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Dr. Michael W. Frye  
Pastor

Ellen Koester  
Associate in Ministry

Jan Decker  
Admin. Assistant

Janice Peery  
Organist/Accompanist

Ann Goldfinch  
Adult Choir Director  
Covenant Choir Director

Lynn Hess  
The School of Grace Director

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#### Our Mission:

"To seek the fullness of life  
in Christ for all people."

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May 30th

May 2011

# Letter of Grace

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## Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

5010 Six Forks Road

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Raleigh, NC 27609

[www.GraceLutheranRaleigh.org](http://www.GraceLutheranRaleigh.org)

Tele Number: 919.787.1815

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### *From the Pastor ...*

In the introduction to her book, God With Skin On, The Reverend Anne Robertson tells the story of a little boy who was terrified when his mother would put him to bed and turn out the lights for the night. Afraid of the dark and not wanting to be by himself, he begged his mother to stay. His mother reassured him that God would be with him through the night. "But, Mama," he cried, "I need God with skin on!"

Pastor Robertson goes on to explain that, as human beings, we exist in the world of human relationships in which being face-to-face is extremely important. Like Doubting Thomas, we need to touch God physically to believe that he is actually with us. That is why God did put "skin" on and came to earth as a human baby, Jesus. After Jesus left bodily to go back to his Father in Heaven, he left a commandment that human beings should love one another, just as he has first loved us. By so doing, even to those whom we may not know, we bring a physical dynamic to God's reaching out to all people.

For the past several weeks a number of states, including North Carolina, have been experiencing terrible natural disasters. As you know, a number of people were killed and many more lost their homes. Immediately organizations, churches, and individuals began reaching out to comfort the grieving, bring immediate aid to those who were left homeless, and instill hope in those who lost all or most of everything that they had. That is truly "God with skin on" touching those whom he loves.

Many of you had some damage to homes and trees, or you had neighbors who were affected by the storms. My guess is that either you were ministered to or you gave comfort and assistance to others around you – not because you had to, but because that is what neighbors do for each other. The hardest hit in our own congregation were Nickey, Pat and Morgan Lovick. A tree came down on their roof, but it didn't seem to have caused much damage at first. As adjusters and engineers began assessing the damage, they realized that the home was affected to a far greater extent than they first thought. They have had to move out of their home and put all of their belongings in storage, probably for several months while their home is being extensively repaired. All of this has happened just as Morgan is returning home for the summer from college. Those closest to the Lovicks are already reaching out to them. I know that, as their church family, each of you will be holding them in your prayers and

(Cont'd on page 2)

## *From the Pastor ... (Cont'd from page 1)*

will also be offering whatever assistance and comfort you can as they deal with this crisis in their lives.

Another way that God comes to us with "skin" on is through our worship experience on Sunday. Easter Sunday was such a joy, with more than three hundred in attendance for the day. It was such a pleasure to see and hear so many people singing praises to God, joining in proclaiming faith, and sharing God's peace and the Holy Meal together. I truly would like to see this more often than Easter and Christmas. It is so wonderful to "be in touch" as God's family so that God's love will continue to grow in and through us.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

## *Confirmation*

Seven Grace youth are planning to affirm the covenant God began with them in their baptisms at the service of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 11am. In addition to the faith training they have received in their homes with their families, **Bryant Loesch, Deena Dieckhaus, Amanda Dieckhaus, Justin Irene, Hannah Jablonski, Ryan Mulnick, and Sarah Russell** have participated in a variety of retreats, camps, and Tuesday evening classes in addition to attending worship and Sunday School and serving in a variety of ways. A dinner to celebrate this milestone in the lives of these youth will follow the 11am service. Please contact AIM Ellen to make reservations to attend.



## *Last Day of Sunday School*

Regular Sunday school classes for children and youth take a break during the summer months. The last day of Sunday school for these classes is May 22. Adults should check with their class leaders for their own meeting schedules during the summer months.



## *Summer Sunday School Potluck Breakfasts*

Everyone is invited to Grace's Summer Sunday school potluck breakfasts. These will be held once a month during the summer on June 19, July 17, and August 21. Beverages will be provided, and everyone should bring a breakfast food to share. We will gather in groups around tables to eat and talk about a selected topic. These cross-generational experiences are a great way to get to know other members of the family of Grace. Contact AIM Ellen if you need more information.



