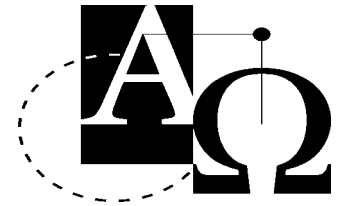


The SPIRIT of GRACE

FEBRUARY 2009

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
820 Howard Street PO Box 596
417-358-4631
gracechcar@sbcglobal.net

Carthage MO 64836
fax 417-358-6775
www.gracecarthage.org



Regular Events...

Sunday

- Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30
- Acolyte Practice 9:15
- Christian Education 9:15
- Spanish Eucharist 12 pm

Monday

- Quilting Group 6:30 pm
- Narcotics Anonymous 7 pm

Tuesday

- Men's Social, St Luke's 10
- Exercise 10 am & 6 pm

Wednesday

- Holy Eucharist 6 pm, with Adult Ed, Youth Group & Dinner

Thursday

- Holy Eucharist, St Luke's 2 pm
- Friends Anonymous 4 pm
- Exercise 10 am & 6 pm

Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

February Coffee Hosts

Eric & Yolly Ferrell

Deacon Jeff & Chalaine Bell

SAVE THESE DATES...

Feb 4: Candlemas: 6 p.m.

Feb 24: Shrove Tuesday dinner

Feb 25, Ash Wed Services:

7 am, noon, 5 p.m. (Spanish), 6 pm

From the Rectory: The Rev. Steven C. Wilson

Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, is Feb 2—the sacred ancestor of the highly secular groundhog day. Unlike rodents being hauled from their hibernation to predict the weather, the sacred event remembers the moment when the aged prophet Simeon predicts that Christ, although still an infant only a month old, will be the “light that enlightens the nations.”

From this prediction grew the medieval custom of candlelit processions on Feb 2, which morphed in the US into shadow-casting meteorology. Punxsatawney Phil obscures the truly awesome message of the day—that Jesus has a message not just for individuals, not just about the salvation of my soul and its eternal destination, but also for the nations, for how we live our lives in the rough-and-tumble world. The Romans were well aware of this “secular” Jesus—that is why they so ferociously persecuted His followers, not for their “religious” message, but for their truly counter-cultural view of politics, economics and authority.

In the Gaza Strip, the message of Jesus would be seen as radical and

unwelcome—“turn the other cheek” is not something which even clergy seem inclined to practice, let alone preach. At a recent meeting I attended, a local pastor said, in effect, that if “someone were bombing my family from the Mexican border, you better be sure I’d be lobbing bombs back over!” I understand the impulse—in fact, I feel pretty sure that I’d do the same thing. But yet, there is that message of the Christ saying “turn the other cheek, do well to those that use you despitefully.” Might it not be true that Jesus still has a message of some significance for the troubles of our world, for Gaza and all those other world hot-spots, for our own fights and quarrels and angers, and that the message is precisely NOT what comes naturally?

On Wall Street, greed and distrust seem to have run rampant, and taken down large sections of our economy in the process. Our national obsession with getting rich isn’t capitalism—because few if any of those who brought down the economy did so in a way that enriched the economy at large, produced useful things, and employed others. The whole melting ball of wax was driven by

Continued on page ten



Bring in your dried palms from last year’s Palm Sunday, tattered old Bibles, and threadbare American flags (all-cotton only, please, as nylon melts rather than burns and so makes less than optimal ashes) for the bonfire on Shrove Tuesday, Feb 24. The ashes used in Ash Wednesday services are made from these items “thinned” with the ashes from the Christmas incense.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Edith Pemberton
Jeanie Slates
George Bennett Wilson
- 2 Gabriel Castleberry
- 4 Tracy Rogers
- 5 Richard Roske
Sandy Swingle
Cambry Erdman
- 6 Jennifer Rhymer
Helen Rogers
Devon Seaman
Liz Salchow
- 8 Galen Snodgrass
- 9 Rebecca Bewick
Matt Lonardo
- 10 Alicia Wilkowski
- 11 James Dymott
Scott Mansfield
- 12 Lacey Welch
- 13 Ivy LaTendresse
Fr. Ted Estes
Dorothy Bay
- 14 Norma Ovalle
- 15 Benjamin Rogers
- 16 Karen Newport
Kelly Heidlage
Benjamin Sawyer
AJ Rhymer
Elle Lanham
- 17 Mary K. Schlecht
- 18 Dorothymae Edds
Elizabeth Flanigan
- 19 Shirley Locarni
Ann Ulmer
Sally Waggoner
- 20 Savannah Orr
Scott Campbell
- 21 Sue Neely
Larry Cebula
- 22 Veronica Sprengle
Quentin Sprengle
Jim Wakefield
- 24 Alex West
- 25 Melvin Anderson
- 26 Forrest "Chip" Marsden
Austin Rhymer
Scott Sawyer
- 27 Larry Potter
Landree Heese
- 28 Dean Sexton

