

June & July Gracevine

Volume 5 Issue 6 & 7

June 2008



Come Join Us for Worship!

- 7:30 AM Pancake Breakfast
- 8:30 AM Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 AM Traditional Worship

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
LIVING GOD'S GRACE AND SHARING THE FAITH

Grace Vine

SUMMER SURPRISES (?)

By Pastor Roger A. Thompson

Certainly, the seemingly sudden increase in each day's high temperature is not a surprise. Is it? Each year, though, I remark to Cheryl at some point that it is like it is warm one day and then hot the next and the Phoenix summer is upon us! And it is. But, we are all grown ups and we have lived here many years and we will get through this! God love us and bless us, at Grace we will get through it in style!

It is no surprise that in the summer at Grace we are known for variety in worship and Heat Respite Ministry. No surprise there at all. We will be singing hymns and worship songs from our long-established list of war horses and favorites. Just keep sitting there at 8:30 and 10:00 and sooner or later something special to you is going to come around. Let's say, "THANK YOU!" in advance to the Grace Praise Band and Virginia and everyone who will be offering special music this summer for sharing their gifts with the congregation and our guests in worship!

On the variety in worship front, we will have both services in Hope Hall on Sunday, June 22nd. The gospel lesson is Matthew 10.24-39, featuring the good news that the hairs on your head are numbered; "Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd, at 11:15am, MISSION MEETING, beginning with a light lunch of cold cuts, etc, on the theme of Where We Are In The Natural Church Development Process and How Are We Doing In Our Pursuit Of *PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY?* Congregational President Fran Fry will be leading this meeting with Pastor Thompson and the Congregational Health Team lending support.

Social Graces, the instrumental group at Grace, is famous and much sought after! We have been asked to play at one of our mission partner congregations, Lord of Life in Sun City West for their Saturday evening worship service on June 28th and their Annual Saturday Night Live Summer Picnic! We are planning on bringing back a good donation from them for our Summer Heat Respite Ministry! As they say in the entertainment world, "No payee, no playee!"

June 29th is a fifth Sunday, and true to form we will have a Service of the Word for Healing and Laying on of Hands at 10:00am. Both services will include a Dedication of Heat Respite Ministry and the passing out of the July Prayer Card. Matthew 10.40-42 is remarkably fitting for the occasion, "And those who give to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because that little one is a disciple, truly, I say to you, they shall not lose their reward."

(Continued on page 2)

July 6th, Independence Day Weekend, will have both services in the Sanctuary will special music, instrumentation, and readings lifting up the themes of Freedom, Nationalism, Patriotism, God & Country, and how that intersects with Christian Faith! The Hospitality Committee is also working very hard on a special 4th of July Picnic for fun and fellowship after worship! It will be a great day at Grace!

July 13th, PRAYER SERVICE. We are going to focus like a laser beam on **PRAYER** this Sunday, with prayers and songs and congregational participation all pushing the expression of our *Passionate Spirituality!* The gospel lesson is Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23, the Parable of the Sower, setting forth Jesus' story about the Good Seed of God's Word and the Good Soil of God's People and Spiritual Growth in things like the discipline of **PRAYER** and bearing much fruit by the grace of God.

July 20th, REVIVAL SERVICE--that's right, REVIVAL SERVICE (!)--in a Lutheran Church! The gospel lesson is Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43, The Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat. So, who's in and who's out? And, if you think that you are in, how can you be sure? Are you ready for an altar call? Are you ready to commit your life to the One who died for you? All will be revealed...

July 27th, LAY LED WORSHIP featuring chancel drama. The gospel is Matthew 13.31-33, 44-52, the Parables of the Mustard Seed, the Treasure in the Field, and the Pearl of Great Price.

As I said at the beginning, just a regular fun-filled, jam-packed, variety-laden summer at Grace! The sun keeps it hot outside in Phoenix, and at Grace the Son and the Spirit keep in hot inside as well!

See you in Church!



Heat Respite needs volunteers!

