

Living Grace

Notes

October 2009 Newsletter

The Reverend David E. Hardy, D. D., Pastor
Web Page: www.livinggracelutheran.org

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

Special Event ***Homecoming, Family and Friends Sunday***

Sunday, October 25th, has been designated as Homecoming, Family and Friends Sunday at Living Grace! We are asking that each of you bring to church the names and addresses of former members of St. Michael and St. Matthew that you would like to receive special invitations to visit with us on that Sunday and stay for a special dinner following the 10:30 service. Regular services will be held at 8:30 and 10:30.

Mike Collver and helpers will roast a pig at the BBQ pit at the church all night on Saturday for the dinner on Sunday. Additional dishes will be needed so a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for each of you to help.

This will be a wonderful time to visit with old friends and bring other family and friends to church. So look at your address book and bring us those names and addresses. There will be someone in the Narthex after each service for you to give your names. Lets all work together to make this a very special occasion at our church.

Lay Assistants

Sunday, 4 October

Ushers	8:30 – Jim Tuminella
	10:30 – Jim and Cynthia Outman
Lectors	8:30 – Jim Tuminella
	10:30 – Virginia Dick
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Missy Streubel
	10:30 – Team 4
Acolyte	10:30 – Abi Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – Merrill and Jo Ann Durrence
Counters	Will and Shirley Arroyo

Sunday, 11 October

Ushers	8:30 – Keith Siekierski
	10:30 – Cate Sulek/Walter Sobers
Lectors	8:30 – Jan Levensgood
	10:30 – Agnes Nelson
Communion Assistants	8:30 – David Benner
	10:30 – Team 3
Acolyte	10:30 – Michael Akamo
Greeters	10:30 – Steve and Cindy Nelson
Counters	Chip and Allison Combee

Sunday, 18 October

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy
	10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy
	10:30 – James Reynolds
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler
	10:30 – Team 2
Acolyte	10:30 – Nikki Ireton
Greeters	10:30 – Mollie Burrows/Mary Ann Blessing
Counters	Jim and Cynthia Outman

Sunday, 25 October (Reformation Sunday)

Ushers	8:30 – David Benner
	10:30 – David and Lin Parker
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy
	10:30 – Mary Ann Blessing
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood
	10:30 – Team 5
Acolyte	10:30 – TBD
Greeters	10:30 – John and Agnes Nelson
Counters	Leanne Beutler

- Team 1 = Will Arroyo – Captain
 Jan Levensgood
 Stephanie Cunefare
- Team 2 = Margery Kellar – Captain
 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

Floaters/Substitutes – Leanne Beutler; Taylor Cunefare; and Jason Eklund

General News and Notes

October Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Emily Wynne | |
| 2 | Wanda Meese | |
| 6 | Susan Brinkley | |
| 7 | Matthew Hardy | Jo Kroger |
| 9 | Joe Conley | Judy Carter |
| 10 | Jac Larson | |
| 12 | Darrell Simmons | |
| 16 | Mary Carlson | Pete Mehravari |
| 18 | Olivia Durrence | |
| 19 | Isabelle Balsavage | James Cressman |
| 20 | Corlyn Conley | |
| 21 | Adam Kellar | Cynthia Outman |
| 23 | Oak Lionberger | |
| 25 | Samantha Ireton | |
| 28 | Jim Tuminella | |
| 30 | Natalie Arroyo | |
| 31 | Jim Axel | |

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.

Newsletter Distribution

The newsletter is being received electronically via email to members of those who requested it. We will continue to print the newsletter and place them in the mailboxes in the narthex but we strongly encourage you that if you have an email address, you receive your newsletter electronically. This will save costs on paper, the copier costs and the time in collating the hard copy of the newsletter.

At any time, you wish to receive this newsletter via electronically please inform Stephanie Cunefare, sacunefare@hotmail.com or Leanne Beutler, Lbeutler@aol.com.

Graceful Group Monthly Meeting

The Graceful Group will hold it's next meeting on Thursday, October 8. 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.

Jack Sartain, a humorous vocalist, will entertain us with a wide range of songs. Come and hear your old favorites again (unless you are a hip-hop fan).

Please make your reservation by calling or emailing JoAnne Durrence by Tuesday, October 6, if you plan to attend (404-633-1833 or email gmdurrence@bellsouth.net).