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2-8 Tim & Julie Putnam
2-14 Kenny & Tasha Evans
2-22 Hopp & Ellie Flanigan

OUTREACH

QUARTER TUBE

During the month of September our Quarter Tube reached a goal of \$2,500 or the 10,000th quarter. Thank you for your generosity towards this ministry. Animals have scampered through the barnyards of five continents due to your commitment!

ST LUKE'S NEEDS

Join us for men's fellowship each Tuesday morning at St. Luke's Nursing Center at 10 a.m. See Chuck Erwin or Dale Hopp for details. **Each Sat morning, we need volunteer bingo callers** to help with the social highlight of the weekend at St. Luke's. See Richard Roske for details.

NEARLY NEW

Many of our outreach projects are funded by the sale of gently used clothing at the Nearly New Shop. We encourage you to speak to Cindy Chilton or Carolyn Cole about donations (you can receive money back on consignment or make a tax-deductible contribution) or to volunteer for a 3-hour shift once a month. This shop provides many in our community with clothing that would otherwise be unaffordable.

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES

Citizenship classes will begin Wednesday, February 4 at Literacy Center. Susan Skaggs of our congregation will be teaching this class from 11 a.m.—noon each Wednesday. Please let any immigrants of your acquaintance know of this opportunity.



The Youth Action Council met for their annual January Retreat at Grace Church January 9-11. The YAC spent the weekend involved in planning events for youth of the diocese. There were 18 youth from across the diocese involved in this ministry team, and Ian Kyger, from our parish, was one of them! Peace, Kim

The Parish Prayer List

Betty Carpenter, Jean Berry, Amanda McClanahan, Mary Helen Dunaway, Muriel Hallam, Dorothy Taylor, Dorothy Solomonson, Carolene Kelly, Juanita Pence, Harley Madsen, Kay McNew, Evelyn Jackson, Glynn Evans, Lois Raschke, Michelle Short, Patty Fasken

Donna Bowman, Shirley Locarni, Jennifer Cartright, Hettie Smith, Gail Ross, Debi Sierra, Connie Hobart, Cindy Curtis, Charles Platt, Barbara Robertson, Mary, Jackie, Ken, Kelly Pierce, Billie, Margot Lee, Hershel Jones, Richard Vacca, Florence Hartman, Rev James Lee, Hugh Shields, Marcia Biggs, Nancy Pembleton, Tony Collins, Dominyk Anderson

(*Military*) Ethan Feurborn, Gary Welch, (*Iraq*) Jake Berger, Eric Leek, Web Feurborn, Jake Douglas, Randy Ayers, Ben Killman, Gary Pieschel, Darrel Cude, Joe LaTendresse, Trevor Shields, Jason Kuykendall, Grant Stevens, Jake Evans, (*Afghanistan*) Rich Jones, Rick Frink, Jason Reynolds

The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

St. Peter's Church, Harrisonville: The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas Johnson, Rector, The Rev. John Richardson, Deacon

West Missouri Spirit, Ben Wood, Editor

St. Michael's Church, Independence: The Rev. Dr. Patricia Miller, Vicar, The Rev. Larry Allen, Deacon

Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, Mrs. Kim Snodgrass

Trinity Church, Independence: The Rev. Sam Mason, Rector

Diocesan Surviving Spouses, including Mrs. Regine Anderson and Mrs. Judy Kauffman

St. Philip's Church, Joplin: The Rev Frank Sierra, Rector

Diocesan Chancellor, Richard Wagstaff

To be Ordained to the Diaconate Feb 7: Sharron Heathman & Leslie Hoover

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Manicaland, Masvingo, Matabeleland (Central Africa), Mara, Masasi (Tanzania), Marathwada (North India), Maridi (Sudan), Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Milwaukee, Minnesota (USA), Maseno North, Maseno South, Maseno West, Mbeere, Meru (Kenya), Masindi-Kitara, Mbale, (Uganda), Matlosane (South Africa), Mbaise, Minna (Nigeria), Meath & Kildare (Ireland), Medak (South India), Melbourne (Australia)

Transitions, November 2008

New Addresses/ Directory Changes

Chris, Tracy, Aiden & Abigail Rogers, 1412 S Main St.

Michael, Heather, Lily & Mason Anderson, 2808 Charlotte Lane, Fort Smith AR 72901

Israel Putnam, 1239 CR 110, 828-538-1033

Visitors

Sarah Volkl, 4886 Lawrence 2170, Wentworth 64873 417-476-2155

Charlotte Trautman, 5252 Foxfire Dr., Loma Linda 64804

Steve, Joni & Dagan Nelson, 1704 Dogwood Dr, Joplin 64801

Faithful Departed

David Hopp, brother of **Dale Hopp**, departed this life Wed, Dec 31.

Fern Hays of this parish departed this life Sun, Jan 4.

Harold Thieman, uncle of **Sherry Russow**, departed this life Thurs, Jan 8.

Normagene Cordell, grandmother of **Genevieve Moore** and **Sarah Stone**, departed this life Fri, Jan 9.

Shirley Canter, sister of **Elaine Taylor**, departed this life Fri, Jan 16.

Congratulations

...on the birth of **Justice Ely Preston Moore**, son of Joel & Abby, grandson of Sue Godsey, born on Sun, Dec 21.

...on the birth of **Mason Hayes Anderson**, son of Michael & Heather, grandson of Mel & Julie, and great-grandson of Twyla Ferguson born on Mon, Jan 12.

Banns of Marriage

The Rector publishes banns of marriage between **Byron Welch** and **Brooke Banks** of this parish. Nuptials to be solemnized in April. This is the second time of asking.

The Rector publishes banns of marriage between **Michael Wilkowski** and **Tracy Olson** of this parish. Nuptials to be solemnized in June. This is the third and final time of asking.

Deacon Galen publishes banns of marriage between **Stacy Perry** of this parish and Cruz Sanchez. This is the second time of asking.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS IN FEBRUARY 2009

Epiphany 4: Feb 1, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Wayne Ytell
 Server: Richard Roske
 Sacristan: Marcia McGuire

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Bill Putnam
 Subdeacon: Margie Tucker
 Lectors: Bonnie Jones
 Julie Anderson
 Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron
 Servers: 1 Ian Kyger (Capt)
 2 Jackie Spencer
 Cross: 1 Sam Wiedemann
 Torches: 1 Jay Simmons
 2 Tom Simmons
 3 Quincy Charleston
 4 Emma Charleston
 Ushers: Larry Hartman
 Jimmy Grimes
 Sacristan: Chalaine Bell
 AV Team: Mike & Ryan Robertson
 Greeters: Kevin Curtis

Epiphany 5: Feb 8, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Larry Ross
 Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
 Lector: Kelly Roske
 Server: Michele Sexton
 Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Rayella Lindsay
 Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones
 Lectors: Scott Stone
 Marty Griffin
 Acolyte Mentor: Michele Sexton
 Servers: 1 Ashley Heidlage (Capt)
 2 Deandra Sexton
 Cross: 1 Carlie Wakefield
 Torches: 1 Ashleigh Wilson
 2 Sarah Wilson
 3 Lanceton Pettie
 4 Matt Goolsby
 Ushers: Larry McGuire
 Claude Newport
 Sacristan: Marcia McGuire
 AV Team: Jim & Colby Wakefield
 Greeters: Michael & Jennifer Cartright

