



# Pulpit & Pew

July 2010  
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***

- July 4th, 11:00 AM Worship at Grace UMC. Then, the “A Gift From Grace”, the plant give-away at the 78704th of July celebration at Little Stacey Park. (more on page 3)
  
- July 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00 AM. Feed My People, preparing and serving breakfast for the homeless at First UMC Family Life Center, corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca Streets.
  
- July 15<sup>th</sup>. Last day to sign up for tickets to the UMC Night at Dell Diamond. (more on page 4)
  
- July 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM. Administrative Council meeting.
  
- July 26-30. Galactic Blast Vacation Bible School. (more on page 4)

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



## A Note from the Pastor



Grace UMC, along with 10 other United Methodist Churches in Austin, participates in the Ecclesiastes Project. For this Project our District Superintendent, the Rev. Bobbi Kaye Jones, has gathered together these 11 churches which have at least these four things in common: 1) we are all within 2

miles of another United Methodist Church, 2) have aging facilities which require increasing funds for maintenance and repair (not one, but two of our 21-year-old air conditioning units have rusted out condenser coils which needed replacement this week, cost \$3, 640!) , 3) have had declining membership over the last 20 years, and 4) have experienced declining income over the last 20 years.

The purpose of the Ecclesiastes Project is to provide resources to help us to rethink church, to renew, and to revitalize our churches.

Hyde Park UMC, one of the Ecclesiastes Project congregations, did not find within itself the will, the energy, or the call to revitalize. Hyde Park UMC celebrated their last worship service on May 30, and disbanded as a congregation. Trinity United Methodist Church, which has outgrown its buildings, will move into the old Hyde Park building, and will sell the Trinity buildings to a private school in their neighborhood.

At Grace, your Administrative Council has been working diligently with a facilitator provided by the Ecclesiastes Project. We have been exploring other uses for our buildings during the week and on Saturdays. We are investigating what other churches in other parts of the country are doing. And we have found a model which seems to fit Grace Church and the Travis Heights neighborhood.

Several churches across the nation have formed foundations which run community art centers in local church facilities. The foundation

rents space from the church for art classes and rehearsals. This puts to good use space that is empty most of the week. And the income to the church provides money to pay for maintenance and repair, lifting much of that burden from the shoulders of the congregation. This enables the congregation to use much more of their offerings for mission and outreach and social action, as well as paying staff for leading worship and doing the administrative work of the church.

We have appointed a Focus Group which is working to develop this idea and is diligently gathering more information. You will be hearing more about this in coming weeks. If you would like more information now, please contact one of our Focus Group: Chester Eitze, Tom and Kathy Calnan, Adam Fambrough, Vanessa De La Rosa, John Jordan, or Linda Kessie.

Shalom,  
Linda Kessie



## Communion Offering

### *July 4 Holy Communion Service*

The July special communion offering will go to the South Austin Assistance Ministry (SAAM). SAAM is a group of South Austin churches which works with Travis County to provide help to those in need. Any person or family that solicits help from member churches is referred to the Post Road Community Center of the Travis County Health & Human Services & Veterans Service. This department makes an assessment of the needs of the person or family and provides whatever help it can. If this help is not enough to meet the needs of the person or family, the department then turns to SAAM for additional funds to meet the assessed needs. Thus, SAAM becomes a “safety net” of aid for those who may fall through the cracks of the county system.



### UMC Night at Dell Diamond Wednesday, August 11!



The Round Rock Express will be holding their first United Methodist night on Wednesday, August 11. The team is offering discounted tickets with part of the ticket price going to save lives through the UMC's **Imagine No Malaria Campaign** on behalf of the Austin District of the United Methodist Church. Participating churches with the most members attending will receive a chance to: 1st, hold a worship service at the Dell Diamond; 2nd, a chance to sing the national anthem; and 3rd, a chance to throw out the first pitch on United Methodist night!

So come enjoy a fun-packed baseball game at Dell Diamond, and bring all your friends and family! To receive discounted tickets, you must sign up and pay for your tickets at the church office before Sunday, July 15 - we must send in the order form by July 20!!!

Box seats will be \$8 (normally \$12), and berm seating (general admission lawn) will be \$5 (normally \$6).

To sign up, call Cheryl at 442-5944  
or Linda at 923-8244 - before July 15!

### July Birthdays

Nancy Lindsay, July 7<sup>th</sup>     Aileen Simms, July 8<sup>th</sup>  
Katie Marrs, July 16<sup>th</sup>     Cecelia Jones, July 17<sup>th</sup>  
Betsy Pirie, July 18<sup>th</sup>



### PRAYER CORNER

- |                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jean Adams                     | Dorothy Bos                           |
| Betty Bratton                  | family & friends of Robert Wade Brown |
| Rosemarie Burney               | Bernice Caldwell                      |
| Michael Christelman & family   | Allysa Dunaway                        |
| Brian & Liz Fambrough & Audrey | Wesley & Marie Helgren                |
| Charley Holloway               | Paul Holman                           |
| Theresa Jenkins                | Judy Jordan                           |
| Dorothy Kelso                  | Katie Kennedy & family                |
| Kenneth Leenen                 | Lynn Lefave                           |
| Russ Mooney                    | Zackery Morris                        |
| Pat Newell                     | Mary Nichols                          |
| Janice Palm                    | Suzanne & Grant Scott                 |
| Aileen Simms                   | Mark Socin                            |
| Ellen Stockberger              | Ella Stone                            |
| Karie Strahan                  | Maggie Vaden                          |
- All men & women in military service  
Grace United Methodist Church



### Gifts from Grace UMC!

#### 78704th of July Plant Give-away

Start your cuttings (of plants, that is!)! It has been our traditional outreach to the Travis Heights neighborhood to give away small plants as a Gift from Grace UMC during the gathering that follows the parade on July 4th. We will have a table and tent set up at Little Stacey Park to greet the parade attendees with plants at the end of the parade.

