



The Chimes

Grace United Methodist Church

Grace Benefit Concert



Volume 10, Issue 4
May 2009



Grace United Methodist church presents

Leigh Fleming

Sunday, April 26, 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Free will offering—all proceeds will go to the ministry and missions of Grace United Methodist Church.

See pg. 7 for Leigh's notes about the program.



Where Angels Fear to Tread



Rev. Bill Steward

COURAGE

*...those who wait for the Holy
One shall renew their strength...
they shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40:31)*

*To a person they do not think
they are courageous. They
feel that they simply have done what they had to do,
and that only because God has sustained them.*



So wrote pastor Gerrit Scott Dawson about parishioners who inspired him and his congregation.

One was a woman struggling with multiple sclerosis, an artist and writer just entering her thirties. Dawson described the great courage required to live with this chronic illness,

...when any hour a fall might send her crashing to the floor, far from help. Walking to the kitchen, making a meal and cleaning the dishes are courageous acts of defiance she intends to continue to the last possible moment. Working when your hands don't want to respond becomes a race to complete a project before the ability to do so is stolen. My heart breaks and yet thrills to see her come into church, slowly, so slowly, to take her place for worship.

She has days, of course, when she is angry and days when she is depressed. The great sucking draw of the illness is, as she puts it, just to lie down on the floor and give in. Courage, then, is simple as not collapsing when everything wants her to quit.

In her own words:

I live because what else is there to do? Is that courage? Others may look at me, holding 67 inches of body upright, propped up by a cane, each step a separate move, with a separate thought, and call that courage. To me it's just being alive.

With Gerrit Dawson, I say it's courage and I say thanks for all the saints who live boldly with great daily effort. They do it for us, too.

Thanks to Gerrit Dawson for his article in the journal Weavings.

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Senior Minister
 Rev. William H. Steward

Associate Minister
 Rev. Jill Carlson Flyr

Minister of Pastoral Care
 Rev. Wayne Hoehns

Director of Music and Worship Arts
 Jon-Philip Olson

Organist Josh Morgan

SNA Worship Leader Leigh Fleming

DCE Katherine Harrington-Taber

Chimes Editor Linda S. Wyant
chimes@gracedesmoines.org

Worship: Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 8:00, 10:15, 11:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 9:00, 10:15 a.m.

Our Mission: Grace United Methodist is a community in Christ where a cross section of metropolitan Des Moines gathers for worship, study and service. At the core of our existence is Christ's vision for the world and the church. We are a servant people striving to live our lives so as to increase the Love for God and neighbor in the world. We are called:

- To tell God's story in fresh new ways through preaching and teaching.
- To practice uncommon hospitality.
- To equip and send servants into the larger community for Service.

Our Welcoming Statement: Each of us is a child of God worthy of God's love. In our diversity, we are created in God's image. In celebration of that good news, everyone is invited to join in worship and fellowship. This invitation is extended to all--people of all races, all ethnic backgrounds, all generations, all physical and mental abilities, all economic conditions, all sexual orientations--honoring the diversity of our faith journeys. We invite you to bless this church with your presence as God's grace is present in all creation.



Rev. Jill Flyr

Notes from Rev. Jill *by Reverend Jill Carlson Flyr*

Confirmation

The Confirmation Class is wrapping up their studies for this year after a field trip to Bidwell-Riverside on April 8. A special thanks to Robert Crandall for sharing with us the history and outreach of Bidwell-Riverside. It is good to know that the United Methodist Church makes an impact upon the lives of so many people. We are all looking forward to Confirmation Sunday on April 26.



The UMYF prepared the meal for the Homeless Shelter on April 1. We had a great turn out of youth and parents and a wonderful experience helping others. The UMYF took an

Easter break but enjoyed a visit to All-Play on April 19. All youth are encouraged to share their talent on April 26, the UMYF Talent Night event.

