper tune. Sometimes, it’s love at first sight, and sometimes, it takes several experiments. We’ve actually sung this text to Lord, Revive Us in LBW, and also its alternate tune, Beach Spring, a popular Appalachian tune in LBW.*

*On this day, we will try out two tunes, one old and one relatively new. At 8:15, we’ll use a well-known tune, Beecher. It’s simple, straightforward, and often the setting of this text in other Protestant hymnals. At 10:30, we’ll be more adventurous! We’ll use the Calvin Hampton tune with violin obbligato, which was introduced by Renewing Worship five years ago. Are the Lutherans ready for this ride? The Episcopalians, our partners in “Called to Common Mission,” have been at it for 23 years. We’ll see!—PN*

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) is a poet of the Victorian era, and he was profoundly influenced by the Oxford Movement, eventually

joining the Roman Catholic Church. In all, there were 13 stanzas comprising this hymn, which Faber used in missions conducted in England and Ireland. They have been condensed into the three present in today’s setting.

The tune for 8:15 is *Beecher*, which some will remember from the *Service Book and Hymnal*. John Zundel (1815-1882), a German native, composed this tune for the Charles Wesley text, “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” which we will sing to the LBW tune, *Hyfrydol*, on 26 June. It is named for Henry Ward Beecher, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn where Zundel was the organist for 30 years. Zundel indicated that each stanza to this tune should take 65 seconds. He must have played very slowly. We’ll dispatch each stanza in half that time!

The tune for 10:30, *St. Helena*, was written in 1978 in honor of the Sisters of St. Helena, an Episcopal order resident at Calvary Church in New York City, where the composer, Calvin Hampton (1938-1984) was organist-choirmaster. The noted 20th century hymnologist, Erik Routley, called Hampton “the greatest living composer of hymn tunes.” It is fascinating to analyze this tune from the perspective of music theory, so ask the church musician if you have questions. Since this is a new tune, just listen as the violin plays the entire tune before we stand to sing the hymn. There will be an interlude before each stanza.

## **All Invited to Sing in the Summer Choir**

Through Labor Day, the choir for the 10:30 service will be made up of anyone who would like to join us for a brief rehearsal at 10:00 sharp. Just show up in the chancel, and we'll review a simple anthem for use in the following service. Everyone is welcome!

### **Local Sacred Music Opportunity**



The Atlanta Sacred Chorale will present its season finale at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church on the Emory campus on Saturday, 4 June, at 8:00 p.m. This season's program is centered on the theme of the "Wondrous Love" of God given in Jesus the Christ. Music of Byrd, Christiansen, and Wilberg is included, and the program features Samuel Bar-

ber's *Adagio for Strings* in a choral setting of the Agnus Dei. Other program titles are on the poster in the entrance way to the church. Tickets are available at the door or from ASC singers at Living Grace: Sarah Ruuska, Miguel Santiago, and Philip Newton.

### **Interim Church Musician**

Dr. Kenneth D. Sass has been appointed Interim Church Musician and will serve as the primary musician for services until a new church musician is installed in the fall. Although he will serve as guest musician for the services on 19 June, he will formally begin his duties on 3 July. Dr. Robin E. Hensley will substitute for him on absences already scheduled.

Pastor Hardy has asked that the following letter be shared with the entire congregation:

19 May 2005

Commemoration of Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury (988)

To the Pastors, Council, and People of Living Grace:

On 8 May 1991, I wrote a letter to the search committee for a new church musician at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. In that letter, I described my evolving understanding of the role of a church musician and my desire to explore "the whole realm of the pastoral side of music ministry." What an incredible exploration this has been! The fourteen years I've spent serving as your Church Musician have taken me through a spiritual formation deeper than any exploration I had anticipated in the beginning. These years led me to discern a vocational call to full-time music ministry and to retire from my education profession in order to return to school to prepare myself for a new ministry. Throughout this process, you have supported me in prayer and provided innumerable opportunities for us to seek creative ways in which to offer our musical gifts to God.

Albert Schweitzer said, "To serve the love preached by Jesus may sweep a man into a new course of life." Your ministry to me has swept this man into a new course of life, and I look forward to spending the rest of my mortal life as the pastoral musician you have helped to form. Thank you for this precious gift!

On Ascension Sunday, 8 May 2005, I was struck by the Gospel reading (John 17:1-11): "The hour has come." As we all know, I had recently been interviewed by and auditioned for a church, and it was in this week leading up to the Day of Pentecost that I would receive a call.

As I meditated on my response to this call, I ran across a sermon preached by Canon Mary June Nestler to the American Guild of Organists in convention last summer, in which she said:

If God cannot save us any other way than by directing us to our true vocation, which in the Christian tradition is to be one with Christ, to be his disciple, then our vocation becomes the lens through which we learn of him most fully. . . . And God has called you to live more and more fully into this vocation, into this place where your deepest calling and the world's deepest needs form an intersection of praise and service. For music-making is more than instrument or skill; it is the exercise of heart and hands and feet, participating in the great dance of Creator and creature, a dance which brings all things out of bondage into a new life and a new song.

And so, trusting in God's guidance, I have accepted the call to become Director of Music Ministries at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Signal Mountain, Tennessee. "The hour has come." I will begin this new ministry on 1 July, which means that I must resign my position at Living Grace effective at the end of June. My last service at Living Grace will be on 26 June, and between now and then, there will be a number of goodbyes, none of which will be easy. But, "the hour has come."

Returning to that Gospel lesson, it is interesting to note that Jesus never says goodbye to his disciples. Instead, he's praying for and with them. That's because the Ascension is not an ending, but really a beginning, a transformation to something new. The hour has come for a new ministry and a new song. Both of our pastors have preached mightily about the transforming changes that are occurring in the life of Living Grace, and that we must embrace these changes with a strong faith. That's what it means to be Resurrection People! In the words of our Easter psalm: "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

So, I bid your prayers for me as I move into a new ministry. Rest assured that you will be in my prayers as you continue to move through the exciting challenges that lie ahead—into a new building and community, into a new ministry. United in Christ forever, we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, God's own people, that we may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light!

Let us go forth into the world in peace!

Philip Newton  
Church Musician

### ***Images of the Season***

The second half of the church's year, spanning the months from June through November, focuses upon the church's growing and building. The gospel readings flow more or less continuously from Matthew's gospel. During the summer months, we also read from the letter to the Romans. The readings invite us to a solid foundation for the building up of the church and of Christians: the rock of Jesus' words, the ground of faith. No flood can float away and no

wind can blow down the house that is founded on this rock.

How appropriate for these readings at this time as Living Grace starts building its foundation both with earthly materials and spiritual gifts to grow and mature in our future ministry in Tucker.

### ***Children's Choir***

The Children's Choir will have a rehearsal on Sunday, 5 June, during Sunday School.

They will be preparing their anthem to sing at the 10:30 service. We encourage all children to come to this rehearsal

We are also glad to announce that we have four children planning to attend Music Week at Lutheridge/Lutherrock in Arden, NC.

### ***Handbell Choir***

The Handbell Choir will have a rehearsal on Saturday, 11 June, at 1:00 p.m. to prepare their anthem for the 10:30 service on Sunday, 12 June.

### ***Worship and Music Committee***

We will have a meeting of the Worship and Music Committee on Saturday, 4 June, at 10:00 a.m. This is a very important meeting, as we will be discussing starting the search for a church musician.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Special Days in June</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 June <i>St. Barnabas, Apostle</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">24 June <i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 June <i>St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles</i></p>
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### **LIVING GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Web Page: [www.livinggracelutheran.org](http://www.livinggracelutheran.org)

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