

September 2011

# Letter of Grace

## Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

5010 Six Forks Road

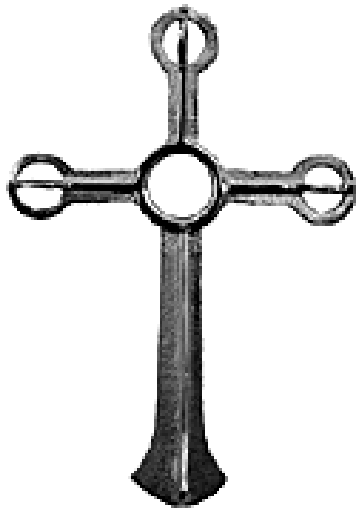
Email/newsletter: [glc@gracelutheranraleigh.org](mailto:glc@gracelutheranraleigh.org)

Raleigh, NC 27609

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

Tele Number: 919.787.1815

Fax Number: 866.430.7093



**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

### Our Mission:

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

Grandparents  
Day



September  
11th

### *From the Pastor ...*

I know that when September 1 rolls around things begin to hum around Grace again after a somewhat quiet summer: we hear the cheerful sounds of the children and teachers in the School of Grace down the hall; boxes of Sunday School materials begin arriving for a new and exciting year for all ages; the weekly calendar begins to fill up with team and task group meetings, Faith Life, adult and youth choirs, Thursday morning worship and the morning and evening Bible Studies are standing by to begin mid-September.

We have a lot to be thankful for and much to look forward to at Grace, and I certainly hope that you are making plans to be a part of it. I am also looking forward to having more of you in worship as you return from vacations and weekend excursions. Attendance was still respectable all summer (around 175 average), but I love it when we get over the 200 mark. It is exciting to see the seats filled to capacity, to have so many children coming up for the children's sermon, to hear your collective voices singing the hymns and responding in the liturgy, to kneel elbow to elbow at the Lord's Table to receive His Holy Meal.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, Aim Ellen tells you about the Thursday evening Bible Study that she will be leading. I have decided to cover various books of the Bible in detail this year, rather than use a themed approach. On Thursday, September 15, we will begin looking at Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans. This study will be offered twice on Thursdays: the first will follow our 10 AM worship service (around 10:30); The second opportunity will be at 7:00 PM on Thursday evening. There is no text book this time. We will read from our Bibles, and I will give participants supplemental materials from time to time. The study of Romans will take approximately six weeks. If you plan to participate (and I hope many of you will give it a try), read chapters one and two in preparation for the first class. I will be primarily using the NRSV Bible, but I welcome whatever translation you choose to bring so we can compare versions. I do have a number of copies of the Lutheran Study Bible in paper-

*(Cont'd on page 2)*

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

back, if you would like to have an NRSV version. There is no sign-up this time; just show up either for the 10:30 AM or 7:00 PM class (of course, you are most welcome to attend the Service of Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM).

If the study of Romans doesn't grab your attention, then look at Ellen's description of the Thursday evening session she will be leading. I believe between the two you should find something that would be of great interest. Why take precious time out of your day for a directed study of the Bible? I'll let Saint Paul give you an answer to that question.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."*

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday. God bless and keep you.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Michael

## *Augsburg Bible Sunday School Class*

We begin a new 13-wk study on "Tradition and Wisdom" on Sunday, September 4th. This study looks at wisdom teaching from Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and The Song of Solomon, as well as lessons regarding life in God's kingdom spoken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (from Matthew). These passages explain human wisdom and understanding — lessons passed on from parent to child or perhaps studied in school. We will see that what matters to a wise person is how people behave in the context of their families or in the community.



These texts remind us that fear and respect for God find their expression in the down-to-earth, nitty-gritty activities of living; in the way we establish our priorities, relate to one another, care for creation, and deal with the uncertainties and finiteness of human life.

### Themes:

- September 4th — Righteous and Wisdom — This wise author explains that trust in God rather than in one's self will result in one being, "healthy, wealthy and wise."
- September 11th — From Generation to Generation — There is much in life that we cannot control, but our text shows how our choices do influence our journey through life.
- September 18th — Teaching Values — A community prepares its members for the future and helps equip them to make wise decisions even in the face of uncertainty by values taught.
- September 25th — Wisdom and Discernment — The wise teacher in Proverbs declares that God, who is the source of all wisdom, has given us communities and so ordered them that we might experience abundance of life.