New Members Received on Palm Sunday

Grace Church is delighted to welcome our new members. The new families include Natalie and her husband Jeff Burnham and children Evan and Savannah; Christine Hernandez and children Ryan Mauricio. and Alejandra; Linda Wood; Lynda Leonhard and Tammy Harrington and children Jacob Harrington and Jared Harrington; Steve Faux and Kristin Reeves and child, Aidan Reeves. As a full member and elder in the Iowa Annual conference, Karen Merrill has transferred her charge conference membership to Grace UMC. Alison Damon joined during the Saturday Night Alive service on March 29. We will be receiving new members in May. Please contact Rev. Jill at 255-2131 or jillfly@gracedesmoines.org if you are interested in becoming a member of Grace Church.

Games! Food! Fun!

Please join the Membership Cultivation Committee for a night of fun and games!

When: Saturday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Grace United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall

What: An evening to get together with old friends and new friends for food and games. We will supply the babysitter.

Please bring a snack to share. RSVP to Melissa at 201-6762 or wesselma@ihs.org.

SNA Guest Speaker May 23

Rev. Dr. Eunice Musa Iliya will speak during the Saturday Night Alive worship service on May 23, 2009 in Grace church's Fellowship Hall. Rev. Iliya is an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church of Nigeria. She has seen first hand the ways that the Ingathering kits have been utilized in the Women's Training Center in Nigeria's UM mission outreach and has helped host Iowa teams who travel to Nigeria to work. In 2008 she graduated with a Master's Degree in Theological Studies and a Doctorate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Claremont School of Theology in California. Upon her return to Nigeria in August 2008 she was appointed by Bishop Kulah as Director of Evangelism and Stewardship to help in the outreach of the Nigerian Church. Eunice is married to a Nigerian businessman and is the mother of four children.



Noteworthy by Jon-Philip Olson, Director of Music and Worship Arts



Jon-Philip Olson

The people that are not in the pews

Do you ever stop to think about how many man hours each worship service takes to have happen? Think about it. A church service is the last place that I know of where you can hear professional live music consistently for free on a weekly basis, outside of the ceremonial musicians in Washington D.C. Remember when you went to a High School dance? I remember having a live band, but now I'm told that only DJ's make an appearance and they bring the whole record collection on an iPod! I love to stop in Von Maur. I like to hear (and tip) the pianist. Even the large music groups in town don't perform weekly. Most of the choral organizations perform quarterly. Large bands and orchestras when in season only perform monthly.



Think about the time it takes to have live music. Each week nearly 100 people from 1st grade to older adult participate in a rehearsal for music for church at Grace. Between myself, Josh, and Leigh, we put in at least an hour for every hour we play or conduct, often times many more. Just for the music portion of worship, well, the math for the man hours multiplies quickly. the unseen people that help out for worship too that put in work. There are the people on the Altar Guild, the people that setup communion, the ushers, the acolytes, the sermon preparation, the sound folks. Then there are the people that help you worship that you have never even met! Who are they? Someone had to write the music, someone had to write the words. A good number of the music we use is written by people that are still alive! There are people that arrange music, there are people that orchestrate it. Then there were the people that published the music, printed the music, shipped the music. There are people that tune the piano, there are people that tune the organ. There are people that maintain websites of public domain choral music that we can use for free! There are the people that made the candles! What about the maintenance and construction of the choir robes. Who made the chairs, the music stands, the instruments themselves?! And we can't forget the many anonymous donors that make the payment of these professionals possible. Then there is a whole group of people that have written liturgy to use in worship, edited the Hymnal (yes, most of those people are alive and well and even have e-mail!). Then there are the people that give a section of their regular time of support to the music department, the many office professionals and the office volunteers. That is a lot of people that have made it possible for us to worship and show our love for God each and every Sunday. I'm sure, as they say on the Hollywood award shows, I'm sure I have left somebody out!