This summer, as temperatures become dangerous, Grace is once again opening our doors to those in need of shelter and shade. Doors will be open to Hope Hall during July and August, Mon-Fri, from 8:00am and the TERROS meal, and remain open until 4pm. People will require shelter from the heat in the air-conditioning, a meal in the afternoon, bottles of water, and some genuine caring from people like YOU. We are a distribution site this year, which means we are able to pass along any surplus we have to others doing similar work throughout the valley, as part of the City's Heat Relief Network.

Please continue to donate and collect fresh socks, underwear, individually wrapped snacks, and bottled water for the months of July and August. Thank you for all that has been donated so far!

Consider giving some of your time as a volunteer, serving meals, having conversations, playing board games or cards, and helping us serve "the least of these, his brethren". (Matt. 25:40)

David White
Heat Respite Coordinator



Nurturing Faith with Our Youth!

From the Diaconal Minister's Desk

During the past year, since we first became involved with the Natural Church Development (NCD) process, there has been much talk about “passionate spirituality”, marks of discipleship, sharing our faith stories, and prayer! During Lent we heard some moving witness talks from several of our members and this summer several things are planned in the area of prayer. It is an exciting time of growing in faith here at Grace.

Does all this have anything to do with our children, youth and their families! You bet it does! How is our children's faith nurtured and helped to grow here at Grace. For the past seven years we have been using many of the suggestions given by “The Child In Our Hand Initiative”. Milestones are celebrated and gifts are given for milestones like, Cradle Roll, beginning Sunday School, entering 3rd grade when the child is given their first “real” Bible, confirmation, and many others. Sunday School and “Kid Talk” provide the children a time not only to grow in their knowledge of the stories of faith from the Bible, but also grow in their understanding of how the stories relate to their own lives.

Over the years, I have worked with many of our children and youth and have watched them blossom into faith-filled and caring young adults. On confirmation Sunday Leiana Schilling preached one mighty good sermon and the other youth wrote prayers and led worship like they had been doing it since birth ! At youth group we watch movies and discuss how this relates to their lives and how it relates to stories they know from the Bible. From the youngest to the oldest many of our children easily pray aloud – something many adults hesitate to do! I want to give the parents, the Sunday School and VBS leaders, and especially the children and youth a pat on the back! Their faith is growing and certainly being nurtured both at home and here at Grace, but we all know there is always more to do! For that reason I want to share the following with you!

There are four “Keys to Nurturing Faith” linked to “The Child In Our Hands Initiative.” These keys not only strengthen the faith life of the individuals and communities within the households, they also serve as a means to strengthen congregational vitality through healthy, nurturing faithful homes. I'm listing the Four Keys below because. I think they fit right in with our year of emphasizing, “passionate Spirituality, marks of discipleship and prayer. This month I am going to give you the Four Keys without any explanation. Read each key listed below, think about what it might mean and do a self evaluation of your own family – whether you have small children, grown children, grandchildren or are empty nested. How does your family score in the following areas?

- ⇒ **CARING CONVERSTIONS**
- ⇒ **FAMILY DEVOTIONS**
- ⇒ **FAMILY SERVICE PROJECTS**
- ⇒ **FAMILY RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Next month we will go into greater detail about each of the Four Keys and I'll provide you with some ideas for nurturing each one of the KEYS, both at home and here at church!

Keep Growing and Glowing in Christ,

Ardie

The Street View

By Jeff Jirak MA, C.P.C.