Epiphany 6: Feb 15, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Glenda Erwin
 Server: Brad Cameron
 Sacristan: Ann Carter
 Home Communion: Ytell/Ross-L Orr

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Don Gass
 Subdeacon: George Platt
 Lector: Kelly Roske
 George Platt
 Acolyte Mentor: Kevin Curtis
 Servers: 1 Mariah Marsden (Capt)
 2 Madeline Marsden
 Crosses: 1 Ellen Salchow Stiles
 2 Julio Ovalle
 Torches: 1 Chase Taylor
 2 Will Mansfield
 3 Katie Mansfield
 4 Taylor Mansfield
 Ushers: Chuck Erwin
 Loren Erwin
 Sacristan: Jacqui Johnson
 AV Team: Elisa White
 Greeters: Joel & Melissa Erdman
 Home Communion: Platt/Snodgrass-
 R Wilson

Last Epiphany: Feb 22, 8:00 a.m.

Chalice: Larry Ross
 Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
 Lector: Dana Cameron
 Server: Nancy Dymott
 Sacristan: Chalaine Bell

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Tom Flanigan
 Subdeacon: Chuck Edds
 Lector: Debbie Jones
 Mark Sponaugle
 Acolyte Mentor: Elaine Wurst
 Server: 1 Cecilie Washburn (Capt)
 2 Haley Kester
 Crosses: 1 Drew Schesser
 2 Oliver Sprenkle
 Torches: 1 Elle Lanham
 2 Sydney Harlin
 3 Evan Sexton
 4 David Sexton
 Ushers: Greg Kester
 Chris Wilkowski
 Sacristan: Beth Simmons
 AV Team: Joel Erdman
 Greeters: Troy & Liz Salchow
 Home Communion: Snodgrass-
 C Courtade

Ash Wednesday: Feb 25

7:00 a.m.

Chalice: Bonnie Jones
 Reader: Glenda Erwin
 Sacristan: Beth Simmons

Noon

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Reader: Margie Tucker
 Sacristan: Ann Carter

6:00 p.m.

Chalice: Scott Stone
 Reader: Kelly Roske
 Ushers: Jim Wakefield
 Dale Hopp
 Sacristan: Barbara Mountjoy

WEDNESDAY EUCCHARIST

6:00 p.m.

Feb 4

Chalice: Ron Ferguson
 Reader: Julie Anderson

Feb 11

Chalice: Margie Tucker
 Reader: Glenda Erwin

Feb 18

Chalice: Bonnie Jones
 Reader: Margie Tucker

Feb 25

Ash Wednesday

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 IV EPIPHANY	2 CANDLEMAS	3 <i>Anskar of Hamburg</i>	4 <i>Cornelius the Centurion</i> 11-12 am Citizenship class at Literacy Center	5 <i>Martyrs of Japan</i>	6	7 9 am St Margaret's Guild
8 V EPIPHANY	9 <i>Tu B'shvat</i> (Jewish "New Year for Trees")	10	11	12	13 <i>Absalom Jones</i> 6:30 pm Movie Night: <i>Chocolat</i>	14 <i>Cyril, Methodius & Valentine</i>
15 VI EPIPHANY	16	17 <i>Janani Luwum</i>	18 <i>Martin Luther</i>	19	20	21
22 LAST EPIPHANY	23 <i>Polycarp of Smyrna</i>	24 MATTHIAS the APOSTLE/ SHROVE TUESDAY Dinner 5:30-7	25 ASH WEDNESDAY 7, Noon, 5 (Spanish), 6	26	27 <i>George Herbert</i>	28

Sunday
8, 10:30 am
Holy Eucharist
9 a.m. Acolyte Practice
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
12 pm Spanish Eucharist

Monday
6pm Quilting Group
7 pm NA

Tuesday
10 am Men's Social Hour, St Luke's
Exercise 5 pm
6 pm Tap Dance
7 pm Spanish Choir practice

Wednesday
5:30 p.m. Choir
6 pm Holy Eucharist
7 pm Dinner, Youth Group, Bible Study, Young Adult Bible Group

Thursday
2 pm St Luke's Eucharist
Exercise 5 pm
7 pm Spanish Prayer Group

Friday
10 am Holy Eucharist

Saturday
7 pm Family Prayer, Spanish Parishioners Homes

EDUCATION

ADULT FORUMS: SUN at 9:15 a.m.

