

# GRACE PLACE

*Life is a gift from God*

faith based education • women's advocacy • family restoration

www.graceplaceinc.org Winona, Minnesota 507•452•2283

## Come, for Everything is Now Ready!

by Carla Burton, Executive Director of Grace Place

Our Father has been so faithful to send so many to help carry out the mission and vision of Grace Place over the years. Glory be to God, our Jesus His Son, and the Holy Spirit who teaches us all things.

The difference between a dream or good idea and a vision is that no matter what you try to do it will not be forgotten or go away. The number of families needing shelter and support increases every day as our culture becomes more and more challenging to live in.

Last week during my prayer time I was reminded of a vision I had about 15 years ago. In the vision I was walking with Jesus through the streets of Winona as he visited the local churches. The problem was it was 10:00 at night and every door we knocked on had no answer, I felt very sad and wondered what I could do to make a difference. In the book of Revelation chapter 3 verse 20 it states, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me." Are we ready to answer the door?

Now is the time for believers everywhere to answer the door, invite Christ into your heart and home, no more excuses and not only into our homes but into our community. What would happen if we did?

In the book of Luke chapter 14 verses 15-24, Jesus tells the Parable of the Great Banquet. Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said 'I have just bought a field and I must go see to it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five yolk of oxen, and I am on my way to try them out, 'Please excuse me.' Still another said 'I just got married so I cannot come.' The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 'Sir' he said, 'What you ordered has been done, but there is still room. Then the master told his servant, 'Go out into the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

In Godly Play, I ask the following questions after I share a parable; "I wonder where this banquet really is, I wonder if there is any thing in this story that could be left out, or I wonder where you are in this story?"

*Now is the time for believers everywhere to answer the door, invite Christ into your heart and home, no more excuses and not only into our homes but into our community. What would happen if we did?*

Come, for Everything . . . - cont'd on pg. 2

**February 2008 – Classes & Programs**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	4 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	5 9:00am or 6:00 pm K-Our Time	6 9:00am Bible study 3:00 pm K-Young Child	7 14 Valentine's Day 9:00am Bible study 3:30 pm K-Young Child	8 15	9 9:00am K-Family Time
10 11 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	11 12 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	12 9:00am or 6:00 pm K-Our Time	13 9:00am Bible study 3:00 pm K-Young Child	14 15 Valentine's Day 9:00am Bible study 3:00 pm K-Young Child	15 16	16 9:00am K-Family Time
17 18 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	18 19 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	19 9:00am or 6:00 pm K-Our Time	20 9:00am Bible study 3:00 pm K-Young Child	21 10am, & 6pm Village	22 23	23 9:00am K-Family Time
24 25 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	25 26 Grace 8th 4-5:30p.m Community Time 5-6:15 K-Imagine That! 6:50 pm	26 9:00am or 6:30 pm K-Our Time	27 3:00 pm K-Young Child	28 10am, & 6pm Village	29	

**Wish List**

- diapers – larger sizes
- diaper wipes
- toothbrushes & toothpaste
- shampoo
- dish soap
- laundry soap
- cleaning supplies for our free shelf
- Cash Donations to help with our high winter heating bills and snowplowing

Call 452-2283

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Grace Place, Inc. &

Market Square Thrift Store

(a 501-c3 non-profit organization)

66 East Second St., Winona, MN 55987

507-452-2283 E-mail: graceplc@hbci.com

www.graceplaceinc.org



To:

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

—Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

Come, for Everything... - cont'd from pg. 1

Here at Grace Place God has blessed us with a vision and the passion to see it unfold. Our vision is to see that the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame get to the feast. There is still more room! Please consider joining us in this effort to serve those in need. When we serve in this way we also share in the feast. Grace Place would like to have its doors open 24 hour a day 7 days a week. To do this we need the prayers and support of our community. •

*There are many ways to serve; if you feel Christ knocking at the door of your heart to help, please call us at 1-507-452-2283.*

**"The Windows of Heaven are Open."**



# Stories of Grace

## Mitsy's Blessing

I am writing this letter on behalf of Grace Place and the wonders that it has done in my life.

My name is Misty Churchill and I am from Jamaica. I have been living here for 3 years now. I came to Grace Place in 2006 because I needed help with my problems that I was going through. At that time, I was very depressed and needed someone to talk to and most of all someone who was willing to listen to me and help me get through it.

