

Grace Messenger

May 2020

Pastor's Brodbeck's Reflection

So what are you learning these days?

That question has been a part of many of my conversations recently. I've asked it of others, and they have asked it of me.

There are the obvious answers, of course. On a professional level, I have learned a lot about online worship, and I still have a lot more to learn. I have learned a great deal about the importance of communication, and how our church needs to communicate in multiple ways so our message gets its broadest impact. I've learned how valuable connections between people are and how much of our health and vitality comes from the relationships we build with other people.

On a personal level I have learned again the joy of date nights with my wife. We've watched Netflix together, played board games we haven't played in years, and even eaten Godfathers pizza in the restaurant parking lot because we didn't want it to get cold on the trip home from Huber Heights. And, in response to another pastor's challenge to learn a new skill, I've started piano lessons. (Please don't expect any solos in worship any time soon!)

But the way I most often use that question is in relationship to the spiritual level. What are you learning these days about your relationship with God and His call upon your life? Remember this verse of Scripture?

Be still, and know that I am God... (Psalm 46:10)

Stillness has to do with allowing your life to get quiet. It is a shutting down of things around you so that you have a chance to experience the presence of God in your midst. For most of us, these days of quiet weren't a matter of personal choice. Governor DeWine has pushed us into them. By shutting our workplaces, restaurants, entertainment and travel options, we have been left with little else than quiet. And we have a whole lot of that!

So what are you hearing from God? Or are you even listening for His voice? That's the real challenge in front of us, isn't it? Quiet is uncomfortable because we aren't used to hearing it. Instead of experiencing it we eliminate it with various kinds of noise, and in so doing, we miss the opportunity to learn something God might like to teach.

As I write this, I have no idea how much longer the mandated quietness will last. It may be over by the time you read what I have written. But if not, embrace it. Enjoy it. And listen for the voice of God in it.

Missed Outreach Opportunity: SCYM (Springfield City Youth Mission)

One of the many losses incurred during our current stay-at-home culture, was an annual fundraiser/awareness raising event for a grass roots, non-profit Springfield organization by the name of SCYM (Springfield City Youth Mission). Their Spring Dessert is the best opportunity they have all year to connect our community with opportunities to raise the tide for struggling kids and youth in our city. Their goal this year was 500 people attending over a 2-day period and \$40,000 raised – enough to support 100 Springfield kids all year, in life-giving programs. All money raised for SCYM is well spent as they operate with a dedicated, compassionate, and bare bones staff, fueled by a passion for Jesus. But it's not just about a transaction of money...that's why I'm so sad that folks were not able to attend the April event and **SEE/HEAR** the results when our community steps up to *serve* and *mentor* these kids!

SCYM is more of a "heart thing", as they focus on the #1 reason many of our resident youth are forced off track – broken families. WE, the people of Springfield and Clark County, can provide true family-like support in a variety of ways, moving past transactions, and towards identifying what gifts we each possess that will contribute to the betterment of young lives in need.

The original informational flyer on the back cover of this newsletter takes on new dates (August 10 and 11th) with additional info to follow. I strongly encourage you all to visit their website - www.crushtheodds.org – to see and learn more about this opportunity to be the church! - Matt Rugh

Outreach Corner

For the month of May, Terry and Jerry will be busy in the garden and are always looking for help, please contact Terry Fredrich if you have some time and would like to help.

May is also one of our months to serve at St John's food pantry. If you have some time to help distribute food on Wednesday mornings in May, contact Judy Fredrich. As of writing this, they are still planning on holding this activity, but will limit how many people at one time.

Reminder for food donations to H.O.P.E., more information in the article below. We anticipate this need will continue until we are no longer sheltering at home. - Sandy Thompson

H.O.P.E.

In times of crisis the church has always risen to meet the needs of those who are impacted most by it. History is filled with such stories – from Mother Teresa ministering to lepers in India, to Martin Luther's followers ministering to the dying during the Black Plague in the middle centuries. The church is currently finding ways to serve even in this time of pandemic.

One example of this is how we at Grace Church are working closely with H.O.P.E. Ministries to serve lunches and dinners to approximately 150 people (or more) each day five days a week. H.O.P.E is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help youth and their families connect with God for the purpose of making healthier and wiser life choices. It is one of the partner ministries of the Nehemiah Foundation.

While feeding teens (grades 6-12) three evenings a week has been part of H.O.P.E.'s ministry, the number of people currently being served is three times as many and the number of meals has tripled as well. Whole families are currently being served. These meals are served "to go" only, thus allowing for compliance with state mandates. The plan has been to serve as long as the schools are closed, which, we recently learned, will not happen this spring.

When the need was made known to our Grace family, we responded. Each week – and sometimes twice a week – we have taken a large load of bread, peanut butter, chips and other non-perishable lunch items to H.O.P.E. (located at 705 Linden Avenue). And each Thursday evening in April we have also provided a hot evening meal as well. Plus we have collected several hundred dollars that has also been forwarded to aid in their efforts.

Jackie Mounts is the Executive Director of this ministry. Following our first food delivery, Jackie wrote:

God has used your congregation this week to bless hundreds of people! The timing of your involvement was so God's timing! Thank you so much for helping us. I have no doubt that if all the food that was gathered and delivered to us Monday from your church had not been delivered, we would have had to turn away several hundred meals on Tuesday. Thanks so much. May God richly bless your congregation as you have reached out to bless so many others.

Thanks to all of you for continuing to support this ministry. We are the church, and the church serves at all times!

