

# *Living Grace* *Notes*

## **July/August 2010 Newsletter**

The Reverend David E. Hardy, D. D., Pastor  
Web Page: [www.livinggracelutheran.org](http://www.livinggracelutheran.org)

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

### ***Additional Services in July and August***

***11 July – 9:30 a.m. service  
Outside at the Pavilion  
Lead by the “Spirits”***

***8 August – 9:30 a.m. service  
Outside at the Pavilion  
Lead by the “Spirits”***

***29 August – ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:30 a.m.  
Lunch following the service***

## *Lay Assistants*

### **Sunday, 4 July**

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Jan Levensgood
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 2
Acolyte	10:30 – Alvin Jorkey
Greeters	10:30 – Mollie Burrows/Carolyn Davis
Counter	Leanne Beutler

### **Sunday, 11 July**

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Chip Combee/Jason Dick
Lectors	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – Nikki Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – Pat Stowers/Dot Beaver
Counters	Pat Stowers/Dot Beaver

### **Sunday, 18 July**

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – David and Lin Parker
Lectors	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Jo Kroger
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 6
Acolyte	10:30 – Abi Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – Emily Jorkey/Connie Holley
Counters	Jim and Cynthia Outman

### **Sunday, 25 July**

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – Cate Sulek/Walter Sobers
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Marlene Hardy
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 1
Acolyte	10:30 – James Cressman
Greeters	10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Counters	Chip and Allison Combee

**Sunday, 1 August**

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Lectors	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Margery Kellar
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Team 5
Acolyte	10:30 – Erin Cunefare
Greeters	10:30 – Betty Hitz/Doris McGreevy
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

**Sunday, 8 August**

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski 10:30 – Harold Bowers/Ed Kennedy
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Colin Cressman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Missy Streubel 10:30 – Team 4
Acolyte	10:30 – Abi Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – Terry and Georgia Blanton
Counters	John and Margaret Holden

**Sunday, 15 August**

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella 10:30 – Will Arroyo/Terry Blanton
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Virginia Dick
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – Team 2
Acolyte	10:30 – Michael Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – Steve and Cindy Nelson
Counters	Steve and Cindy Nelson

**Sunday, 22 August**

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner 10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Agnes Nelson
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Team 1
Acolyte	10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Greeters	10:30 – Mary Ann Blessing/Betty Bartling
Counters	David and Lin Parker

**Sunday, 29 August – ONE SERVICE ONLY – 10:30 A.M.**

Ushers	David and Lin Parker
Lector	Mary Jane Outman
Communion Assistants	Team 3
Acolyte	Antemil Jorkey
Greeters	Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Counters	Pat Stowers/Dot Beaver

- Team 1 = Will Arroyo – Captain  
Jan Levengood  
Stephanie Cunefare
- Team 2 = Margery Kellar  
Lesley Campbell  
Carol Ireton
- Team 3 = Jim Outman – Captain  
Mary Jane Outman  
Cynthia Outman
- Team 4 = Marlene Hardy – Captain  
Jo Kroger  
Paul Lefebvre
- Team 5 = Lynn Lefebvre – Captain  
Stephanie Rhodes  
Carolyn Davis
- Team 6 = Jason Eklund – Captain  
David Guptill  
Leanne Beutler

Floaters/Substitutes –Taylor Cunefare; Leanne Beutler

If you wish to serve as a Lector or Communion Assistant, please contact Margery Kellar at [margerykellar@comcast.net](mailto:margerykellar@comcast.net) and she will be happy to place you on the rotation and prior to your first reading or assisting, you will be trained.

If you wish to be an usher and or counter, please contact Leanne Beutler at [LBeutler@aol.com](mailto:LBeutler@aol.com) and she will be happy to put you on the schedule.

Have you ever wondered what the members of the Altar Guild do for the church? They are a very important part of the worship service. They prepare the elements for Holy Communion and do the proper clean-up of the elements after the services. They also prepare the altar with the proper liturgical paraments and make sure the candles are ready with oil and the eternal light never dies. This is a special service for the church and we are in need of more members. For those who want to serve the Lord in a very special way, please consider the Altar Guild. You will be trained! Please contact Linda Tuminella at her email address [ltumi@bellsouth.net](mailto:ltumi@bellsouth.net).

