

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

I heard a terribly sad story last week.

A person was "church shopping," and after finding Grace via the internet, came one Sunday to check us out. She very much enjoyed the 10:30 service and decided to come back the following week. Eventually, she came about 5 times, and while our worship services touched her soul, she felt Grace was not the right church for her.

Why?

Nobody spoke to her.

Even at coffee hour, no one approached her to say hello or introduce themselves. For several weeks, she tried going downstairs, hoping to meet someone, but it just never happened. So, she decided to find another spiritual home, one where she felt welcomed.

When I heard that, it made me want to cry.

St. Benedict wrote: *let all guests be received like Christ, for He is going to say, "I came as a guest, and you received Me."*

As Christians, it is our responsibility, each and every one of us, to welcome those who walk through our doors. We should receive them like Christ. All of us can say hello to people we do not know. In worship, we can introduce ourselves to those around us during the exchange of the peace, and coffee hour is another great time to meet new people. All we have to do is go up to them and say, "Hi. I'm..."

When was the last time you introduced yourself to someone at church you did not know?

Grace Church is our home, and making it the warm and welcoming place we all want it to be is up to all of us.

See you there,  
*Andrew*