Please provide root cuttings of your plants, or purchase small plants, and bring them to the church on July 4. You can also bring the cuttings or plants on Saturday and place them on the sidewalk behind the bushes in front of the education building. Kathy will pick them up.

If you will "man the table," greeting our neighbors and giving away the plants, please let Cheryl know in the church office - 442-5944.

**Your help is greatly appreciated!**



# GALACTIC BLAST VBS 2010

Vacation Bible School 2010 at Grace Church  
will be  
*Out of This World!*

At *Galactic Blast* VBS, cadets will voyage into outer space praising God. Through daily Bible missions, kids will see space like never before, gain a new perspective on our planet Earth, and learn easy "green" earth tips they can practice at home. Join us on this cosmic combination of faith and fun as cadets develop a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ!

**Start Date:** July 26th, 2010 at 9:00 AM  
**End Date:** July 30th, 2010 at 12:00 PM  
**Volunteer Registration End Date:** July 16th, 2010 at 5:00 PM  
**Participant Registration End Date:** July 25th, 2010 at 5:00 PM

Kids, adults, and teens are needed to ensure an successful BLAST OFF! Please invite your friends, neighbors, kids, grandkids, distant cousins, and anyone who would enjoy launching a close encounter of the spiritual kind with Christ!

**THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR VBS THIS YEAR!**

**10,9,8,7... DON'T WAIT, REGISTER NOW!**

To register or volunteer for VBS, go to <http://www.gracemethodistaustin.org/>

Learn more about Galactic Blast VBS 2010 at [www.cokesburyvbs.com](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com)

Feel free to contact Cas Longo at [caslongo@yahoo.com](mailto:caslongo@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.



## Avoid the "Summer Slump" in 2010

Like most churches, Grace Church has historically experienced a "summer slump" in financial giving as members leave town for vacation trips and weekend excursions. The slump coincides with the expensive summer season for the church, when electric bills are high. To minimize or avoid the typical giving slump, your Administrative Council urges you to do the following:

- Keep current on your regular giving.
- Make an above-and-beyond special offering over the summer in praise and thanksgiving for God's blessings.

If you wish to set up Electronic Fund Transfer for your contributions, contact Adam Fambrough at [treasurer@gracemethodistaustin.org](mailto:treasurer@gracemethodistaustin.org).

Heartfelt thanks for all you have done and are doing to support the ministries of Grace Church!



## Flower Sign-Up for Worship

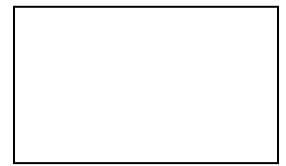
No one has signed up for flowers for the next few months during worship service! As we all know, the beautiful flower arrangements during Sunday worship service add a wonderful touch of vivid color and remind us of the life-giving and healing power of Jesus Christ. The flower arrangements are designed by our very own David Mitschelen. The cost is \$35 per Sunday for these service-enhancing arrangements. They can be taken home or brought to a friend or family member after worship service. Please sign up and help continue a beautiful Grace tradition. Thanks!

# July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 5:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous	3
4  11AM-2PM Grace's Plant Give-Away booth at 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Potluck Picnic at Little Stacy Park.	5 Office Closed – July 4 <sup>th</sup> Holiday 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous 7:15PM SRCC in Fellowship Hall	6	7 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	8 5:00AM-7:00AM Feed the Homeless@ First UMC Family Life Center	9 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	10
11	12 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	13	14 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	15  7:00PM Administrative Council Meeting in Conference Room	16 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	17
18	19 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous 6:00PM SRCC Executive Meeting in Conference Room 6:00PM-9:00PM Art Class in Game Room	20 7:00PM SRCC Historic District Project— Conference Room	21 12:00PM SAAM Board Meeting at Christ Lutheran 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	22	23 12:00PM Faith-in-Action Caregivers South Austin Board Meeting in Conference Room 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	24
25	26  9:00AM-Noon Vacation Bible School 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous 6:00PM-9:00PM Art Class in Game Room	27 9:00AM-Noon Vacation Bible School	28 9:00AM-Noon Vacation Bible School 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	29 9:00AM-Noon Vacation Bible School	30 9:00AM-Noon Vacation Bible School 5:30PM Alcoholic Anonymous	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,*  
 Facility  
 Caretaker



*Les Young,*  
 Pianist/Organist  
*Stefen Kane,*  
 Music Director



*Cas Longo,*  
 Children's  
 Director