- Sun, Feb 1: *New Year for Trees: Wisdom from the Tradition on Environmental Issues*
- Sun, Feb 8: *The Latest on Aging, Dementia & Alzheimer's*
- Sun, Feb 15: *Love, True Love: Storge, Eros, Philia & Agape, the Four Loves of Scripture*
- Sun, Feb 22: *Let's Party!:* Carnival and a Fuller Appreciation of Lent

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ages 3-K, Grades 1-4, 5-7, & 8-12

WED BIBLE STUDY at 7 p.m.

The Letter to the Hebrews

WED YOUTH GROUPS at 7 p.m.

Grades 1-4, 5-6, 7-8, & 9-12

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to give altar flowers in memory or thanksgiving of family or friends, please call the office 358-4631. We have available Sunday dates on May 31, Aug 16 and 23

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Julie Anderson will be leading the Women's Book Club. beginning on Monday, February 16, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin boards. The book, *Prayer and Personal Religion*, is written by our retired Bishop of Massachusetts, the Rt. Rev. John Coburn. First published in 1957, it has been repeatedly reprinted and updated, including this latest 2008 edition. Copies will be approximately \$16.

6 + 2 SIGNUPS

Dinner groups will meet once month for dinner—February, March, April and May. Times, kinds of meals, places, etc. will be up to your group—be creative! Plan to come and enjoy the food and fellowship. Deadline for sign-up is February 8. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin boards.

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

(continued)

YOUR BODY—HIS TEMPLE

Presently we offer exercise 4 times each week. We are planning a variety of workshop and/or special programs dealing with health and wellness. Plans are in the works to offer a tap dancing class beginning in January. This class will be for adults of all ages, male and female. All dancing is athletic in nature, and tap incorporates exercise with a mental workout also, in learning the routines. We will offer the class in 6 week segments. The classes will be limited to 15, only pre-requisite—tap shoes. Lessons will be \$45.00 for the 8 weeks. Need more info—call the Parish Nurse

MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on Fri, Feb 13, *Chocolat*, starring Johnny Depp as a wanderer who finds a small French town struggling with desires of the flesh...specifically, indulgences in candy. Rated PG 13, nominated for 5 Oscars in 2001. Bring along your favorite appetizer perhaps something chocolate and a friend.

PANCAKE SUPPER

For Shrove Tuesday this year, we return, after some years in Cajun country, to a beloved parish tradition, the pancake and sausage supper. Gentlemen of the parish are invited to join in the preparation and service of these most un-Lenten treats on Tuesday, Feb 24. Dinner will be from 5:30-7 p.m. Cost will be \$6 a ticket. And yes, we will have sugar-free syrup for those with diabetes.

ST. CATHERINE'S GUILD

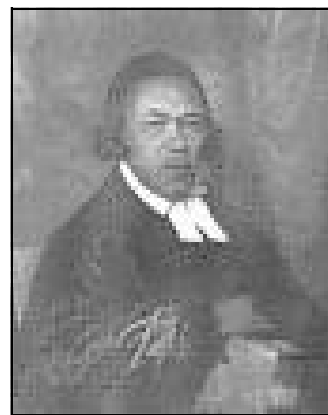
The ladies of St. Catherine's would love donations of fresh baked breads that can be frozen and used for newcomers to Grace Church on Sunday Morning. Anything homemade would be great!

This is the day to take a walk, or stroll. A brisk pace wouldn't hurt, either. It's the day to take the long way around. Or maybe just the stairs. Because for each hour of regular exercise, you could gain two hours of life expectancy. This is the day to get fit.