If these sound like intriguing ideas to study and discuss, please feel free to join this class on Sunday mornings at 9:45am. Room #3. Anyone is welcome — quarterlies and Bibles are provided. September is a wonderful time to become involved in a study group at Grace. Take advantage of one of the Sunday morning or Thursday opportunities.



## Who We Are

I hope by now you have picked up the new Grace Lutheran Church Directory and have taken a few minutes to look through it. It's a great opportunity to reminisce about shared experiences with long-time friends and to learn the names of people you might not recognize. While doing so, I decided to see what I could learn about our community from the 2010 census data for the zip code areas where we live.

Here's what I learned. Even in these uncertain times, the unemployment rate in most of our neighborhoods is just over 1%. The median family income for our congregation is over \$61,000. Some of us live in neighborhoods where the median income exceeds \$100,000!

Next I looked at what we are giving back to God through our pledged offerings. On average we are giving at a rate between 3% and 4% of our family incomes.

Recognizing that this is an imperfect analysis and medians and averages don't tell the whole story, these are the facts.

- We have been blessed. We don't have to look far beyond neighborhoods to find those who are struggling and for whom we are called to have compassion.
- We are grateful. The giving rate within our congregation is exceptional among Lutheran congregations.

These statistics should challenge and excite us. If we were to increase our giving by just 1% to 1.5% of our annual incomes, the mission plan for Grace could be over **\$500,000**. If that were the case, we could return our full benevolence measure to the North Carolina Synod thereby providing support for new congregations, scholarships for Lutheran seminarians, providing Lutheran college campus ministries in North Carolina, funding for camp ministries like Agape Kure Beach and Lutheridge and Lutherock and much more. Take a look at [www.nclutheran.org](http://www.nclutheran.org) to learn about how our giving impacts the lives of people across North Carolina. Then take a look at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) to see how our giving enables us to be participants with Christ in caring for our neighbors around the world. Here at home, we could provide salary increases for our pastor, assistant in ministry and staff, which we have been unable to do in the past several years. We could commit to expanding effective local ministries such as School of Grace, North Raleigh Ministries, and PLM Families Together, for example, and we could be open to intriguing new opportunities to be God's hands in our community.

We have been richly blessed and should be eager to return a portion of our time and money to God in gratitude. Consider making annual incremental increases in giving an integral part of your faith journey. God promises to be with us when we do. Imagine the miracles God could do when we are giving at the biblical standard of 10% or tithing. What would you do with a \$1,000,000 for sharing the Good News?

— submitted by John Hefner



Sunday school for all ages will begin again on Sept. 11. Children preschool through grade 5 begin with music in the sanctuary with Lynn Hess at 9:45am and then go their classes at 10am. All other classes begin at 9:45am. Everyone is invited to find a class. Can't find something for you, contact AIM Ellen and something new can begin.

## Coming in September



## Students Away from Home

Please keep Nathan Sanders and Cristina Cabrera in your prayers as they are in new educational settings this fall. Cristina will be spending the first semester of her senior year in Finland. Nathan has been accepted to the North Carolina School for Science and Math.

Nathan's school address:

Nathan Sanders  
NCSSM, Mailbox H448  
1219 Broad St.  
Durham, NC 27705

## High School

## Bible Studies Begin

Everyone is invited to a one session Bible overview on Thursday evening, Sept. 8 at 7pm. This video course features Australian Lutheran pastor Harry Wendt and presents a timeline that covers the complete Biblical story. There is no requirement to sign up for another Bible study if you attend this one session. (AIM Ellen's Bible study watched this video last Fall) Sign up with Ellen by Sept. 1 and receive a copy of the Bible timeline for your own study and use.



Our Bible Study!

Book and Bread – AIM Ellen's Bible study is now called "Book and Bread" because each session includes time studying the Book and sharing a loaf of bread. On Sept. 15 the group will begin a 14 session study of the New Testament book of Acts.