Seriously, have you ever thought about all that? That's a lot of believers that pray for us and work for us so that we are able to come to worship and give of ourselves! Not only that, that is a lot of people that do their personal best in a professional manner whether they get paid or not! Each week, worship just does not happen! Each week worship unfolds. Many people spend many hours for that great hour of worship each week so that you can come and give of your time and talent. A lot of people, who aren't even here, care so much about God and worship that they have given us tools to use here while they worship elsewhere.

As we near the end of a school year and the end of a music program season, I want you to keep this in mind. First, thank God for music, then pull a music program participant aside and tell them thanks for the job they do each and every week and how much it means to you. I find it a blessing and that music program participant will too.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Rev. Jill Flyr, Rev. Kathy Harrington-Taber and Jane Wood were recently recognized for their work in mission at Grace and in the community by receiving Special Mission Recognition pins. Money sent in their names to The Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, the United Methodist Church, to further the work of ministries with women, children and youth.



If you received a letter asking for your support of the Bakeless Bake Sale and have not yet responded please consider doing so. All money raised directly to mission projects locally and to the Women's Division of The General Board of Global Ministries.

I would like to invite all women of Grace to attend our May 7th meeting. Our speaker will be Susan F. Temere, who will present a program on HUMAN TRAFFICKING. The meeting starts at 9:30 A.M.

Are You Hungry? By Marcia Hyde

Many lowans are struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their family. Summer time makes a hardship because there are no school low-cost or free lunches. Food pantry meals can fill gaps if the more fortunate among us supply goods and money to the Food Pantry. DMARC supplies the space and leadership, we fill the shelves-19 items feed one person for 3 –5 days. The most needed items:

- Cold cereal
- Canned fruit, vegetables and beans (15 oz. cans)
- Saltine crackers
- Peanut butter
- Canned soups and meals
- Pasta, beans and rice (1lb. Packages)
- Macaroni and cheese (small boxes)
- Canned meats and fish
- Infant formula and baby food
- Cash donations (to fill gift gaps)

No outdated items can be used—be sure to check the expiration date!

Thank you for your gifts of 200 items and \$1,050 for March!



A special thanks to Sara Middendorf and all the 42nd Street Curves members who gave so generously to the April Food Pantry. The Hungry Cart is overflowing!



Leigh Fleming

a note from Leigh---

The program is ready to print. . . Ms. Wyant has done a superb job putting it together. . . I am ready to play the selections on the program. . . I think there is something for everyone's taste. The hymns are well known but the arrangements aren't; they are quite fine in style and substance. Jazz, gospel, ragtime, 5/4 rhythm, and classic piano arrangements have come together to form an exciting and rewarding afternoon. Don't expect a memorized concert, 'cause it isn't. . . I don't memorize; I've always thought it a waste of time and, at my age, it is really a waste of time and nonsense!! However, I will give you the best interpretations of the repertoire that reside in my soul and you, in turn, are expected to give what you can to our beloved Grace in exchange. . . I think it is a very good bargain! See you the afternoon of **April 26, Sunday at 2:30** in the Sanctuary. Bring a friend or two; perhaps an elderly person would like an afternoon of music; let's come together to celebrate our faith heritage of hymns and honor our wonderful church!



Thanks for all the cards, good wishes, gifts and delicious baked goods! Thank-you for being so kind and caring to me for the last 5 plus years. I have enjoyed working for Grace and will miss it greatly. I feel especially blessed to have gotten to know some of you better who give so much of your time on committees, around the building, helping in the office and of course doing the deposit, contributions, pledges, and with other accounting support. I can't imagine where Grace would be without you. Grace, the staff, and members will be in my prayers and fond memories.

Blessings, Adele I. Bahr



50th Wedding Anniversary

Bill and Lois Rieckhoff along with their children Greg, Brad, Janet and their grandchildren invite you to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The celebration will be at Wesley Acre's Community Room on Saturday the 2nd of May from 1—4 P.M.

No presents please but cards appreciated.



TREES???

How can that be???

June 21—25 we'll have the answers.

Zabriko—La Gonave—Haiti



HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

2009



Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 21 through

Thursday, June 25

5:30 – 7:45 p.m.