## *Day Camp — Sign up now and Invite Your Neighbors, Friends, and Relatives*

Children who are rising 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have a fun and meaningful week with the talented counselors from Camp Agape when Grace hosts day Monday through Friday, July 4 – 8. Day camp runs from 9am until 3pm each day. Activities include games, skits, singing, Bible study, nature walks and more. Cost is \$120 (ask about the sibling discount). Registration forms are available in the narthex – they're hot pink! This is a fun opportunity to share the faith with friends and relatives. Contact AIM Ellen or Suzanne Scott for more information ([suzscott@nc.rr.com](mailto:suzscott@nc.rr.com) or 846-0852).





## *News from the Congregation Council*

At its meeting held on April 10, 2011, your Congregation Council considered and passed three items about which I would like for you to be aware. A policy was passed regarding solicitation for charitable contributions on the Grace campus; a policy was passed regarding extended sick leave for church staff; and a program to open an investment fund as a gift for each child baptized child at Grace starting Commitment Sunday, October 16, 2011, was considered and initiated. The new policies and a synopsis of the investment gift program are listed below. If you have any questions about these items, contact John Hefner (919-413-6761), Council President.

### **Policy for Solicitation of Charitable Contributions**

It is the policy of Grace Congregation that solicitation for charitable contributions on the Grace campus be limited to those ministries that are a direct mission of Grace, are connected with ecumenical organizations of which Grace is a part, or are for ministries sponsored by the North Carolina Synod or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Many Grace members find expression of their faith through participation in charitable and service organizations in the local community and elsewhere. Congregation members may post announcements of community charitable events on the designated bulletin board upon review by a member of the church staff.

### **Staff Extended Sick Leave Policy**

1. Staff who are members of the ELCA Board of Pensions shall be paid full salary and benefits by Grace Lutheran Church for a period not to exceed two (2) consecutive months after the date of the disability started (in accordance with the ELCA guidelines for rostered leaders).
2. Staff who are not members of the ELCA Board of Pensions shall be paid full salary for one (1) month after the date the disability started.
3. The starting date of the disability shall be deemed to be when the supervisor and employee decide when the employee is unable to perform the majority of the usual and customary duties of their particular job.
4. The chairperson of the Finance Group and President of the Congregation Council shall be informed of such disabilities and kept apprised of the person's condition and prognosis.
5. All staff members shall be informed of this policy annually.
6. If a staff member uses up his or her 1 or 2 month period of continuing salary or enters a period where the church is not paying their salary and then returns to work, they must work for six (6) consecutive months in order to be eligible for a new disability payment period.
7. This document is subject to automatic compliance with any changes in the ELCA Board of Pensions guidelines for rostered leaders, such changes to be recorded without delay.

### **Investment Gift Program**

This is a program by which the congregation provides a one-time gift to each child, up to age 16, that is baptized at Grace. For an initial \$50 deposit, the congregation will open an investment account for each child. The investment program, sponsored by the ELCA, is called MissionFuture4Kidz. A MissionFuture4KIDZ investment functions like a savings account specifically designed for children. By our gift, we will not only be investing in the child's future but also in the mission and ministry of the church. Investments in the ELCA's Mission Investment Funds are made available as loans to ELCA congregations for capital building programs and land purchases.

You can learn more about the program at this ELCA website:

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Mission-Investment-Fund-of-the-ELCA/Become-an-Investor/MissionFuture4Kidz.aspx>

We believe that the investment fund offers an excellent vehicle for starting the child's training in good stewardship and money management. The gift is a tangible symbol of the congregation's baptismal commitment to support the child in his/her Christian growth. The money that goes into the fund also supports the work and mission of the church.

We usually baptize between five and ten children annually, making the cost of the program about \$500. The money will be budgeted from the Equip Team program funds. However, we anticipate that individual members of Grace may wish to "sponsor" a child.

Once the investment has been purchased, a custodian – usually a child's parent or guardian – is responsible for the investment. The investment matures on a minor's 18th birthday. Additional contributions of at least \$25 may be made at any time. Family members may wish to add to the fund as baptismal, graduation, birthday or Christmas gifts for a child or grandchild.

