



LIVING GRACE NOTES

NOVEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

LIVING GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND DAVID E. HARDY, D.D., PASTOR

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

Evangelism

The 1970 edition of Webster's dictionary defines Evangelical as, "in, of, or according to the Gospels or the teaching of the New Testament that emphasizes salvation by faith in the atonement of Jesus, and rejects the efficacy of ; . . . good works alone. This most certainly describes the doctrine of Living Grace (or Pastor Hardy I haven't been paying attention). The same dictionary defines Evangelism as, "a preaching of, or zealous effort to spread, the Gospel, as in revival meetings. Most likely, Webster is describing the Baptist and not Lutheran congregations. We Lutherans are probably good at illustrating our faith in our daily living by how we interact with friends, family and co-workers. Is this enough? I am quite sure our church leaders would say emphatically – no! Never the less, it is doubtful a single one of us will become Evangelist (according to Webster, "a traveling preacher").

So what are we to do? Actually, quite a bit. When I decided to take on this assignment I succumbed to one of Pastor Hardy's more memorable sermons (along with some particularly moving music) and his direct invitation for someone to take on Evangelism. I'm thinking - we have a pastor who can make the Gospels relevant in a modern world, good music, and a friendly congregation. Why wouldn't we want to share all of this with others? Coupled with the fact that we will have a new building there is every reason to get excited about sharing our special congregation with others. And, we can do this without changing the character of who we are and what we have become.

November 2005

The ELCA has an Evangelism Assessment Tool that we will be using to help guide our efforts to share our new facility and our unique set of gifts. This publication asks the leadership of our congregation to evaluate several key areas on a scale of one to five, with five being important and something we do well. It is not so important that we identify our shortcomings, but more important to emphasize our strengths and communicate this to our community. The six key areas of focus and the coordinators for each are as follows:

Pastor Hardy and the Church Council

The key question to ask - "Our congregation's core values direct us to discipleship not membership; to connection not isolation; and to transformation not maintenance"

Leanne Beutler & Worship and Music Committee

"Visitors to our church would experience a spiritually vital praying church"

Jan Levengood and Community Outreach – Health ministry focus

"We are visible in the community on issues of public health and human need"

Don Linnartz and Mike Collver – Sharing Faith

"We study the demographics of the neighborhood around our (new) church facility and plan ways to meaningfully connect with our neighbors"

Joe Conley, Chris Keller and Karl Ireton – Communications

"We have developed a media strategy with clear, attainable, measurable goals concerning the audiences we want to reach and with what specific message."

John Holden and the Congregation.

"Our congregation invites and involves our neighbors in picnics, dinners, concerts, and other special events"

In addition to all of the above areas of focus we ask the Property Committee to make sure our church facility and grounds are well maintained.

Each month we will give you more details on a specific area of focus to keep you abreast of our progress. In the mean time let us all remember Christ's command to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations".

Respectfully submitted,

John Holden, Evangelism Coordinator

November 2005

GENERAL NEWS AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November Birthdays

1	Bob Axel	
2	Terez Ratel	
7	Viola Main	
12	Sue Benner	
14	Aaron Durrence	Kingsley Marske
15	Harold Bowers	
17	Leyla Kellar	
21	Bitsy Burch	
23	Rev. David Hardy	Mark Nelson
25	Lauren Axel	Sarah Fillon
26	Evan Housworth	Mike Fillon
29	Edna Waring	
30	Lanny Henderson	

Births

Lucas William Osada, son of Mark and Stephanie Osada, born 12 October 2005. Proud grandparents, Jim and Susan Brinkley.

Jacob Mason Bierlein, son of Matthew and Jennifer Bierlein. Proud grandparents, Bill and Chris Bierlein.

Change of Address

David Allen, Clairmont Oaks Apartments, 441 Clairemont Avenue, Apt. 1223, Decatur, GA 30030, telephone 404/376-7966.

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.

Newsletter Articles

To submit a newsletter article, you can either have a hard copy into the church office by the deadline date listed or send an electronic format to Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com.

