

AUGUST 24, 2011—SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 • VOLUME 10, NO. 17

Autumnal Dreams.....by Pastor Ken Gibson

How many of you appreciate the beauty and the wonder of the fall season? It may come as no surprise that the next season heading our way is in fact my favorite. It is hard to argue with a season that offers so much natural beauty along with cool crisp days void of bugs and filled with the activity and promise of the harvest. But there is another reason that I love the fall season and it has nothing to do with the climate.



It has everything to do with the activity of the church and our community. Community wise we realize that school has started already and many of our college age youth have headed off to their dorm rooms on campuses all across the country.

Those of us who have spent a good part of our lives engaged in the life of the church realize that in the fall we indeed do kick it up a bit. So much of what we have planned for the year happens once the fall of the season is here and the summer days fade. I just love all that we have planned at Grace this fall and beyond. It all begins now in early August and picks up steam as we head into September and Rally Day. HOLY LUAU! What fun that will be! Watch for special Hawaiian recipe opportunities to make and bring to our fest. And thanks to our resident Big Island native, Stephen Haanio, we will have an “emu” (pit/oven) filled with sweet potatoes and Kalua Pork! How sweet is that?

Just think of everything we have going on this fall. A Welcome Breakfast for new members, (we canvassed neighborhoods this am), confirmation classes resume, choir resumes, prime time resumes, high school youth and college age youth gatherings, Adult Forums resume, Professor in the Parish adult learning opportunity, along with a whole bunch of activity around the efforts for this years’ Mistletoe Magic and so much more.

A major Autumnal highlight will be the worship celebration of Pastor Amanda’s accepting a call to serve with us as our Associate Pastor. WOW! What, a list and I am sure many items are on your lists as well.

Now I know some of you are thinking; “Wait a minute pastor I still want a little summer time.” Me too, the reality is that is all we have left; “a little summer time.” :-) God is Good.

Volunteers Needed—As we transition into Fall, there are many areas of the church that find themselves looking for members to volunteer their time and talents. If you can help in any of the following areas, please contact the appropriate individual. Thank you!

Sunday School Teachers—
We are looking for teachers at all levels to work in teams for half or full year terms. The curriculum is easy to follow and plan. Contact Carrie Fiorina if you can help us teach the children of Grace.

Projectionist —
A monthly projectionist is needed for the 10:45 service. Training will be provided. See a pastor or Ron Fredriksen if you are interested in this once a month commitment.

Sunday Nursery—
Looking for older youth or adults to monitor our nursery during services. If you can volunteer one hour of your time once a month, we can really use your help. Contact Carrie Fiorina to sign-up.



WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, August 28, 2011 Lectionary 22 Proper 17 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world. Today is the commemoration of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, who died in 430, and Moses the Black, monk and martyr, who died around 400.

READINGS

Jeremiah 15:15–21
Psalm 26:1–8
Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28

Sunday, September 4, 2011 Lectionary 23 Proper 18 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7–11
Psalm 119:33–40
Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 18:15–20

PRAYERS—Please lift up these petitions in your prayers—To become a praying member of the Friends in Prayer, please submit name and e-mail address to dklabunde@gracewoodstock.org.

World: Bishop Hanson, Bishop Wollersheim; those serving in military conflicts, Arusha Town Lutheran Parish in Tanzania (our companion parish), Sgt. Scott Bunch, serving overseas (son of Frank & Joan Bunch, Tyler Stiemke, serving on the USS Bush

Woodstock: Pastor Ken Gibson and his family; Pastor Amanda Bergstrom and her family; Grace Staff; Grace Council

Health Concerns: Laura Boal, Deanna Bohn, Bill Botts, Dee Brown, Shirley Busse, Steve Clark (son of Edna Clark), Frank Davis (friend of Rick & Billie Cornell), Roberta Deitchler (mother of Katie Arana), Betty Fischer (mother of Connie Fischer), Patrick Fraily (friend of August and Theo Hutchens), Matt Gerloff (grandson of Bob Gerloff), Lauren Gibson (daughter of Pastor Ken and Jodi Gibson), Mary Guyett (sister of Doris Sunday), Ruth Haby (sister of Cindy DeBerg), Darrin Hansing (nephew of Ken & Tammy Hansing), Frank Holy, Patrice Hoover, Shirley Hubert (niece of Marge Birk), Dwight Jensen, Kathy Nordin, Gloria Ogle, Rev. Roger Olson (father of Terese Paulson), Alice Pate, Richard Petersen, Ann Phillips (sister-in-law of Cindy Meyer), Hazel Powell, Shawn Rank (son of Bert & Carol Rank), Wayne Reckamp (husband of Monica Reckamp and co-worker Nora Combs), Russ Reed, Kyle Renner (grandson of Ken and Gladys Renner), Jeff Roberts, Stanley Russell (father of Sheri Conover), Rob Shook (son of Bob & Joyce Shook), Gladys Smart (mother of Deborrah Evanoff), Margaret Stawicki (mother of Nan Goerlitz), Kim Stone, Tom Stone (brother Kathy Stone), Peter Stumpf (friend of the Cornells), Tim Slevin (brother of Elizabeth Karagianis), Alan Swanson (friend of Joe Evanoff), Connie Tarver, Carol Thompson (daughter of Marge Dierksen), Josh Tillman, Eileen White, Lois Wiecek, Richard Young (nephew of Marge Birk)