— submitted by John Hefner, Council President

## *Family of Grace Memorial Day Weekend Camping Trip*



Start your summer by spending the weekend with your Grace family at Jordan Lake over Memorial Day Weekend. We have reserved site 5 of the Vista Point Group Camp for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. We can check in as early as 4pm on Friday and must leave by 3pm on Monday, but you are welcome to come for as much or as little of the weekend as you wish. (Just be aware that the park gates are locked from 9pm until 8am, so no cars can go in or out overnight.)

The Vista Point recreation area has its own swimming beach and boat ramp, and there are hiking trails as well. Plan to bring whatever you need for camping – tents, sleeping bags, food, cooking utensils, etc. though folks tend to share generously. Saturday evening we will have a congregational cookout where everyone – even non-campers – are invited to bring a dish to share and something to grill and have supper together. Grills should be ready to go around 5:30pm. We'll provide the charcoal.

Campers plan and lead their own worship service for Sunday morning. Activities are at the discretion of participants and can be as sedate or as active as you would like. Bring a book or your boat or your fishing gear (and license) or guitar and whatever else will make your weekend something special. There is a bath house at the group campsite.

Contact AIM Ellen or MarikaYeh if you have questions or if you are willing to help with some light planning responsibilities.

## *Women of the ELCA News*



Dear Sisters in Christ,

At our last meeting on April 12, 2011, Dorothy Connors presented the Bible study on "Caring for the Earth as God's people". She discussed how God wants us to take care of earth and all of nature, and how we can observe Earth Day.

At the Connect Team coffee hour on June 5, Women of the ELCA will be represented. Come and see our display.

Our annual Taters and Talents will be held on May 22. Lunch will be served after church followed by the Taters and Talents. Please sign up on the WELCA bulletin board in the narthex. Please let everyone see your talents for dancing, singing, crafts, playing instruments or just doing a fun thing. There will also be a silent auction and we very much welcome donations of arts, crafts and baked goods. This event will benefit North Raleigh Ministries.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10. Valerie will present the Bible study "Being Good Stewards of Water" Come and enjoy the Bible study, fellowship and refreshments with us. We look forward to seeing you.

We are empowered by Christ, women of faith, reach out with arms wide open ...

Yours in Christ,  
Dottie Scott

## *Greenway Walkers*



Members and friends of all ages are welcome at the next scheduled greenway walk scheduled for Saturday, May 7. Tom and Barbara Oates have offered coffee at their house, 3317 Trenton Road, at 8:30 a.m. We will start our walk of Reedy Creek Trail at 9:00 a.m. from their house. We will walk to the North Carolina Museum of Art and return. The round trip is about 3 1/2 miles. The Greenway Walkers typically walk a portion of the greenway trails on the first Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Vic or Donna Lebsock.

## *Inspiration for iPhone Users*

Get your dose of Daily Grace! Daily Grace, the much-awaited iPhone app from Women of the ELCA, is now available! Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. In these brief writings you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. In an easy-to-use approach, the daily reflection stirs you to live out your baptismal calling. Take time to reflect, offer a prayer and prepare for the day. Read the daily message or choose Random Grace.



## *The LSA Way—Celebrating LSA Sunday 2011*

Congregations around the state are invited to join with Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA) in celebrating *LSA Sunday*. Typically held on Mother's Day, which falls this year on Sunday, May 8, *LSA Sunday* is a time to honor the ministries of LSA and the 1,200 elders LSA serves on a daily basis through its nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living residences, and adult day services. *LSA Sunday* is also a wonderful time to honor the older members of your congregation.

In addition to celebrating *LSA Sunday*, the affiliated ministries of LSA celebrate Older Americans Month and National Nursing Home Week, which also take place during the month of May.

The theme for this year's celebration is "The LSA Way," which highlights the features that make the ministries of LSA special. LSA offers programs and services that focus on revitalizing the bodies, minds, and spirits of older adults, which means you should not be surprised to see pets, plants, and a children's playground at some LSA skilled nursing homes, in addition to chaplains and worship centers.

Not to be confused with LSA's *Keeping the Promise* capital campaign, which lifts up capital needs and programmatic initiatives, *LSA Sunday* is an annual celebration that highlights and supports LSA's ongoing operational services and needs.