We are always in need of helpers for table set up and clean up. Let us know if you can assist us in this way.

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 October 8 on your calendar and join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee requests that all Committee Chairpersons submit their proposed 2010 budgets by 1 November. The Finance Committee will begin reviewing the proposals on 4 November. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Stowers, thanks!

Ballroom Dancing for Beginners

Did you miss out on the last chance to start Ballroom Dancing? Do you want to dance off a few pounds? Then put on your dancing shoes and come on down! We will be starting another beginner (refresher) class on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month from 7:30-8:30 pm, in the sanctuary and only \$10.00 per person. The sessions for October will be the 12th and 26th. Please join our dance instructor Tom Bellamy for an enjoyable evening and a fun way to get up and get moving again! If you have any questions, please speak with Leanne or Steph C.

Book of Faith Study Continues

Pastor Hardy will be presenting the next two courses in the continuing Book Of Faith Study series that began in September.

Each of the sessions will be repeated three times each week. Wednesday sessions will begin at 10:00 AM, Thursday sessions will begin at 6:45 PM and Friday sessions will begin at 1:30 PM.

The cost of the study guide for each course is \$10.

The first of six sessions on the Book of Exodus began on Wednesday September 23rd. Scheduled dates are:

<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>
September 23rd	September 24th	September 25th
September 30th	October 1st	October 2nd
10/7 - No Class	October 8th	October 9th
October 14th	October 15th	October 16th
October 21st	October 22nd	October 23rd
October 28th	October 29th	October 30th

The first of six sessions on the Book of Romans begins on Wednesday January 6th. Scheduled dates are:

<u>Wednesdays</u>	<u>Thursdays</u>	<u>Fridays</u>
January 6th	January 7th	January 8th
January 13th	January 14th	January 15th
January 20th	January 21st	January 22nd
January 27th	January 28th	January 29th
February 3rd	February 4th	February 5th
February 10th	February 11th	February 12th

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

Tamara Albrecht; Nancy Althafer; Jim Axel; Bill Conley; Laurel Jackson; Verna Jensen; Fred Kroger; Julien Lange; Ree Lionberger; and Linda Tuminella

Marian Seckinger

Sister of JoAnn Durrence

Steven Main

Son of Viola Main

Fred Reese
Brother of Cate Sulek
Helen Cunningham
Mother of Margery Kellar
Alex Markert
Nephew of Linda Tuminella
Juanita Mitchell
Mother of Linda Tuminella
Anne Cressman
Mother of Marlene Hardy
MaryAnn Sweeney
Friend of Shirley Arroyo
Linda Linke
Friend of Living Grace
Judy Kissel
Friend of Lin Parker
Ursula Booch
Friend of Connie Holley
Marietta Sandidge
Mother of Jo Kroger
Barbara Marsh
Friend of Jan Levensgood
Evelyn Woosley
Friend of Living Grace
Lib and Joe Hale
Friends of Connie Holley
Mary Mildred McArthur
Mother of Mary Jane Outman
Rosemary Stewart
Friend of Tom Bellamy
Sarah Jane
Sister of Tom Bellamy
Marquenetta Clark and children
Friend of Living Grace

Health Ministry

Since the flu seems to be on everyone's mind, let me share with you ways to avoid getting it. Channing Bete Company suggests the following:

Washing hands

Helps stop flu and other germs.

Wash your hands often

with soap and water. For example, wash anytime hands are visible dirty. after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

after using the bathroom.
before eating food
before and after preparing food, especially after contact with raw meat, eggs or poultry.
after touching garbage.
after changing a diaper.
after touching an animal or animal waste.
before and after any contact with someone who is sick.
before and after any contact with a cut or wound.

Wash hands well.

Wet hands with clean, running water. If possible, use warm water.
Lather both hands with soap.
Scrub all surfaces of hands for 20 seconds.
Rinse hands well with running water.
Dry hands well with a paper towel or an air dryer
Use your paper towel to turn off the faucet

Other steps

Cover coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue. (If you don't have one, use your upper sleeve – not your hands.) Throw away the tissue, then wash your hands well.
Stay at least 6 feet away from others if you are coughing or sneezing- or if they are..