## **General News and Notes**

### **July Birthdays**

2	Jeff Axel	
3	Dakota Benner	Virginia Dick
7	Tom Joiner	Ronda Wynne
20	Susan Durrence	Claire Keller
25	Frieda Joiner	Will Seybt, Jr.
	Agnes Nelson	
28	Susan Balsavage	Melinda Lahr
30	Cathy Shirah	

### **August Birthdays**

1	Laurel Jackson	Ashley Chandler
2	Kathryn Castro	
3	Jane Vreeland	
5	David M. Parker	
6	Merrill Durrence	Matt Parker
	Scott Melchionda	Debra Melchionda
8	Stephanie Osada	
11	Will Arroyo	Julien Lange
13	Olivia Kellar	
15	The Rev. Dirk Lange	
16	Kevin Iconis	
18	Ilona Lange	
21	Lorraine Koeves	Gaelon Ratel
26	Kelly Lyons	

### **Baptism**

*Elizabeth Ann Gunnels*, daughter of *Joel and Laurel Gunnels* was baptized at Living Grace on Sunday, 27 June at the 10:30 a.m. service.

### **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](mailto:Lbeutler@aol.com).

### **Newsletter Distribution**

The newsletter is being received electronically via email to members of those who requested it. At any time, if you wish to receive this newsletter via electronically please inform Stephanie Cunefare, [sacunefare@hotmail.com](mailto:sacunefare@hotmail.com) or Leanne Beutler, [Lbeutler@aol.com](mailto:Lbeutler@aol.com).

## **Announcements for Bulletins**

Reminder to all that announcements for weekly Sunday bulletins need to be electronically sent to Leanne Beutler no later than Thursday evening prior to the Sunday insertion. The email address is Lbeutler@aol.com.

### **Church Calendar**

There will be a wall calendar near the Conference Room in which you can check to see what is happening at the church not only for the month, but several months ahead. Please inform the church office if you wish to use the church facilities and we will check the calendar and place your event on the calendar. We hope this will eliminate "double-bookings" of the facilities.

### **Blue Star Project**

We have completed our 4 July shipping for the Blue Star project! We were able to mail five boxes with all your donated goodies. Shipments went to Iraq and Afghanistan. We will begin to collect items for Thanksgiving and Christmas. More information on this mailing will be up-coming. Thank you for your generous donations.

*The Anna Circle*

### **Med-Share**

We continue to collect empty prescription pill bottles which Medshare International process and distribute to doctors, hospitals and clinics in third world countries. If you have any empty prescription pill bottles, please remove the labels or cover the name and medication with felt tip pen and place them in the bottom drawer of the cabinet in the coat closet in the narthex. Please do not bring vitamin bottles or over-the-counter drug bottles. We have collected more than 68 pounds of bottles this year. Thank you for your help.

### **Thank You's**

I would like to thank everyone that has helped me out with greeting. I would also like to add that if anyone would like to help, just give me a call, 770/237-9807.

*Phyllis Prunty*

I am so grateful for the prayers and phone calls on behalf of my husband. He is out of the hospital now. A special thank you to Cathy Shirah for providing a delicious meal for us and Karen Bramlet and Jan Levengood for your medical advice. Yours in Christ,

*Stephanie Rhodes*

### **Lutheran Night at the Braves**

Lutheran Night at the Braves is August 4, 2010. The Braves will host the New York Mets at Turner Field. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has arranged for

tickets for Terrace Pavilion seats at a price of \$19.00 each, plus a handling charge. The evening will include a Childrens' Parade on the field at 5:30, the National Anthem being lead by one of our own, a pre-game ceremony and the game beginning at 7:10 PM. Tickets may be obtained through the website at [www.lutheransnightatthebraves.org](http://www.lutheransnightatthebraves.org) or contact Steve Nelson at 770-491-6960 or [cindyn5@comcast.net](mailto:cindyn5@comcast.net). Hats and T-shirts are also available. The deadline for purchasing tickets is July 10<sup>th</sup>. 2010. Come and be part of the "largest gathering of Lutherans in Georgia each year." Additional information is available at [www.teamlutheran.net](http://www.teamlutheran.net). Please let Steve Nelson ([cindyn5@comcast.net](mailto:cindyn5@comcast.net)) know if you have ordered tickets directly so we can coordinate our outing.