Are you ready to Experience and Discover God Everywher at Camp E.D.G.E.?

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching, so please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 21 through Thursday, June 25. This year we will be having a blast at Camp E.D.G.E. as we explore God’s love through music, crafts, activities, a mission project, Bible lessons and so much more. Bible School is for children 3 years (and potty trained) through 5th grade, but we need many other volunteers in order to make the week a success. We are also in need of donations for VBS; you can find a list of needed items on the bulletin insert, or pick up a copy in the office. Registration forms will be available later in April.

Below is a list of opportunities for adults and older youths.

Let us know where you would like to help.

I can help BEFORE! CAMP E.D.G.E.: EXPERIENCE + DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE VBS. I can:

- Pray for VBS
- Help decorate
- Distribute publicity
- Make phone calls
- Help with pre-registration
- Provide supplies
- Organize donations
- Prepare craft packets
- Help with volunteer workshop

I can help DURING! CAMP E.D.G.E.: EXPERIENCE + DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE. I can:

- Be a camp counselor (small group leader)
- Help in the kitchen
- Help with registration
- Take photos
- Greet participants
- Pray for the children
- Set up rooms
- Help with clean up

I would like to help AFTIER CAMP E.D.G.E.: EXPERIENCE + DISCOVER GOD EVERYWHERE VBS. I can:

- Send follow-up postcards
- Take down decorations
- Return donated items
- Send thank-you cards

Name: _____

Phone: _____ e- Mail: _____

Best time to contact: _____

Dear Grace Family:

My name is Katie McGuire. I am currently a senior at Morningside College, graduating in May, with my BSN. As Pastor Jill has mentioned in previous Chimes newsletters, I have an amazing opportunity to go to Nigeria on a medical mission. Our main job will be helping with eye surgeries and then we will also be traveling out to rural villages providing medical care. As a member of the medical team, I am gathering medical supplies to take with me to Nigeria. There will be a box in the church office where supplies can be left. I am asking for donations of any of the following:

- Band-Aids
- Vitamins (children and adults)
- Tylenol (children and adults)
- Ace wraps
- Visine eye drops
- Triple-antibiotic ointment
- Zinc oxide
- Alcohol prep
- Gauze

Thank you so much for your donations! Believe me, this will make the world of difference for these people!
Prayers, Katie McGuire

**From Pam Taylor:**

Our family would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Grace Community for the outpouring of support and love shown to us during the past few months. Every card, phone call, delicious meal and prayer conveyed your loving support for us. We feel very blessed to belong to the Grace family. Jim, Pam, Emily and Libbey Taylor

A SUPER Wednesday thank you to Keith Hyde for designing and building 35 race cars for the children to decorate for the Super Wednesday Indy 500! Keith lovingly designed, cut, shaped, sanded, drilled and built 35 individual cars for the children to decorate. He also designed a ramp for racing which was a big hit. Thank you Keith for going above and beyond the call of duty for Super Wednesday! A thank you to Martha Squire as well for bringing her sewing machine and patiently teaching children how to use a machine to sew their own bean bags. How proud they were to learn a new skill of both machine and hand sewing. These are skills that will last a lifetime. Super Wednesday is blessed to have such caring and creative volunteers. Thank you!

Super Wednesday celebrated Easter in a big way this year! 850 plastic Easter eggs were filled and hidden for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, 100 plus bunny shaped pancakes were consumed, bunny masks and face painting decorated happy and excited children as well as many other spring activities. Super Wednesday will celebrate Pet Day on April 15th with visits from family pets and a visit from a representative from the Animal Rescue League, who will share information about pet care and safety. The semester will end on April 29th with an outdoor picnic and carnival. If you would like to join us for a Super Wednesday session or donate items for activities, please contact Pam Taylor 255-2131. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Super Wednesday!

**Finance Secretary**

Welcome Joni Yeates to our Grace staff.
Thank you to Adele Bahr for 5 years of service at Grace and best of luck in the future!