Don't share personal items.

that includes towels, forks, straws, razors and toothbrushes.
Wash used towels, utensils and dishes with detergent and water.

Practice food safety.

Thoroughly cook meat, poultry and eggs. Carefully clean surfaces, utensils and hands that had contact with raw products. This helps kill flu viruses or any other germs.

Teach children good hygiene.

It is important for children to wash hands often and cover coughs and sneezes. Also, tell them to never touch sick or dead animals.

Get a flu shot every year.

This can help protect children and adults from the seasonal flu, which can also be serious.

Stay informed.

If there is a flu epidemic, public health authorities will provide information. Check news regularly. Find out if there is a local or state flu hotline or website.

Learn more:

Good resources include:

www.pandemicflu.gov

www.cdc.gov/flu

1-800-CDC.Info

(1-800-232-4636)

October will be a busy month.

On October 5th we will start our Walk to Bethlehem . Get out your pedometers and sneakers and we'll see if we can make the trip again this year by Christmas (or a few days later!)

On October 10th is the Health Fair. We will have flu shots. The Bloodmobile will be here so we can donate blood. We will have hearing tests, blood pressures, diabetes testing, nutrition information and chair massage. A local Chiropractor will check us for stress. Our youth will be selling popcorn.

On Sunday October 25th we will celebrate Worship in Pink (also Reformation). So we can dress in pink and red!!!

More details will be forth-coming.

Jan Levengood, Parish Nurse/Health Minister

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

**Living Grace Women of the ELCA
General Meeting**

Many thanks to all the ladies who attended the General Meeting on Saturday September 12, 2009 at 12:00N at the church.

Officers serving for the coming year are:

President:	Sue Benner
Vice President:	Marlene Hardy
Secretary:	Meredith Collver
Treasurer:	Pat Stowers

October Circle Meetings

Dorcas:	Tuesday, October 6 th	@10:30 AM at the church
Anna:	Saturday, October 17 th	@10:30 AM at the church
Miriam:	Saturday, October 24 th	@10:00 AM at the church

Church Women United

World Community Day will again be held in November. Look for the date and time of the service in the bulletin.

For additional information, please contact Sue Benner, Key Woman @ 770.493.4044 or suembenner@yahoo.com.

Twenty-Second Annual Convention Southeastern Synod
Women of the ELCA

The Twenty-Second Annual Convention of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA was held at Ascension Lutheran Church in Savannah, Georgia on September 18th-20th.

Marlene Hardy served as our Delegate for this meeting. Those from Living Grace who attended were Shirley Arroyo, Sue Benner, JoAnn Durrence, Lanny Henderson, Connie Holly, Marjorie Kellar, Jan Levengood, Agnes Nelson, Cindy Nelson and Lin Parker.

Louise Iconis President of the Women of the ELCA Southeastern Synod presided at the convention.

Sew-N-Sews

The Sew-N-Sews and the Book Bag Ladies will be meeting on Monday October 12th between the hours of 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Church. The Sew-N-Sew morning session will end at 12:00N. The Book Bag Ladies will then convene from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM.

If you would like to help you may call JoAnn Durrence @404.633.1833 or Sue Benner @ 770.493.4044.

Piece Maker's

The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Thursday October 1st, Thursday October 22nd and on Saturday October 10th - 9:00AM 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!

We are pleased to be able to announce that we are now able to accept both paperback and hardback books for stocking the prison libraries.

We will also now start collecting Birthday Cards, Christmas 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, Stone Mountain, is the Clinical Chaplin at Pulaski State Women's Prison in Hawkinsville, GA.

Outreach Committee

Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women

For the 27th consecutive year, Living Grace will staff the shelter for two weeks. We will be staffing the shelter from Monday November 16th through Sunday November 22nd, and from Friday March 12th through Thursday March 18th.

Mark your calendars and select the time most convenient for you, or for you and a friend. Your one night of service (or more!) is greatly appreciated by the ladies who are working so hard to become independent once again.

Our week in November is the first week that the shelter will be in operation. Our week in March is the last week of the season. These two weeks of operation are very critical times for the ladies. It is very important to provide the right atmosphere at the start of the season so that all runs smoothly throughout the year; and it is just as important to ensure that the ladies are well prepared to take on the next phase of their lives.

