

Thank you, thank you, thank you...

October 2007

*"I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."
1 Cor 1:4 NIV*

Paul began four of his letters by telling the folks he was writing how grateful he was to God for the grace he experienced in serving them as their pastor. He wanted them to know that they were a source of God's grace and joy to him.

Like Paul, I (along with Deb, Anna Marie and Lucas) know much joy in serving you as your pastor and want you to know that you are loved and deeply appreciated. The last couple of months have been marked with milestone events in our lives and you have played a huge role in making them joyous occasions.

On August 25th we celebrated the wedding of our daughter, Anna Marie, to Lucas Grätz. They met in 2004 during their time of missionary service aboard the ship, MVDoulos. Many folks from the New Life family came out to celebrate with us on this special day. Deb and I want to thank you for coming and multiplying our joy. The day was marked by a gladness of heart that permeated the ceremony and reception like a sweet perfume fills the air of a room. Your joy and love was such that even the German-only speaking Grätz family was touched by the universal language of love.

On Labor Day weekend during our church picnic, Deb & I were surprised with a time of remembering our 25th wedding anniversary (the actual date was July 10.) To say that we were surprised is an understatement, but the joy we felt from your hearts to ours was refreshing and inspiring. We laughed about the story of our 25 years that was read aloud by Grace Thurman (thank you Grace.) As the story was being share, we commented to one another that a number of details shared had to come from "outside" sources and wondered "who spoke to whom." I have spoken to my ole buddy Joe Hearn (Joe used to serve here as our assistant pastor) about some of the "facts" he contributed to the story. Thank you for your gifts, your thoughtful notes and cards in remembering our anniversary.

Like Paul, who deeply loved the folks he served and wanted them to know his joy, Deb and I want you to know how grateful we are for you and how deeply we love you. Can I express it again... Thank you, thank you, thank you.

We love you,

Pastor Dave and Deb