ABSALOM JONES DAY CELEBRATION

Each year, on the second Saturday of February, a celebration mass and reception is held at Kansas City's Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral to honor Absalom Jones, the first black American Episcopal priest. This year's celebration is being held on Saturday, Feb. 14, beginning at 11 a.m. All are invited. This year, the cathedral will host Larry Coleman, a Kansas City attorney and ordained "itinerant elder" in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as preacher. The Rev. Mr. Coleman, who has worked for the U.S. Department of Labor and in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, is an avid speaker on black history and has taught a class "Black History, the Sacred Secret" at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. In addition, the St. James UMC *Praise Propulsion* dance group will perform, and a reception following the service will include a black history exhibit. The Rt. Rev. Barry R. Howe will serve as celebrant. If you have questions about the event, you can call the Rev. Sue Sommer at the Cathedral at 816/474-8260 or Meg Townsend at 913/649-5283.

Born a slave in Delaware in 1746, Absalom Jones was the first Black American ordained an Episcopal priest (and quite possibly the first black minister of any denomination). At 16, he was sent to Philadelphia to work in his master's store. He taught himself to read from the New Testament and attended night school for Blacks operated by Quakers. In 1786 Jones met Richard Allen, and they became lay ministers for the Black members of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. Their active evangelism resulted in a tenfold increase in Black members of the parish. This alarmed the vestry, which decided to segregate Blacks to an upstairs gallery. Jones and Allen were outraged, and they led the Black parishioners out the door. Allen went on to found the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, probably the largest historically Black denomination in the US. Jones, with the aid of Quakers and Episcopalians, erected the African Church. In October 1794, it became a parish of the Diocese of Pennsylvania as St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Jones was ordained priest in 1802, yet neither he nor his congregation were permitted to vote in diocesan conventions. Jones founded a day school at the Church. Jones, who had purchased his wife's freedom and later his own, protested against slavery. He preached a Thanksgiving sermon, *Abolition of the Slave Trade*, in 1808. During the War of 1812, Jones and Allen recruited 3,000 Blacks to form a "Black Legion." Jones continued his ministry on behalf of the oppressed and distressed until his death in 1818. To this day, St. Thomas is one of the largest Episcopal parishes on the East Coast, with a membership over 1000.



GRACE CHURCH HEALTH AND WELLNESS CAMPAIGN ~ EXERCISE AVAILABLE 4 X A WEEK; TAP DANCING - TUESDAYS AT 6:00 PM ; THE FIRST MONTHLY GROUP MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, FEB.8,'09, AFTER THE 10:30 COFFEE HOUR. GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE SCOTT STONE , DISCUSSING THE BENEFITS OF " THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE". A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED. ALL ARE WELCOME. ~ CALL BARBARA, PARISH NURSE.

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON:

The Rev. Jeffrey Bell

The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is not simply a time to get a jump start on a diet by giving up whatever food item it is that we most desire. It is not simply a forty day time period to recover from a hang over from the biggest party of the year, Mardi gras. Lent is a time to humble ourselves before God, to confess our inadequacy before God, to strip ourselves of our own self-righteousness, to come before God in dust and ashes. It is a time to empty ourselves of our false pride, of our rationalizations that prevent us from seeing us as we truly are, or what we have become.

Lent begins in ashes and journeys through the darkest part of our lives. It is a spiritual pilgrimage that can allow us to achieve a true spiritual renewal. I have heard the passage in II Chronicles 7:14 ". . .if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.", used as condemnation of others outside the Church or outside a particular denomination. But careful reading of the passage indicates that it is intended for us. It is not a call for others to repent; it is a call for us, and for all God's people to repent. It is our land that needs to be healed; it is our own ways from which we need to turn. We are the ones who need to seek the face of God.

On Ash Wednesday, we Christians are traditionally reminded of our own mortality in a very vivid way, as the ashes are marked on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. In the sign of the cross we hear the words spoken over us, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is a reminder not just of our physical mortality, but of the very path of Lent itself. We begin this season of Lent not only reminded of our own death, but that our journey to death is about our own transformation.

