

THE TRUMPET

Dear People of Grace,

Some time ago I received an email which contained a reportedly new revelation from God. You may be familiar with it, but I bring it to you in this issue of *The Trumpet* with a slight editorial change to promote an event which will be described in more detail later in this newsletter.

A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?" Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, you walked with us every day. Now we do not see you anymore. We are lonesome here and it is difficult for us to remember how much you love us." And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are, as I do, in spite of yourselves." And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve, and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals in the Kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal. And God said, "No problem. Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG." And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them. And they were comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail. After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well. And God said, "No Problem! I will create for them a companion who will be with them forever and who will see them as they are. The companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration." And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve. And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings. And Adam and Eve learned humility. And they were greatly improved. And God was pleased, and Dog was happy, and Cat couldn't have cared less one way or the other!

With apologies to the cat lovers among us, I myself, a dog lover, invite the rest of you animal lovers to a "Blessing of the Animals" on Saturday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m. More details can be found in this issue of *The Trumpet*.

Your unabashed canine lover,
Pastor Bill

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September has been a busy month for the Board! In addition to our regularly scheduled meeting, we also hosted two Pastoral Candidates at special meetings designed to give the candidate a good feel for how we direct the church and how the Commissions operate. Both candidates had ideas and suggestions and seemed enthusiastic for the opportunity to work with us. We all look forward this upcoming weekend to visiting with our third candidate. We pray that God will lead us to the right person for our Church, and that God will guide the candidates as well.

The pace doesn't slow down from now to the end of my term. I can hardly believe as I type these words it's only 85 days until Christmas!! At our September meeting, we scheduled the **Annual Congregation Meeting for Sunday, December 7 at 2 p.m.** in the Church Basement. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. This date means that all our bylaw changes and budgets need to get done by mid-November!

A full set of the proposed bylaws is available to read in Jan's office, or you can request an email version from either myself or Jan. The document is LARGE, but very important. Bylaw revisions include some Commission changes and **updated procedures for the hiring and termination of the Pastor** – so we need your input. The board will be taking the bylaws under review at our October meeting – so please share your opinions with the Bylaws Committee (Bill Cottrell, Judy Moore, Glen Kasson), the various Commission Chairs or myself. It will help to move our annual meeting along if we have already hammered out most of the points ahead of that meeting.

The Search Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, October 6, to review and evaluate each of our pastoral candidates. PLEASE turn in your comments to Jan in the office or Arn or myself, so they can be incorporated into the deliberation process. If you lost the forms, just write your thoughts on a piece of paper. Our first Pastor Candidate Pastor Dale Metzger is from Idaho, the second is Pastor David Graham from Iowa, and our third, coming October 4, is Pastor Scott Baker (USAF Chaplain) coming from Vandenberg AFB, California.

The Nominations Committee has nearly completed their list of candidates for the various Commissions and Boards. THANK YOU to each of you who have agreed to serve another term, or to join our team for the first time. It is a lot of work and time, but it is GOD's WORK and GOD's church – and so rewarding to be a part of it.

May God continue to Bless us and direct us in his Work,
Linda Garrison, President

COUNTRY STORE

Only one and a half weeks until we start setting up Country Store the week of October 12. The Chairmen are already starting on some early preparations and are calling for volunteers. Also, if you have any donations or would like to help, please contact the Church Office or Don Walker.

We always sell out early in both of these departments, so start your baking now.

BAKE AND FREEZE - Hopefully, your freezers are already filling up with baked goods for Country Store. We need lots and lots of homemade pies to sell whole in the Bakery and by the slice in the Coffee Shoppe. Also, for the Bakery, we need a variety of assorted baked goods such as cakes, breads, cookies, jams or some delicious item of your choosing. If you are not a baker, please make a donation towards the purchase of the pies from Marie Callander's.

JEWELRY DEPARTMENT

If you have any treasures for this department, Birdie Hurst would appreciate getting them as soon as possible so she can start getting everything tagged. She is also looking for any miscellaneous accessory items. Please contact her or bring your donations to the church office.