### **Softball Wrap-Up**

Since the mid seventy's, our prior merged churches, St Matthew's and St. Michael's, had separate men's softball teams which competed against each other in what was then the Central Division of the Men's Atlanta Lutheran Softball League. Since our churches merged, Living Grace has had a presence in the combined League, now consisting of ten churches. Our team finished in fifth place in the regular season, with a record of 5-5-1. Fifth place brings no trophy. However, we finished in second place in the tournament, and the second place tournament trophy will be presented to the congregation within the next few weeks.

Next season, any young men, (16 and over), showing an interest in playing on the Living Grace Softball Team, please contact either Will or Tate Arroyo. Have a Great Summer!!!

*Will Arroyo*

"Still Playing After All These Years"

### **Graceful Group**

The Graceful Group will hold it's next meeting on Thursday, September 9. Come join us for a potluck lunch (main dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert) at 11:30 a.m. Invite your friends to join our group.

Following our potluck lunch, Agnes and John Nelson will host various activities. The informal time will provide an opportunity to share summer/vacation stories and activities with friends.

Make your reservation by calling or emailing JoAnne Durrence by Tuesday, September 7 if you plan to attend (404-633-1833 or email [gmdurrence@bellsouth.net](mailto:gmdurrence@bellsouth.net)).

We will again have a table for books and magazines that you are willing to donate for someone else's enjoyment. You may read a book or magazine and bring it back for someone else to enjoy next month. Unclaimed magazines will always be given to the DeKalb recycling program.

Mark September 9 on your calendar and join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

### **Electronic Prayer Requests**

If you would like to receive Living Grace's electronic prayer list, please send your email address to: livinggraceprayers@gmail.com.

### **Guidelines for Prayer Requests**

Please notify Leanne Beutler, Newsletter Editor via email at Lbeutler@aol.com or written note to add or remove a name from the prayer list. If the name has appeared in three consecutive newsletters, it will be removed in the fourth newsletter unless you notify Leanne by the newsletter deadline.

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

#### **Members**

Franklin Benner; Bill Conley; Stan Gere; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Ree Lionberger; Wanda Meese; Debra Melchionda; Nevada Seawell; and Linda Tuminella

#### **Helen Cunningham**

Mother of Margery Kellar

#### **Alex Markert**

Nephew of Linda Tuminella

#### **MaryAnn Sweeney**

Friend of Shirley Arroyo

#### **Lib and Joe Hale**

Friends of Connie Holley

#### **Mary Mildred McArthur**

Mother of Mary Jane Outman

#### **Wynne Franke**

Cousin of Margery Kellar

#### **Juanita Mitchell**

Mother of Linda Tuminella

#### **Steve**

Friend of Missy Streubel

#### **Marietta Sandidge**

Mother of Jo Kroger

#### **Rosemary Stewart**

Friend of Tom Bellamy

#### **Dale Garner**

Friend of David and Sue Benner

#### **Tom McGreevy**

Husband of Doris McGreevy

#### **Members in Armed Forces**

#### **Capt. Matthew Hardy, SC 1-41FA, 3ID - Iraq**

Son of Pastor and Marlene Hardy

#### **1<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Curtis Nelson, ACO2-3-AVN – Afghanistan**

Son of Steve and Cindy Nelson

## ***From the Council President***

The Government has their hand in our collective pockets again. How can this happen you say. Here's the story. The FCC recently removed the broadcast frequencies that wireless sound systems use, from unrestricted use to public safety use only. The FCC also instituted fines for anyone using these previously unrestricted frequencies for general broadcasts. Our church sound system used these frequencies for our Sunday services.