That's where I met Ms. Carla Burton and the Grace Place team members. They took me in, showed me love, and treated me with respect. They were there to help me every step of the way. There were times when I didn't

have a ride to visit with them for counseling—Ms. Burton would come to my apartment, sit with me and we would have a cup of tea together. She showed me how to have faith and trust in God even when I gave up on God; she showed me how to trust and believe in Him again.

She has taught me how to take care of my problems and how, with God, all things are possible, if I just trust and believe in His words He can open doors with an abundance of blessings! Because of that I have grown to love Grace Place and the tremendous work they are doing in the community and with the people who are on the edge of giving up—to listen to their problems and show them that they are not alone.

Even when I couldn't pay for my taxes to get done, they helped me get them done; so I could pay my bills. I am very grateful for all the things they've done for me and I will do my best to give back to them my appreciation by volunteering and sharing the same love and respect they shared with me.

I personally would recommend Grace Place to anyone — and I trust and believe that no matter what it is, they will help you. They have helped me in so many ways emotionally, spiritually, and more and I appreciate the good things they have done for me and the people of this community. •

Sincerely,  
Mitsy Churchill,  
Winona, MN

# MARKET SQUARE

The Thrift Store at Grace Place! • Quality Goods for God's Kids!

Store Hours: Monday–Friday: 10-5 pm & Saturday: 10-3 pm

**January 28 – February 2**  
Toy Sale!  
All toys, games & puzzles...  
**HALF PRICE!**

**February 1 – 29**  
February Bag-Sale!  
Clothing by the bag...  
reduced prices each week!

**February 4 – 9**  
Craft & Sewing Sale!  
50% off all fabrics, craft  
& sewing items!

**February 11 - 16**  
**Valentine Sale!**  
**50% off all**  
**Valentine's Day items!**

**WINTER CLEARANCE SALES**  
**FEBRUARY BAG-SALE!**  
**CLOTHING BY THE BAG...REDUCED**  
**PRICES EACH WEEK!**

## NOTICE!

MARKET SQUARE'S DONATION HOURS will be CHANGING EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2008

Donations only accepted from:  
**TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

## Mary Ann, aka: "The Pie Lady"

by L. Nelson, Grace Place Volunteer

As I was sitting at her kitchen table, I was surrounded by the aroma of fresh-baked pie. "What kind is that one?", I said, pointing at the one sprinkled with mini-chocolate chips. "Oh, that's Peanut Butter", she replies as she was pouring out another filling into the pie shell rolled out from scratch. Decisions, decisions, I thought, which kind to bring home with me?!



Carla Burton & Mary Ann at her home.

Mary Ann Zimmerman, aka: **The Pie Lady** has been baking, for the past 60 years; "Since I was 14 years old", she says. So, baking pies is second nature to her. But there's more than meets the eye with Mary Ann. "I have been prone to depression a lot of my life", she states, matter-of-factly. But, when the Tsu-

nami hit in 2004, she was able to turn that depression around with her pie baking. She made 1,000 pies that year and donated all the proceeds to the Tsunami victims. As she blessed others, she began to see God's blessing for her full recovery from depression. "I give the credit to God", she says.

Now, she's continued her Pie Ministry with **Pies for Grace**. Her goal is to make another 1,500 pies, ready to enjoy in your home or as

a gift. Then she adds, "If I can do 1,500, I can do 2,000!" Her commitment to the ministry of Grace Place is evident in her commitment to bake pies for their mission and the community.

**"I would never do this for myself, says Mary Ann, "But, when I do this (pies) for the cause of Grace Place, I enjoy it, A LOT! I love being a part of Grace Place!"**

So, the next time you get a hankerin' for a fresh home-baked pie, give us a jingle and place your order. Plan ahead, they freeze well too! Then, you too can say— "I love being a part of Grace Place by supporting their ministry!" What a great way to bless this community and enjoy a tasty treat to boot! •



**Fresh**  
**Homemade Pies**

**Call 452-2283 to**  
**place your order today!**

**all proceeds go to**  
**support Grace Place**  
**and the flood victims**  
**of S.E. Minnesota**

