



JUNE 2018



Worship Schedule

Saturday, 5:00 pm and Sunday, 9:00 am
All are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors.



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Spirit of Grace
Lutheran Church
15820 W. Clearview Blvd.
Surprise, AZ 85374

In the  of Sun City Grand

Phone: 623-977-6000
www.spiritofgrace.com

Worship Hours

Saturday at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 9:00 am

Education Hour

Wednesday Bible Study
10:00 am

Office Hours

8:30 to 4:00
Monday—Thursday
8:30—12:00 Friday

Staff

Rev. Vern Anderson
Sr. Pastor
pastorvern@spiritofgrace.com

Linda Stratman
Director of Parish Life
linda@spiritofgrace.com

Gerry White
Director of Finance
& Administration
jerry@spiritofgrace.com

Gil Korito, Bookkeeper
gkorito@spiritofgrace.com

Sheila Marlow
Secretary/Receptionist
sheila@spiritofgrace.com

Fred Bornhoeft
Director of Music

Ken Carnes
Choir Director

Elaine Indahl
Accompanist

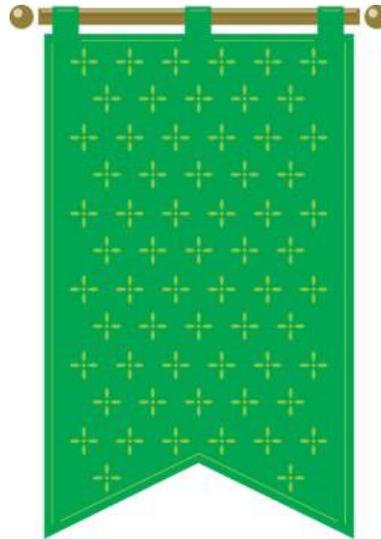
Jerry Huston
Facility Manager

Thanks Mom!

At his graduation, a young man tasked with giving a speech began reading from some notes. "I want to talk about my mother and the wonderful influence she had on my life," he said. "She's a shining example of parenthood, and I love her more than words can ever do justice."



The graduate then paused, appeared to struggle a moment, and looked up at the audience with a mischievous smile. "It's really hard to read my mom's handwriting," he said.



The Color Green

Green is the traditional liturgical color for the weeks after Pentecost. The Pentecost season largely overlaps with spring and summer, which is fitting because green symbolizes growth: growth of plant life and crops, and growth of the church in discipleship, and faith.

"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES"

Bob Hope had as his theme song—"Thanks for the Memories." I truly believe that memories are gifts to us from God that we can take off the bookshelf of time and usually they put a smile on our face and a warm feeling in our heart. Looking back over the past five years you have given Jan and me memories we will always treasure. God blessed us with the opportunity to be part of Spirit of Grace and Sun City Grand for which we will ever be thankful. Thank you to each of you who welcomed and supported us during our time in Arizona.

I never really even dreamed of driving to work in my golf cart, tap dancing in a variety show, taking a short drive down the street to Spring Training baseball or appreciating that it only got to 110 degrees for the high temperature of the day. If you hadn't noticed I had a lot of fun being the pastor of Spirit of Grace. I had a great staff, wonderful Council leaders and a congregation filled with talented, generous, and just plain incredible Christians who live out their faith in word and deed. I have been blessed to be part of this ministry sharing God's grace and love in this place and time.



Easter Sunday 2014



*Pastor Vern's installation
October 5, 2013—It seems
like you just arrived!*

Jan and I now return to the source of most of my stories--Minnesota. I will exchange my golf cart for a snow blower, my pool in January for ice fishing, and my clean car for one covered with salt to melt the ice and snow on the road. Change is good, but also difficult. The love, support, and "can do" spirit of Spirit of Grace will be hard to replace in our lives. We leave with lives that are blessed and better because we were here. We hope and pray that we have done the same for each of you. Thanks for the memories!

*In His grace,
Pastor Vern & Jan Anderson*

OUTREACH WORSHIP MINISTRY HAS SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

We have made a video showing your friends at work in the Outreach Worship Ministry service. This video shows you three different teams at work at the three different facilities we serve: Vista de la Montana, Solana (formerly Park Wood) and Solstice (formerly The Madison).