We truly appreciate the support of your congregation in our ministry and in the lives of those entrusted to our care. For more information on the ministries of Lutheran Services for the Aging, please visit [www.LSANC.net](http://www.LSANC.net).



## *Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries*

### UP-COMING EVENTS:

- **Register for Summer Camp.** The registration form is available on the web [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org). It is our policy that no one be turned away from these camp programs due to lack of funds. Please pray for the campers, counselors, and support staff, that this will be a life changing experience with our Lord this summer.
- **River of Hope lunch will be August 13<sup>th</sup>** at Camp Agapé in the Woodlands Center. Festivities start at 11:30.
- **Mini Van** needed for our traveling Day Camp teams, and a **gas or electric golf cart** is needed.
- **Kure Beach Open Dates** – Beach Faith Center – June 23-26  
**Jamison Cottages-** July 2-6



Contact Camp Agape: 919-552-9421  
Contact Kure Beach office: 910-458-0783

Email: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)  
Email: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)

Web site: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

Many thanks to all who sent cards and made phone calls to me after my knee surgery in March. Everything has turned out well; now working to get back strength. God bless all my Grace family.  
— Jean Gerald



Thanks to my Grace Church family for your cards, prayers, and many words of encouragement following the recent death of my brother. You truly have been blessed to be a blessing.

## Pre-Assembly Event

As you know the North Carolina Synod Assembly is just around the corner. And before the Synod Assembly begins there is a Pre Assembly event. The focus of this Pre Assembly event is Prayer. There will be a number of workshops on prayer such as Healing Prayer, Praying in Color, Welcoming Prayer and others. The Pre Assembly begins June 1 at 1:00 and runs until June 2nd, 11:00 at which time the Synod Assembly begins. In keeping with theme of Prayer we would like to cover both the Pre Assembly and the Synod Assembly in prayer. As a way of showing our prayer support we will have a prayer banner at the Assemblies. Beginning on June 1 at 1:00 through June 4 12:00pm. We are asking both congregations as a whole and individuals in the congregations to sign up for 15 minute time slots for prayer. For example June 1 1:00-1:15pm or June 2 2:00-2:15am continuing on until June 4 12:00pm. These 15 minute prayer slots will be assembled and displayed at the Assemblies. If you have any questions or would like to get your congregational members signed up please contact me at [annie-bug69@gmail.com](mailto:annie-bug69@gmail.com). Just let me know how many people you have signed up and I will contact you with the dates and time slots. If possible would you share this exciting event with your congregations either with a bulletin announcement or a verbal announcement. Both would really be great. We all know how important and effective prayer is and what better way to show our support to those participating in our Synod Assemblies by lifting them in prayer.



— Ann Kraft, Pre Assembly Committee

## Member Information

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Gray Handlon & Brittany Notch  
and children Patrick, Colin & Kennedy  
209 Myers Ave.  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
Tele #919/637-3530

Margarette Peoples  
13101 Hartfield Ave.  
Apt. 227  
San Diego, CA 92130-1511  
Tele #858-350-9223

### FIRST COMMUNION (4/17)

Collin Thomas Faress  
Patrick Manning Handlon  
Savannah Lynn Hinkle

Matthew Scott Kohl  
Griffin Harris Scott  
Ashton Nicholas Thomas



# On a Lighter Note



## Grace Lutheran Church Leadership

### Congregational Officers

#### President

John Hefner

#### Vice President

Jill Nobles

#### Secretary

Brian LeBlanc

#### Treasurer

Barbara Rodberg

#### Financial Secretary

Jeff Wyatt

#### Our Mission:

**“To seek the fullness  
of life in Christ for  
all people.”**

#### As we

#### Celebrate

Brian LeBlanc (Council)

Laurie Secor (Council)

Bill Hagen (Congregation)

Donna Sanders

(Congregation)

#### Equip

John Hefner (Council)

Suzanne Scott (Council)

Tracy Hausfeld (Congregation)

Vic Lebsack (Congregation)

#### Connect

Jill Nobles (Council)

Corrine DeArmitt (Council)

Ray Valdillez (Congregation)

Donna Lebsack

(Congregation)