Joni Yeates (left) and Adele Bahr



Here's the church,
Here's the steeple,



Open the doors,
And see all the people!

Here's a drafty window,



Here are leaky bricks,

Here's the crumbling plaster,



WON'T YOU HELP US WITH THE FIX?

Please contribute to the Trustee's Brick & Window Fund

Trustees' Brick and Window Fund

Here's the church, here's the steeple, Open the doors, and see all the people!

Here's a drafty window, here are leaky bricks, Here's the crumbling plaster, won't you help us with the fix!

People are the key to our church, but we need our building – strong and sturdy – to provide a connecting point, a gathering spot, a sacred space. The Trustees have identified that window replacement and tuckpointing (replacing deteriorating mortar) of the bricks are critical to the maintenance of our building as a safe and secure place for our mission and ministries. We are at a point that interior damage is progressing at an increasing rate that will not abate until the exterior is fixed. There are 169 windows in need of replacement and nearly 500 bricks to be replaced on the north side of the Education Building alone. In addition, tuckpointing and sealing is needed on most exterior walls. The estimated cost for all the work is \$300,000. See chart below. Please check the Grace UMC website for more information and photos. www.gracedesmoines.org/activities/trustees

Six years ago during ReNEW Grace, the need was identified to complete tuckpointing of the bricks in both the original 1926 building and the 1956 education building. Unfortunately, only a small amount was finished due to lack of funding and other priorities (such as a new boiler and roof!). In the meantime, the Trustees have been trying to replace the 195 windows and do tuckpointing each year. So far, 9 windows were replaced along the roofline during ReNEW Grace, 10 windows were replaced in 2006 during fire restoration of Wesley Hall, and 14 more windows were replaced in 2007 and 2008. There remain 89 windows to be replaced in the original church building and all 80 original windows in the Education Building. During ReNEW Grace, tuckpointing along the roofline was completed and tuckpointing was completed in areas near windows that were replaced in 2007 and 2008. If both tuckpointing and window replacement can be completed simultaneously, then there will be a savings to the cost of the tuckpointing due to not re-caulking old leaky windows.

Please prayerfully consider how much you are able to contribute to the Trustees' Brick & Window Fund to help complete these critically needed repairs to our beautiful church building. Please be mindful of the need to continue to fund the regular operating budget when making your decision on the amount to give. Work will be completed this summer and fall based upon money received this spring. We must commit for the work by May 31st in order to complete it this year.

Checks made out to Grace should be designated for the **Trustees' Brick & Window Fund** and returned to the church office. Special giving envelopes are also available.

TRUSTEES' BRICK & WINDOW FUND		
Main Building	Number of Windows	Estimated Cost
South Side	27	\$33,750
West Side	34	\$39,500
North Side	10	\$12,500
East Side	18	\$17,500
Total Main Building	89	\$103,250
Education Building	Number of Windows	Estimated Cost
1 st Floor	21	\$26,250
2 nd Floor	36	\$45,000
3 rd Floor	22	\$27,500
4 th Floor – no need new windows	-	-
East Stairway – large Window	1	\$2,500
Total Education Building	80	\$101,250
TOTAL	169	\$204,500
Windows	Total Cost (less est. discount)	\$173,000
TUCKPOINTING REPAIRS		
Total Church Building	Tuckpointing – Masonry Repairs	\$102,000
	Re-caulk Old Windows Not Replaced	\$ 21,000
	Sealant	\$ 25,000
TOTAL COST		\$148,000
Bricks	If replace windows, no caulk	\$127,000
TRUSTEES' BRICK & WINDOW FUND	ESTIMATE TOTAL NEEDS	\$300,000



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Rev. William H. Steward

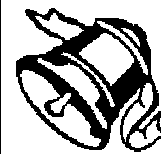
Rev. Jill Carlson Flyr

Worship:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 10:15 and 11:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 and 10:15 a.m.



Deadline for June Issue

Noon May 18, 2009

Please email articles to:

Chimes@gracedesmoines.org