PLANT DEPARTMENT

If you need pots to start some plantings, we have some available. Please call the church office if you need any. Pomegranates are coming into season and are always in great demand ... if you have any to share, we would love to have them, and any plants you would like to donate. If you need help getting them to the church, please call the church office or Glen Kasson.

MISSIONS AND SOCIAL COMMISSION

The POWER of a SIMPLE GIFT

We are participating in Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse headed by Franklin Graham. This organization brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations all around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love.

Wrapped boxes are available in the church office (**AND WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR MORE SHOE BOXES TO WRAP**). Inside each box is a brochure with suggested gift items, so your hardest decision will be whether to buy for a boy or girl. Our goal of 100 boxes leaving from Grace Church is possible with your help. If you are not able to participate, we also accept donations and will be happy to fill a box in your name. Please return the filled boxes to the Church office by the end of October.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

Children's Sunday School Our Sunday School registration day was a smashing success, with six children attending. Anne-Marie Carnes read a story on 'God's Secrets,' and then the kids set out to hunt down candy-filled eggs guided by clues from Bible stories. Chris Ward helped find the answers in the Bible when they were stumped. All were awarded fun crafts of their choice as prizes. We are happy to see that this set of children, plus a few others, have been coming more regularly now that school has begun. Thanks to our volunteers for making a fun day for our Sunday school children.

Adult Sunday School Due to a delay in obtaining books, the adult Sunday school class on aging will start October 6. A couple of extra books are available in the office should anyone wish to attend intermittently. This class will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, location to be announced. Please join us, or the Pioneer Bible Study class, which meets in the Social Room Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. Either class would love to have you.

We have been in the process of organizing and inventorying our supplies and material for Sunday School for some time. I'm pleased to report that we donated start-up packs and other remaining supplies from three past Vacation Bible School to a small start-up church in New Mexico which hosts many children. They were thrilled to receive this gift. Other supplies which we had in excess relative to the size of our Sunday school and life span of said supplies, were given to Grace Christian Academy teachers. Marcia Harhay called to offer her thanks to the church for this donation.

~Cheryl Vanier, Chair

MUSIC MINISTRIES

The other day, I heard a so-called comedian on television say that America is one of the only partially educated countries in the world, who still believe in religion. He surmised that it is because, as a nation, we are young and dumb! He said that talking to God is playing with an imaginary friend! This is what we are up against. I know, and you know, that Christians are under attack. Doom and Gloom are everywhere - people are afraid, confused, and unhappy. Television tells us that this is the way things are and we just have to accept it. Many churches are closing their doors, selling the buildings and are "out of business." Perhaps much of the problem could be contributed to the kind of business they were trying to conduct. Were they offering free, without charge . . . eternal life, a free gift from God, our Founding Father? Were they offering Christian Love and Fellowship? Were they offering Faith and Hope and God's assurance? Maybe not! We at Grace, are not going out of business!! Notice, almost every Sunday among our visitors, we have two or more people who are looking for a Church home. All we have to do is to invite them, as well as friends and neighbors, welcome them, pray for them when problems arise, let them know that they are welcome, act happy to see them and to contact them when we haven't seen them for a while.

We are good at this and can even be better. I encourage all of us to "keep up the good work." After all - God's business is our business and we will not ever have a going-out-of-business sale or close our doors! We know the SOLUTION AND GOD IS CHAIRMAN OF OUR BOARD! Our portfolio is sound.....

Blessings on you and yours...Carol

GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Our school year began on Monday, August 18, with a breakfast for the parents whose children are new to our school. These parents had the opportunity to meet other parents and enjoy a time of fellowship as school staff and Parent Teacher Fellowship members were available to answer their questions.

