



Grace News - A Few Additions

JULY 12, 2013—PART II

GRACE NEWS

A Word from your Lay Leader, Les Chandler



I was sitting in the conference room on Monday morning after a wonderful Sunday at Grace. I was about to write "an unusual Sunday." As many know, due to a medical problem, Judith had to leave and she asked me to read her sermon. Gladly, but with nervousness I accepted this invitation. The reason I did not say an unusual Sunday is because I believe our Sundays are always unusual. I do not mean unusual in the sense of crises, but unusual in our embrace of the unexpected with love and purpose. We expect the unexpected here and move forward in God's grace and hospitality.

Let me provide this snapshot of our unusual Grace. During two events, as I was right in the middle of focusing on the task at hand, I turned around and came face to face with a homeless person. In both cases their need was food, they were hungry. One asked for some bread. I could not find any bread, but came across a couple of boxes of crackers, the person gladly accepted them and grabbed a bagel and cream cheese off the table of food and disappeared. The other person, of whom I was not aware, was standing right behind me. This person sat down and ate spaghetti with us in the parlor.

The other situation occurred as I was busy leaving Sunday school class and preparing to head upstairs to teach Godly Play. Also, I was going to be at UMYF after church to help out. Needless to say, I was just too busy to be bothered with anyone with a need. I was crossing the foyer from the parlor to the office, in the middle of everyone going back and forth; two individuals were coming up the stairs. Then it happened. They asked if I could help them. Really, you do not understand how busy I am? That is what I wanted to say. They needed financial help to go see a sick grandmother. Grrr, I knew they were going to ask for money. I asked them to wait as I went into the office. Why? I wanted to see if I could pass them off on someone else. I knew this was not the right response, so I exhaled a huge sigh, got out my wallet and went back out. I placed the money in the palm of one and thought that would end this situation. But, the other person grabbed my hand introduced both of them to me and asked me to pray for their grandmother. Humbled, in the middle of people coming into church and heading for the sanctuary, we prayed.

I hope our Sundays always remain unusual.

Peace and love, Les





MUSIC MEANDERINGS

by Michael Manes

It does seem strange for the choir loft to be empty, and quite frankly, it's a little lonely up there. However, special kudos to the congregation for some excellent hymn singing! I am particularly happy about the special music we have enjoyed the last three Sundays. First was Aaron Kurz at the piano with absolutely splendid performances of Rachmaninoff and Schubert. Then Stephen Dillard on Sunday, July 7th playing his trumpet beautifully. It was also a treat to get to hear Sam Hodges and Bill Claxton sing their duet, "Talk About Suffering". Last Sunday the line up continued with the wonderful and energetic VBS children singing during the children's sermon and Dustin Koontz singing his stunning solo, "Panis Angelicus", during the offertory.

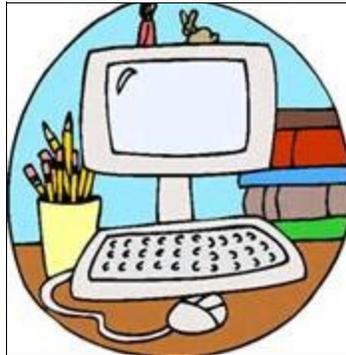
Thank you once again to Sue Baxley who did such a wonderful job appointing the choir room including a refurbished music folder cabinet and beautiful new choir robe armoires. With a couple of months off from my teaching job, I finally have time to spend organizing both the choir room and office. So much music to read through and so little time!

A most telling side note from one of our guests: Terry Kurz, Aaron's mom, commented to me after the service that "If I weren't Jewish, this would be my church of choice. It is such a wonderful, lovely, caring place!"

Michael Manes

Prayer Requests

For Andy Smith and Family



COMPUTER REQUEST

One of our members who will be providing studying space for some of our children this year in her home has one computer and needs another with WiFi and good internet capability. If there is anyone at the church who might have one to donate or lend for the year, please let the office know.

gumc@graceumcdallas.org or 214-824-2533



Wow! The First Women's Rights Conference in America Took Place in a Methodist Church and We're Going to Celebrate

On July 21, Alice Montgomery, Chris Hauge, Ted Campbell and Joanne Callahan will do a skit about the conference that took place at Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Seneca Falls, NY on a hot July weekend in 1848. Alice Montgomery and Chris Hauge are accomplished actors who have performed in several theater presentations in the Dallas area, Ted Campbell is Professor of Methodist History at the Perkins School of Theology and Joanne Callahan is an activist who has created acclaimed story boards at Grace for Martin Luther King Day, Earth Day and Int'l Women's Day. Please join us as we celebrate the valiant women and men, including nine members at Welseyean, who boldly proclaimed, "We hold these truths self-evident, that all men and women are created equal."

Please do attend, and, if possible, please bring a covered dish or two