I want to share two different stories of individuals I met at the pancake breakfast. I first met Mrs. Y about 6 years ago to discuss domestic violence shelters. She was around 27 years old and struggling with co-dependency and substance abuse issues. She reports having a decent upbringing but was sexually molested at an early age by her cousins. Her parents divorced when she was around 12 years of age and her father was abusive and an alcoholic. She stated she would never get involved with someone like her father but eventually did. She got pregnant early, gave her child up for adoption and basically has never forgiven herself for it. Because of the guilt and shame, she started drinking which led to drugs and unhealthy relationships. We talked about domestic violence shelters and decided to get help for her co-dependency issues. She was helped on and off for a year with counseling and other services until she disappeared. I heard stories about her but didn't see her for years until last month. I couldn't recognize her at first but it was sad how much she changed. I remember the first time I saw her; she was healthy, pretty and had plenty of energy. She was up for the challenge to get help and help herself. Now, she had a limp, has aged tremendously, a few scars on her face and arms. The discussion was awkward as she talked about doing well and being ok which I knew was a lie. It was hard for me not to be intrusive but I only allowed what she wanted to discuss. I offered her options and services if interested but she stated she was fine. As she talked I was overcome with sadness and despair. This once attractive, vivacious woman has become a shell of herself and there was nothing I could do except listen and support her decisions. I kept the door open by giving her my card and please contact me if she had any questions about services. As she walked away I couldn't help but think I probably will never see her again.

I first met Mr. Z about 3 years ago at the pancake breakfast. He moved here to Phoenix to look for his biological parents. Apparently he was adopted when he was a year old and moved to the west coast. He struggles with a mental illness (schizophrenia) but able to get treatment most of his adult life. He describes his childhood as ok but sounded suspicious with his answer. He didn't seem comfortable reporting any information except his parents did the best they could. Mr. Z is a simple man, has a lower IQ and could possibly be diagnosed as mentally challenged. He never asked for any help but mainly information since he was new to the area. He just heard his parents were from Phoenix and decided to pursue them without a plan. He came here on a bus, had little money and no plans to get housing. He was questioned about his decisions which he didn't answer but smiled. Mr. Z is the type of person who flies way below the radar, creates little attention to himself and would be one of the people who wander around most of the day talking to themselves. Even with his limitations, he was able to get help to get back into school and get into the shelter. He was referred to the clinics housing coordinator and able to help him obtain placement this past week. Now, the process took about 2 years to nurture and numerous obstacles to overcome but it did happen. Mr. Z was able to be consistent and patient with the process and able to make the necessary appointments. It is too early to celebrate at this time because the real work begins. He is on his own for the first time in years (he lived with his parents until he moved out here) and only spent a few months in his own apartment when he moved here 3 years ago. Several of us who helped place him will continue to wrap around necessary services but it will be up to him to make good decisions daily.

I just want people to understand each case is open to extensive work and investigation. It is vital to ask the right questions, display unconditional care, be empathetic, promote hope and learn how they view life

Have a great month.

