

Wednesday
Spring Break, 2009
Working in a cemetery in Houston
86 degrees thick
Humidity you could cut
I took a break
Standing there in the shade
(the only place to take a break)
Noticing the 43 students working with me
I could see almost everyone
Working in those 7.5 acres
4,400 registered burials
Yet the real number was unknown
The poor buried their dead in the middle of the night
We had learned that morning
This was a free-man's private cemetery
Actively used from the mid-1800's through the mid 1900's
All those buried in this hallowed ground
Were African American
One mile away from sky-scraping downtown Houston
Was a place sacred and left to its own
We 44 white folk working that day and week
Whacking the weeds
Raking and bagging
Gathering sticks and logs at the service road
Offering something that few, if any, of those there buried
Were given during their lifetime
Attention, honor and respect
Something white folk have not done
With much grace throughout US of A history
Tears gathered as this recognition
Came upon me
There in the shade
On a Wednesday afternoon in Huston
I remain in the midst of that grace-full
And just day's toil

Welcome back from Spring Break
As we roll towards the end of the semester
Remember to be graceful and just as God would have us:

Grace University Lutheran Church at 8:30 or 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.
University Lutheran Church of Hope at 8:30 and 10:30 AM
Mercy Seat at 5 PM (at ULC Hope)
Trinity Lutheran Church (at Augsburg's Chapel) at 8:45 or 11 AM.

Peace, friends
Fritz Wehrenberg, campus pastor

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