

Grace Vine

Newsletter of Grace Bible Fellowship
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Pastor's Corner *by Keith Vik*

Things can change

"Dad, would you watch my cat for me while Dayton and I go on our honeymoon?"

I have and will do many things for my children that are not always my preference. This request was granted on very specific conditions. The cat in question was not very sociable. No, no, it was psychotic.

You are warned by Park Rangers about wild animals and dangers of being too close to them no matter how adorable they look. Where was the Park Ranger in my daughter's apartment when **The Cat** cornered and chased two workmen out of the place and they wouldn't return until measures had been taken to insure their safety?

I felt uncomfortable while visiting my daughter because I had to account for the cat and keep Band-Aids close at hand for the "close" encounters. So...the request to "watch" the cat.

"Yes, I will have this cat in my house if, and I do mean if, upon arrival it is immediately taken to the vet to be de-clawed and fixed." (I did not want this bloodline continued to the detriment of mankind.) This

was agreed to and the day of the wedding came and with it the cat to my house.



It had a name, Ramona, and was therefore harder to depersonalize and make it easier to "dispose" of. Besides, I was going to give it back after the agreed time and in a "fixed" condition that would make it safer for mankind (let alone my own grandchildren).

Vets are amazing. I will never forget the day Ramona went for the visit to our hero.

Wrapped in a towel, Ramona, was handed to the vet tech. I didn't know cats could make the sounds that came out of Ramona. Nor was I prepared for the procedures of a vet clinic in "active scratcher" preparedness. How could such a little critter create such mayhem? The last I saw of her that day was at the end of a catch pole succumbing to the effects of sedation as she was moved to the back room of the clinic.

Wedding is over and our hero vet had graciously allowed Ramona to "stay" in his clinic (caged) until then. But she had to come to my house now. All he said to me about this was, "Keith, there are other cats." Not my cat, it is going back.

Fast forward 6 months.

"Dad?" "What?!" Said I, the knowing parent, who has heard that tone of "Dad?" before. "Dayton and I are moving to a new apartment and we can't have pets." I knew what was coming. "Would you and Mom take Ramona?"

I'm glad I didn't say no. I did give conditions. "I will give it two months and if the cat doesn't change I will rename it... *Boat Anchor!*"

It took longer than two months, but now Ramona is my cat. She sleeps on my chest when I tip back in the recliner to catch my own snooze. I enjoy her antics and quirks. What happened?

In short, I changed. I would like to think Ramona is the one who changed but really it was me who moved. There was an accepting on my part to work at the relationship and not further any hostility and over time Ramona trusted me.

Got a "human Ramona" in your life? Who needs to change?



Shoe Box Talk *by Marilyn Jaeger*



Very few have received a letter back from the child who has been blessed with their shoe box. LaVerne and Mary Ann Olson were doubly blessed because they received an answer twice now. Many ask about this when they place a letter and their address, perhaps even their family's picture, in their shoe box... they wonder if many people hear back from the children. Most children cannot afford the postage to mail you a letter even if they truly want to. But maybe we shouldn't be too impatient. *Listen to this...*

Several years ago a young lady named Lindsay, who was sixteen at the time, wrote the following note on some beautiful butterfly stationery with this scripture at the top, "We will be changed at the twinkling of an eye. I Corinthians 15." She carefully placed it in her shoe box.

*"Dear Young Lady,
My Name is Lindsay Taylor and I am 16 years old. May you see the love that Jesus has for you through this gift that I send with all my love and prayers. Jesus has died for our sins that we might know Him.
God loves you!
Love always, Lindsay."*

[In typical teenage style, a smiley face and a heart was drawn next to her signature.]

More than ten years passed. A letter arrived from a Lima, Peru. A thank you letter. Yes, more than ten years later a young woman sat down and penned a letter to Lindsay who was 26 years old by then and the writer, Meryl, was 23.

She wrote: *"I'm from Lima, Peru. I'm 23 years old and I'm a teacher. I live with my parents and I have an older sister. Thanks [to] God I have a nice relationship with my family. I attend to Way of Life Church (Iglesia Camino de Vida) and I serve in children's ministry."*

- How did Meryl receive an OCC shoe box? *"I received it in a Christmas event for children which took place in my church, in which the Pastor's wife told us that she had a special surprise for us and then she gave every child a OCC shoe box. She also told us that those gifts were sent with love from USA through the Operation Christmas Child Ministry."*