Pastor Frye will also begin a new study on Romans on Sept. 15. Please see his pastoral letter for details. Watch the weekly bulletin for more information.

## Women of the ELCA News

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Our summer vacation is over, and it's back to business on Tuesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. As I have been preparing you mentally all summer, you will gather to carry out one important order of business, that of selecting our leaders for the coming year. We are proud to announce that our search for President has been rewarded; Barbara Rodberg has stepped up to take on the responsibilities connected to this key position. Barbara, you have our thanks and deep appreciation. As of this writing, the position of Treasurer has yet to be filled. Please keep our group of dear sisters in your minds and hearts, and come forward to offer of yourself and your time for one year. It's a wonderful school for grooming your fiscal skills.



The WELCA meeting on Sept 13<sup>th</sup> will be special for another reason as well. Barbara has planned her first meeting around the topic of Fellowship, and how we find it in our WELCA Circle. She will also touch on how our Circle came to be and why it is named "Lydia". Refreshments will be a repeat of our highly successful cookie bake. Everyone will bring a dozen of their own special home-baked cookies and will carry home a sample of the leftovers. So, plan accordingly; no-one should come empty-handed! (I somehow doubt anyone will.)

As mentioned previously in the weekly bulletin, there is an overwhelming need for the health kits we usually assemble for the LWR, and as a result we are starting our drive somewhat earlier than usual, collecting either individual items in multiple packs or completed kits. The items are slightly different this year, so do not use your old list. (There will be a copy on the WELCA bulletin board as soon as possible, as well as take-away copies nearby.) Also on the BB will be notification of an upcoming WELCA-related conference, so keep your eyes on the board. If there is anyone who does not know where the BB is, it is in the Narthex as you come in the front door. Just turn your head to the right, look past the "greeters", and you will see it against the office wall.

We will also need volunteers to help us assemble the kits. It is currently planned that this will happen at our October meeting, but, as things can change, watch the weekly bulletin for updates. Do not think you have to be a member of WELCA to help out; donations will be accepted from any parish member, and helping hands are welcome from anyone warm and breathing!

We need to discuss the continuation of our coffee sale ministry. Dorothy is shouldering too much of the burden of duties, and at the present time they do not fit comfortably on her shoulders. We all know how worthwhile this ministry is, viewed as a world movement, but viewed locally it may have to be readjusted. Please pray about this, and let God speak through you.

Enjoy your last vacation weekend, and don't come to any harm. See you on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

— submitted by Jean Gerald



# ELCA Youth Gathering

There will be an ELCA National Youth Gathering July 18 – 22, 2012 in New Orleans. The theme is "Citizens with the Saints" based on Ephesians 4: 14 – 20. Parents and youth from Grace have decided that they will attend. The event is open to youth who are currently in gr. 8 – 12. Youth need to make an individual decision about participating by October 1. All members of Grace are invited to begin now to pray for the gathering and for the participants from this congregation. Grace's goal is to have this be an event to stretch and bless the entire congregation. Watch for more in the months to come.

# Youth Gathering



## Thank You Note

Dear Grace Lutheran,

Monday, August 8th, I am celebrating my 79th birthday, and I am so grateful to see another year. It has only been by God's grace that I have come this far and I will continue pressing on for as long as God allows me. I wanted to thank Pastor Frye and the church for supporting me during my sickness. All of your prayers, visits, and kind gestures were such an encouragement for me. I would like to ask that you keep me lifted in prayer as well as my niece's family, the Jenkins family, and also my brother in Baltimore, MD who was recently diagnosed with cancer. Please continue to pray that God would restore and keep my family in good health and strength.

Thank you for everything that you have already done, your prayers are a continual source of love and strength for my family. God bless you all.