Grace Christian Academy staff for the 2008-2009 school year include the following:

Mary Jo Zapolski – Kindergarten
Kristine Sader – First & Second grade
Mary Deen – Third & Fourth grade
Kristie Mraz – Fifth & Sixth grade
Danielle Melendez – P.E. / Classroom Aide
Stephanie Barth – Spanish
Claire Childress – Art
Jennifer Spinkelink – Bookkeeper
Linda Estes – Computers/ Administrative Assistant
Marcia Harhay – Principal

We are all looking forward to an exciting school year.

Blessings ~ Marcia Harhay

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Crystal Wizard aka Don Thompson was the special program speaker at our Salad Luncheon on September 10. After a wonderful lunch, Don showed his remarkable talent of turning a rod of glass into a beautiful piece of art. As he talked about how he had gotten into this line of work, he made a hummingbird perched on a flower and an eagle in full wing spread. He also brought some examples of his work which included dolphins, flowers, and birds. Much thanks to the decorating committee who did a fabulous job.

PET BLESSINGS

All members and friends of Grace Community Church and their animal companions are invited to a “SERVICE FOR THE BLESSING OF ANIMALS” on Saturday, October 25, at 10:30 a.m., on the lawn by the Chapel.

Francyl Gawryn will provide special music and Pastor Bill will lead in worship and provide the blessing. Please have your special animal companion on a leash or in a carrier in order that all may be done “decently and in order.” If seating is desired, it is suggested that you bring a lawn chair. Depending upon the number of pets to be blessed, the service should run from 30 to 45 minutes.

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION

The Membership Commission met on Sunday, September 14 with all members present. Anita Peddy joined us from the Stewardship and Finance Commission. She and Judy Ogden shared their contribution and attendance records of the past two years to determine church members who should be put on an Inactive list. This will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

We then discussed our plans for taking in new members on October 26. We will have a brief meeting on October 12 to prepare for New Members Sunday.

I shared with our commission the membership budget for 2009 to be approved by Stewardship and Finance. After our meeting, we put together 60 Welcome Packets in preparation for future visitors to the church.

Bev Mazza ~ Chair

WELCOME TO TARA AND TODD IMBODEN

We are introducing Tara and Todd Imboden our newest members who joined the church in June.

Todd, born in California, moved to Boulder City 34 years ago and works for the City of Henderson as a Water Systems Technician.

Tara is from Washington State and has been in Boulder City for 11 years. She is an assistant principal at Lamping Elementary in Henderson.

Both are graduates of UNLV and met during college while working part time at Safe Key, an after-school program of Clark County School District. They married 10 years ago here at Grace Church and now have an adorable 1 ½ year old son, Alec. In their free time, Tara and Todd enjoy golf and all water sports.

We look forward to getting to know Todd and Tara and will be blessed by their membership in Grace Church.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

PEO, Chapter K, is having their annual fund raiser on
Saturday, October 11 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
at the Boulder City Senior Center

Get started early on your Christmas shopping!
Complimentary refreshments will be served.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

Our Fall programs have started with some repeats and some new ones:

For preschoolers and their mom, dad or care giver, a music and support group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 in the basement. Please let others know about this fun time for young kids, and a support group for the families.

At Grace Academy, Tuesday mornings I'll be working with the children on a program called "Praise Around the World." They will be singing and learning to play percussion instruments with praise and worship songs from different Christian communities around the world. We anticipate having a program to present to the members of Grace Church later in the school year.

Our wonderful bell choir, Bells of Grace rehearse on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. We have nine ringers, but there is ALWAYS room for more! If you are interested, please let me know, as we would love to have you join us!

Each Sunday for the last six months, we have been holding worship services at the Homestead for our members and friends who reside there. It is a wonderful time of singing and fellowship for them and for us. Please consider joining us one Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. You might be given an opportunity to speak, or pray, or just listen to one of our members talk about their life. This service is a wonderful ministry which gives to both those who go to minister, and those who attend.

I also have plans to start a class on Christian Spirituality later this fall. If you have ideas for other programs that you would like to see in the future, please share them with me as I always eager to hear from you.