For those who have not yet served and for those who are interested in learning more about this program, get in touch with Sue or David Benner @ 770.493.4044 or email @dobenner@yahoo.com. They will be happy to describe to you the duties involved. If you would like, they will also take you to visit the facility so that you can take a personal first hand look at the shelter. They will also be pleased to put you in touch with prior volunteers who can talk to you about their experiences in this very special Outreach Ministry Program.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

This will be the third year of participation in this program of the Salvation Army. The exact day and times that will be set aside for our church will be announced shortly.

NETWorks

The NETWorks Community Ministry operating hours are 11:00 am - 2:00 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The office is located at the Lawrenceville United Methodist Church.

Please consider volunteering to help those in need. Contact Sue Benner @770.493.4044/suembenner@yahoo.com.

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. As our economy continues to struggle, more and more families are in need of food. Our donations are critically needed.

Heifer Sunday

The Third Sunday of each month has been designated to be Heifer International Sunday. October 18th will be the Sunday for this month!

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.

Hope Lodge

On Monday October 19th at 6:00 PM we will again serve the evening meal to guests who reside at Hope Lodge. Hope Lodge provides housing for cancer patients undergoing treatment at Emory Hospital and for their caregivers.

Phyllis Prunty will act as our chairperson for this Outreach Ministry Program. To volunteer you may call Phyllis at 770.237.9807.

Foster Parent Gas Cards

For the past several years, Living Grace, in cooperation with a number of other Lutheran churches, has provided gasoline credit cards for the parents participating in the Lutheran Services of Georgia Foster Parent program. This is just a quick reminder to please include this program in your Christmas giving plans.

Used Eyeglasses

Please continue putting your unused eyeglasses in the file-box in the coat closet – no cases. These are distributed to the poverty stricken in third world countries.

Parish Education/Youth

Children's Sunday School Back In Full Swing

We hope to see all of our Living Grace kids on Sundays* at 9:30am in our Fellowship Hall classrooms for engaging instruction and fellowship. Class are for grades Preschool through Senior High. Stephanie Rhodes' class (Pre-K and Kindergarten) will explore Part II of The Humongous Book of Preschool Ideas for Children's Ministry. Carolyn Davis' Elementary class will be embracing the Bible and activating faith with the brand new Spark curriculum launched this year by Augsburg Fortress. Cathy Shirah will guide the Middle and High School students in a continuing trek through the scriptures via The Bible for Dummies as well as an occasional sidetrack to The Gospel in Disney for a little variety.

*No class on 10/4: Please join the Spirits for the last outdoor worship service of

the year, 9:30am, October 4th.

The Adult Sunday School class, led by David Benner, is starting off this season with a study of the Book of Exodus, followed by the book of Ephesians. The Adult class meets Sundays at 9:30 in the conference room, and everyone is welcome.

Stephanie Rhodes and Cathy Shirah

Co-Directors of Parish Education for Children and Youth

Mission God

by Taylor Cunefare

It's just six A.M. but it might as well be two A.M. Bunches of gangly teens stand around in the semi-dark, mouths open in great yawns and their eyes slightly hooded from the great loss of sleep. Some awoke early, five A.M. others, who live closer may have woken later, but the words of everyone's lips are: "I'm tired." When the final car arrives and the roll is called a large prayer circle forms to the right of the white rolling beast of a bus. The bus that will lead to our adventure. We pray, blessing the road ahead, the drivers, the people we will meet and not only thanking God for helping us awake in the morning but setting us on this task in the first place. It's only 6:30 and the weather is already warm and humid and the teens gripe about it as they climb aboard the white metal monster bus. The bus takes the lead of the car caravan and pulls onto the first leg of our journey. The bus is totally silent as every teen has fallen over asleep on their neighbor or on the window next to them. No one snores, no one moves, no one utters anything more than the occasional "Do you mind if I lean on you?" The bus stays that way for an hour, then two, then maybe three as Pastor Hardy pulls into a McDonalds for breakfast. A breakfast of champions...a breakfast on the cheap for starving teen-aged kids. We all pile into the McDonalds, the staff overwhelmed to see us...again, for the third or so time in as many years. By now, I'd think we'd either call and warn them first, or the manager would expect us as soon as the summer starts. But they're not expecting us. Though, they are efficient in feeding hungry teens and adults. We sit in the cool air of the building, and when all the seats are taken up inside, some spill outside. Maybe a half hour passes and everyone drudging drags back outside and loads the bus and about five other cars. Hours pass and after a lunch stop and numerous bathroom/gas stops we enter a road that has sharper switch backs than does a hair pin. The roads wind insufferably on and on and just as it feels as if it will never end, we turn into a steep driveway. Cresting the hill we come upon a flat gravel parking lot and a rolling green lawn where other teens are already playing. We unload and change into relaxing clothes and after claiming our beds in our appropriate dorms we join