New Church Address

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

Budget Call

The Finance Committee request that all Committee Chairpersons submit their proposed budgets for the year 2006 by 6 November. The Finance Committee will begin reviewing the proposals on 9 November. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Brinkley, Gene Durrence, Jr., or Pat Stowers. Thanks!

Treasurer's Report

The total offering received through September 30, 2005, was \$195,287.91. For the same period in 2004, we had only received \$174,307.00. The good news is that 2005 is 12% ahead of the same period of 2004. Our 2005 budgeted income should be \$240,701.22, which means our actual income is about 23% under budget.

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

Cookie Ministry

The committee responsible for Evangelism, headed up by John Holden, has authorized the beginning of a "cookie ministry." Simply put it is a way to let visitors to our church know that we welcome them and to give them an opportunity to ask a few questions. Don Linnartz will be collecting the information regarding visitors each Sunday and then he will ask a volunteer that lives in the area of the

visitor's home to take a small pack of cookies to them. (Home-made are preferred, but not essential.) If they are at home, offer to answer any questions they may have regarding the congregation and encourage them to come back. If they are not at home, we leave cookies at their door with a brief welcoming note.

Now here is where you come in. We need a list of volunteers to deliver the cookies. Don needs your name. Please call him at 770/455-6060 or email him at DELinnartz@bellsouth.net that you are available to welcome newcomers.

Greeters and ushers can also be of a big assistance, by being sure that visitors sign our guest book. We need name, address and phone number if at all possible.

Pecans! Pecans! Pecans!

Phyllis Prunty will be taking orders for pecans. The cost will be \$6.50 per lb. For each lb. that is ordered, \$.50 will be given to the building fund. The deadline for taking orders is

15 November. Please see Phyllis at church or call her at 770/237-9807.

One Pumpkin to Other

A woman was asked by a coworker, "What is it like to be Christian?" The coworker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin." God picks you up from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."



Membership Update

In the past months, we have had several changes of membership information such as new addresses, telephone numbers, additions to families, etc. In order to make sure we have all the information on our members, please cut out the below form and either place it in the offering plate on Sundays or place in the church office. We would appreciate all members to fill out this form.

Membership Update Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone: (h) _____

(o) _____

(c) _____

Email: _____

Children: _____

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

Members

David Allen; Charlie Althafer; Walter “Wally” Bartling; Charlette Beutler; Bill Crawford; Tom Droege; Martin Gruber; Karl Ireton; Verna Jensen; Hilton Johnson; Julien Lange; Joan “Jo” Richards; Evelyn Woosley

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

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

Connie Talbot

Vic and Lorraine Koeves’s daughter

Kimberly Le

Peter Phan’s friend

Melvin

Evelyn Woosley’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

Dave Cunefare

Brother of Ken and Uncle of Taylor and Erin Cunefare

Joshua Gresham

Friend of Leanne Beutler

Paige Nix

Friend of Leslie Rotureau

Lorraine Dorough

Friend of Living Grace

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

PARISH NURSE

Each Tuesday and Friday, 10-2

CARE AND PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, 22 November, at 7:30 p.m.

S.M.I.L.E. GROUP

Saturday, 5 November, at 12 noon

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday, 8 November, at 7:00 p.m.

SEW 'N SEWS

Monday, 14 November, at 10:00 a.m., at the church

BARNABAS BREAKFAST

Wednesdays, 7 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Tuesday, 1 November, at 10:00 a.m.

MIRIAM CIRCLE

Saturday, 19 November, at 10:00 a.m.

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every Wednesday, at 7-8:30 p.m., in the choir room

JUNIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every Sunday, at 12 noon – 12:30 p.m.,

GOD’S CHILDREN SING

Every Saturday, at 10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.

***DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER, 20 NOVEMBER***

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Wednesday, Healing Service, 2 November

6:00 p.m., with light supper at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, All Saints Sunday, 6 November

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Sunday, 26 Pentecost, 13 November

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Sunday, Christ the King, 20 November

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Thanksgiving Eve Service

7:30 p.m. at St. Bede's Episcopal Church

Sunday, 1 Advent, 27 November

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Health Ministry of Living Grace

This month I would like to address two very important issues. One is the importance of Living Wills and the other is Organ Donation.

May we all be strengthened as we recognize our calling as Saints of God! These themes have been on my mind since we celebrate All Saints Day on 1 November. We live our days as God's saints with the confidence that He is in control of all of our life.

What is a Living Will?

A Living Will is a document directing your doctor that certain life-sustaining procedures should not be used if you are in a terminal condition and unable to make that decision. A life-sustaining procedure refers to any artificial means which sustains or supports a vital bodily function and which only prolongs the dying process for a person in a terminal condition. The definition of a terminal condition varies from state to state but in general it describes an

irreversible condition which will result in death unless life-sustaining procedures are used. A Living Will goes into effect only when you are terminally ill and unable to make decisions.

Why are Living Wills Useful?

Living wills can be useful in several different ways. First, today with the vast array of health care technology available, decisions about their use is complex and unavoidable. Second, Living Wills give the patient a way to influence such decisions, rather than the decision being made by doctors and family members. Third, it spares family members from having to make health care decisions in a crisis situation.

How do I get a Living Will?

To get a Living Will developed, first consider your values and wishes about life-sustaining procedures. Second, contact your Parish Nurse to get the proper forms. Third,

complete the forms, give a copy to your doctor, your lawyer, and a close family member and discuss your wishes with each of these persons. Fourth, put the original forms in a safe but accessible place. Your Parish Nurse has a locked file, if you wish to have a copy here at the church.

On the second Sunday of November, (the 13th), we will celebrate National Donor Sabbath. More than 87,000 Americans are waiting for life-saving organ transplants and hundreds of thousands more could benefit from tissue transplants. Unfortunately, the need for donors is much greater than the actual number of donors. Your commitment to organ and tissue donation can save lives. The most important part of deciding to be a donor is telling your family. Talking about donation does not mean talking about death. It is talking about the opportunity to give another person a second chance at LIFE. Even if you have signed a donor card or indicated you wish to donate on your driver's license, you need to tell your family since they will be consulted before donation can take place.

On 13 November, we will pass out organ donor cards and pins. Our congregation supports organ and tissue donation as the Gift of Life and the expression of our highest humanitarian ideals. We ask that all members of the congregation consider this gift in the name of Christ, who gave His life so that we might have life in the fullness.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, 2 November – Healing Service at 6:00 p.m. with light supper at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10 November – Trip to the mountains to see the fall colors and get apples. Sign up sheet will be in the narthex.

Yours in Christ

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Jan Levensgood
Parish Nurse/Health Minister

Trivia Plus

Word pictures

You need to think literally to solve these word pictures. **Good luck!**

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

Fall Cluster Meeting

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

Pastor Deb Samuelson of Redeemer Church presented a bible study and brought us up to date on relief efforts in New Orleans.

Claude Merritt reported on the tri-ennial meeting in San Antonio. Angie DeWitt Smith reported on the convention in Falls Creek Falls Tennessee.

Ruth Schreiner reported on her mission trip to Tanzania.

Steve Oliver from Lutheran Services of Foster Care Program attended the meeting and collected all the school supplies we had donated to the program.

A delicious lunch was served by the Women of Rock of Ages Lutheran Church

Coming Events

Heifer Sunday Heifer International Sunday is November 20th. To date we have received over \$1,200 in donations, we are looking forward to improving our annual gift that sustains and develops food resources to the people of developing countries!

Hope Lodge Remember that the date for our annual participation in serving dinner to the patients and caregivers at the HOPE Lodge of the Emory University Cancer Clinic is Monday, November 14th at 6:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed to be on site no later than 5:00 pm.

Sue Benner will be coordinating the volunteers. You can reach her at 770.493.4044.