Jeff



act with
steadfast
love,
justice, and
RIGHTEOUSNESS

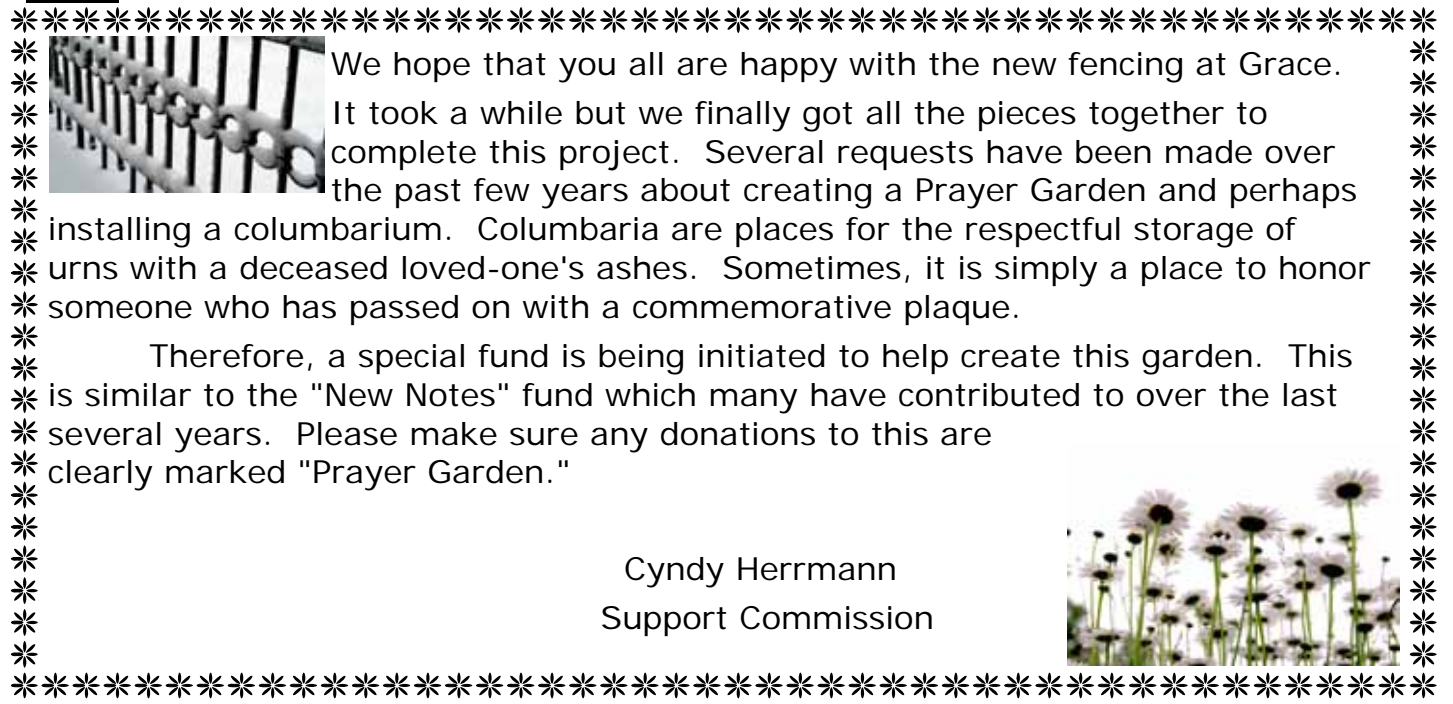
in the earth,
for in these
things I delight,
says the **LORD**.
Jeremiah 9:24



We hope that you all are happy with the new fencing at Grace. It took a while but we finally got all the pieces together to complete this project. Several requests have been made over the past few years about creating a Prayer Garden and perhaps installing a columbarium. Columbaria are places for the respectful storage of urns with a deceased loved-one's ashes. Sometimes, it is simply a place to honor someone who has passed on with a commemorative plaque.

Therefore, a special fund is being initiated to help create this garden. This is similar to the "New Notes" fund which many have contributed to over the last several years. Please make sure any donations to this are clearly marked "Prayer Garden."

Cyndy Herrmann
Support Commission



GRACE



Cinema Club

**The Grace Cinema Club
will not be meeting in June.**

The Grace Cinema Club
will be meeting
to view the fireworks and to share
a delicious potluck meal on
Friday, July 4,
at Shirley Warner's house
with Phyllis and Rick Schilling hosting.

YOU MEAN EVERY SUNDAY?

Yes, we mean every Sunday!
And why not?
If you are a member of a bowling team,
you are expected to be there every week.
If you belong to a club,
you are expected at every meeting.
If you have a job,
and it gets along toward starting time - -
- - you punch in.
If you are going to school,
you attend or miss something important.
All of us make many kinds of commitments
to ourselves and to others for regular meetings
and affairs. Is it any different when we consider
our commitment to Christ and his church?
A pew occupied by you on Sunday morning,
says something to others.
An empty pew speaks just as eloquently!

— Borrowed
Hope Lutheran Church





Patriotic Organ Recital



On Sunday July, 6th 2008

At American Lutheran Church of Sun City, Del Webb Blvd

There will be a free organ recital at 3:00PM

**The concert will be organ music by American Composers
along with patriotic music.**

Three organist will be performing:

**Tom Ohnesorge (American Lutheran Church of Sun City),
Byron Blackmore (Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West)
and Virginia Harmon (Grace Lutheran Church, Phoenix).**

Come and bring a friend to hear some patriotic music on a wonderful large organ

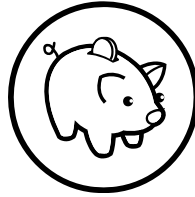
**Virginia Harmon
Organist / Choir Director**