Last Saturday, I attended a wonderful seminar called Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry. This is a ministry which is strongly based in Scripture, it is directly connected to prayer and it is a process which facilitates self-healing as well as directing prayerful healing for others. This is in no way meant to replace traditional health care, or sacramental practice of any kind.

This ministry was first desigend as a component of training for persons in the nursing field. It has more recently been developed as a practice which is available to lay or clergy, and recommended for any person in the healing or ministerial professions. This type of ministry is intended to help those who suffer physically, emotionally, mentally or spiritually.

Although I do not see myself as a "healing minister" I do look forward to being able to add this type of prayerful help to the ministry that I offer at Grace. As a member of the Intercessory Prayer Group, I feel that this type of ministry strengthens me as a prayerful person for others. If you have any questions or comments about this type of ministry, I would love to talk with you about it.

Blessings to you, and may your days and nights be filled with the peace and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Francyl Gawryn ~ Director of Family Ministries

MILITARY SUPPORT

Our support of the troops continues. We received a THANK YOU note from Chaplain Michael Baker, USN which is posted on the bulletin board. He states, "On behalf of the Marines and Sailors of 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, thank you for your packages of children's clothing. The religious ministry team passed these items to the local populace of Fallujah City. Those who received them were very pleased."

Boxes went to Afghanistan to SFC Bryan Buchanan, and to three different spots in Iraq. Now we will focus on another mailing in anticipation of Christmas. If anyone has a letter of encouragement or support they would like to include with the boxes, please get it to me. The pillowcases and SWEET DREAMS theme was a hit last Christmas, so I believe we will do that again this year.

QUILT SQUARES AND BLANKETS

My thanks to Eleanor Beckert for the two cute heart blocks which were signed along with the other blocks.

I received the BEST surprise on Sunday during the Gold Star Mothers event. Dana Stauffer asked for my car keys as she had some quilts to deliver for the Blankets of Hope project of Soldier's Angels. When I got to my car, the back seat was FULL of seventeen (17) quilts! Each perfectly rolled per specifications with labels of Hope and Wishes for Recovery. I was completely awe-struck. Being the quilt freak that I am – I couldn't stand it. I undid each ribbon and rolled the quilts out to look at them. Each one is simply exquisite. I've taken photographs of them, and will post them on the bulletin board when I get the copies made. In the meantime, the blankets will be packed and sent to one of our hospitals. Normally, I send direct to Walter Reed, but I'm going to try and see if they can be used at Balboa Hospital's new wounded warrior unit in San Diego! This is one of the best examples I can think of spreading the word and letting the blessings multiply. Thanks again Dana for making some of the quilts and for enlisting The Vegas Chicks to do some! They are awesome!

NATIONAL GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY

A special thanks to everyone who attended last Sunday's service. Our honored guests were the families of eight of our Nevada fallen heroes. I received feedback from many of them that they were truly touched by the ceremony at the church. One even suggested that she felt like she had been transported to Mayberry!! (I told her we had a LOT of Aunt Bee's in the church!) Thanks to Carol Simak, Barbara Walker, and the choir for their beautiful music and for the lovely words of inspiration in the bulletin. Also thanks to Dorothy and Jack Rants for being such great servers at Fellowship, and the folks who signed the blocks for future quilts, and made kind comments regarding LCpl. Ivan Wilson's quilt. A special thanks goes to Bill Stryker for the lovely prayer for the families, and for reading of the proclamation. I hope we can make this an annual tradition for our families. And thank you also to the Blue Star Moms who attended to support their Gold Star sisters, and to our beloved Patriot Guard, who stood outside the church to protect the families and formed that beautiful flag line as we left the church. I hope to get some photos up on a commemorative page on the Web – in my spare time!!

Semper Fi -- Until they all come home Linda

OPENINGS AVAILABLE WORKING FOR GOD

Would you like a job where you can't get fired?

Would you like a job that doesn't start until 8:30 a.m. and ends approximately 11:30 a.m.?