Coffee Host/Hostess Coffee Hosts and Hostesses are needed to prepare for the Coffee Hour after the 10:30 Service. You may sign up on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall. Your help is needed. If you are not sure of how to prepare, get in touch with Phyllis Prunty @770.237.9807 or Sue Benner @770.493.4044 to get the details!

Samaritan Purse Children's Christmas Boxes need to be completed and collected no later than Sunday, 20 November. If you wish to make a donation instead of preparing a box, you may contribute \$5.00 to help with the expense of shipping and handling. Please make the check payable to Samaritan Purse and give to Sue Benner.

Outreach Committee

Outreach Committee Luncheon

On Sunday October 2nd the Outreach Committee hosted an appreciation luncheon for all Living Grace members who have volunteered for service in Outreach Programs!

Over 80 members attended, enjoyed the fried chicken, biscuits and slaw! The event celebrated another successful year of service to our neighbors in need!!

Coming Events

Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women

Please remember that the dates reserved for Living Grace Volunteers to staff the shelter for

2006 season are January 8th -14th, and February 19th -25th.

Veteran volunteers check your calendars and let us know your preferred dates of service!

For those who have not yet served and who are interested in learning more about this program, get in touch with Sue or David Benner @ 770.493.4044; they will also be happy to describe to you the duties involved. If you would like, they will be happy to take you to visit the facility, so that you can take a personal and first hand look at the shelter and they will also be happy to get you in touch with prior volunteers so that you can talk to them about their experiences as they served in this most worthy ministry.

Stewardship Committee

For the past two months we have discussed the many different ways that stewardship of our time and our possessions is vitally important in our daily lives

We first learned how important it is to create specific goals in our lives so that we can enhance and improve our lives and experience the success of personal achievement. We then made a special commitment to improve the stewardship of our health and posted them on the bulletin board on the back wall of the narthex. The time and talent survey emphasized that stewardship is about all of us. As we have addressed the other facets of stewardship, we now turn to achieving the financial goals that we, as a congregation have established for ourselves.

The programs and operations of Living Grace need your financial support to reach out into the community. We will have a brand new facility, new neighbors and a vast array of opportunity to spread the good news. As we move in new directions and look forward to new challenges in all phases of our ministries, we need to be mindful of the basics.

Each of us is a member of Living Grace for a particular reason, we have made a connection that we cherish and enjoy. For that to continue, we need to commit a measure of our financial resources to our congregation.

The Christian standard is the tithe, 10% of our annual income. Realistically in our society, we understand that not all can provide that level of support. That being understood, it is possible for us, as we established a goal and a

commitment to improve our personal health, to create a goal of reaching that plateau over a period of time.

In the spirit of our stewardship campaign this year, setting goals and improving all areas of our lives, it is time for us to critically examine how much more financial support we can provide for the work of the Lord. We need only to take a few moments to determine what percent of our earnings we offer each week. Is it 5%, is it more, is it less? Regardless of the amount, we know that if we set a goal to

improve to a higher level, we will be very likely to achieve it.

The mission, the programs and the community surrounding Living Grace need our financial support to exist and flourish. Let each of us reflect on the many blessings we enjoy from our membership at Living Grace and, in thanks to the Lord for our good fortune, return a full measure of our support to Him!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC AT LIVING GRACE

Living Out Our Baptism

Images of the Season

*All Saints Sunday
6 November 2005*

As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember those who have died in Christ. As the liturgical year draws to a close, we hear warnings about the end of time, stories of crisis and judgment, and parables of loss and death. The Christian community speaks honestly about human frailty and mortality.

At the same time, we confess our faith in the risen Lord, in the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. While we may face death with fear, the liturgy calls us to hear the Lord's promise that he is with us in life and in death.

Christ has claimed us in baptism and nourishes us in the communion of his body and blood. He leads us to the new Jerusalem. There we shall join all the saints in praise of God, who has turned our graves into the doorway to eternal life.

