

# Grace Notes

## Newsletter



GUMPRAYER: PRAYERTEAM@SPENCERGUMC.COM

OCTOBER 2011

**FREE!**



**Tuesdays & Thursdays  
@ 7:15 PM  
Fellowship Hall**

We will workout together, be supportive of each other and come closer as sisters in Christ.

**All sizes welcome!**

For more information please contact :  
Kristin Schweneker  
or Carla Swank

Find us on Facebook.com



### **New BOOK Club!**

Do you enjoy reading?  
The Christian Book club is just for you. We will be having a time of fellowship

7:00 p.m., Monday, October 3rd, in the church library. Come prepared to discuss any Christian fiction or non-fiction book that has inspired your faith journey. Everyone is welcome, so bring a friend. See you on the 3rd. If you have any questions you can contact Patty Jones at 262-2195.

### **Theological Corner:**

Do we believe in Jesus because the Bible tells about him or do we believe the Bible because it tells us about Jesus?

Let me know what you think. Your emails will not be shared with anyone. Please email me your thoughts or questions.

**Something to Think About**



In Christ,  
Pastor Travis Stevick  
tstevick@spencergumc.com

## **'The Table'**

• FREE TO ALL • FREE TO ALL •



**October 27  
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Open to all those in need.**

### Grace Chancel Choir History by Lou Reed

I do not know when the choir originated or the early history. I do know that shortly after my parents and I moved to Spencer in August 1945, my Dad started singing in the choir and the director was Gladys White. My Mother joined the choir a few years later.

Many people have been in the choir a long time. John Blair joined the choir in the middle 1950's. (He sang tenor with my Dad). Nancy Bell, Mary Lou and I joined the choir in the early and middle 1960's.

To my knowledge there is no list of choir directors. (I wish there was a list) The directors I remember are as follows: Gladys White (directed for 25 years), Gretchen Evans, Virginia Wicks, Ann Murr, Linda (Hart) Marshall, Diane Greenwood, Arlene Hessman, and Nancy Patrick.

We have also been blessed with talented people that helped out directing when needed as follows: Mike Terlow, Mike Patten, and Teresa Ortman.

Music can reach out to many people in a personal way. Many of you will remember Ben Abben who was a long-time member of Grace Church. Did you know that when Ben moved to Spencer he was not a Methodist. He joined Grace Church because he enjoyed the music of the organ and the choir.

If you wish to share your God-given spiritual gift of singing, please come to our rehearsals on Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the choir room and join the choir. (we need you) Did you know that the choir is the longest continuous small group in Grace Church. We have a good time and you will enjoy the fellowship.

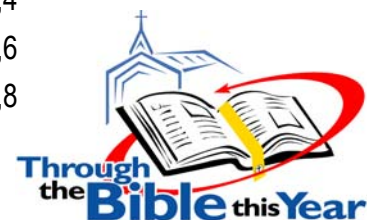
The choir is like the post office... rain, snow or shine, the choir is ready to deliver a Christian message in song on Sunday morning.

P.S. If anyone has information concerning other former choir directors, please let the church office know.



### October Bible Readings

- Zechariah 10-12; Psalm 126; Luke 14
- Zechariah 13-14; Psalm 147; Luke 15
- Ezra 5,6; Psalm 138; Luke 16
- Esther 1,2; Psalm 150; Luke 17
- Esther 3-8; Luke 18
- Esther 9-10; Luke 19
- Ezra 7,8; Luke 20
- Ezra 9,10; Psalm 131; Luke 21
- Nehemiah 1,2; Psalm 133; Luke 22
- Nehemiah 3,4; Luke 23
- Nehemiah 5,6; Psalm 146; Luke 24
- Nehemiah 7,8; Acts 1
- Nehemiah 9,10; Acts 2
- Nehemiah 11,12; Psalm 1; Acts 3
- Nehemiah 13; Mal. 1,2; Acts 4
- Mal. 3,4; Psalm 148; Acts 5
- Job 1,2; Acts 6,7
- Job 3,4; Acts 8,9
- Job 5; Psalm 108; Acts 10,11
- Job 6-8; Acts 12
- Job 9,10; Acts 13,14
- Job 11,12; Acts 15,16
- Job 13,14; Acts 17,18
- Job 15; Acts 19,20
- Job 16; Acts 21-23
- Job 17; Acts 24-26
- Job 18; Psalm 114; Acts. 27,28
- Job 19; Mark 1,2
- Job 20; Mark 3,4
- Job 21; Mark 5,6
- Job 22; Mark 7,8



**THANK YOU!!!**

Thank you to Paul & Lucille Hansen, Merle & Lorraine Yager, Jean Rowe, Mildred Ebel, Betty Smith and Ruby Peterson for the giving of your time to fold the Grace Notes Newsletter. Your ministry is greatly appreciated! We couldn't do it without you.



