



Pulpit & Pew

August 2009
Established 1897

A Monthly Newsletter from Grace United Methodist Church
205 East Monroe, Austin, Texas 512/442-5944 <http://www.graceumcaustx.org>
Rev. Linda M. Kessie, Pastor



Grace at a Glance

What's happening this month

- **August 4th, 18th, 25th. 7PM. Disciple II Bible Study. Library.**
- **August 6th, 6:30PM. Austin Wonder Brass Performs for First Thursday Event in Aunt Catherine's Garden. See related article on page 4 for details.**
- **August 12th, 6PM Supper, 7PM Choir Rehearsal. Fellowship Supper and First Choir Rehearsal after Summer Break. Fellowship Supper: Conference Room. Choir Rehearsal: Choir Room.**
- **August 13th, 5AM. Feed the Homeless at First UMC Family Life Center.**
- **August 30th, 12PM. Fifth Sunday Luncheon and "Back to School" Celebration. Fellowship Hall.**

Please check the church calendar regularly on our website calendar (<http://www.graceumcaustx.org/calendar.htm>) for new or updated activities



NEWS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

- **Trustees** - successful Grace Work Day in June, repainted the kitchen, installed a new ceiling fan, and repaired an outside light. Austin Energy completed the energy audit of our lighting and changes have been made. A contact switch was replaced on one of the a/c units, however the compressor is out on another unit that cools the sanctuary and will have to be replaced. Also substantial tears have been found in the duct work. John will repair the duct work as well as install door sweeps on two interior doors that will keep cold air from escaping. The sink in the ladies restroom in the education building is not draining well and needs to be replaced.
- **Finance** - the transfer from PEF has occurred. Monies will be distributed as previously discussed. Discussion was held on the procedures to be used for an audit.
- **Memorials** - blankets and diapers collected in May have been delivered to SafePlace. The fountain in Aunt Katherine's garden has been cleaned.
- **Worship** - We will have guest musicians on August 2. Also the Wonder Brass will perform the last Sunday in August and also perform an evening concert in the garden on August 6. We are going to have a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, September 26. Choir returns August 16. Stay tuned for other musical and dramatic performances.
- **Pastor-Parish Relations** - have hired Cassandra Longo as Children's minister. She begins on July 26 and will work with the Children's team.
- **Fellowship** - will provide water for the Wonder Brass concert in the garden on August 6. Several members of our congregation helped with the 78704th of July plant giveaway. Once again we had a very popular booth at the picnic.
- **Children's** - Children's Sabbath is October 11
- **Outreach** - SAAM reported that the last communion rail offering brought in \$154.00 making our total giving for this year to be

\$562.00. On Church Camp Sunday we assembled 38 health kits, 72 SoCo lunches, and wrote letters to our homebound members.

- **Communications** - Kathy Calnan made a beautiful collage for the 78704th of July event. Information about upcoming events has been emailed to Andy, Michael, & Kathy.

Next meeting the Administrative Council will be planning for the Pumpkin Patch and Fall Fair.

August Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ann Marie Helgren, 2 nd | Ken Huncovsky, 3 rd |
| Claudia Drinovsky, 8 th | Jim Helgren, 8 th |
| Mark Bilberry, 18 th | Joe Guillory, 19 th |
| Mary Ann Sherman, 20 th | Janie Salazar, 23 rd |
| Wesley Helgren, 27 th | Sharon Howell, 28 th |
| | Stanley Peterman, 30 th |



PRAYER CORNER

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Aileen Simms | Randy Peters |
| Rosemarie Burney | Paul Holman |
| Zackery Morris | Joe & Josie Reschman |
| Ann Everitt | Theresa Jenkins |
| David Baker | Ellen Stockberger |
| Darwin Dunson | Katie Kennedy & family |
| Karie Strahan | Gordon Kelso |
| Chick Shellhase | Elizabeth Ensworth |
| Pat Newell | Maggie Vaden |
| Janice Palm | Jerry Maksymowicz |
| Carolyn Minter | Kaelie Douglass |
| Men & Women in our Military Service | |

August Worship Service Volunteers

Adam Fambrough will be our reader for August. No volunteer ushers have come forth yet. Thanks, Adam!

COMMUNION OFFERING

The August 2nd Holy Communion Service offering will go to purchase sack lunches for those in need.





Welcome Our New Director of Children's Ministries!

Grace hired a new Director of Children's Ministries. You may have seen her and her two adorable daughters in service recently. Her name is Cassandra Longo, and she began her duties on Sunday, July 26th. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Cas and her daughters and give them a big "Graceful Greeting"! Below is a message from Cas to the Grace congregation...

"A professor at UT once told my class that when you get paid to do something that you would do for free, you have chosen the right career path. For me, that path involves working with children. I graduated from UT with a B.S. in Applied Learning and Development. I taught kids with special needs in a public school in Round Rock until my oldest daughter was born. Since then, I have taught Sunday School and VBS. Working with children is my passion. I love to see kids grow and learn. My husband and I have been married for eleven years. We are blessed to have two beautiful daughters. Kaylee is six and ready to start first grade. Ashlyn is three and looking forward to preschool. We are excited about getting to know all of you and making Grace our new church home."

John Wesley Said...



Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as every you can.



A/C Breakdown and Repair

An air conditioning unit for the sanctuary and a unit for the church office recently broke down and need to be repaired or replaced.