Sorrow: Ann Fetty

If you wish to add a prayer request for this newsletter, please call the church office at 815-338-0554. Your prayer concern will run for one week and may be renewed. Submissions to the *Friends in Prayer* e-mail and phone teams may also be submitted by telephone to the church office or by e-mail to Gracewoodstock.org. Due to confidentiality laws, hospitals no longer notify churches or pastors when a member is hospitalized. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or is admitted to the hospital, please call the church office at 815-338-0554.

Transition...by Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

Transition:

1a : passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another : change

1b : a movement, development, or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another

2a : a musical modulation

2b : a musical passage leading from one section of a piece to another

3: an abrupt change in energy state or level (as of an atomic nucleus or a molecule) usually accompanied by loss or gain of a single quantum of energy

*www.merriam-webster.com

During the past few years as a seminarian, each year, if not every day, seemed full of transitions: moving three times in four years; meeting and then saying goodbye to the people of the two teaching congregations I served; and wrestling with theological concepts and struggling to let go a few long-held beliefs, while making space for new ideas to germinate. In the midst of these changes and transitions, I would turn to my favorite online dictionary to be reminded of what all these 'transitions' entailed. A passage, a change, a movement, or evolution from one thing to another. But 'transition' is also a musical term, and it names that shift from one section to another, that key change that gives me the chills, and brings a smile to my face. A third use of this word, speaks perhaps to our science-loving students, who will study these molecular parts in the year ahead. Yet, this last understanding also tells us why certain transitions in life can be so difficult. Sometimes, transitions are an abrupt change, accompanied by loss or gain.

What kind of transitions in life are you experiencing this day? And how do you mark the passage from one place to another, or the developments that give you goose bumps? In this first month and a half in ministry with you, I have had the opportunity to share in the recognition of change in a few ways. Gathered around the font, we have witnessed the baptisms of sisters and brothers in Christ and joined in welcoming them into the mission we share. On other occasions too, we have gathered around God's promises as we mark the completion of baptism by commending loved ones to God's eternal care. Whether the transitions you face this day are gradual or abrupt, give you chills of excitement or anxiety, or are paired with loss or gain, I pray you may know God's loving presence in all states, pieces, and levels of life.

Grace Softball League—Our next game day is Sunday **Aug. 28**. We will be playing at Emricson Park, Field B, against Marengo Zion Lutheran. Game time is 5 p.m. Come out and play on the team or cheer us on from the sidelines! **This is our last game of the season!!**



Congregational Meeting—On **Aug. 28** at 12:05 pm, we will be holding our next Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary. At this meeting, we will be voting for all elected positions and receiving reports on our financial status and our Northern Illinois Synod Assembly. This meeting's written report is available electronically and at the Information Center. Prior to our formal meeting, we will be gathering at **11:10 am** for our **Ministry Matters Communication Meeting**. Main topics of discussion include updates on the LSSI project and Youth activities including the Grand Rapids High School youth trip, the Colorado Confirmation youth trip and looking forward to next summer's ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Time for general comments or questions will be available. We hope to see you at these meetings.

Sunday School Registration Now Open—registration forms are now available at the information desk or on-line at gracewoodstock.org

High School Youth/Parent Meeting—All high school youth & parents are invited to meet with Pastor Amanda on **Aug. 28** from 5:30—6:30 p.m. for information about the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans and to plan fall youth group events.

Confirmation Begins—Youth & Parent Meeting Weds. **Aug. 24** at 6:30 p.m. First Confirmation Class for Students—Weds., **Aug. 31** at 6:00 PM.