This change meant we had to purchase new equipment that will comply with the FCC regulations. The cost of this equipment after rebate is \$1,650.00. This is an unexpected expense for the Congregation and was not included in the 2010 Budget.

If you would like to help defray this cost please mark your check "sound system" and place it in the offering. Thank you for your support in this matter.

My recent stint as "security person" for our Vacation Bible School" got me to thinking about our efforts to make visitors and members of the Congregation welcome at our services and other programs. The VBS staff did a wonderful job of greeting all the children and their parents. They had an organized program and kept the children interested and involved during the evening. That's not an easy task with many very young children.

We are considered a very friendly church by visitors and members alike. I thought it might be an appropriate time to offer a few reminders to keep the good work going. I think we can all agree that one of our goals is to grow this congregation.

Here are a few suggestions/reminders for good Church Etiquette.

1. Greet visitors and members with a smile and hand shake.
2. Introduce yourself and ask visitors how they heard about our Church.
3. Offer visitors a seat with your family or regular group of worshipers.
4. Assist visitors with following our formal service and communion.
5. If there is no one present to handle a function or duty of the Service, volunteer to do it yourself. You may find that it is something that you want to do in the future.
6. Understand that everyone coming through our doors has a reason for being with us that day. Show them that we are a compassionate and caring Congregation.

Just my thoughts. I am sure you can add many more things to the list.

*Jerry Chappell*  
Council President

## Health Ministry

### *Water*

*"As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God". Psalm 42:1*

How much water did you drink today? Yesterday? When the heat index gets above 100 degrees, you should increase the amount of water you are drinking. Normally you should drink 8 eight ounce glasses of water every day. Of course there are some exceptions, and some folks are on fluid restrictions. A survey by Rockefeller University discovered that about a third of those who responded drank the recommended amount and nearly 10% drank none at all. This is a cause for concern because water is essential for your good health.. Your body is made up of 96% water, and to keep all systems functioning optimally it is important to maintain that percentage. For example, drinking water prevents symptoms such as fatigue, dry skin, headaches and constipation. Severe dehydration can affect blood pressure, circulation, digestion, kidney function and even your joints.

In hot weather, you can lose fluids at a rate of a quart or more per hour, so drinking water is important to replace what is lost through perspiration, urination, breathing, and other body processes. If you must be in the heat, drinking water will prevent cramping, nausea, and heat exhaustion. If you exercise, drink a glass of water about 20 minutes before the activity and at least a half a glass every 15-20 minutes during the activity. Since many fruits are 80-95% water, they are another source of fluid replacement.

There are many designer waters on the market but are they worth the money? Some are fruit flavored and packed with sugar which you do not need in your diet. Some claim to have vitamins or electrolyte supplements, but most are negligible. If concerned about getting the proper vitamins and supplements, you would be better off eating fruits and vegetables. Bottled water has its place if the local water tastes bad or if you are uncertain of its quality, but it is best to save your money and stick to natural water and a healthy diet.

Dehydration is often signaled first by hunger or fatigue rather than by thirst, so don't wait to take your fill. In the same way, don't forget to thirst after God. The verse above shows that our physical need is equal to our spiritual need. God satisfies our physical thirst with water and our spiritual thirst with His Word.



Jan Levengood, Parish Nurse/Health Minister

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

**Sew-N-Sews-Book Bag Ladies**

The Sew-N-Sews and the Book Bag Ladies next scheduled meeting is Monday July 12<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the church.

The layettes made are not only used for indigent families, but are also used for children going into the Foster Care Program. Book bags are sewn, filled with supplies and donated to Lutheran World Relief.

You may call JoAnn Durrence @404.633.1833 or Sue Benner @ 770.493.4044 to find out additional information on how you can help.

**Piece Maker's**

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday July 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup> and on Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> - 9:00AM to 12:00N, and on Thursday August 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup> - 9:AM to 12:00N

The quilts are made and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need around the world.

You may call Agnes Nelson @770.458.3473 if you would like to participate.

**Prison Ministries  
Books ...Greeting Cards!**

Remember that we are now able to accept both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries.