- What was it like to receive the shoe box? *"When I received the OCC shoe box I was 12 years old and I felt happy and thankful. I also felt surprised that someone who didn't know me and didn't speak the same language than me could send me a Christmas present from a far country. I remember when I opened the box I found your letter; at that time I didn't speak English so I asked a friend to translate me the letter, and there is a part in your letter that touched my heart, which reads as follows: "May you see the love that Jesus has for you through this gift that I send with all my love and prayers.". I could definitely see God's love through your gift and it made me feel special. Thank you! 😊"*

- Did receiving a shoe box make a difference in Meryl's life? *"To receive the OCC shoe box showed me one more time how wonderful is the love of God that touches people's hearts to bring joy to children and make an impact in their lives as well as your gift did in my life. It encouraged me to continue sharing more about God's love and mercy."*

- What led her to look for the giver so many years later? *"I always wanted to thank you for the gift which was a blessing to me. A few months ago I found your letter among my things and I decided to look for you in order to get to know you and thank you for the nice gesture of sending a gift which God had designated it was for me."*

- What other thoughts did Meryl share with Lindsay?

"I consider that OCC is a ministry of blessing to many people, not only for children who receive the gifts but also for people who send them because they have the opportunity to make many children smile, show them more about Jesus love and more about the wonderful plan He has for each of them."

~ Cont'd ~

Shoe Box Talk-cont'd by Marilyn Jaeger

Doesn't this just bless and encourage you? Encourage you to keep packing those boxes? Two letters which passed between two young ladies ten years apart shows how important it is to partner with Samaritan's Purse / Operation Christmas Child. This isn't an ordinary Christmas giving program, like Toys for Tots or others, good as they may be. I always like to say we send Jesus along with every box.

We might not be so blessed in this life to hear from the children who open our shoe boxes. But we may be allowed to meet those shoe box children who made a 'choice for Jesus' one day in Eternity. *But then again, maybe we should keep writing those letters and watching our mail boxes ten years from now.*

Recipe Corner by Angie Vik / Bernice Carter

Editor's note:

Bernice made tasty lemon cookies for GBF to serve after church on Palm Sunday. They looked cheerful and springlike and were well received. Several people asked for the recipe, so here it is.

Ingredients

1 box Pillsbury moist supreme lemon cake mix
1/3 c. vegetable oil
2 eggs
1/4 t. Lemon extract
1/4 c. sugar
1 c. powdered sugar
2-3 Tbsp lemon juice concentrate

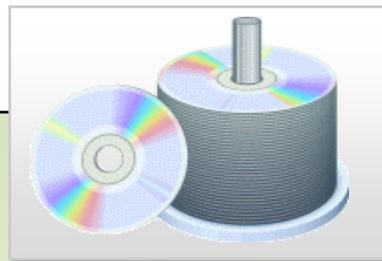
Heat oven to 375 F.

In large bowl, combine cake mix, oil, lemon extract, and eggs; stir with spoon until thoroughly moistened. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; place two inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Place sugar in shallow dish. Dip bottom of glass in sugar and flatten cookies to 1/4 inch thickness. Bernice's glass had a pattern on the bottom, so the pattern was transferred to the cookies and made them look extra nice.

Bake at 375 F for 6 to 9 minutes (depending on how soft you like your cookies) or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets.

Optional: Combine powdered sugar and lemon juice until smooth. Drizzle over cookies.





New DVDs in the Church Library

Do You Believe

12 people, all moving in different directions, all wanting something more. Their lives unexpectedly intersect and they learn there is power in true faith.

Mom's Night Out

3 mothers decide to go out for dinner and conversation. They leave their children home with their husbands and a series of events unfold and escalate in a heartwarming, somewhat slapstick family film.

Old-Fashioned

Former frat boy comes to Christ and his life dramatically changes. He is now known for his old-fashioned theories on love and romance as well as his devout beliefs. When a free-spirited young woman rents the apartment above his antique shop, she is surprisingly drawn to his strong faith and noble ideas.

Torchbearers - Heroes of the Faith - animated children's movies

Corrie tenBoom - Dutch woman who hid Jews during WWII.

Gladys Aylward - English woman who served God in China

Warroom

From the makers of Courageous and Fireproof. An aging prayer warrior counsels a woman she meets whose marriage is struggling. A powerful movie about the importance and power of prayer.

Woodlawn

In 1973, a spiritual awakening captured the heart of nearly every player on the Woodlawn High School football team. Their dedication to love and unity, in a newly desegregated school filled with racism and hate, leads to the largest high school football game ever played in the torn city of Birmingham, Alabama.

4 Movie Collection

4 movies on one disc: Soul Surfer, When the Game Stands Tall, Abel's Field, and The Mighty Macs

Soul Surfer - Teen Surfer, Bethany Hamilton's faith is tested when a shark bites off her arm.