Perhaps during this Lenten season we should not only pray for others, but for ourselves. Pray that we might be willing to prostrate ourselves before God and maybe we might put ourselves in a position to hear God in ways that we have not heard Him in a long time. And it may be the beginning of a healing for which we have so longed. I hope you take this opportunity to use this season of Lent as a time to be born again, to follow the path of death and resurrection, and to be transformed.

Deacon Jeff

Early Beekeepers

Archaeologists have uncovered the remains of an Iron Age apiary in northern Israel. The apiary, a brick enclosure housing at least 25 beehives, is about 3,000 years old, dating it to the time of King Solomon. The large-scale operation may have contained as many as 200 hives, housing more than a million bees. The clay skeps still contain traces of beeswax and pollen. It's the oldest discovered evidence of human beekeeping.

World Ark Magazine Jan.-Feb. 09

FROM the PARISH NURSE:

Barbara Mountjoy RN

Recently in our Bible readings I encountered the verses dealing with Christ calling his disciples Peter and Andrew, “*Follow me and I will make you fish for people*” Christ said. (Mark 1:17) And those hardy, rugged men, dropped their nets **immediately** and followed Christ. They didn’t question as to what was in it for them, or reply, :”I can’t possibly do it today, let me think about it.” They went immediately. That’s the word that grabbed my attention. Oh, I have read that passage before, I’m sure, and heard it quoted many times, but never before has that word jumped out to me. I have been thinking for several days now about how compelling our Christ was then, is now and will be forever. If we really see Christ and truly hear his message why would any of us hesitate to follow him? I think most people that we know have heard about Jesus and His place in our Christian faith, but something is preventing them from seeing him clearly. Someone or something is blocking their view of Him, which makes it difficult to follow Him. That someone or something has broken a trust, betrayed a love, caused a hurt, crippled that individual emotionally and preventing that individual from seeing Christ clearly and hearing His promises. And oh, what promises they are!

“Come to me when you are weary,” Jesus said. In His life on earth He healed and comforted multitudes of people. He supports us still today. Hope shines through His promises. He promised peace and refreshment for our souls. He promised to always answer our prayers. And we have the promise of great rewards for the slightest thing we do for others in His name. He promised guidance for our life through the holy scriptures. And God gave us the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus. Christ tells us that we are His family and that He is preparing a heavenly home for us.

How can you and I be sure these promises will be fulfilled? Because God has promised and God keeps his promises.

Jesus is still calling followers today. He remains the compelling Christ with a compelling cause. When we see Him clearly, there is only one acceptable response: “*At once they left their nets and followed Him.*”

“When we are called to follow Christ,

We are summoned to an exclusive attachment

To His person.

The grace of His call bursts all the bonds of legalism.

It is a gracious call, a gracious commandment.

Christ calls;

We are to follow.”

~ from ***The Cost of Discipleship*** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

ANNUAL MEETING & VESTRY UPDATE

At the January 18 annual meeting, the following items transpired: Following a wonderful dinner prepared by St. Catherine's Guild, the Rector, Deacon Galen, and Treasurer presented reports. **Gary Cole, Carolyn Phelps, Sandy Swingle and Mike Thompson** were elected to Vestry for 2009-2011.

The budget presented was approved. While overall pledges were basically stable from last year, the budget was \$13,637 in deficit due to stock market conditions, which make it impossible to predict what, if any, payments may be made by the various endowments and foundations which support Grace Church's ministry. The point was made from the floor that this deficit amount is less than \$2 per pledging family per week. The Treasurer reminded the congregation that the Vestry accepted this budget with the proviso that, should payments be made which bring the budget into surplus, the first thing to be changed would be the full restoration of several small cuts made to mission and outreach ministries. Salaries are frozen at last year's level.

The Rector awarded **Carolyn Cole** the Rector's Shield for her faithful service at Nearly New, noting the many volunteers who so selflessly dedicate their time and energy to this ministry. A Shield was also awarded, posthumously, to **Sharon Croley**.

The congregation voted to award Heifer Project quarters to the purchase of goats and chickens for a women's cooperative in rural Pakistan.

Next year's presentations will, *deo volente*, be made primarily with power point to avoid paper waste.

Nurse Barbara reminded all of the many health opportunities offered by the parish, including the "Tapping Toodoodle-Oos."