We are also collecting Birthday Cards, Valentine Cards, Easter Cards, note cards and greeting cards for all occasions so that the women can send their personal greetings to family members and friends.

Your donations for both programs can be placed in the designated box in the Narthex.

Judy Knapp of Rock of Ages Lutheran Church, Stone Mountain, is the Clinical Chaplin at Pulaski State Women's Prison in Hawkinsville, GA.

# Twenty-Third Annual Convention

## Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA



<b>DATES</b>	<b>September 10-12, 2010</b>
<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Hilton Marietta Conference Center, Marietta, GA</b>
<b>THEME</b>	<b><i>Wind of the Spirit</i></b>
<b>BIBLE VERSE</b>	<b>John 3: 8</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<b><i>Spirit of Gentleness</i></b>
<b>CHAPLAIN, BIBLE STUDY</b>	<b>Pastor Jill Henning</b>
<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR</b>	<b>Dana Lee Smith</b>
<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER</b>	<b>Cathy Lee Phillips</b>
<b>CHURCHWIDE REP</b>	<b>Jenny Michaels</b>
<b>FRIDAY NIGHT RECEPTION</b> Dennis Aloia	<b>Hors d'oeuvres, Cash bar, <i>A Touch of Magic</i> -</b>
<b>BANQUET</b>	<b><i>Belles of the Ball</i> (Dressy to formal, any color)</b>
<b>BANQUET ENTERTAINMENT</b> Greg Robert)	<b><i>Alias Smith and Jones</i> (Dominic DeSantis and</b>
<b>LOVE OFFERING</b> Response	<b>Southeastern Synod Disaster Preparedness and</b>
<b>IN-KIND GIFTS</b> MUST Ministries in Marietta	<b>Socks, underwear, and diapers of all sizes for</b>
<b>HOST CLUSTER</b>	<b>Cluster 4</b>
<b>THE GATHERING PLACE</b>	<b>Cluster 2</b>

Contact Louise Iconis @ 770.934.5072 or Sue Benner @ 770.493.4044 or [suembenner@Yahoo.com](mailto:suembenner@Yahoo.com) for additional information.

## Outreach Committee



### **Cards For Kids**

Lutheran Services of Georgia's refugee program will resettle more than 600 refugees this year. Over 100 of our refugee children are starting school in August, and at least another 50 will be arriving in the first few months after school starts. For many of the children this will be their first time in an American school, and all are in need of school supplies, uniforms, shoes and socks.

**WHO: YOU!**

**Participate as an Individual, group, family or congregation**

**WHAT: Purchase Walmart Gift Cards for Refugee Children who need school supplies, uniforms, shoes and socks for the school year**

**WHERE: Purchase cards online or at your local Walmart**

**WHEN: Sunday, July 25th - Congregations will collect cards on July 25th for LSG to distribute to refugee children or you can purchase cards online to be shipped directly to LSG**

**HOW: Purchase a gift card at your local Walmart or online at Walmart.com.**

To Purchase online:

**1. Go to Walmart.com**

**2. Click on the Gift Cards and Registry section at the top of the page**

**3. Click on the Gift Card section where you can select the quantity of cards and checkout *Shipping is Free***

**For More Information contact: Lorraine Dorough: ldorough@lsga.org or 678-686-9613**

### **NETWorks**

Thanks to all who have so generously donated food items to the food pantry. The need continues for donations. You may place your non-perishable food items in the designated box in the Narthex.

The NETWorks office is located at Tucker First Baptist Church hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1:00PM to 4:00PM. If you know of someone in need in the Tucker area, Zip Code 30084 you may send them to the office during those hours.

## ***Heifer Sunday***

Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 15<sup>th</sup> will be the next designated date for donations. The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday.

Heifer International is an organization that provides farm animals for families in developing countries. Heifer International puts faith into action with its time proven principal of "passing on the gift". Every family who receives livestock agrees to pass on one or more of its animal's offspring to another neighbor in need.

Special envelopes are provided on these designated Sundays for contribution to this cause.