Sincerely, Your Sister in Christ  
Elizabeth Seabrook

# Member Information

### BIRTHS

- Abigail Margaret Melvin (5/21)
- Elizabeth O'Byrne Goldfinch (7/15)
- Catherine Jo Cleary (8/10)

### BAPTISM

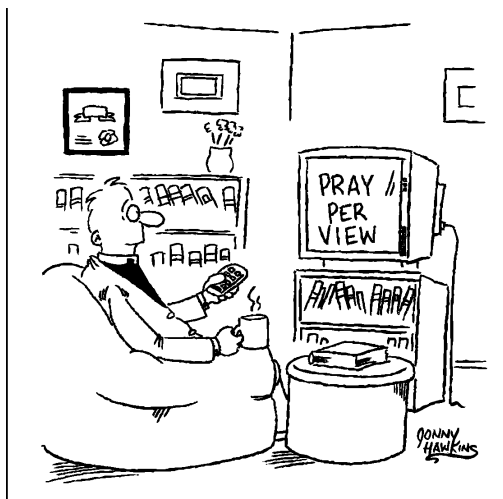
- Abigail Margaret Melvin (8/7)
- Annabelle Vene Smith (8/28)

### NEW DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Helen Kryk's zip code—27612



Our Church Family



# On a Lighter Note



"I always thought I had a great love for the church. I'm afraid it's a great love for the carpet, the stained glass and the air conditioning."



## *Attention Walkers!*

Greenway Walkers and any new walkers, flooding caused us to cancel in August, so we will plan the same walk on September 3, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at the parking area on Crabtree Boulevard located just west of Raleigh Boulevard (2300 Crabtree Blvd.) and walk on the Crabtree Creek Trail to the west. The walk will be about 1 1/2 miles out and 1 1/2 miles back. Everyone is welcome to join us. Contact Vic or Donna Lebsock or Barbara or Tommy Oates for more information about the Greenway Walkers.

## *Grace Habitat for Humanity Work Day*



Come join the fun and work at the Habitat work site in Long Acres on September 10. Work ½ day (8:30- 12), full day (to 4PM) or volunteer to provide lunches, it's your choice. Minimum age is 16. You do not need to have any construction skills to participate. There is something to do for everyone and instructors to teach those who want to learn. The only requirement is a desire to help a family build a decent, safe and affordable home. The two houses under construction will be doing roofing, siding and possibly building some decks. Tools are provided but you can bring your own if you want. Nail guns are not used on the work sites. Be sure to wear sun screen and bring plenty of water.

Long Acres is a neighborhood between Martin Luther King, Poole Road and Raleigh Blvd. The houses are modest ranches that were built in the 50's and the neighborhood had deteriorated over the years. Currently it is part of Raleigh's Neighborhood Revitalization Effort and is experiencing a revival with some homes being torn down and rebuilt by Habitat, others were purchased for rehab and others had exterior improvements through A Brush With Kindness.

Sign up in the narthex to participate. You will also need to register on the Habitat website. The registration process is easy and takes only a few minutes. Go to [Habitatwake.org](http://Habitatwake.org) and click on [volunteer](#), [sign up to volunteer](#), then [register on line](#). You will need a username and password, then just follow the instructions.

E-mail Charles Breeding at [cnbreeding@nc.rr.com](mailto:cnbreeding@nc.rr.com) or call me at 787-3713 if you have questions. Looking forward to seeing you there.

— submitted by Charles Breeding

## *Help Build the Families Together Corporate Network*

PLM Families Together (PLMFT) provides housing and comprehensive services for homeless families in Wake County, including assessment, short-term transitional housing with intensive support services and after care support.

PLMFT is actively seeking new corporate partners as part of their 2011-12 growth strategy. To that end, PLMFT is building a comprehensive database of corporate foundations operating in Wake County as they strive to meet their growth goals.

How can you help? It is simple. If you, or a close family member or friend, work for an organization e.g., Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Quintiles, etc., that promotes community outreach via a corporation foundation, we'd like to know.

Simply forward the name of the company and the appropriate contact name, phone number or email address to **Gail Reid-Vestal** at [gail@plmft.org](mailto:gail@plmft.org) or **919-212-4181**. Ideally, we'd like the internal contact who leads the community outreach for this area, if available.

How will PLMFT use this information? This network will play a key role in the design of the fundraising effort for the next year. PLMFT Leadership and board directors will contact network members regarding fundraising, sponsorship, and philanthropic efforts.

Thanks for your support of this vital organization. Questions about the network or PLMFT in general? Please contact **Mike Peery, Steve Dieckhaus** or **Peggy MacDaid**.