Would you like a job where you aren't certain what you will be doing when you arrive?

Would you like a job where coffee, juice, and cookies are accompanied by some of the best stories you have ever heard?

If so, do I have a deal for you!

Each week on Tuesday morning (8:30a.m.), the "Unretired Renovators" gather at Grace Church to do routine maintenance on a building that is about as old as we are. We paint, hang doors, repair sprinklers, replace or extend electrical circuits, replace light bulbs and sometimes do plumbing jobs. This is not an all-inclusive list, but it gives you the idea. Do not be concerned if you aren't a journeyman, trained in each of these jobs, I suspect that none of us are. But we do have each of these skills covered by someone in our group. A couple of former contractors add to our overall skills and when possible we work in pairs. Each of us has our frailties, so we try not to physically stress anyone. If you can run a screwdriver, hammer, or paint brush, you are well qualified for the job. All else you need is a desire to help the church and an open Tuesday morning. Don't worry about vacations, doctor appointments and other obligations. If you miss a Tuesday morning, you don't even have to bring a note from your mother.

If you are interested, just show up or call Bill Moore 294-0096!!

MUSINGS OF THE LAY LEADER

At the last Board of Director's Meeting I asked, "What should the Lay Leader write about this month?" A resounding chorus answered, "Volunteerism."

The Director of Christian Education, Cheryl Vanier, needs teachers—not many but a few more sure would help the Christian Education program.

The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Kay Brown, needs a few more people willing to fill Church Officer positions.

The Deacons need several additional people too. During the summer, the Deacons were not able to find adequate volunteers to provide greeters at the Church door for Sunday services. The current chairperson is Chris Bolton.

The Coordinator of the Unretired Renovators, Bill Moore is looking for more help. Typically 5 or 6 men are all that are showing up on Tuesday mornings. Traditionally, the Unretired Renovators has been an all male club of 12 – 15 members. A few years back, when a lady volunteered to help, the guys did not think she would fit in. That chauvinistic attitude is rapidly disappearing in society. Accordingly, I believe the few remaining Unretired Renovators would now smile and move over a little bit, to welcome lady volunteers to their ranks.

And last but not least, Country Store can and is soaking up all available volunteers in preparation for the pending sale on October 17 and 18. If you can help any time during the week from October 11 through October 18, let me know. My telephone numbers are 294-2612 and 813-4934.

In spite of the pressing need for volunteers expressed above, Country Store, Silver Lining Singers, Unretired Renovators, and the Friday Folding Group are living testimony that volunteerism is alive and well here. We just need to redistribute the resources from time to time. Right after Country Store, and before the Annual Meeting scheduled for December 7, is a good time to "upset the fruit basket."

Drop a hint to Jan or one of the Commission Chairs on how your time and talents can be utilized, or better utilized, by Grace Community Church for this coming year.

Don Walker ~ Lay Leader

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service will be held on October 10 at 11 a.m. to celebrate the life of By Miller. A reception will follow in the basement dining room.

NEW ADDRESSES

Andy Anderson's new address is:

3182 Oakcrest Drive, Chino Hills, CA 71709

Fred Washburn is now at the Veteran's Home in the Mariners Hall: 100 Veterans Memorial Drive #220

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old. 1
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so. ~

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters. We do not have to wait for Heaven to be surrounded by hope, love, and joyfulness. It is here on earth and has four legs!

The Contemplative Dimension of Life: A Christian Perspective

Stillpoint is honored to host Fr. Thomas Keating as he returns to Las Vegas to share his wisdom and experience concerning the Christian spiritual journey in its contemplative dimension. It is a rare opportunity to learn from a contemporary master of the Christian spiritual life.

Date: Saturday, October 11 □ Time: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Location: St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, 7260 W. Sahara Avenue

Cost: \$35 (\$20 for students, seniors, and unwaged)

Please call 243-4040 to register; call the church office to arrange for transportation if needed.