Agnes Nelson will soon provide us with a report regarding the acquisition of our third Ark. Our donations have reached the \$5,000 level which is needed to fund another Ark

## ***Parish Education/Youth***

Baobab Blast was just that – a BLAST

The VBS 2010 week was still young at the time this article was written, but 30 children, 12 gifted youth guides and over 20 wonderful adult volunteers were embarking on a week-long adventure in our home-made African savannah. Many of the attending children were non-members, and we praise God that they found their way to us. We thank you, parents, grandparents, etc. for bringing your young ones to VBS! This year the action was non-stop, with storytelling, music, crafts, drum circle, science, snacks, and games to keep the kids engaged and entertained throughout the program.

Go Team Baobab!

The VBS program would not be possible without the fantastic team of adult and youth volunteers who, starting back in February, spent hours upon hours planning and carrying out the program and creating a magical setting in our Fellowship Hall. Thanks also to members of the congregation who have supported the program through donations of supplies. Special thanks go to a regular Living Grace visitor and professional actor Scott Hilley, who so generously shared his talents with us. He assumed the role of "Baobab Bill" for the week, bursting out of our life-sized Baobab Tree (thanks, Logan!) every evening and making the daily bible story come to life. And thanks to Prince of Peace Lutheran for passing on their Baobab Blast decorations which we used to dress up the nursery, narthex and classrooms.

At great risk of leaving someone out or misspelling, we'd like to thank by name, and in alphabetical order, the many volunteers who contributed their time and

talents to this year's VBS: Abi Akamo, Sue Benner, Leanne Beutler, Mollie Burrows, Jerry Chappell, Erin Cunefare, Steph Cunefare, Taylor Cunefare, Carolyn Davis, Jim Gerke, Phyllis Gerke, Scott Hilley, Andrew Hoppen, Nicole Hoppen, Louise Iconis, Carol Ireton, Melody Ireton, Nikki Ireton, Antimel Jorkey, Leyla Kellar, Margery Kellar, Olivia Kellar, Rosrita Mason, Caleb Maunula, Gail Maunula, Steve Nelson, Terez Ratel, James Reynolds, Logan Shirah, Missy Streubel, Andy Sulek, Kim Wall, Marissa Wall, Fengning Yu, & Hui Zhang.

It's OK to feed the giraffe!

Our VBS mission collections this year will go to Africa Jam, a Christian center for youth in South Africa. The children enjoyed feeding money to Gus, our giraffe bank, lovingly made by Taylor, who was also our wonderful M.C. For the week. You may see Gus on Sundays after VBS looking for more handouts before we send the offering to Africa Jam.

Rally Sunday

Our kick-off of the children's Sunday school year will take place Sunday, September 19th. Please mark your calendars and watch for reminders for this special event when we have activities for the kids while parents register them for the 2010-2011 school year.

Trusting in Him,

*Cathy Shirah and Stephanie Rhodes*  
Co-Directors, Parish Education

## **Stewardship**

### **STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF DOING PARISH MINISTRY (EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE BY VALORIE PUTT)**

When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that You have established,  
What are human beings that You are mindful of them,  
mortals that You care for them?  
Yet You have made them a little lower than God,  
and crowned them with glory and honor.  
You have given them dominion over the works of Your hands;  
You have put all things under their feet.

*Psalm 8:3-6 (NRSV)*

Any conversation about stewardship must first begin with a statement about who God is and what God is and has been doing throughout history - past, present and future. First we must understand that from the very beginning of the story of the

human family, God has been at work loving, caring and providing for everything we need. It is God's intention that we should live well, surrounded by and provided for out of the abundance of God's creation. In fact, God has provided so richly that God gave us Sabbath, which according to Walter Brueggemann, can be translated as "there's enough bread, we don't have to hustle every day of our lives."

Psalm 8 beckons us to imagine the majesty of creation, the creation that God called good and very good. The Lord God created order out of chaos, separated light from dark and water from dry land, called up the mountains, created plants, animals, fish and birds of every kind so that everyone, everywhere can eat, work, make babies, live and laugh, and love one another and God.

Then the singer invites us to consider where God put us mere mortals in relation to the created universe and the Creator - we have been crowned with glory and honor!