When the Game Stands Tall - Inspired by a true story. The story of legendary football coach Bob Ladouceur who led his teams to a history making 151 game winning streak. When the streak is broken and tragedy occurs, the team must learn how to handle hard times as well as the good ones.

Abel's Field - A reserved groundskeeper mentors a troubled high school senior through hard times.

Mighty Macs - from the inspiring true story of one woman who wanted to make a difference and wound up making history. Coach Cathy Rush leads tiny Immaculata College's bedraggled basketball team against all odds to a winning season.

Graduation

High School - Ashland (June 5th)

Ryan Lowney
Thaddaeus Meyer



WITC - Anna Vik
UMD - Zach Weaver

Graduation is here, you've really come far, rejoice and be happy, accept who you are. Address every day with a purpose and aim, decide what you want make living our game. Understand and discover, always be true, the world is your canvas, inviting and new, opportunity awaits you, just walk through the door, new moments each day are yours to explore.

Congratulations and God Bless You!

Birthdays *by Deb Kmetz*

April

- 8 Ryan Lowney
- 10 Kathleen Kovach
- 11 Charles Carrier
- 11 Connor Kovach
- 14 Allie Schuster
- 15 Tess Schuster
- 18 Betsy Carrier
- 18 Debbie Kmetz
- 20 Marilyn Jaeger
- 22 MJ Weaver
- 24 Teresa Rusch
- 25 Nathan Weaver
- 27 Tina Miller
- 29 Hannah Rusch
- 29 Michael Weaver



May

- 2 Jack Schuster
- 4 Donalee Brevak
- 6 Denny Kurschner
- 6 Emily Ludwig
- 9 Brittany Schulte
- 12 Pete Dykstra
- 13 Keri Stifter
- 14 Ron Shuga
- 14 Pam Smylie
- 15 Robert Bailen
- 17 Terry Frostman
- 24 Roxanne Shuga
- 27 Paul Johnson
- 30 Amy Mattila
- 31 Dale Brevak



June

- 9 Justin See
- 9 Daniel Thomas
- 11 Steve Linton
- 11 Emily Schendel
- 13 Jim Bailen
- 13 Amanda Metzinger
- 17 Brian Miller
- 20 John Osness
- 20 Garrett Rusch
- 21 Amelia Thomas
- 25 Clayton Ludwig
- 25 Anna Vik
- 29 June Wilber
- 30 Vern Jaeger
- 30 Jan Peterson
- 30 Pat Shields

remembering you
 on your special day..
 happy birthday !!

Anniversaries *by Deb Kmetz*

April

- 4 Wally/Karen Vietmeier
- 20 Vern/Marilyn Jaeger

May

- 5 Howard/Terry Frostman
- 17 Dan/Erin Kovach
- 22 Emmer/Pat Shields
- 28 Jack/Dianne Schuster

June

- 2 Steve/Donna Linton
- 10 Sam/Jeff Orthmann
- 11 Dale/Donna Brevak
- 20 Art Bock/Dottie Coleman
- 21 Matt/Amanda Metzinger
- 23 Ken / Donna Compton
- 27 LaVerne/MaryAnn Olson
- 28 Brian/Tina Miller



Usher's Schedule

by Larry Carter

April

Lead: **Larry Carter**

Paul Johnson; Steve Meyer; Dale Brevak

May

Lead: **Emmer Shields**

Pete Dykstra; Elmer Wilber; John Smylie & Thaddaeus Meyer

June

Lead: **Vern Jaeger**

Frank Kostka; Robert Bailen; Randall Rusch



Upcoming Events

by Deb Kmetz

GBF Church Events

- **April 2** – Women’s Breakfast (7:00 AM)
- **April 15-17** – Spiritual Life Conference
- **May 7** – Women’s Breakfast (7:00 Am)
- **June 4** – Women’s Breakfasat (7:00 AM)



Area Events

- **Sunday’s** – Community Dinner (4-6 pm)
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
- **Apr 2** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s
Center (10:00 am)
- **Apr 2** - Chequamegon Humane Association
rummage sale at Saron Church (8 am-2 pm)
- **Apr 11** – Faith In Action Fundraiser All-
you-can-eat Pizza Buffet at The Alley (4-
8pm)
- **May 5** – Kiwanis Pancake Feed at the Bay
Area Civic Center (11 am-1 pm)
- **May 7** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s
Center (10:00 am)
- **May 14** – Annual New Day Limited Dinner
and Raffle at Bay Area Civic Center (4 pm)
- **May 30** – Memorial Day concert at the Band
Shell (9:30am)
- **June 4** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s
Center (10:00 am)
- **TBD** – Elks Lodge #137 Flag Day Ceremony,
at the Elks Lodge (11 am)
- **TBD** - “Grilling for The BRICK,” at Northwoods
Community Credit Union, 121 W. Main St., from
(11am-1pm)