Milestones Along Life's Way

Congratulations, blessings, and prayers:

- ❖ Congratulations to Ruth Jacobson who celebrated he 109th birthday on June 5th
- ❖ Congratulations and Blessings to Florence Mc Chesney who will celebrate her 99 birthday on July 14th.
- ❖ Prayers for safe travel, good health, growth in faith, and great fellowship for our youth and adults that will be traveling to the Washington D.C. area to participate in a "Week of Hope" Mission trip July 20th-27th. Those who are going include: Danaë Conroy, Seth Morey, Nick Kontz, Jamie and Fernando Ramirez, Leiana and Sara Schilling, Chance Martin Schilling, Andres, Miguel, Mark and Val Schilling, Ricki Schilling, Lori Ramirez and Ardie Senft.





Wilbur and Eileen Doench Say, “Thank-You!”

The people of Grace helped Eileen Doench, from ASU “Breaking the Cycle” Clinic, with her mission trip to Vietnam. During June many of you, along with all the children who attended POWER LAB VBS and the “Book Club”, supplied a large quantity of colored pencils, crayons, pencils, markers, hand puppets, balls, pencil cases, and stickers for the children in orphanages in Vietnam. Thanks so much for your generosity! Eileen will come and visit us with pictures and stories when she returns.

Wilbur’s New Emphasis for July and August!

Lutheran Services of the Southwest was notified by the U.S. State Department that in June, July and August there will be a large influx of refugees to the United States. Arizona is once again scheduled to receive a large number of these refugee families.

Wilbur has decided to once again to help Rev Donna Buckles at Lutheran Refugee Resettlement through the help of the generous folks here at Grace. The greatest need for these families is food “gift cards”. During July and August that awesome PIG will be collecting both noisy and quiet offerings for the purchase of “gift cards” that will be used for purchasing food by refugee families! You can also purchase a “gift card” yourself when you shop at Fry’s or Food City (these are the closest store to where many of the families will be located). If you purchase a card yourself please bring it to the office or put it in the offering and mark it Wilbur.

Wilbur says, “Please help us out with your donations during July and August!”



Join Us for VBS Week
June 16th—20th
All of Campus



MISSION
MEETING

Sunday, June 22nd
11:15—Hope Hall

Old—Fashioned
Church
Picnic



4th of July
Congregational Picnic
Sunday, July 6th 11:30AM—1:30PM
Suggested Donation
Adults \$5, Children under ten \$2
SIGN-UP TODAY!

A WORD ABOUT OUR NEWEST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



James Estes graduated from Arcadia High School in the top 5% of his class, In the fall he plans to attend Regis University, in Denver, from which he has received an academic scholarship. He is currently undecided about his major. James will be joining his siblings, John and Jennifer, who already attend Regis and will be a senior and a sophomore, respectively, next fall. Wendy, James’ mother, has chosen the following Bible verse for James as he leaves the nest- Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,” (James is the son of Wendy and David Estes)

Ashley Schilling graduated from Copper Square Career School on May 15, 2008. She has also completed the Bakery Program at Maricopa Skills Center this spring. She hopes to take more classes in the culinary arts, but for now wants to find a job in the bakery area. She hopes someday to own her open bakery or work on a cruise ship. Ashley will continue coming to Grace. (Ashley is the daughter of Mark and Deb Schilling)

Leiana Schilling graduated from Maryvale High School in the top 5%. In high school Leiana participated in band and orchestra all four years, track (throwing shot and disc) three years, National Honor Society three years, and various other groups and organizations. She is a four year letterman in academics, and music and a three year letterman in athletics. Next year Leiana will be attending Northern Arizona University. She is majoring in astronomy and physics with a minor in music. The Bible verse she has chosen to guide her on this new journey is actually her confirmation verse: Philippians 4:8-9:

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Leiana is the daughter of Larry Schilling)



Thank you Ames Thompson and Cyndy Herrmann for all their work on the new fencing. Ames was very instrumental in acquiring the fencing at a very competitive price and Cyndy had lots of fun visiting City Hall and spending time with all the different agencies to make this project happen without getting in trouble.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Give this unusual message to a family member or friend to announce summer's arrival — and invite them to join you in some summertime fun!