Singing/Choir Opportunities—If you are a singer (grade 2 through adult) who would like to participate in one of the special choirs organized for the Sept. 18, 3 pm Installation Service honoring Pr. Amanda, please contact one of the directors. Rehearsals for adults begin Weds. **Aug. 24** from 7-8 pm; for singers grades 2 - 3 on Weds. **Aug. 31** at 5 p.m., and grades 4-6 on Weds. **Aug. 31** at 6:15 p.m. Pizza will be served! Rehearsals for grades 7 & 8 will be on **Aug. 28** at 5 p.m., and grades 9-12 will begin **Aug. 28** at 6:30 pm.

Join Grace's Music Ministry! - Children's and adult choirs meet Wednesdays: 5 pm Messengers (grades 2-3), Cherubs (age 4-grade 1) 5:30 pm (blue room); Joyful Sound (grades 4-6) 6:15 pm; ; Revelation Ringers Handbell choir (grades 9 through adults) rehearse at 6 pm; Chancel choir (adults) 7 pm (sanctuary) as part of PrimeTime . Youthful Spirit and High School Choir rehearse Sundays at 5 and 6:30 p.m. respectively starting September 18. Graceful Ringers Handbell choir (grades 4-8) rehearses Sundays @ 6:30 pm (room 102) beginning Sunday, Oct. 2nd. All other rehearsals are in the choir room. There also are opportunities to be part of our contemporary singers team, the contemporary band or the technical visual or sound teams as well. See Ron Fredriksen for details.



Mistletoe Magic Craft Workshop—Monday **Aug. 29** from 1-5pm and 7-9pm. The evening session includes gift tag projects using recycled Christmas Cards for those who have scrapbooking tools. We will also make note cards using photos of Seasonal decor at Grace. Please consider joining us for this fun workshop. We have a selection of projects and provide all supplies. If you have an idea to share please bring a sample. We are grateful for any time you have available.

Preschool Orientation —**Thurs. Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m.** —This is a chance for parents to complete all paperwork required, visit their child's classroom and meet the teachers. Child care is offered for the preschool families. If you can **volunteer** in the gym or nursery, we need you. This is a great opportunity for Confirmants and the H. S. Youth to help out. Please contact Chris Learman @ 815-338-0554 or clearman@gracewoodstock.org.

Rally Day Opportunity—Musicians and singers - the Worship and Music Committee is planning an open mic opportunity on Rally Day, **Sept. 11**. Anyone who plays an instrument or sings is invited to provide music to accompany the Rally Day activities. More information to follow.



Rally Day Luau!! Some Luau facts learned from Stephen Haanio—Luau; the word is Hawaiian for the leaf of the tarot plant. The main dishes at early Hawaiian gatherings had some very common foods that were native to the Islands these included, Coconut and coconut milk; tarot/Luau; fish and of course POI. POI is the mashed up root of the Luau/tarot plant. These gatherings were made to represent the wonderful hospitality of the Hawaiian people. As the Islands became more popular as vacation spots a few things have been added, such as pork. Kahlua pork has become a staple at all Hawaiian Luau's. This is cooked in a traditional Hawaiian fashion by digging an "emu" pit and heating rocks with wood and placing a hog on the hot rocks covering it with luau/tarot leaves. The other fact worth noting is that Stephen is continuing this tradition for us all to share here at Grace. Stephan was raised on the big island of Hawaii and grew up cooking Kahlua pork and has done so for many a Luau.

Wear your Hawaiian type clothing to worship Sunday September 11 and get into the festive spirit of this great tradition. **Sign up today** on the activity board, and check out some traditional Hawaiian recipes that you can make and bring to the Luau as your dish to pass or think of sharing your own favorite. We thank Stephen, Gwen, Malia and Leiana for sharing in their family traditions and serving as hosts at this year's Rally Day Luau. Why not bring a friend?

Pastor Amanda Bergstrom Installation— Pastor Amanda will be officially installed on **Sept. 18** at 3:00 p.m. Her Service of Installation will be followed by a light reception. Watch for more information.



Professor in the Parish— The weekend of **Sept. 17 & 18** the Adult Education Committee is hosting the first in a series of Professor's in the Parish. That weekend Grace will welcome the Rev. Dr. Ray Pickett, presenting on the Gospel of Mark. Sat. **Sept. 17**, will begin with a continental breakfast by the Graceful Men at 9:00 a.m., followed by Rev. Dr. Pickett leading a Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. He will also be giving the sermon at the 5:00 p.m. service. On Sunday **Sept. 18**, Dr. Pickett will give the sermons at both services, as well as lead a presentation during the 9:45 a.m. Adult Forum. Reservations for breakfast are requested: register on the church website, or on the Activity Board by **Sept. 11**.