#### Invite

Barbara Rodberg (Council)

Greg Stevens (Council)

Mike Loesch (Congregation)

Eric Kohl (Congregation)

#### Share

Marika Yeh (Council)

Christine Hamaker (Council)

Pete Hauser (Congregation)

Tim Hess (Congregation)

Charles Breeding

(Congregation)

Deanna Loesch (Youth)

#### Year Round

#### Operational Groups

#### Finance

Ron Zechman, chair

#### Property

Barbara Irene, chair

## We Believe in Prayer

### Prayers the past month



#### For praise and thanksgiving...

Mark Hanson, ELCA Presiding Bishop, Leonard Bolick, our Synod Bishop, for Pr. Michael, AIM Ellen, and for all pastors, teachers, and leaders in the Church

The ministries of this congregation, The School of Grace, PLM-Families Together, North Raleigh Ministries, Helen Wright Center, Meals on Wheels, Food Bank, Kairos Outside, Alpha, Alliance Medical Ministries, Urban Ministries, Open Door Clinic, Joy of Discovery Lutheran Church, The Universal Christian Church of Haiti

Our Prayer Partner Congregation, Christ Lutheran Church, Stanley, NC

The President, Congress and Supreme Court of the United States

Leaders of all nations, especially those entrusted with finding a lasting peace in the Middle East

Our military forces (especially Todd Allen, Gabbi Althouse, Jason Ball, Alex Berry, Griffin Burns, Jordan Cooper, Jordan Grant, Lauren Holmes, Reginald Seabrook, Jordin Sheetz, Jamie Thomas, Greg Troehler)

#### For people around the world in need...

Victims and families of those involved in terrorists attacks

Our neighbors who aren't sure where their next meal will come from

Victims and families of the earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and Turkey

#### For our homebound members...

Ethel Biddle (Rex Rehab & Nursing Care Ctr., Rm 175A, 4210 Lake Boone Trl, Raleigh 27607)

Roz Sekadlo (3905 Iverson St., Raleigh 27604)

Paula Stresemann (Long Leaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Ctr., Wilson, NC)

Pong Zumhagen (Phoenix Assisted Care, Cary, NC)

#### For illness, surgeries or injuries... (Members)

Karen Blair-Clay

Scott Bolin

Jim DeRupa

Pat Dicke

George Drakulic

Jean Gerald

Shirley Hanson

Betty Olsen

Larry Spicer

Nancy Thompson

Dr. Tom Thompson

Stacey Waddell

Joann Zechman

#### For illness, surgeries or injuries... (Family/Friends of Members)

Martha Grace Aldridge

Paula Austin

Keith Barrett

Gilbert Bernhardt

Nancy Charles

The Chitinis Family

Sue Clark

Cheryl Curtis

Matt Cusack

Roberta Hawley

Susan Herzog

Rob Hodge

Tweed Hoffman

Armand Innocenzi

Roland Jones

Charlie & Joanne Kistler

Margaret Lynch

Tom McCabe

Heather McCollum

Christine Sherwood

Mary Lou Sielschott

Sarah Thompson

Beth Whiting

Mary Woodward

Ann Goldfinch's niece

Lois Jean Query's daughter

Valerie Mulvaney's brother

Glenna Sears' cousin

Pat Brown's friend

Suzanne Hagen's friends

Bonnie Torgerson's friend

Dena McCabe's stepmother

John Hefner's friend

Peggy MacDaid's friend

Bil Hagen's mother

Deorge Drakulic's uncle,

Glenna Sears' cousin

Jim MacDaid's best friend

Anh Nguyen's husband

Barbara Oates' parents

Elizabeth Linch's grandmother

Mark McCabe's father

Mark & Dena McCabe's friend

Danny Secor's teacher

Suzanne Hagen's aunt

Tom & Nancy Thompson's daughter

Mark McCabe's mother

Suzanne Hagen's friend

#### For families of...

Egbert Barrett

Oswaldo Coronado & Daniel Nino

Bob Hansen

Hoang Nguyen

Valerie Mulvaney's brother

Ann Goldfinch's students and victims of Tornado

Shirley Hanson's husband and member of Grace

Anh Nguyen's cousin

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**May 2011**