Our Focus on Lay Ministries

This month we focus on two of our Music Ministries. One of these, Vocal and Instrumental Soloists, provide a musical offering for each of our worship services throughout the year. Grace is so blessed with many gifted musicians who share their God-given talents to enhance our worship each week.

Stacey Laux is one of these vocal soloists who loves to sing! Although she has previously sung in school choirs and musicals and the Grace choir, she is most inspired to sing solos, giving her the opportunity to choose the music and personal favorite songs. She likes being able to choose songs that are related to the scriptures or sermon for the day, or the theme of the season so that the music is tied together with the focus of the service. But the main joy for Stacey is to bring glory to God through music.

Stacey is also a member of the Praise Team, which rehearses usually once a month before singing on the first Sunday of the month for 10:45 worship. Stacey enjoys singing with this team which praises God through contemporary worship. She says that they have a good time of fellowship and laughter, feeling that they complement each other well vocally. Although Stacey loves traditional sacred music also, it is her preference to sing contemporary/praise music which matches her personal style, but also helps her feel closer to God. Those songs have a strong message for her and keep her grounded in her faith and in her Lord. She would love to see new members join this upbeat team and for the congregation to grow in its love of praise worship!

-Bev Kaech

Heartfelt Thanks

- Thank you for all the get well wishes for my broken arm. I really appreciate all of them. Blessings, Patti McAfee
- The Kramer family is most grateful for the multitude of prayers and support that we've received over the past two months. Although my parents' (Kenneth & Mary Kramer) 70th Wedding Anniversary (March 23) celebration did not go as planned due to COVID-19, they were overjoyed to receive so many wonderful cards from the Grace family. Dad read them and showed them to Mom, whose eyesight was dimming and memory fading. Whenever I called them, dad share them with us -- reading each of them... and then Mom would chime in, "We're OK... we're OK..."

Mom is indeed very "OK" now, having entered the Church Triumphant on Friday, April 3, following a fall on March 31 that resulted in severe head trauma and brain bleed. It's been a tumultuous journey this past month. However, our lives have been brightened and encouraged along the way through your countless phone calls, internet posts / messages and cards.

We are indeed most blessed by the Grace family's ongoing loving witness. Our heartfelt love and thanks to all of you -- for your outreach across the miles to Mom and Dad in Iowa, and to Sarah and myself here in Ohio. May your abundant blessings to us return to you many fold, as we lift you up in our prayers during this ongoing time of earthly unknowns... knowing that in Christ Jesus, "WE are OK", for He is risen! Alleluia!
In Christ's Love, Bruce & Sarah Kramer

- Dear Grace Family,
We would like to express our gratitude for all the prayers, cards, and expressions of sympathy upon Vicki Lindsay 's passing. She was a beloved sister and daughter. We would also like to express our thanks for the visits to Vicki by Pastor Tom and other Grace members. We are so fortunate to be a part of such a loving congregation. Gods Peace to you all, June Lindsay, Mike and Marybeth Stelzer and Family.

Calling All "Crafty People" Grace Charity Auction December, 5, 2020 9 a.m.– Noon

Some Grace members read the "Save the Date" notice for the Grace Charity Auction in the March 15 church bulletin. If you knit, crochet, quilt, make stained glass, woodworking, cards, or other crafting skills, we need your talents! A positive on this Covid-19 "stay at home order" is we have time for making items for the auction.

The Charity Auction has always been so much fun to see what others have made and to bid on those items. This is a opportunity to financially support a local ministry. Oh yes, there will also be snacks to help keep our strength up during the bidding!

You can attend for the entire morning or only part of it, you won't want to miss the fun. God Bless, Janet Rice

Grace Youth Making Adapters for Face Masks

Our Grace Youth continue to be an inspiration during this unprecedented jolt in the daily lives of everyone in this state, country, and world! This month, I would like to report on one of our newest youth members, 9th grader Garrett Piel. Garrett has wasted no time making an impact on his Grace peers since his family joined in early March. Besides regularly attending special events, Youth Group, and Sunday School since their first visit in January (both in person *before* the virus, and now through Zoom), he characterizes the growing number of youth who are finding ways to help out however they can during this "new normal" of ministry.

Garrett is already an Eagle Scout! Adopting a design that had been previously approved by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and shared by a scout comrade from Canada, he has modified, produced, and delivered dozens of adapters for face masks (ear savers) using his 3D printer. These adapters relieve the pressure and pain of an elastic strap around the ears all day.

The Piels reached out to Grace members associated with the medical field to gauge interest and as of press time, Garrett has locally supplied the following:

Oakwood Village-200 straps, Springfield Assisted Living-55 straps
Ohio Pediatric Care Alliance-20 straps
Premier Health/Miami Valley Hospital- ongoing quantity of straps

Although Garrett has been very modest regarding the work he is doing for our community and frontline responders (it takes 4.5 hours to create 11 straps), he has received gracious praise from many of the recipients for his efforts. It is an honor and a privilege to know and grow with Garrett and I look forward to joining this young man on his continuing Faith Journey at Grace! -Matt Rugh



Let's Keep Building

SCYM SPRING DESSERT

August 10 & 11, 2020 7PM

Hollenbeck- Baley Conference Center



WHY PARTNER WITH SCYM?

- Over 600 Springfield city children and youth served each year through
- quality in school and after-school programs .
- 19 church partners + 7 school partners + over 400 volunteers last year.
- 500 people attended last year's Spring Desserts, which raised \$39,500
- Helping kids "crush the odds with the love of God" since 1998



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