H.S. Youth Group News—High School Youth Group will begin meeting weekly on Weds. evenings in September. Join us on September 7, 14, 21, & 28 from 6:30-7:30 in the youth room on the lower level. All high school youth are welcome.



Blood Drive—It's Blood Drive time AGAIN! Labor Day Weekend is an opportunity to participate in Grace's third blood drive on Sunday, September 4, 2011 from 7:30 a.m. to noon.



Meals on Wheels—We are in need of a person to help deliver meals on Wednesdays. It is a commitment every 5 weeks for about 1—1-1/2 hours from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. These deliveries mean so much to those who can't manage a meal by themselves. If you have this time to give, please help. Contact Jeannine May at 815-943-4849 for more info.

New Member Orientation Breakfast—It is time for a new member get together! Grace will be hosting a new member orientation breakfast on **Sept. 10** at 10:00 a.m. in Grace Center. We will be having juice, coffee and some homemade goodies. Those that would like to become members of Grace or get more information on what it means to be a member of the family here at Grace, please sign up at the Information Center in the activity binder or call the church office, 815-338-0554.

Grandparents Day Diaper Drive—The Social Ministry team is hosting another drive in honor of Grandparents Day, **Sept. 11**, 2011. Donations of adult products (Depends, Attends, etc.) are requested. Please place your donations in the box at the narthex entry doors, or if you prefer, donations by check can be made to St. Paul's Diaper Bank. St Paul Episcopal Church, McHenry, coordinates the diaper bank for our area and The Vine Ministry Center in Woodstock serves as a distribution center. Many thanks to all who have supported this ministry during the Mother's and Father's Day drives!



Sizzlin' Saturday Service—Save the date of **Oct. 22**, when we will set-up the grills and have great fellowship following the 5:00 p.m. service. Watch for more info.

Stewardship News—Save the Date **10/23/11**— Recently, representatives from Grace joined people from across the synod to participate in a "Celebrate Generosity" stewardship workshop. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, **Oct. 23** and plan to attend this year's Celebrate Generosity Luncheon.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE —All *Grace for Today* articles for the September 7th issue should be sent to Lynn Nattress at lnattress@gracewoodstock.org or to the church office by noon on September 1st.

Here is your link to the Weekend Worship Participants:

Schedule:<http://www.gracewoodstock.org/WeeklyNews/Monthly%20Worship%20Participants.pdf>

THE WEEKS AHEAD AT GRACE

Saturday, August 27

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, August 28

8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
11:10 AM Ministry Matters Mtg.
12:05 PM Congregational Meeting
2:00 PM Patrol Leader Conference
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
5:30 PM H.S. Youth/Parent Meeting
6:30 PM High School Choir

Monday, August 29

1:00 PM MM Crafts
6:30 PM Boy Scout Troop 153
7:00 PM MM Crafts
7:00 PM Preschool Committee Mtg.

Tuesday, August 30

5:45 PM Adult Ed Comm. Meeting
7:00 PM New Praise Singers

Wednesday, August 31

12:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
7:00 PM Festival Choir
8:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 1

6:30 PM Preschool Parent Orientation
7:00 PM Worship/Music Comm. Mtg.

Friday, September 2

11:15 AM Adoration
5:15 PM Exultation!

Saturday, September 3

9:00 AM Band
5:00 PM Worship

Sunday, September 4

7:30 PM Blood Drive
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Contemporary Worship
5:00 PM Youthful Spirit
6:30 PM High School Choir

Monday, September 5

Labor Day—Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 6

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
9:00 AM Sewing Circle
12:30 PM Preschool 3, 4 & 5
6:30 PM Evangelism Committee
6:30 PM Spirituality Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 7

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 4, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Preschool 4 & 5
12:30 PM Staff Meeting
5:00 PM Messenger Choir
6:00 PM Confirmation Fellowship
6:00 PM Revelation Ringers
6:15 PM Joyful Sound Choir
6:30 PM Confirmation Class
6:30 PM High School Youth Group
7:00 PM Festival Choir
7:00 PM High School Choir
7:30 PM Youthful Spirit Choir
8:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, September 8

9:00 AM Preschool 2, 3, 4 & 5
12:30 PM Preschool 3, 4 & 5
6:30 PM Sycamore Dist. Rd. Table
7:00 PM Exultation!

Friday, September 9

9:00 AM Preschool 4, 4 & 5
10:15 AM Adoration
12:30 PM Preschool 4 & 5

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