

GraceFull Visions

OCTOBER 2019

From the Deacons' Desk

Due to the events concerning Hurricane Dorian the deacon retreat was cancelled, and there went our fabulous idea for October's Deacons' Desk. But thankfully, we did come up with another idea. We will attempt to give you an insight of our decision to attend Diakonia class, and what we expected from it.

The decision to start Diakonia, beginning August 2015, took us more time than we anticipated. We did not truly know what it was all about, nor what was expected of us. We spent a lot of time at Gophers, that Spring, while shoveling mounds of mulch, discerning what to do.

We went back and forth with the pros and cons - well more like pros and doubts - our doubts: *Would we be able to accomplish what God expected of us, would we meet our Pastor's and Grace Church's expectations? Grace congregation needed us to help serve, but was that what we wanted to do? Two years of classes every Saturday, (minus a few*

months in the summer), was a huge commitment, yet it might be an interesting way to spend Saturdays. Would it be a waste of our time, the church's time or would the time spent become more meaningful? The cost for registration and books was expensive, but we could afford it. Why do this? Why not try? What if they ask us to do something we are not comfortable with or could cause us to fail? But with discomfort comes more awareness and with failure comes learning and possible success. So much discernment and risk, BUT,

We found out it was not our decision to make. It was made for us. Randomly, opening the Bible one Sunday morning, Susi read, "You did not choose me, I chose you." (John: 16, v. 17) She showed this to Frank and we decided, "Ok, then, why not."

For some reason we sought approval/confirmation of our decision. We approached Pastor Lou, knowing he would give us an honest an-

swer, even if it was one we did not wish to hear. He looked at us and said, "That's good", and then he put his hands on our shoulders, looked us in the eyes and added, "the worst thing that can happen to you is that you will learn something." And that we did. With Jesus always present, we learned from our instructors, the readings, the assignments, our fellow students and from each other, especially to and from Tampa, nearly every Saturday, for 2 years.

We learned more about our faith, (new to us, and our classmates, once known, but buried or even forgotten). We learned to forgive ourselves of past transgressions and to try to remember, "This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:34). We learned to be more tolerant, not only of others, but especially of ourselves. James writes (1:19), "be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger". We try hard to follow that, but more often than not, we get the verbs

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and the order mixed up. This shows us that there is still so much learning to do.

The Diakonia program did change us to be a better Christian, but we are constantly learning. Where our journey will lead us, God only knows. God also knows that we will try our best to be ready when He calls us, even to a road we did not expect to travel, either together or alone. We hope and pray that we are making a positive difference in peoples' lives, no matter how small that may be.

Let us serve others as You, Lord, would serve them, that in doing so we may serve You.

- Deacons Susi and Frank

Mission and Ministry

Stewardship Participation

There is an old "social formula" that states, "20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work". This refers to churches as well as other institutions.

Our most recent church directory at Grace lists 97 families. Since that publication, we have, no doubt, increased to 100 families. These family listings, when extended to spouses, partners, children, bring our congregation to about 150 members: from infants to seniors.

God has placed 40 plus ministries and programs before us at Grace. These include familiar areas such as our Community Breakfast, Gophers, Choir, Young at Heart, Mark 2:4 service, to the less publicized ministries like, Movie Time, Sound Board, Cookie Cart, etc.

A simple XY graph, with ministries across the top and names down the column, reveals that at least 76 of our members are involved, lead-

ing and supporting these programs and ministries.

This is a great blessing to our membership and our community. Our prayer is that our members, (our family), who are presently not involved, might seek out a ministry where their passion and talents might bring them the joy (and the challenge) of doing God's work at Grace Lutheran Church.

The Stewardship Team

Faith Community Nursing

Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle as You Age - Whether you're age 25, 95 or somewhere in between, you don't have to sit back and let the effects of aging take place without a fight. There are things you can do to control the aging process and reverse some of the damage.

The Centers of Disease Control offer a number of ideas for healthy aging:

Don't smoke. Each puff hastens the degenerative process

of aging. Plus, smoking lowers your aerobic capacity, making it harder for you to do the things you enjoy.

Eat foods rich in antioxidants. Vitamins A, C and E fight free-radicals formation. Eating 5 ½ cups of fruit and vegetables daily will help you get these vitamins. Among the best sources are broccoli, cauliflower, red peppers and other red, yellow and green vegetables.

Control your blood pressure.

Exercise regularly and build strength. Performing 30 minutes of moderate activity on a near daily basis can help you to retain your aerobic capacity and regular strength training can help to retain muscle mass.

Get enough sleep. Not getting enough sleep keeps your immune system from doing its job and keeps your body in a state of disrepair.

- Ellen C. Duncan

RCS Food Bank

Please remember RCS food bank. It is important that those less fortunate are fed. A few things to remember

please: no glass jar items, nothing expired, and no produce. Be sure to bring food items that you like to eat, just

like them!!! Thank you. - Florence B.

Recipe Corner

Chicken Enchiladas

1 jar Pace Salsa Verde
 1-1/2 cup cooked chicken,
 chopped or shredded
 1/2 cup sour cream
 1-1/2 cup shredded cheddar/
 jack cheese
 8 warmed tortillas
 3 green onions, sliced thin

Mix 1/4 cup salsa verde,
 chicken and sour cream and
 1/2 cup of the cheese until
 mixed well.

Spoon 1/2 cup in bottom of
 baking dish. Divide chicken
 mixture among the tortillas,
 roll up and place in dish. Top
 with remaining salsa. Bake at

375 for 15 minutes, top with
 remaining cheese and onions
 and bake for an additional 10
 minutes.