## Service Projects

Lutheran World Relief surveyed their distribution partners and recipients of their parish projects and have made changes to their guidelines.



### Health Kits are Now Personal Care Kits

When natural disaster strikes or political conflict flares, families often have little chance to gather their belongings before fleeing the danger. They arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety scared, vulnerable and dirty from travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

The following items are to be included in each Personal Care Kit:

- One bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- (Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a #10 envelope)
- One sturdy comb, removing packaging
- One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

WELCA women of Grace will be putting together kits in October. We graciously ask for any donations that you may be able to contribute to this project and we sincerely appreciate your willingness to help. You may donate individual items or the full kit. A box will be placed in the Narthex for your convenience to put items in.

## In a Nutshell

*A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.*

*When the day came for the children to recite the Psalm before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"*

## Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries

UP-COMING EVENTS: call for information.

1. **Golf Outing October 3<sup>th</sup> At Echo Farms, Wilmington** Get a 4-some together and help provide campership for summer camp.
2. **The second annual Quilt & Folk Art Auction Oct 29 in Fuquay Varina Shoppe on Main.** Saturday will be full of activities for kids and families during Fuquay Day.
3. **Fall Work Day October 22nd** at Camp Agapé. Lodging provided Friday night, breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday. Reservations required contact [aceed@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:aceed@agapekurebeach.org).
4. **Eighth Annual Hike-A-Thon and basket raffle.** November 12<sup>th</sup> at Camp Agape. Hikers of all ages are welcome. (Benefit Environmental Education at Camp Agape).
5. **BYG Leader Training Dec. 2-4** open to youth leaders volunteer and paid. Learn more about the Agapé model.
6. **BYG December 2-4** we have opened another date for this very popular program. Contact Katie for more info.



ContactCampAgape: 919-552-9421  
ContactKureBeachoffice: -910-458-0783

E-mail: [agape@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:agape@agapekurebeach.org)  
E-mail: [kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org](mailto:kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org)

Website: [www.agapekurebeach.org](http://www.agapekurebeach.org)

**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 Lebsock (Congregation)

**Connect**

Jill Nobles (Council)

Corrine DeArmitt (Council)

Ray Valdillez (Congregation)

Michel Hagen (Congregation)

**Invite**

Barbara Rodberg (Council)

Greg Stevens (Council)

Lauren Ingall (Congregation)

Gray Handlon (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 Gabbi Althouse, Jason Ball, Alex Berry, D. J. Brake, Griffin Burns, Jordan Cooper, Jordan Grant, Lauren Holmes, Jordin Sheetz, Jamie Thomas, Greg Troehler)

Studying overseas: Cristina Cabrera

**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...**

Joan Fitzgerald (3113 Charles B. Root Wynd Dr., #131, Raleigh 27612)

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

Marlene Daugherty

Pat Dicke

Emily Gassmann

Dorothy Haldy

Emily Karcher

Morgan Lovick

Pat Lovick

Jim MacDaid

Betty Olsen

Jamie Rodberg

Elizabeth Seabrook

Becky Shaw

Larry Spicer

Nancy Thompson

Dr. Tom Thompson

Joann Zechman

Ron Zechman

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

The Chitinis Family

Jessica Claflin

Carmen Hewlett

Armand Innocenzi

Tom Long

Stan Munson

Linda Sandager

Mary Lou Sielschott

Suzanne Hagen's friends

John & June Wulff's friends granddaughter

Pat Brown's family friend

Jim MacDaid's best friend

George Richard's nephew

Barbara Rodberg's brother

Donna Lebsock's sister

Suzanne Hagen's aunt

**For families of...**

Dave Claflin

Barbara Gerald

Donnie Long

Bob Lowry

Errol Outar

Jean Weil

John & June Wulff's friend

Ray & Jean Gerald's sister-in-law

George & Jeane Joyner's relative

Brittany Notch's grandfather

Eulaline Ramsahoye's brother

Dick & Sarah Wilson's friend

*A Clean Slate*

*One of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.*

*Praise God that he allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help, we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.*

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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RALEIGH, NC 27609**

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**SEPTEMBER**

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September 2011