After viewing this video we hope you too will join our volunteer team. Outreach Worship Ministry is a wonderful and uplifting ministry with many dedicated volunteers. However, we need more volunteers to keep this ministry going. Particularly during the summer months, when many Spirit of Grace friends go back north, **we need your help.**

This ministry is not a severe time commitment: only one hour every 4 to 5 weeks. You will be given thorough training and a very helpful, complete handbook giving you everything you need to know to do this work.

And if you are not comfortable doing a specific component of the service such as giving the message, we can work around that. Each team consists of 4 to 5 members. Unable to come one Sunday? No problem. Let your team members know and they will work around it.

Do you feel you cannot do this ministry because you are an associate member living part-time in Surprise? All members, associate members, and regular visitors are encouraged to participate in this ministry.

Imagine if you could not come to church anymore, would you not be grateful if the church was brought to you?

To view the video go to: www.spiritofgrace.com. When you see the web page, click on "**Ministries.**" Under "**Outreach Ministry**" you will find a block that says "**click on video.**"

We hope that this video will inspire you to join our great team of volunteers.

Anneke Rutgers
Core team member



COUNCIL NEWS



As you may have noticed, many of our winter members have left for the summer, but our attendance remains steady. And our financial position continues to be strong. Thank you for your continued financial support.

The food contribution to Valley View Food Bank the first weekend in May was over 1600 pounds. At a value of \$1.52 per pound that represents a contribution of over \$2,400. Your generosity as a congregation is outstanding--helping a lot of families. Thank you!!

At the Council meeting in May, the Council distributed gifts to local charities or organizations which will be paid in June. We authorized a \$1,000 contribution to the following charities: Grand Canyon Retired Pastors Retreat, Soldiers Best Friend, Child Crisis Arizona, America's Mighty Warriors, Doves Program – Agency on Aging, Salvation Army, New Life Center, Crews'n Healthmobile at Phoenix Children's Hospital, Valley View Food Bank, and St. Mary's Food Bank.

As you know, we will be saying thank you and happy retirement to Pastor Vern and Jan on June 3rd with a brunch at the Briarwood Country Club. Many of you have inquired about an interim pastor. We have been in contact with a candidate to serve as our interim, and I hope to have an announcement very soon.

As we move forward, there will be some challenges and there will be opportunities for ministry. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated to keep Spirit of Grace growing and being such an incredible congregation. Please keep the Council and the Call Committee in your prayers as we begin the process of calling a new pastor.

Bruce Belanger, President

Robin Aguilar, Vice-President

Deborah Frusciano, Secretary

Vince Barone

Phyllis Borchardt

Don Cinnamond

Dick Lyda

Treedah Magee

Vicki McCarville



Income 4 months to the end of April	\$290,884
Expenses 4 months to the end April	\$227,063
Fixed Asset purchases 4 months to end of April	\$51,768
Mortgage balance at the end of April	\$961,841

Members: 834 Individuals
521 Households

FOOD INGATHERING

June 2 & 3

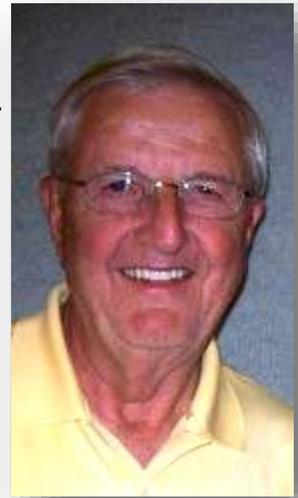
Always the first full weekend of the month



Especially needed: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Soup, Pop Tarts, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Hamburger Helper, Noodles, Liquid Detergent

And don't forget the Peanut Butter!

Call Committee News: With the announcement from Pastor Vern that he is ready to go where he has never gone before . . . into retirement, the Call Committee that was searching for a second pastor for Spirit of Grace is now changing its focus and will be looking for a senior pastor for our congregation. The committee members, Phil Nelson, Chairperson, Noelle Nothelfer, Gene McQueen, Sue Kopcha, Rich Frusciano, and Jan Hysten met early in May with Bishop Almen to review the work to be done and have begun the process. We ask that you keep the Call Committee and Spirit of Grace in your prayers.



*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*

Bambi McDowell passed away on April 18th, and her memorial service was held at Spirit of Grace on May 11th.