Grace Office Staff

**More dates for the...  
2011 Grace Church  
Directory**



We are now having signups for the NEW Grace United Methodist Church Directory. Pictures will be taken by Lifetouch.

Once again each family will get a FREE 8 X 10 photo.

**Dates Lifetouch will be here are:**

- October 11:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM
- October 12:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM
- October 13:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM
- October 14:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM
- October 15:** 10:00 AM - 4:50 PM
- October 18:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM
- October 19:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM
- October 20:** 2:30 PM - 8:50 PM

To sign up for your photography appointment please go to [www.spencergumc.com](http://www.spencergumc.com) and click on the Links then onto the 2011 Directory Sign Ups. This is a simple step by step process.

We encourage you to sign up for the 2011 Grace Church Directory soon

**UMW Spiritual Bazaar**



Friday, October 7

**Get Up and Go!**

*Acts 9: 1-22*

**Speaker: Bishop Deborah Kiesey**

- 10:00 AM Coffee
- 10:30 AM Program
- 12:00 PM Luncheon

Tickets \$6.00 each

Tickets are available from the UMW members, church office and at the door.

All women are welcome!

**Thank you...**

Thank you to all my church family and friends for the cards, prayers and concern, and food. I had double artery bypass surgery on both legs. I'm not able to drive yet. My recovery is going well and am so blessed. Once again, I thank everyone for all you have done for me.

God Bless all of you!  
Rose Alger



**Thank you...**

Thanks to all my church friends who signed my birthday card. I appreciate reading all the names.

Bob Eninger



The October breakfast meeting of United Methodist Men is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, at 8 AM in the Wesley Room



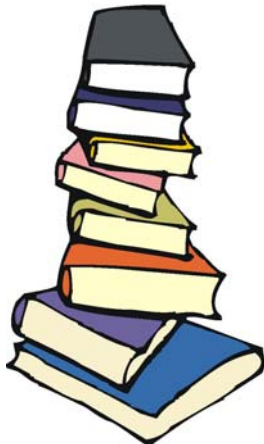
at Grace United Methodist Church. The Methodist Men will also be serving at the UMW Spiritual Bazaar Luncheon on Friday, October 7, and the Annual United Methodist Men Potato Dinner Fundraiser scheduled for Sunday, October 30. All men are welcome to participate in the ministry of United Methodist Men and to enjoy fellowship, a delicious breakfast, devotions, as well as participation in our programs and service projects.

Grace Church United Methodist Men

## Library News...

Cooler weather is here and hopefully this will give all of us more time to do more reading. Some books of interest right now in our Library are The Help, by Kathryn Stockett donated by Nancy Bell (did you see the movie), a very small but powerful book The Will of God, by Leslie Weatherhead which was recently mentioned in one Chuck's sermons, Heaven is for Real, a little boys Astonishing Story of his trip to Heaven and back, by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent and we are still recommending our all church read book The Noticer by Andy Andrews.

Fiction books are right inside the door of the Library to your left and the new books, UMW and UMM books to your right as you enter the Library. Interesting and inspirational books for adults and children on many subjects can be found through out the Library. You can also pick up a book from the book table in the Narthex. The Library Board hopes you are enjoying the new display in the Narthex window. A theme is chosen and then members of the board and others bring things related to this theme. Pat Muller and Gerry Runkle put it together with the help of Delores Barringer, Patty Jones, Carol McQueen, Judy K. Olson, Verna Petersen and Shirley Woodford.



Please remember to sign up for the  
**Grace United Methodist  
2011 Church Directory**

We want to make this a complete directory and it won't be if you aren't in it. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us 262-5970.

## What is your integrity worth?

Your name is all you have once that is gone it is gone for good.

*A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.*  
~Proverbs 22:1

**Adult Study**  
with  
**Pastor Travis Stevick**

Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM

Fireside Room - FREE

**All are welcome.**

## NEW YOUTH TIMES!

**Jr. High Youth Group:**

Wednesdays, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

**Sr. High Youth Group:**

Wednesdays, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

There will still be events that involve both groups, but for our normal meetings, we will be trying this new format. I hope that this new arrangement works for you. If it does not, I am deeply sorry. The decision for these particular days and times was not made quickly, but with much thought and prayer. All youth are welcome at Grace!