the kids on the lawn, greeting friends we haven't seen in a year, some new. These kids are from a church in South Carolina and they join the four other churches from Georgia. The five of us make up the Lutheran group of the LAMNS of God. Last year it had been the LAMMNS of God, but unfortunately one of the churches only had two people come, and neither of them could make it this year. Nonetheless, we enjoy ourselves and as the evening draws on, we are called into dinner. Feeding a hungry teen is hard, feeding 27 teens is only something accomplished through God...and food donations. Once fed, we are let loose on the lawn again, only to be called back in for a "pre-work talk". It was supposed to last for maybe half an hour; it lasted for about an hour and a half. Then, we are introduced to our teams and groups. There are two teams and four groups, obviously one team consists of two groups. With our groups and teams in hand, we return to the green of the lawn for only the half an hour of daylight that's left. When night closes and we can no longer see, we all retire glumly into the building to shower and to sleep. The first day starts slowly as everyone wakes up from 6 to 6:15 and drags around the large place we are staying. We call it the Habitat; it looks as if it could have been a summer camp building. There's a huge mess hall, and two dorm wings, two bathroom areas, and of course, the large rolling lawn. We trickle slowly into the mess hall, most still in their pajamas. Slowly but surely we're ready by 7 and we all get into the bus and a few cars to trek out to a work site that is about thirty minutes away. Once out on the site, we come upon a flat piece of gray cement. There, almost growing out of gray cement sprawl is a wooden podium. We all stand in a group, the air slightly cool, as building executives begin their speeches on who everyone is, what they do and why we're here. It drags on...forever, then we finally get to what we're really there for, blessing the house. We all stand in a circle around the foundation, circles seem to be a reoccurring trend on this trip, and bless the house. The soon-to-be-homeowner puts up the first wall with the help of a few male interns. Then the second team leaves, they will be the crew that comes out in the afternoon, as staying the entire day is rather taxing on a person. The morning crew works to put up walls and begin the openings for windows. At around noon the afternoon crew arrives to relieve the tired and rather saw-dusty morning crew. They all eat lunch under a blue tarp and the morning crew leaves to relax and do chores back at the Habitat. The afternoon crew works and comes back at around five. We play on the lawn and as the day ends we all shower and go to sleep, the lights being switched off at 11. The next morning is the same, almost. We drag to breakfast in our pajamas and stare listlessly into our oatmeal or cereal as people buzz around us. The only thing different this morning is that the afternoon crew from yesterday is now the morning crew today and yesterday's morning crew is now the afternoon crew. The crew goes out, does their work, and then the afternoon crew goes out. At the end of this day we have accomplished a full set of walls, caps on the tops of the walls and the trusses that will hold up the roof. The next morning the crews switch again. The morning group is divided in two, half works on putting in doors and windows; the other half goes onto the roof to put up plywood so that the shingles can be nailed in later. Being on the roof is a

