

Grace Messenger

October 2019

Call Committee Update

At what proved to be the Associate Pastor Call Committee's final gathering, each committee member shared his/her perspective following several months of reviewing Pastoral Profiles, holding telephone interviews, participating in "in person" meetings and, most importantly, asking for God's guidance through prayerful discernment. The committee voted unanimously to propose to the Congregation Council that Pastor Brian McGee be called as Grace's next Associate Pastor.

After formally receiving our proposal, the Council made arrangements with Pastor Brian and his wife Christen to come to Grace on Tuesday, August 27. Their busy day included private time with Pastor Tom Brodbeck and Karen, an opportunity to meet members of Grace's staff, a tour of the Springfield/Clark County area and an all-important meeting with the Congregational Council. After the two of them excused themselves to return home, the Council held a follow-up discussion and voted unanimously to present Pastor Brian McGee to the Grace congregation, recommending that he be called to serve as our next Associate Pastor.

As our committee had done prior to recommending that Pastor Tom be called as Grace's Senior Pastor, we entered this call process in agreement that God had already selected our congregation's next Associate Pastor. It had been our responsibility to discern who that person was. It quickly became evident that Pastor Brian was the answer to our prayers for an Associate Pastor who would serve as an effective partner in ministry with Pastor Tom and who was blessed with the specific gifts that we were seeking.

Pastor Brian currently serves as the Senior Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Greenville, Ohio. While gaining valuable experience in that role, he developed a close relationship with Pastor Tom who has served as his Life-to-Life® Discipleship coach. He looks forward to strengthening that relationship even further while serving as Grace's Associate Pastor.

We offer our thanks once more for the tremendous commitment of all members of the Associate Pastor Call Committee – Ty Craddock, Ginger Hennig, Michelle Kouse, Jane Kreider, Tom O'Neal, Maxine Shroyer, Sandy Thompson and Council President Craig Witker!

We are excited to see the Holy Spirit working through Pastor Tom, Pastor Brian and Grace's strong lay leadership as we build upon our many ministries and bring even more disciples to Christ. God is clearly on the move!

...Mark Grimes and Matt Rugh, Co-Chairs

Pastor's Reflection

As I write these words, we are 10 days away from meeting the candidate recommended to us by the Associate Pastor Call Committee and Congregation Council. By the time you read the words that I have written here, the candidate will have come and gone, a vote will have been taken, and, depending on the outcome of the vote, a call may have been extended. We might even know the candidate's response and possible starting date. My article intends to focus on this moment, right now as I type.

Right now the paragraph I have just written above is filled with uncertainty. Go back and read it again. What decisions will be made by our congregation and the candidate? What response will the candidate give if offered the opportunity? Did we arrive at the end of our journey?

There is much that I don't know about how this process will unfold as I type these words. But here is what I do know: God is in control and things will be different.

Let me assume for a moment that all of the current unknowns are answered with a "yes." We extend a call, and the call is accepted, and a new associate pastor begins to serve this congregation.

When that happens, things will be different because a new person will have an office in our staff hallway. The third chair in the chancel will be occupied during our worship services by someone you haven't seen in that seat before now. That new person might visit you in the hospital or sit beside you during Wednesday night dinners.

God specializes in doing new and different things. We often think of God as our "creator," but we assign His creative work to the distant past. The reality is that God is always at His creative work in the world around us and inside our own hearts. Look at these words from Isaiah 43:9: *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?"*

These next months will be an exciting adventure of discovery for us as we experience the new thing God is doing, won't it? I can't wait to see it unfold!

Ministry Area Coordinator for the Outreach and Evangelism Ministry

We are very pleased to introduce our new Ministry Area Coordinator for the Outreach and Evangelism Ministry, Sandy Thompson.

Sandy has been a member of Grace since 2006, has served on and currently serves on numerous ministry teams. She is also a past president of the Grace Council.

The job responsibility of the Ministry Area Coordinator (MAC) for Outreach and Evangelism is to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to God's call to make disciples
 - See the bigger picture
 - Understand how a particular ministry fits into the overall discipleship mission of the congregation
- Possess the ability to work well with others
 - Care deeply about this congregation and be invested in its well-being