Terry Sonstroem, wife of Jon, entered our heavenly home on May 9th. A service honoring her life was held on May 18th at Spirit of Grace.

Bill Holl, wife of Lorie, entered his heavenly reward on May 14th, after a long battle with cancer. The service date for Bill has not been established at this time.

Tom Liston, husband of Joan Alpaugh, went to heaven on May 21st. His memorial service was held on May 26th at Spirit of Grace. Donations may be made to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014 or to Benevilla, 16752 N. Greasewood Street, Surprise, AZ 85378.

Wendy Seifert, daughter of member Jodie Seifert, passed away May 27th in Michigan.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
MONDAY-THURSDAY, AUGUST 6-9**



Yesterday I watched, with tears, as Hospice of the Valley came to the house across the street. Tears of sadness, of course, but tears of thankfulness. I know the wholesome, complete support we had during my husband's five and half months with Hospice. I know the support my neighbors will have during their very difficult time.

I have observed that few people know of the total support Hospice provides for families.

It is not just the equipment that they provide as needed: cane, walker, commode, seat riser, wheelchair, hospital bed, and more. It is not just the supplies they give as needed: boxes of surgical gloves, bed pads, wipes, diapers, ointments, special soaps and lotions, catheters, and yes, the anxiety, pain, and nausea meds.

It is not even the little book that explains, in layman words, the unfamiliar journey you are on.

It is the people—the kind, caring, compassionate and very professional people who walk that journey with the family. It is the intake nurse, doctor, and social worker who, from the first day when you are reeling from the diagnosis, make sure you are fully supported on every level. They continue to keep contact until the end.

It is the patient, kind, knowledgeable nurse who comes regularly (the daily go-to person) and the nurses who will come to you 24/7, if you need help or assurance. That level of support is so important.

It is the aide who comes to give baths and rubdowns, and in our case, who gave lots of laughs and hugs which were so very appreciated.

It is the volunteer who comes weekly to give the caregiver a break to run errands or maybe have lunch with a friend. Our volunteer continues to be an interesting and fun friend. He currently volunteers for multiple families. Pretty amazing dedication.

It is the people in the Hospice facility, who insure constant care if needed, so that the patient and family can just "be there" together through a dignified journey to the end. And when the journey ends, it is the people trained to give grief support as often or as long as needed.

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If you're coming to worship with us, you obviously like WHO we worship, the WAY we worship, and the reason WHY we worship. We're very happy that you WANT to worship with us, whether you're a visitor, an associate, or a full-time member.

The next *New Members Class* will be Thursday, June 21st, at 2:00. Let the church office know you'd like to attend. We want you to be part of OUR FAMILY.

Hospice Continued from page 8



Hospice of the Valley created a safety net for us so that we were confident, secure and fearless in facing death. It provided us with the strength to be joyful and happy together in the journey.

Our faith gives us the assurance that we know where we are going after our life on earth is over. We are so blessed.

All of this is with no cost to the patient or family. I repeat, "No cost!" It is totally covered by donations and Medicare in our case. I find that so utterly astounding! What a gift to our life!

Ruth Ballard



This symbol - with the cross, water and a white lily - identifies the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God: baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty and vitality that rise out of that life-giving baptismal water. The symbol also reminds us of the mission of the Church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." **MATTHEW 28:19**

WOMEN OF SPIRIT OF GRACE JUNE 2018

CIRCLE MEETINGS

June Combined Bible Study, "The Paradoxes of Prayer" | **SAMUEL 12:16-23**
Fellowship Hall, Tuesday, June 12, 9:30

Called to pray, but for what purpose? Can we persuade God with prayer? Do we actually encounter God in prayer? Is the practice of prayer intended for the sake of the one praying or for the One to whom we pray? The Bible references all of these scenarios; however, each comes with biblical, theological, and practical questions. In this first session on prayer, we'll investigate the paradoxical truths of this spiritual practice.

July Combined Bible Study, The practices of prayer PsALM 19:14

Fellowship Hall, Tuesday, July 10, 9:30

Jesus taught us how to pray by way of the Lord's Prayer. But both in Scripture and in the Christian tradition, people of faith have developed a wide variety of ways to come before God. In this session, we'll look at different ways to pray, what each might offer and how knowing an array of prayer styles can enrich our devotional life.

