

Grace filled Voices

By Judy Gillease

September 17, 2014

God's Special Gifts for Each of Us

For the last few years I have been serving as a LEM here at "Grace" and I want to share the blessings I feel being a part of this ministry. We have some pretty wonderful people that for one reason or another are no longer able to attend church and participate in the grace we all receive by sharing in the Sunday Service and the fellowship. In Matthew 18:20 God says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them".

Nineteen years ago I cared for my husband for almost 2 years as he was fighting cancer. Then I took care of my mother for 23 years until she passed away a year and a half ago. I miss them both a lot. So, if someone had told me that I would be nurturing older people, I would have said, "Not Me", and God chuckled! He said, "Yes! You!" I didn't know it, but God had me in training all those years. And now, it is hard to express the joy and peace I get from each visit. These dear people love to have someone just to talk to and to be able to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Sometimes the LEMS work as a team, particularly for those that need more visits. Perhaps weekly visits. I worked with a team serving a dear lady, until God took her home. We came to know her and her family helping them to get a needed care taker until she had to go to a facility; giving them a shoulder to cry on as they needed one. As she moved to different facilities,

we would go wherever she was. We took turns going and reported to each of the team how we found her that week. We would read the Sunday service bulletin together and pray together. We would give her a short version of the sermon for the day. And then we would have Communion! No greater joy!

One of the people that I visit is dealing with Alzheimer's and I have seen the progression of this dreaded disease. While there are many things she doesn't know or remember, when we say some of the prayers or sing a hymn, she is right there saying and singing along. God is good indeed! Some parts of the brain are still able to remember those comforting and important things. What a joy it is to be able to share in that small miracle.

It's not just older people either. Sometimes we take a nasty fall or have parts replaced, like knees for instance, and cannot get around while we are in a facility or home until we heal. I myself have been the recipient of that kind of visit and was blessed to receive Holy Communion and the special prayers. I'm sure that it helped in my healing.

Perhaps we bring people a flower or a cookie or two and of course, the latest copy of the "Grace Filled Voices" so they can keep up on the happenings at the church. It's just a special visit to brighten the day!

God gives each of us a special gift or two even though we may not be aware of them. We need to use them for His glory. Remember, that if God asks us to do something He will be right there beside us helping every step of the way. I can attest to that! There are times when I leave someone's place and I get this warm and cozy feeling of God saying, thank you good and faithful servant! What a joy!

If you think that you might want to try doing a visit or two, call me or the church and we can get you set up. There will be some training and you will have to take the "Safe Church" class. Then someone will take you out to show you the way. If this speaks to your heart, don't hesitate to give it a try. Remember, God wants us to tend His flock and what better way than when they are in need of compassion. By the way, this is not just a women's ministry. We have men LEMs too, going out on regular visits. Sometimes a man that is healing or just homebound feels more

comfortable talking to another man. Sometimes couples make these needed visits. There are many ways we can share God's blessings. Think about it!

Donna Brayton will be giving a class called, "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" held on Saturday, October 4th and Saturday, October 18th. I urge you to pick one of the dates and attend the class to find out what God has in mind for you. I'm sure that you are all familiar with Donna's teachings. That is one of the gifts God gave to her and we can be the recipients her gift.

God's faithful servant,
Judy Gillease

Stand Up For Kids—We need people to donate specific food items for the meal to be served on Sept. 24th.

We are serving 24 kids and need the following:

Chips: (Variety Pack) 2 needed

Bananas 24

Hansen's Flavored Soda—24 cans or 4-six-packs

Cupcakes—24

We also welcome any financial support you would care to provide for this ministry. Contact Paul Noble or the Church Office.

This Week at Grace

September 17--September 24, 2014

Wed. September 17

10:00 a.m. **Holy Eucharist Service in chapel**
4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. September 18

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist—CHC
Noon Call to prayer for the church
3:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal

Fri. September 19

6:30 p.m.—Evening Prayer in chapel

Sat. September 20

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Prayers & Squares

Sun. September 21

Proper 20, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

9:15 a.m. Nursery opens
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. Children's Church
11:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Mon. September 22

Tues. September 23

11:30 a.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. What is this An-gel-i-can church?

Wed. September 24

10:00 a.m. Worship service at Grace
3:00 p.m. Stand Up For Kids.
4:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

**Grace Anglican Church
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Bible Readings for September 21, 2014

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year A)

Sunday Servers

September 21, 2014	Proper 20	9:30 a.m. Service
First Reader	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Dick Phelps
Psalms Reader	Psalms 145:1-8	Jim Livingston
Second Reader	Philippians 1:21-27	Linnie Phelps
Intercessor		Frances Slaughter
Lay Euch. Ministers		Carolyn Blumberg, Richard Reider
Acolytes		Frances Slaughter
Welcomers		Margaret Olsen, John Gerhart
Ushers		Ted Vallas, J.R. Fox, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day		Carolyn Blumberg
Healing Ministers		Sarah Fuller, Cathleen Stevens, Donna Sandner, Jan Simon
Counters		Cline Handy Helen Reid