dangerous job. There is nothing below you except the concrete floor, no flat surface to stand on; you stand on the trusses with both feet. One foot on one, one inch and a half truss and one on the other, standing there you nail plywood onto the trusses, occasionally having to lean on the trusses in odd positions, close to falling down or off the roof. By the end of the second day most of the plywood is on the roof. The third day brings about the total finishing of the plywood and the beginning of the tar paper. The fourth day sees the roof being finished. Finishing the roof is hot and painful work. Crouching on the roof for hours until you can no longer straighten your knees, having tar stick to your pants, tar melting to your hands, even to the hammer. But it has to be done. There are some who love roofing, others who try to avoid it, some who have had near brushes with death because of it, but it still has to be done. The last day hails a day full of wet and weird work. This day shows that a person can hammer or drill in any position. It has been shown, through putting soffiting up, that a person can hammer or drill hanging upside down from a ladder, in the rain. After this, the morning crew has the choice to stay at the site or go to the Habitat. Most opt for the Habitat, as it is pouring rain and no one wants to stay out in it. We go back to the Habitat, shower and change and go back out to the site at around four to do the dedication. The house is basically finished. The exterior walls are done, the roof is finished, and the interior walls are up. The only thing the house needs is an electrician and the interior walls need to be finished, the water needs to be hooked up, but that's all work for professionals, not a motley bunch of kids. But there's a house where there wasn't one. A dream where there was only hope. And a future for a family who had a bleak outlook. We stand around in...oh look...a semi circle. People speak, blessing the house once again and then, just as a touching speech ends, the skies open up and as one person in the crowd put it, God seemed to be crying. Then God really started crying as it began pouring and everyone dove for cover after a prayer and a quick "amen". And then, as fast the building began, we all start to slowly realize that it's over. When we got back to the Habitat it finally hit us hard, this was our last day. So, we, a large group of teens stayed out late on the lawn, laughing, and looking at the stars. The stars there are amazing, the milky way in perfect focus among the seven sisters and the dippers. We stayed out later than we were supposed to; running around throwing a light-up Frisbee that sparkled in the night-time air. Then we're rounded up and forced inside by Pastor Hardy, all the time, we're laughing. The next day we over haul the Habitat, we vacuum, we wash, we strip our beds of our sheets and finish packing and drag our bags to a car. The realization sets in then as we take a group picture; we won't see these South Carolina people until next year. We hug and say our good-byes, then load the bus. The bus is silent, like it was on the way up, and then we get to a rest stop, hoping that the South Carolina people are there. There was a fifty-fifty chance that they wouldn't, and luckily, they're there. We eat our Subway sandwiches and, unfortunately we say good-bye to the South Carolina people again and re-load the bus. The bus again falls silent, everyone falling asleep. No one speaks until we enter the parking lot at Amazing Grace. People yawn and sit up, blinking slowly with a smile. We're home with the knowledge that we just

changed the life of a woman and two young children. We have the warmth in our hearts and a smile on our face, we're happy to have built a house, happy to have built a future, happy to have built a home.

Worship and Music

Living Out Our Baptism

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, 4 October

On this Sunday, the church commemorates Francis of Assisi. Francis, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant, renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being “wedded to Lady Poverty.” Under this leadership the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) was formed, and they took literally Jesus’ words to his disciples that they should take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work. Their task in preaching was to “use words if necessary.”

This has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. Living Grace will have a “blessing of the animals” right after the 10:30 worship service. The youth will be manning the “pet nursery” during the 10:30 service. You can drop off your pet before the 10:30 service. The pets will be brought into the Sanctuary after the 10:30 service to be blest. If your pet does not do well with others, please bring a crate or carrier.

Reformation Sunday Sunday, 25 October

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord’s table.

9:30 Worship Service at Pavilion Sunday, 4 October

We will be offering a 9:30 a.m. worship service out at the Pavilion, lead by the “*Spirits*” on Sunday, 4 October. This will be the last outside service at the Pavilion for this year.

Adult Choir

Weekly rehearsals will be on the Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. Come join us and sing!

Handbell Choir

For those of you who feel they cannot sing, come join the ringing choir! Even if you don't know how to read music, we will teach you. Our normal rehearsals are on Sundays after the 10:30 worship service for an hour. Rehearsals for the month of October will be on the 4th and 25th, at 12 noon. You can be as young as 10 years old and as mature as a 100! For more information, please contact, Leanne Beutler, Director.

Special Days in October

19 October

Luke, Evangelist (transferred)

25 October

Reformation Sunday

28 October

Simon and Jude, Apostles

31 October

Reformation Day

Interview with an 80 year old woman

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married—for the 4th time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.

“He's a funeral director,” she answered.

“Interesting,” the newsman thought.

He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she'd first married a banker when she was in her early 20's; a circus ringmaster when in her 40's; later on a preacher when in her 60's; and now in her 80's a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, “I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go!”