All women are invited to attend and/or join a circle. Extra copies of the Bible study lessons are in Gather Magazine and are available for check out in the church library.



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LivingLutheran

MERCY AND ADDICTION

By Wendy Healy



Mark, a Long Island, N.Y., business owner, satisfied a \$200-a-day opioid addiction by buying drugs on the streets, but he found recovery at a Lutheran church, where he satisfied his soul.

“Good Shepherd saved my life, and I’m so grateful,” said the married father of two, who beat the habit last summer and now attends

church regularly. “I found my help in a Lutheran pastor.”

Mark, who asked that his real name not be used, blindly turned to Eric Olsen, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Plainview, NY, out of desperation. The high expense of Mark’s daily fix wasn’t the problem since he earned a good salary, but his life was falling apart. When a painkiller prescribed for an injury turned into a heroin habit, he knew he was in deep trouble.

Olsen, who has ministered in this middle-class suburb of New York City for eight years, had become known in the community for his outreach to addicts and their families, a calling that began five years ago. “I was really outraged when I found myself being called by funeral homes to do the funerals of young people dying of overdoses,” he said. “Their families were too embarrassed and ashamed to go back to their own parishes so they came to me. Recovery involves shame and stigma. I became known as the safe guy to talk to.”

What’s been called a national public health emergency and the worst drug epidemic of our time, opioid addiction is particularly prevalent on Long Island, where an average of two addicts die every day, Olsen said. Addiction affects both teens and adults like Mark, who first got hooked on the painkiller Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen), which was prescribed after he injured his knee at work.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that overdose deaths from prescription opioids were five times higher in 2016 than 1999 and sales have

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quadrupled. And from 1999 to 2016, more than 200,000 people died in the United States from overdoses related to prescription opioids. The most common drugs are methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone and fentanyl, according to the CDC. In Arizona between June of 2017 and January 2018, 812 Arizonians died of opioid overdose, 5,202 suspected cases of opioid overdose and 455 babies were born addicted to opioids.

Eliminating stigma

"Addicts aren't deplorable but are children of God who have an illness," Olsen said. "Stigmatizing or looking down is putting yourself in the role of judge. Churches should be places of mercy."

ELCA congregations and Lutheran social service organizations are addressing the opioid crisis by raising awareness of stigmatization, hosting support groups, providing educational programs to the community and ministering to addicts. Peter Marty, a pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, and publisher of ***Christian Century***, often writes about addiction.

"Often it's a crisis developing quietly in the next pew," he said. "Silence over a public health issue of this magnitude is not an option for the church, unless the church is going to sit on the sidelines for all the major social issues from racism to sexual harassment."

"Christians get to meet people right in the thick of their pain and suffering. That's one of our privileged responsibilities. Getting ourselves and our congregations past stigmas and into realms of honesty, and actually grasping the severity of what it means to be trapped in medicated bondage, will go a long way toward opening more eyes." That's what Lenny Duncan, vicar of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Conshohocken, Pa., hopes to do when he accepts a mission developer call to the Metropolitan New York Synod when he's ordained this month. A recovering addict, Duncan expects to make ministry to addicts part of his role.

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Compiled by
Phyllis Borchardt, President
Spirit of Grace WELCA

WHAT'S YOUR STORY... Fred Bornhoeft



THE MAN BEHIND THE PIANO.....

by Annie Huston

Did you know “Piano Man” is the first single released by Billy Joel? Well, this is a story about *our* “Piano Man” we are very lucky to have on staff as Director of Music. I would love to claim the status of being Fred’s number one fan always telling him he should record his beautiful music, but safe bet he has many, many fans in our congregation.

Fred was born and raised in Detroit. He shared his love for his parents by giving them the highest praise anyone as a parent could ever hope for, describing them as “model parents.” His father was a school teacher and his mother was a homemaker but might have been a professional gymnast if given the opportunity. Both parents played the piano and organ. His parents encouraged both him and his brother Bob to be whom and whatever they wanted to be. Young shy Fred wanted to bean actor.



At age 10 he began piano lessons but went through three “bad” teachers before finding one who taught differently by having the *student* show *him* how they wanted to play. Voila! He’s been tickling the ivories ever since. But his real love was acting. In 10th grade Fred starred in his first play “Madwoman of Chaillot” and his second play in 11th grade, a comedy “The Man Who Came to Dinner” playing the lead role. Even though it was about an elderly gentleman, Fred had “*the voice*” at an early age. We all know about that voice.