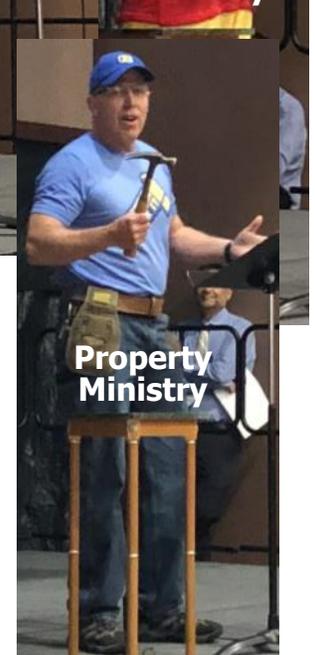
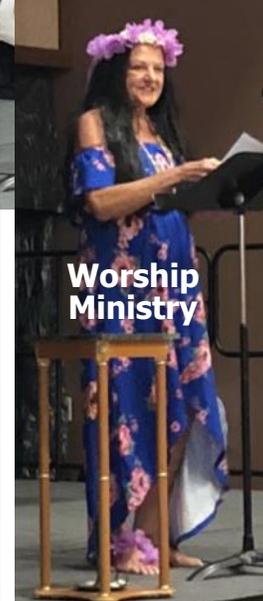
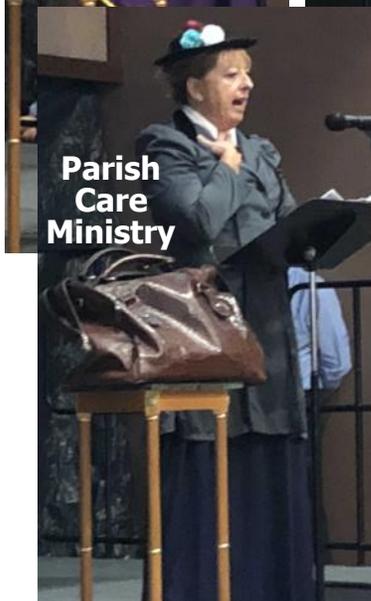
Possessing these skills makes Sandy a perfect candidate to lead this ministry. She will be working with seven teams within the church and 18 ministries outside the church. As this MAC, she must share this congregation's commitment to impacting the Springfield community and beyond through its partnerships with other Christian ministries. This includes having or developing an awareness of what is happening around us and helping to create ways in which members of this congregation can become involved in those ministries. Sandy has a heart for the Grace congregation and its compassion for the Springfield and surrounding communities.

Please join me in welcoming Sandy to this position. Prayerfully consider joining one of these teams, and Sandy, as she seeks to help others come to know Christ and grow in their faith.

STORY TIME

I hope all that attended the Adult Sunday School on September 15 learned about our Spiritual Gifts and the Ministries at Grace. I realize it was a very different way of presenting this information but laughter and joy are very important for all of us. Our Ministry Area Coordinators were quite colorful as well as informative and hopefully they gave you the information you need to select a ministry or multiple ministries to serve in for the coming year.

-Janet Rice, Dir. Of Lay Ministries



Youth News

Acolyte Training

On Saturday October 12th, Pastor Brodbeck will hold Grace's annual Acolyte training for any 6th grader (or older) who is interested in being directly involved with our Worship Ministry. It is an exciting milestone for many of our Youth and the instruction is more in-depth than just "light the candles". We look forward to installing these new participants on October 12th, incorporating the full support of our congregation. Thank you for the continued prayers for the children and youth of Grace as they continue their Faith Journeys in Christ.



On September 8 Grace kindergartners, 2nd graders, 5th graders, and 9th graders received new Bibles at the 10:45 service. We pray they will successfully continue their Faith Journeys, growing in their trust in the Bible, and in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

OUTREACH NEWS

Breakfast Break for Disaster Relief

Come join us Sunday October 6th at 9:15 to hear members of our congregation share first-hand how families were impacted by the tornadoes in Dayton. Also hear from a fellow NALC congregation Living Water about how you can volunteer your time to help these families get back on their feet. Sign up in Sign-Up Central for Breakfast items. Offerings for this quarter will go to help local Disaster Relief efforts through the NALC Disaster Relief.



NALC National Disaster Task Force: Servant Event Mission Trips

"We are his hands" Ephesians 2:10

Church groups and individuals provide home maintenance, repair, wheelchair ramps, and other help for individuals or families in crisis. Learn how to repair and rebuild homes destroyed by disasters. Schedule to serve at a national warehouse or an active disaster site. Schedule a week that fits your schedule. The cost is \$150 per person at a national disaster warehouse or site to be determined. For more information or to register contact Mary Bates, 740-509-1132, disasterresponse@thenalc.org.

October Events

Tuesday, October 1

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Hope Guild
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, October 2

9:30 am Embroiderer's Guild
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

Thursday, October 3

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild
11:00 am Adult Bible Study
7:00 pm Praise Team rehearsal

Friday, October 4

Saturday, October 5

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 6

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for youth
9:15 am Breakfast /Outreach Break
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, October 7

1:00 pm Stephen Ministry

Tuesday, October 8

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Faith Guild
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
2:00 pm Joy Guild
6:00 pm Executive committee
7:00 pm Agape Guild

Wednesday, October 9

9:30 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

Thursday, October 10

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, October 11

Saturday, October 12

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:30 pm 6/7 grade Halloween party

Sunday, October 13

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:00 am Worship at Springfield Manor
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship

Monday, October 14

Tuesday, October 15

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
7:00 pm Grace Council meeting

Wednesday, October 16

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

Thursday, October 17

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Endowment Committee
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

Friday, October 18

Saturday, October 19

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Pre-K-2 grade Halloween
crafts

Sunday, October 20

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all
ages
10:00 am Worship at Springfield
Manor
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship

Monday, October 21

Tuesday, October 22

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, October 23

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

Thursday, October 24

9:30 am Messenger Mailing Team
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, October 25

Saturday, October 26

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, October 27

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship
12:15 pm Financial Stewardship

Monday, October 28

5:00 pm Stephen Ministry
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry CE

Tuesday, October 29

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed

Wednesday, October 30

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:30 pm GriefShare
6:45 pm 8-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Life of Moses Class

Thursday, October 31

11:00 am Adult Bible Study

The Valley Horns at Grace

We are so pleased that The Valley Horns will join us in worship on **October 13** to provide all the special music for our services that day. This fine quartet of French horn musicians will provide beautifully blended, inspiring selections. Their music is always a harmonious blessing to our souls.



Cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry

The Kairos Prison Ministry will hold the 11th Kairos Weekend in the Madison Correctional Institution located in London, Ohio, on October 10-13, 2019. It will begin on Thursday at 2:00 p.m. and end on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. During that time 52 ministry volunteers will spend more than 50 hours proclaiming the good news of Christ's love and forgiveness to 40 inmates.

The weekend offers discipleship talks, spiritual counseling, prayer, meditations, sharing, singing, personal witnessing, and many other forms of fellowship. There is food, including 3,000 dozen home-baked cookies and six meals that are prepared by ministry volunteers. *God will use the cookies to touch the lost and lonely prisoners on the Kairos Weekend.*

On Thursday, cookies go with coffee to soften the first tense minutes of the meeting between resident participants and team members at the beginning of the Kairos program. The Kairos participants then return to their cells on Thursday night with a bag full of cookies to eat and give away in their cell block. On Friday, all inmates not involved in the Kairos Weekend also receive a dozen cookies. On Saturday, "Forgiveness Day," Kairos participants learn about forgiving themselves, accepting God's forgiveness, and forgiving others. They each get a large bag of cookies to give to another inmate or Corrections Officer against whom they bear a grudge.

We need a whole bunch of cookies!! We ask that you support this ministry and show God's love to the prisoners by providing home-baked cookies...1 or 2 dozen, 3 or 4 dozen, or *more*. Following the guidelines below will ensure that your cookies will be a special part of the Kairos Weekend.

1. Please use a gallon Ziploc bag (or store brand zipper bag) for each dozen cookies that you bake and don't put anything but cookies in the bag. Paper plates, notes, cardboard backing, foil, or plastic wrap will have to be removed before the cookies go into the prison.

2. Cookies must be home-baked. Feel free to use ready-to-bake cookie dough or cookie mixes and make your cookies sturdy. The bags need to be handled several times before they arrive in the prisoners' hands. Delicate cookies will crumble and chewy cookies and brownies tend to end up as a single, large featureless lump. The prisoners love Rice Krispies Treats and they can be cut into small bars. **Make the cookies approximately 3 inches in diameter**, so that 1 dozen is 1 dozen across the board and we can be fair.

3. Put exactly 1 dozen cookies in each bag and label the bag accordingly (1 dozen). Count your cookies carefully so that they won't need to be re-bagged. Please don't use burned or blemished cookies. Remember, the cookies are intended to represent God's perfect love to the prisoners.

4. As you bake the cookies, PRAY for the men who will eat them. Your prayers are very important to the prisoners and the Kairos Prison Ministry team.

5. Please drop off the cookies in the Church Office starting Sunday, September 29 and no later than 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2019.

Thank you kindly. May God richly bless you!

Kairos Prison Ministry Team Members: Jim Leonard, Sam Poston, Dan Shroyer

SPRINGFIELD MANOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mark your calendars now for **Sunday, December 8** at 2:30 p.m. for our fourth annual worship and Christmas party with the Springfield Manor residents.

Each year we have had a joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior while blessing and being blessed by our friends at the Manor.

How can you help?

We are asking the congregation for donations of three things for our gift bags for all residents (there are approximately 100):

- Fragrant body wash for men and women
- Fragrant lotion for men and women
- Colorful, novelty socks for both men and women

A donation box will be in the narthex beginning Sunday, October 6. The last Sunday for donations will be Sunday, November 10.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Witker, 399-6257, ext. 112 or email at Cindy.witker@grace-nalc.org.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. We are a very giving congregation!

Susan Russell for the Agape Guild

Women of Grace with Pastor Beverly DeBord
present

Priceless and Precious

November 8, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

November 9, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

What is *priceless*?

Who is *precious*?

And what does jewelry have to do with Jesus?

Jewels sparkle and shine, embellishing and
enhancing beauty.

Jewels say, "Look at me!" They might be only glass.

But the jewels precious to Jesus are real.

And they cost Him everything.

"Let your lives shine," Jesus says, "to glorify
God" (Mt. 5:16).

The jewels Jesus prizes he polishes with love,
to live as loving reflections of the Lord God,
adorning the splendor of Christ.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit #158

Evangelical Lutheran Church
1801 St. Paris Pike
Springfield, OH 45504