*Christ the King
20 November 2005*

The Lord Jesus was not wealthy or famous. He did not promise his followers that they would possess riches, power, or prestige. He was named a king only in his death. He reigned from the cross, leaving his disciples the treasure of his body and blood.

This Sunday we gather at the table of Christ, our merciful and loving ruler. We wear the crown of baptism and trace his royal sign—the holy cross—over our brows and bodies. We leave here strengthened to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned. We look for the day when all earth's people will see him coming with the scepter of peace and the crown of justice.

*First Sunday in Advent
27 November 2005*

The days of Advent point the people of God toward the three comings of the Lord Jesus. He came among us at Bethlehem. He comes among us now in the scriptures, the waters of baptism, the eucharistic meal, and the community of faith. He will come again in glory to judge the

living and the dead. Keep awake for his coming is certain and his day draws near.

You will see changes in the worship service during the season of Advent. There will be no Canticle of Praise and the Psalm will be replaced with a choral response sung by the Junior Choir as the candles for each Sunday of Advent will be lit on the wreath. The Junior Choir will invite the assembly to join them in singing the response after they have sung it.

Junior (Children's) Choir

The Junior Choir rehearses every Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service for a half an hour. They have begun rehearsing the songs for the Christmas Pageant scheduled for Sunday, 18 December. If your child is in the pageant, they need to come to rehearsals so they can learn the songs. If you have any questions, please contact Leanne Beutler, Director.

God's Children Sing

We started this music program on Saturday, 15 October. We were very excited to have 8 children attend the first session. We had a lot of fun learning different kinds of sounds, rhythm and music. The children are learning a song that will be sung during the Christmas Pageant, Sunday, 18 December. This program is for children from the ages of 1 through 5. We would love for you to join us. For more information, please speak Leanne Beutler.

Update on Church Musician Position

The Search Committee has interviewed and auditioned several candidates. They are in the process of narrowing down the list for the top candidates. If you would like to speak with a member about the process or any concerns you might have, you may contact the following. They can discuss the process with you, but no information on any candidates can be given outside the committee members.

David Benner
Tom Droege - Chairperson
Margery Keller
Doris McGreevy
Ruth Scott
Matthew Shull
Leanne Beutler – Ex-officio
Pastor Hardy – Ex-officio

Upcoming Concert Opportunities

On Sunday, 6 November, at the Cathedral of St. Philip, at 3:30 p.m., Mike Dorough's Children Choir will be singing Evensong. Mike was our church musician at St. Matthew for 6 years prior to Philip Newton.

James Robinson, staff baritone will present a short vocal recital as part of the Vespers Series at St. Anne's Terrace, 3100 Northside Parkway, Atlanta on Tuesday, 15 November, at 4:30 p.m. The recital will include selections from "Appalachian Carols" by Mr. Robinson and "Weinachtslieder," op. 8 by Peter Cornelius. The Appalachian Carols are settings of poems by Bettie M. Sellers, former poet laureate of Georgia.

Pipe Organ

The pipe organ is scheduled to be removed and sent to the organ builder to start work on the additions on Monday, 31 October. For the remainder of our time at this site, we will be worshipping with the keyboard, harpsichord, handbells and various other instruments. The next time we will hear our new pipe organ will be in the new Sanctuary. *Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!*

Thanksgiving Eve Service

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving with our sister church in the "Called to Common Mission," St. Bede's Episcopal Church on Wednesday, 23 November, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Bede's. Please come join us for this service. More information will be in the November bulletins.

Special Days in November

1 November
All Saints Day

20 November
Christ the King

24 November
Day of Thanksgiving

27 November
First Sunday in Advent

30 November
St. Andrew Apostle

Living Grace Lutheran Church is at the

Corner of North Druid Hills and Briarcliff Roads

2566 Briarcliff Road, NE; Atlanta, GA 30329-3111; Phone: 404/634-7505; Fax: 404/633-4339

Web Page: www.livinggracelutheran.org

LIVING GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2566 Briarcliff Road, NE

Atlanta, GA 30329-3111

Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!

November 2005