And in true biblical wisdom, what mortals think it means to be so crowned gets turned upside down. Ruling over and having dominion in God's universe does not look like the lifestyles of the rich and famous. In God's universe, being crowned with glory and honor and having all things under our feet looks more like a shepherd or a servant. Our crown is that God trusts us with the creation God called good and very good!

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Imagine a congregation that knows the difference between a Theology of Abundance and the Myth of Scarcity. Oh the things they would do! The joy they would have in giving themselves - their time, their talents and their treasures - away for the sake of the world! This would be a congregation that dared to dream and imagine a future that seems impossible by human standards.

First, this would be a people who kept the Sabbath as God intended. This would be a day of vibrant worship, a day of ascribing value and worth to God, a day free from laboring for "daily bread." Believing that God always provides enough would give them cause for great thanksgiving. Secondly, out of all the activities that are a part and parcel of being the church, one of the characteristics of this congregation would be taking the message of God's enoughness - enough grace, enough forgiveness, enough hope, enough provision, enough love, enough safety, enough compassion, enough comfort, enough friendship - to others. Sometimes the message would be shared with words, other times it would take the form of a warm blanket and sometimes it would be the presence of a listening ear. This people would do these in great groups and simple solitary singles. They would do it by invitation. They would do it unawares. Sharing the abundance of God's enough would be part of their DNA.

Finally, this would be a congregation that was wise, wise, wise about the blessings of financial wealth. Talking about money and how it is used in the church and in the private lives of disciples would be as normal and necessary and

expected as talking about prayer or baptism. It would not be the first thing on the council agenda because money would be seen as a tool to help them do God's mission. God's mission is to love and bless and save the world. Money is one of the many resources needed to help God do this. They would be careful, diligent and resourceful stewards so that the greatest amount possible of this blessing could be put to use for God's mission.

The question is not, how much of what is mine do I give to others. The question is: how much of what is God's do I reserve for myself. The answer we give is a faith issue, a stewardship issue.

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May you each have a wonderful summer with friends and family, and may God bless you and prosper you in all of your days.

*Will Arroyo*  
Co-chair - Stewardship Committee

**Worship and Music**

*Living Out Our Baptism*

### **Special Days in July and August**

*Wednesday, 28 July*

*Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750*

*Heinrich Schütz, died 1672*

*George Frederick Handel, died 1759*

*Musicians*

These three composers have done much to enrich the worship life of the church, Johann Sebastian Bach drew on the Lutheran tradition of hymnody and wrote about two hundred cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and festival day in the Lutheran calendar of his day. He has been called "the fifth evangelist" for the ways he proclaimed the gospel through his music. George Frederick Handel was not primarily a church musician, but his great work *Messiah* is a musical proclamation of the scriptures. Heinrich Schütz wrote choral settings of biblical texts and paid special attention to ways his composition would underscore the meaning of the words.

*Sunday, 15 August*

*Mary, Mother of Our Lord*

Mary's role is not limited giving birth to Jesus and mothering him in his childhood. In John's gospel, she is among the women standing near the cross; in Acts, she is among the disciples awaiting the gift of the Spirit. Through all that

happened she continued to see how God was at work through her son, keeping the ancient promises to her ancestors, brushing aside the rich and powerful and focusing on those as poor and powerless as Mary herself.

### ***Loss of Prominent Church Organists***

In the past several weeks, Atlanta has lost two very prominent church organists, Dr. Robert Wolfersteig and Mr. William Weaver. Both of these organists had ties to Living Grace. Dr. Wolfersteig had performed a recital at Living Grace with Philip Newton to dedicate our new space and organ. Mr. William Weaver in 1993 was our interim organist for St. Matthew during the time our organist Philip Newton was granted a leave of absence. Both of these gentlemen were known national and international for their organ performances and knowledge of church liturgy. They will be missed in the church music world.

### ***Special Days in July and August***

*3 July*

Thomas, Apostle

*22 July*

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

*26 July*

James, Apostle (transferred)

*15 August*

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

*24 August*

Bartholomew, Apostle



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***LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church***

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