In The Kitchen

by Steve & Donna Linton

Hospitality/Kitchen Committee

April

Chair: **Pat Shields & Famly**

Alice Johnson; Claire Helsper; Donna Linton

May

Chair: **Terry Frostmas**

Mauricette Keeley; Donna Compton;
Karen Johnson

June

Chair: **Mary Ann Olson**

Shuga Family; Mary Ann Riemer;
Teresa Rusch; Tara Olson & Family



America the Beautiful,

*Home of the brave and free. A land that God, our
Father, has given you and me.*

*He knows that in our world, freedom always
has its price, and can easily be lost,
without fight and sacrifice.*

*So with a love our country our bravest give their all,
many even life itself. We're grateful to them all.*

*Our Army, Navy, National Guard, Air Force and
Marines. Present and past.....
all have made our bell of freedom ring.*

*We thank them for their sacrifice and pray to God
above, that they may know the greatness of our
gratitude and love.*

*Because of them, our nation's flag will ever proudly
wave, and we are still home of the free
because of them.....THE BRAVE*

Ron Tranner

Armed Forces Day
Saturday, May 21, 2016



Memorial Day
Monday, May 30, 2016

Flag Day
June 14, 2016

*Happy
Mother's Day!*
Sunday, May 8th, 2016

Children's Day
Sunday, June 12, 2016

*Happy
Father's Day!*
Sunday, June 19, 2016

A Godly Mother

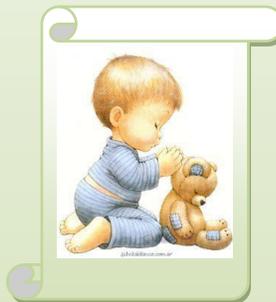
*A Godly Mother is a treasure—
A gift more precious than gold
Her Children rise up,
And call her blessed,
And in high esteem do hold.
Her love is like that of our Savior
Who sacrificed His own life.
That we might live joyful,
Godly lives in a troubled
World of strife.
Her heart is like His,
Holding us close
No matter how far we roam,
And her arms are always
Open wide to forgive
And welcome home.
Her hands are busy molding
Our lives from the moment
We are born.
Planting seeds, loving, disciplining,
Even when weary and worn
Her feet are always careful to go
Where her child can follow there.
How could we thank our Mother
Enough for her tender loving care?
A Godly Mother fervently prays
For that child she loves so much,
For she knows the fruit of her
Vineyard depends on
The Master's touch.*

LOVE YOU MOM

Children are the "spice of life"

and frequently they can make you laugh when you feel like crying.
God's Word says that children are the Lord's plan for replenishing the earth.
Youngsters today face a cruel and hard old world to grow up in. Be kind to them. This does not mean that we should give them everything they want in the way of worldly goods. In some cases, children who seem to be deprived of so many good things in life often turn out better and more appreciative than those who have wanted for nothing.
Much of the time their real want is to be able to share some time with Mom and Dad. Parents who are so busy they have no time for their children might wake up sometime later in life finding their own children have little time for them!

Praise the Lord for the gift of children. They're among the greatest of God's gifts.



Dear God,
I think
About you

Sometimes
Even when I'm
Not praying



LOVE YOU SON/DAUGHTER

BLESSED IS THE MAN

Blessed is the man for whom a good woman lives, to whom his work is a pleasure, by whom his friends are encouraged, with whom others are comfortable, in whom a clear conscience abides, and through whom his children see God.

Blessed is the man whose strength is enhanced by his tenderness, whose wisdom is empowered by his faith, and whose courage is made complete by his compassion.

Blessed is the man who looks at life with joyful optimism, who listens to his children with eager attentiveness, who enriches his community with creative enthusiasm, who loves his country with grateful loyalty, and who worships his God with unswerving fidelity.

Blessed is the man who brings honor to the word "Father," who is a credit to the word "Brotherhood," who is a quiet example of the child's perfect image of the word "manhood."

Blessed is the man who confidently builds bridges of understanding, who generously lightens the loads of his fellow man, and who cheerfully brightens each day with words of hope, inspiration and assurance.

Blessed is the man of whom his children often say, "We're glad he's our father"; of who his wife often says, "I'm glad he's my husband; of whom his parents say, "We're glad he's our son."

Wm A Ward

LOVE YOU DAD