What you need:

- Summer treasures and trinkets (see ideas below)
- Empty plastic bottle with cap
- Paper and pencil
- Ribbon or tape

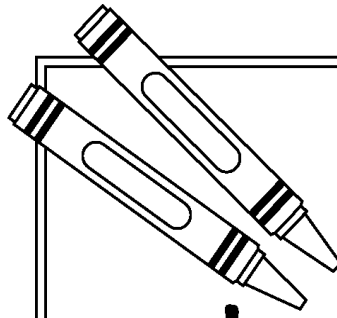
What you do:

1. With your parents, think of summertime activities and destinations. Then find, make or buy related items that will fit inside the bottle. (Note that you can also use stickers, magazine pictures or your own drawings.)

Examples include:

- Beach day: sand or shells
- Camping: ingredients for s'mores
- Vacation Bible School: biblical bookmark or VBS trinket
- Making Popsicles: wooden craft stick
- Going to a movie: popcorn

2. Place all your objects in the bottle.
3. Write a letter asking someone to guess your summer plans — and inviting them to join you.
4. Roll up your letter tightly with ribbon or tape it closed. Then place the letter inside the bottle and close with cap.
5. Deliver your message.



Just for KIDS

God made the seasons

Warmer weather means summer has arrived! God's beautiful creation is always changing, and we can praise God for every season.



Use this code to finish Genesis 8:22, NIV.

A =

I =

T =

S =

E =

O =

R =

N =

U =

D =

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Genesis 8:22, NIV

Answer: “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”



June Birthdays

- 1st Solveig Muus
Shirley Wendt
- 5th Ruth Jacobson
Randy Lay
Ardith Senft
- 7th Erica Khatter
Hannah Khatter
Kenda Khatter
- 12th Franscesca Ark
Ruth Erdmann
- 13th Iva Galster
- 14th Dana Day
Wendy Estes
- 17th Becky Gustafson
- 21st Terri Fry
Phyllis Kocherer-Schilling
- 24th Ann Gardner
- 26th Maureen Hughes
- 29th Chris Kontz
Abigail Matusak



July Birthdays

- 7th Shane Sigala
- 12th Gary Nelson
- 14th Florence McChesney
Nicholas Kontz
- 29th Nathan Lichte



**Happy
Father's Day**

SUMMER WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY
7:30AM Pancake Bkfst
8:30AM Contemp. Worship
10:00AM Trad. Worship

MONDAY
9:00AM Grace Room

TUESDAY
Yoga- ChristCare Group
10:00AM
7:00PM Band Rehearsal

SATURDAY
8:00AM Men's Bible study.



GRACE
Book Club

THE BOOK CLUB
Meets the 4th Thursday
of each month
9:30am—North Room
For details contact Dana Day

HEALING SERVICE

Traditional Worship Service
Sunday, June 29th
10:00AM—Sanctuary

Summer Dates to Note

Sunday, June 16
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Monday, June 16—Friday, June 20
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
5:30PM—8:00PM

Wednesday, June 18
ChristCare Training
10:00AM—North Room

Sunday, June 22
11:15AM Mission Meeting

Friday June 27 - Sunday 29
Family Camping Retreat

Wednesday, June 18
ChristCare Training
10:00AM—North Room

Thursday, July 3 Bible Equipping
9:30AM—North Room

Friday, July 4 —INDEPENDENCE DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, July 6
4th of July Congregational Picnic
11:30Am—1:30PM

Monday, July 7
Heat Respite Begins
9:00AM—5:00PM—Hope Hall
Men's Bible Study Group
7:00PM—North Room

Sunday, July 20— 27
Week of Hope Mission Trip



Friday, July 4th

Grace Lutheran Church
Living God's Grace and Sharing the
Faith

1124 N 3rd Street
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone: 602-258-3787
Fax: 602-523-9359

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