**All are welcome so...  
Come and join in!**



### Would You Like to Improve Your Worship Experience?

Holly Kellogg's class has been studying the Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster. In our recent class meetings on the chapter on Worship, we learned some information that we think would improve each person's worship experience. We would like to share some thoughts from our study.

To worship is to experience Reality, to touch Life. It is to know, to feel and to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community. God is actively seeking worshipers. Worship is kindled within us only when the Spirit of God touches our human spirit. Forms and rituals do not produce worship. We can have the best possible liturgy but we have not worshiped the Lord until Spirit touches spirit. Singing, praying, and praising may all lead to worship. Our spirit must be ignited by the divine fire.

We worship the Lord not only because of who he is, but also because of what he has done. We praise God for who he is, and thank him for what he has done.

#### How to Prepare for Worship

A striking feature of worship in the Bible is that people gathered in what we would call a "holy expectancy." Early followers gathered with an anticipation and knew that Christ was present among them and would teach them and touch them with His living power. How do we cultivate this holy expectancy? While going about our day, encourage the habit of constant conversation with God. Think of praising Him and giving thanks. Live throughout the week, listening for his voice and obeying his word. Then you will hear his voice as you gather for public worship. Enter the service ten minutes early. Lift your heart in praise. Picture a vision of the Lord and invite the real Presence to be evident.

Next, lift into the light of Christ the pastor and other worship leaders. Picture God's radiance surrounding them. Release them to speak the truth boldly in the power of the Lord.

When people enter the room, glance around until you see someone who needs your intercessory prayer. Lift them into the glorious light of His Presence. Hold them as a special intention throughout the service. If only a few in a congregation will do this, it will deepen the worship experience for all.

Worship is an ordered way of acting and living that sets us before God so he can transform us. We respond to the liberating touch of the Holy Spirit. These are avenues to come into that realm: Still all humanly initiated activity. Praise is an avenue into worship. We are to pray with our spirit and mind and sing with our spirit and mind. God calls for worship that involves our whole being - body, mind, spirit and emotions. Standing, clapping, lifting our hands, bowing our head are all postures consistent with the spirit of adoration and humility.

#### Steps Into Worship

First, learn to practice the presence of God daily. Second, have many different experiences of worship when you are alone, in small groups and in the Sunday gatherings. Third, prepare for the gathered experience of worship. Go to bed early, the night before, have an inward time of confession, review the Scriptures that will be used. Gather early before the service begins and fill the room with the presence of God. Fourth, have a willingness to be gathered in the power of the Lord. Fifth, cultivate holy dependency. Be completely dependent upon God for anything significant to happen. Sixth, absorb distractions with gratitude. Bless those, children and others, who are distracting to you. Seventh, learn to offer a sacrifice of worship. You might not feel like it, but give God your time.

This chapter of our study impacted our lives and changed how we worship. We pray that you may grow in your experiencing the presence of God in your worship.

Members of Holly Kellogg's Bible Study

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
PHONE (712)262-5970 - FAX (712)262-0344  
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 AM- NURSERY AVAILABLE

**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
[WWW.SPENCERGUMC.COM](http://WWW.SPENCERGUMC.COM)

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
311 2nd Ave. West  
Spencer, Iowa 51301

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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
SPENCER, IA. 51301  
PERMIT NO. 145

Rev. Chuck Kellogg- Sr. Pastor  
[chuck.kellogg@spencergumc.com](mailto:chuck.kellogg@spencergumc.com)  
Rev. Travis Stevick- Associate Pastor  
[tstevick@spencergumc.com](mailto:tstevick@spencergumc.com)

**Return Service Requested**

Custodian: Bob Dirks  
Assistant Custodian: Mary Nepl  
Administrative Secretary: Kay Clancy  
Secretary: Linda Bress  
Organist: Gretchen Hagedorn  
Pianist: Teresa Ortman  
Choir Director: Nancy Patrick  
Joyful Ringers Director: Judi Calhoon  
Administrative Council: Judith Olson  
Treasurer: Claudia Neary



## **GASP (Grace After School Program)** Wednesdays 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM

The After School Program is for children Grades 1st to 5th and is open to the community. We meet every Wednesday afternoon (unless there is a scheduled early out or weather related out). We play games, have fun snacks, sing songs, meet new friends, but most importantly we study the Bible. We are excited to continue our "Answers for Kids Curriculum," and we will answer questions this year like:

"Where did humans come from?"

"Why are snakes so scary?"

"What About Dinosaurs?"

To find out these answers and much, much more, join us each Wednesday for fun and fellowship.

Deb Dvorak  
Sara DeWitt



**P. S. There are a few other surprises in store for you.....**