Following high school Fred tried his hand at Wayne College for a semester but it just didn’t do it for him. He only attended 3 classes a day then found something more fun to do at the local pool hall. Fred dropped out and joined the Air Force during the Korean War. After his four years were completed, Fred attended the University of Washington majoring in drama and minored in math, both of which he never had to study for.

Fred worked for Sears Catalog for thirty years which was a separate entity from the Sears department stores. Who didn’t have a Sears & Roebuck catalog in their homes growing up?

During that time he was introduced to the computer and did some programming while working his way up in management.



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Recently Fred experienced a very traumatic gangrene health scare that resulted in partial amputation of his right leg. Has that slowed him down any?? Only while it healed. It was awe inspiring to watch him go through such a tough time as though it was no big deal. I asked him how he managed such a life changing event and he said it was his Dad's words he always heard growing up when problems needed to be solved, "What's the best thing I do next?"

"What's the best thing Fred did next" was learn how to walk with his prosthesis comfortably, play the piano and drive with his left foot. No big deal, right? Just "the best thing he did next." What an inspiring philosophy of life! Fred said he never looks back.

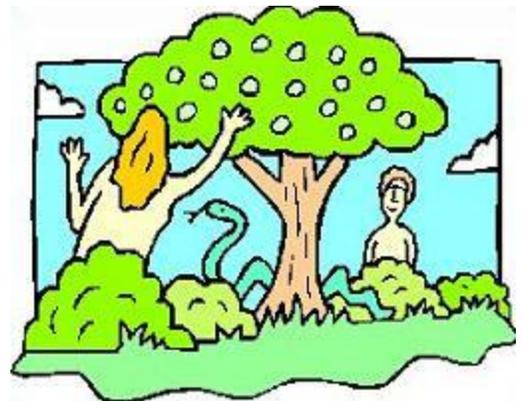


When asked what do you do for fun? He simply said, "I play the piano." He loves the piano and only listens to classical music; BUT . . . his passion still remains with acting. He has been on the stage throughout his life starting in high school and recently did a one-man show, *The John Barrymore Story*, in Sun City Grand where he helped develop the Drama Dept. years ago. Fred is 82 years young and still entertaining and providing beautiful music for us all! My best description of Fred would be "Humble and Kind" just like the Tim McGraw song.

Thank you Fred for sharing your wonderful story, your amazing gifts, and for being our very own **PIANO MAN** at Spirit of Grace!

Adam was walking with his sons, Cain & Abel when they passed the Garden of Eden. The sons asked their father about the place, and Adam replied, "That's where your mother ate me out of house and home."

Pastor Vern



New Member

ADRIENNE PEDERSON – is originally from International Falls, MN. After living in California for several years, she and her husband Bob gradually moved here from Diamond Bar. Adrienne has been a caregiver for Bob since his stroke almost five years ago. Adrienne is a registered nurse and spent 16



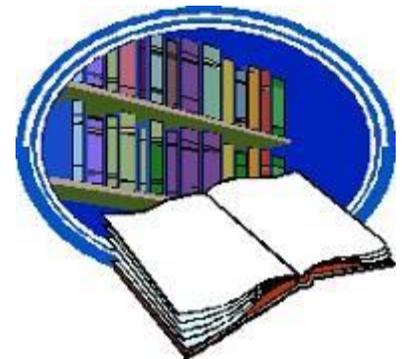
years in pediatric nursing at Children's Hospital in Orange County, CA, and then was a school nurse for 14 years. The Pedersons will be married 50 years in December. They came to Arizona because her aunt and uncle Roy and Betty Aune live here. Bob and Adrienne like to listen to books on tape in the car, play various card games, and Betty enjoys gardening. In what is almost non-existent free time, Adrienne works out at Silver Sneakers. She is looking forward to working with Dr. Joe to summarize medical articles—putting them in layman's terms for *Grace Notes*.

The library committee will not meet this month, but that doesn't mean the library is closed. Remember, the library is open any time the church is open: Monday thru Thursday, 8:30-4:00; Friday – 8:30-11:30. A library helper is available Saturday night before and after the 5:00 service and Sunday before and after the 9:00 service.