Shared by Phyllis Dumdie

*Do you have a recipe to
 share? Great! Send it in...*

Work Day

Yes, believe it or not, it is
 time to begin thinking about
 the Holidays. So, to get
 things spruced up before they
 are upon us, we are schedul-

ing a Work Day on Saturday,
 November 23rd. There will be
 both inside and outside jobs!
 If you can volunteer even 1

hour (or more), please come
 join in the fun.

Thanks -
 Lorraine

Blessing of the Animals

We will hold a Blessing of the
 Animals under the Grand Oak
 on Saturday, October 5th at

10 am. All animals are invited
 to bring their people. Dogs
 must be on leashes or other-

wise protected, and cats and
 other small animals must be
 in a carrier.

Sunday Falco's Recent Activities

- Grace Lutheran Church is now listed on The Joy FM website in the selection of churches available for those looking for a Lutheran church in this area. The listing shows information for both of our services along with a picture of our beautiful sanctuary.
- Working with our various monthly renters through a good system each week helping with tables and chairs as we have events and church service.
- Hospitality and set-up is being provided on Sunday morning for the second service, as well as provid-

ing cookies for both ser-
 vices and organizing vol-
 unteers.

- Making appointments with people outside our congregation, walking them through the property, discussing prices, rules and times available.
- Managing cleaning people
- Setting up for congregation events when needed.
- Working with Mike Smutko with property issues

Tasks specific to the Adaptive Service:

- ◇ Talking with multiple assistant living facilities to set up regular outings to the Adaptive Service.

◇ Talking with local newspapers. The Adaptive Service will soon be featured in the Tampa Bay Times!

- Talking with other venues for wedding receptions, etc. (When Grace Lutheran needs to refer to another venue for any reason.).

- Sunday Falco has a list of musicians, DJs, videographer, photographers and caterers if you need a reference.

- Updating the Church Website Calendar Daily. Stay Connected!

Regular Event Updates

Elizabeth Circle

Our Circle will start on October 24th from 1:00-3:00 PM. The 4th Thursday of the month is our regular schedule. We use the Garden Room and the "Gather" magazine, and will start with the September issue. If you want to join in, but don't have a subscription to "Gather," call me at 727-446-4091 and I will get a copy to you. All women are invited. We have coffee and dessert. - Deacon Connie Puls

Movie Time

Like to go to the movies? Come join us on Thursday, October 3rd at 3:00 p.m. in the Highlander Room and watch "A Man Called Peter". This event takes place on the first Thursday of each month. Refreshments will be served. - Gary Neal

Scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 2nd, we are discussing two books. 7 Men and 7 Women, both by Eric Metaxes. We have divided the readings by a man and a woman for each mem-

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 10th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.

Community Breakfast & Lydia's Closet

The Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet will be held on Saturday, **October 12th** at 9 am.

Thank you all for the toiletries and men's shorts. We are now, believe it or not, in need of women's clothing. Anything you can spare for the ladies will be great. - Florence B.

Men of Grace

This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, October 3rd.

October Book Club

ber who attended last month. So, please come and listen to the individual accounts of great Christian people.

We also are discussing "The Well" section of the book In-

Young at Heart

Our next Young at Hearts will meet at Ozona Blue, always a favorite. Carol Smitley will be your host. If you plan on going, please let her know. The date is Thursday, Oct. 10th at noon.

In November we'll meet at Duff's which is off Enterprise and behind Chick Filet. The date is November 14th and at usual time. Please let me know if you'll be going. - Florence B.

Festival of Lights

Interested in going to St. Augustine for the festival of lights? It's a 2-night, 3-day stay and we would leave on Wednesday, January 22nd, returning on Friday, January 24th. We will stay in the same hotel as last time (newly remodeled). We will also take the same bus and bus driver. More info to follow. We will need at least 30 people to make this happen. Please let me know of your interest. - Florence B.

spired by Rachel Held Evans. The book for November has not been chosen.—Vicki Eis

October Birthdays

10/03 Jackson McClenning
 10/14 Terry Knight
 10/20 Jean Schlegel
 10/23 Lorraine Bickell
 10/27 Hilda Taylor

10/28 Dorothy Martin
 Charles Saitta
 10/29 George Smith
 10/31 Tony Falco

Oct. Anniversaries

10/19 Daryl & Sue Cooperrider
 10/25 Lisa & Ty Hauschild

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the Prayer Chapel. Submit prayer requests through the Communion Record Sheets.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Karen Bates, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Ralph Burson, Jean Schlegel, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Tom Stanziano, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Marc DuPaul, the family and friends of Pastor Lou Haseley and Mildred Hijazi (Pastor Lou's sister), those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (especially the victims of Hurricane Dorian and those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson, is stationed in San Diego. She is a mechanic in charge of maintaining aircraft.

- Kyle Wassen gave 4 years to the Navy and is home now and attending St. Pete College. Not sure what he will be. He is currently a vet tech and is back to part-time work with a veterinarian.

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne

Hauschild is in the Air Force

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally. He works at Bayfront Health Hospital and attending college. No longer living at home.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinhart's grandson. He had been redeployed to the Middle East.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony's granddaughter, was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

-USCG Seaman Brennan Wells, Houston TX, nephew of Sunday Falco

-USCG Seaman Samuel Steward, Grand Isle, LA, nephew of Sunday Falco

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

Pr. Lou's Funeral

Pastor Lou Haseley died early in the morning on Sept. 2nd. His funeral will be held at Grace on Sunday, October 6th at 2pm, with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Clergy and deacons are invited to vest. Barbara Haseley requests donations in memory of Pastor Lou be made to Grace Lutheran Church in lieu of flowers. A private burial will be held later at Bushnell National Cemetery.