The unit for the sanctuary needs a new condenser, and the one for the office needs to be replaced. Three bids were received to repair/replace the units. A total of over \$6,000 will be required for this endeavor, the cost of which is not in the 2009 church budget. Letters from the chair of the Trustees and the Finance Committee will be sent to the membership requesting help with the costs to replace/repair these units, the most critical of which is the replacement of the unit to the office.



First Choir Rehearsal is August 12th!

You love to listen to the choir sing, so have you ever thought about joining? All that is required is the desire to make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Choir is great fun, and director Stefen Kane picks music from a very diverse and varied repertoire. Our first fellowship dinner after the summer break followed by rehearsal is on Wednesday, August 12th. Stefen has selected some exciting new music for the choir to sing in Sunday and special services. Come and join us and see what all the fuss is about!

August in Christmas

Many, many thanks to you for keeping up your financial gifts through these summer months like July and August. Historically, most churches see a drop off in support during the summer vacation months. It's also true that most churches must make it up at Christmas time. Thanks to your steady faithful gifts, we can minimize and maybe even avoid having August in Christmas this year. Every gift matters. THANK YOU SO MUCH.



Special Music at Grace Renata Green & Tony Morris

After Renata Green's performance with Les and Kathy on July 12th, we thought it was about time for a little introduction. Renata and Tony Morris have contributed their significant musical talents, on flute and classical guitar, to enhance several worship services at Grace UMC, and there promises to be more. These are all special events and much appreciated.



Tony hosts the popular Classical Guitar Alive (www.guitaralive.org) radio program, which can be heard locally on KMFA 89.5 FM, Saturdays at 7PM. In addition to the radio program, Classical Guitar Alive is a nonprofit organization that hosts an outreach program which presents concerts at no cost to underserved audiences in hospitals, hospices, community centers, etc.

Tony and Renata are also part of the Viva Trio and, as 'Tony Morris & Friends', they have performed several times at the White House and the Texas Governor's Mansion. For booking information regarding concerts/recitals, personal appearances, or other



events: tonymorris@austin.rr.com or (512) 657-1400.

Tony teaches guitar at Texas Lutheran University. Renata teaches flute (adults and children). If you are interested in flute lessons, contact Renata at (512) 826-2300 or renataflute@gmail.com.

Even More Special Music at Grace...



Another group that regularly performs at Grace is the Austin Wonder Brass Quintet. This group has regaled the Grace congregation with a varied repertoire of music for regular services and special events. The Austin Wonder Brass Quintet is composed of musicians who currently perform with the Austin Civic Wind Ensemble (ACWE), or have performed with ACWE in the past.

Austin Wonder Brass Quintet is comprised of:

- Robert Laguna, Trumpet I
- Greg Kahn, Trumpet II
- Stefen Kane, French Horn
- Ted Rachofsky, Trombone
- Eric White, Tuba

This quintet will be performing in Aunt Catherine's Garden in the evening for the First Thursday event on August 2nd. This quintet will also be regularly performing at Grace during Fifth Sundays.



Changing Lives in Africa

Did you know that some of your financial gifts to Grace Church go to support our United Methodist Africa University? And did you also know that the Christian church is growing faster in Africa than in any other continent in the world? For many years the United Methodist church has helped Africans to meet Christ through our missionaries. Now local leaders are being trained in the Africa University. Students from all across Africa learn about Christ and learn about leadership and how to reach and lead their own people. In 2008 Africa University hosted 1,395 students from 22 African countries. 49% female, 51% male. THANK YOU for supporting our young brothers and sisters in Africa as they work to change their world and ours.

Special Music at Grace!

August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM SRCC in Fellowship Hall	4 9:00 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM DISCIPLE II Bible Study in Library	5 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	6 9:00 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Austin Wonder Brass Concert in Aunt Catherine's Garden	7 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	8
9	10 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	11 9:00 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall	12 5:30 PM Alcoholic Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper in Conference Room 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 5 – 7 AM Grace UMC volunteers prepare & serve breakfast at 1st UMC Family Life Center 9:00 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall	14 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	15
16	17 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM SRCC Executive Committee Meetings in Conference Room	18 9:00 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM DISCIPLE II Bible Study in Library 7:00 PM SRCC Historic District Project-Conference Room	19 11:45 AM SAAM Board Meeting@Christ Lutheran 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper 7:00PM Choir Rehearsal	20 9 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall 7:00PM Administrative Council Meeting	21 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	22
23	24 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anon	25 9:00 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall 7 PM DISCIPLE II Bible Study in Library	26 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 9 AM Quilters, Fellowship Hall	28 12:00PM Faith in Action Caregivers – South Austin Board Meeting in Library 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	29
30 12:00 PM Fifth Sunday Luncheon and "Back to School" Celebration in Fellowship Hall	31					



Grace United Methodist Church
 205 E Monroe St
 Austin TX 78704-2424



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 FAITH • HOPE • LOVE



Our Vision Statement: Grace United Methodist Church invites all, welcomes all, and includes all in the Faith, Hope, and Love of God through Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Statement: We seek to include all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, physical ability or sexual orientation in the journey of becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

YOUR STAFF AT GRACE UMC



Linda Kessie,
 Pastor



Cheryl Rader,
 Administrative Assistant



John Jordan,
 Facilities Caretaker



Stefen Kane,
 Music Director
Les Young,
 Pianist/Organist



Cassandra Longo,
 Director,
 Children's Ministry