

received in cash or checks outside of pledges, is running about half of what it was last year.

We are in the summer months when giving often drops off. Our expenses, however, remain about the same. Please be mindful of your commitments to Grace as we enjoy the summer months here and away.

By Ed Strong, Treasurer

Children's Church Highlights Ancestors of Christ

This summer students in Children's Church are learning about the ancestors of Christ. "We are excited about this and look forward to teaching the children about many of the Biblical figures of the Old Testament," said Lynn Rieger, director of children's church.

Among the featured people will be: Abraham and Sarah, Ruth and Boaz, David and Solomon. The children will learn about these ancestors and the journeys they made throughout the region. They will use Bibles that were recently donated to children's church by Richard and Marsha Hawarah.

Adults who would like to take part in this series or learn more about participating in children's church, please reach out to Lynn Rieger or Jana Balke.

The Importance of the Tithe

Have you ever really thought about the importance of the tithe?

God's word says in Malachi 3:10:

"Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse that there may be food in my house and prove me now by it, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Such a blessing that there will not be enough room to receive it? Boy, that sounds good.

My husband Robert and I adhere to this monthly. We tithe with an attitude of gratitude and joy, expecting our needs to be met abundantly. After all, doesn't God promise us in Philippians 4:19 "And my God will liberally supply your every need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus?" We believe the promises in the Bible, and we've always found them to come true. Trusting God and what he says in His Word is a great challenge, but it has proved to be as sweet as honey. We are richly blessed in every way. We have all the material

possessions we could possibly ask for, and we're spiritually enriched as we read the Bible regularly. We watch God come through every trial and challenge with provisions where, before, we could see no way.

God doesn't want us to live in bondage. He wants us to be free. That's why he sent Jesus, and why Jesus died for us. He died to redeem us of our sins and to give us joy and abundant life. All he asks is for us to trust him; and as he says in Malachi – "Prove me and see what I will do!"

By Stana Chapman

The Vicar's Vagaries

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Through the determined efforts and inspired work of John Harvey, Ed Strong, Carol Martinez and Pat Mayo, *Grace Notes*, our church newsletter, has been reborn. As we are pulled in so many directions these days, usually only gathering on Sunday mornings as a congregation, this newsletter gives us another way of staying connected with one another and keeping up with events at church.

As we make our way into July, I hope everyone has a little more time for friends, family, and recreation. Also, some relaxed time for reading, study, and prayer may be available to you. I am catching up on my reading by tackling a book I promised my grandfather 41 years ago that I would read. I remember when he picked up *In Search of History*, by Theodore H. White, from the table beside his chair and handed it to me. "Joe, I want you to read this book. Will you promise me that you will read it?"

"Oh no! It's not even a history book. It's about history! And he is making me promise! I don't want to read that book! This could not be fun!!"

"Sure," I said, taking the book from him and thanking him, telling myself I would be able to read it sometime after I graduated from college. I have often looked at the inscription he wrote in the front of that book before he handed it to me.

*For Joe, from his Harvard Grandpa, AB 1921
Sept. 22, 1978*

That was the fall of my senior year in college. I have no idea why I was visiting at Grandpa's house when I was supposed to be in college, but I am glad I was. About three weeks later, without warning, on Oct. 16, he had a massive heart attack and died.

It has long been a cause of wonder that the last time I saw my grandfather, he gave me a book and asked me to promise I would read it. Now I am wondering: Is there a special message for me in this book? As I read it, the book is like a long conversation with my grandfather, whom I never got to know in my adulthood. I am following a path he took 41 years ago, a path he enjoyed so much that he badly wanted me to go on that same journey with him.

On around Ascension Day, I started the book, and I found it fascinating. Its time had come! Or maybe mine had. In my homily for Ascension Day, I asked the congregation, "How could anyone you cannot see have authority over you in this world?" I was referring to the ascended Christ, to whom we refer as Lord. But I was also thinking about my grandfather. It had nagged me all this time that I had never read the book he made me promise I would read. So, I started it.

I am well over half-way through now, and I read a little every day. I am finding that Theodore White was a journalist who tried to find through the events of the 20th Century the threads of history while they were still a confusing mixture of undistinguished facts. He was on a search through real time for History, the story of our lives. How may we find the real story among the seemingly unconnected events in our lives and in the world? How do we find where God is leading us, and how do we remain true to him along the way? I believe that we at Grace Church are dedicated to finding our way together. May God bless us as we pursue the Way of Jesus Christ, and may he give us understanding of how we may serve him, love one another, and be as Christ in the world.

Faithfully,
Father Joe

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