This month we are looking for a few books which seem to have lost their way back to our library. If you look at this list and think, "Didn't I return that book?" Please look again, and bring it back next time you are in church.

Thanks!

Bergen, Jacqueline	"Freedom – A Guide for Prayer"
Boyd, Malcolm	"Prayers for the Later Years"
Brennert, Alan	"Molokai"
Augsburg Press	"Luther's Small Catechism"
Brokering, Herbert	"Luther's Prayer"
Coste, Joanne	"Learning to Speak Alzheimer's"
Feil, Naomi	"The Validation Breakthrough"
Lucado, Max	"When God Whispers Your Name"
Ortberg, John	"God is Closer Than You Think"
Smith, Huston	"The Illustrated World's Religions"
Steves, Rick	"Faithful Travels with Rick Steves" – a DVD



LIBRARY—JUNE

**LOST BOOKS: SEE
THE LIST**



REFLECTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS

Dan Olson

Will return in the Fall

Dan is taking a well-deserved break and sends thanks and good wishes to his readers and fans.

I have had the privilege to work as an editor for Dan over these past years and while he is taking a break, I asked his permission to share a reflection I wrote about a year ago, shortly after my husband's passing. Its relevance is timeless; I hope you find it something to reflect on in your daily life.

Cosette Swalheim

JUDGMENT AND SHARED PAIN

Father's Day—June 18, 2017—Keith's phone sat on the counter waiting to be answered or having some purpose in life. I had thought about going to the AT&T store in the Mall to return it and deactivate his cell phone account. I had thought about it often, and even kept the phone turned off as it was too sad to hear it ring. I had a hard time bringing myself to do the deed as it was one more task that cut off his presence from me. But today, I decided it needed to be done as they were obviously continuing to charge me for the service. I checked it one last time for old messages and any new ones that had come in. Needless to say, that set me up for a "sad and bad day."

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Somewhat in a focused fog, I drove to the Mall and went directly to the AT&T store where we had purchased the phones and with whom we had our service. Three staff were sitting around—no other customers. A young man in his early 20's came over and asked how he could help. I explained my purpose. His initial response was that I could "Call 611 and explain that I wanted to deactivate Keith's account." That's it—no help—no sorry to hear that—no let's see what we can do?? I asked a few feeble follow-on questions, and I guess he sensed I was frustrated, so he asked me to sit down at the table and he'd be over to help me. As I walked to the table, I said to myself, under my breath—hopefully he didn't hear—"He's as helpful as a rubber crutch!"

After a short time, he came to the table and started asking me questions in regard to my request. When we got to the question of date of Keith's death, I indicated that it was last month, May 8th. He stopped and then said to me, "I've been doing this same process for my Mom. She died on May 9th from injuries in a motorcycle accident." All of a sudden, my frustrations with his curt response to me melted as we exchanged details of the loss of our loved one. He indicated that when he last talked with his Mom, she had been so excited he was getting his own place, as he is a senior next year at ASU. Now he had to cancel that and get a different apartment because he would be taking responsibility for his nephew who his Mom had adopted because his brother was out of the picture. Here is a young man in his early 20's, who was just getting his life started and now had a double-whammy change in the course of his life. He was exhausted from her loss and the aftermath of dealing with her paperwork and his restructuring of his life. I felt ashamed for ever feeling sorry for my own situation and myself.

After we finished our transaction, I thanked him for the help and sharing his story. He reached to hug me and said, "Bring it in." I wanted to cry for him.

I then went to the Food Court where Keith and I had often walked and ate while we were waiting between doctor and radiation appointments. I sat at our table and ate the Great Steak we normally shared, and sniffled and shed a few tears as I looked down from the spot where Keith would wait for me while I looked around. It was another tough time because memories still hurt, but this time I didn't feel sad for myself. I was sad for someone else who had shared his loss with me and had so much more ahead. I said a prayer for him.

Lessons learned: (1) Don't judge people by first impressions/interactions. There is a story behind how they look and feel. (2) When your situation gets you down, you will no doubt find someone who has it a lot worse than you do. (3) Don't be afraid to share emotions and feeling with others. Sometimes you can help them, and they will help you.

So a day that started out "bad" turned into a day that made me "glad." I went home grateful for my situation and the many blessings and good memories in my life, even if they still bring a tear now and then.