At the January 18 vestry meeting, the following was discussed:

The Rector appointed **Kevin Johnson** as Senior Warden for 2009. The Vestry elected **Carolyn Phelps** as Junior Warden and **Joel Erdman** as Clerk for 2009. The renewal of the lay preacher license of **Scott Stone** and the lay Eucharistic minister license of **Rayella Lindsey** were approved.

A vestry "get to know one another" session was planned for Tues, Jan 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Church. On the agenda for that session will be discussion of some committee appointments which need to be made in Feb.

Next Vestry meeting is Tues, February 17.

FROM THE RECTORY

Continued from page one

raw, untrammelled greed, and continues to feed on distrust, the fear that everyone else is just as untrustworthy as my own group has been. And yet, there's Jesus again, telling us not to waste our time worrying about money, that "it is more blessed to give than receive," that borrowing isn't a great idea (look it up, it's there in the Gospels) and that we should be content with what we have. I'm a big fan of Adam Smith's free market—but aren't we all called to be bigger fans of Christ, whose unlistened-to message for the nations might well have kept us from the full fury of this recession, had we only noticed it?

We seem to not notice that Jesus has very clear ideas about a lot of things in our daily life—and drinking, dancing and smoking, the bugbears of my evangelical childhood, are not on the list. No, Jesus, the light of the nations, calls us to realign our lives in accordance with actual priorities. The things of this world—the lust to power and all-consuming greed, among a host of others—will never fulfill their promise. And so we come, year after year, back to Lent, filled with a litany of sins and failings, as a people and as individuals. We don't receive, as Paul says, because we don't ask.

What are the things that we ought to want? Peace for one—and in our lives, as in Gaza, peace will come only when we love our children more than we love being right. Peace comes at the cost of turning the other cheek, a virtue in notoriously short supply. Jesus is the light to enlighten the nations, but until we start to take His message seriously, take it out of sermons and into our hearts, we will never attain to that full illumination.

The world is a dark and frightening place, filled with melting economies and failed states and inbred feuds and terrible hungers of body and soul. And yet, Christ the True Sunshine will warm that world if His message is followed, but His whole message, not just the comfortable and "spiritual" parts. He didn't come just to save our souls, but to save the whole world (see John 3:16). And as long as we don't allow Him some sovereignty over our politics, check books, television viewing habits, 401(K) or view of the world, we limit the light to odd corners of our spiritual household. Wouldn't it be interesting if, in 2009, we actually took Him at His word, and tried living in that difficult light?

WORSHIP

SHHHH!

ALLELUIAS ARE NAPPING!

Beginning with the Ash Wed services, the use of the word “alleluia” stops in Western Church traditions until Easter (the Greeks, however, use the word more often in Lent!). To help you remember this, we will have a nest with “alleluia eggs” in the parish house waiting for their hatch date, which is Easter night, Sat, April 11.

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from “shriven,” meaning “cleansed.” It was long a traditional day for private confessions and baptisms. If you would like to schedule either with the clergy, please contact your preferred officiant as soon as possible

COLORS & FLOWERS

The season of Epiphany continues through Shrove Tuesday. Other than Sunday, February 22, the liturgical color is green—tied to the readings, which emphasize growth in Christian life. The final Sunday of the season, Feb 22, is white (because of the reading, which talks about Jesus on the mountain top clothed in raiment “white and glistening”). Starting Feb 25, the color turns to purple—a dark color reminding us of the darkness of sin and guilt, appropriate for the Lenten disciplines which begin that day. During Lent, there are no flowers on the altar except on Maundy Thursday, which is April 9.

GIVING UP & TAKING ON

Having trouble thinking about your Lenten disciplines? How about these suggestions—

- 1.) Read your Bible, every day. The back page of this newsletter offers one fairly easy scheme to do so, with readings for the week so you can divide up shorter and longer passages based on your daily schedule.
- 2.) Attend Church weekly, and bring your entire family to the Sunday school hour as well. 135 minutes is not that big a commitment.
- 3.) Volunteer at the Nearly New, or St. Luke’s, or the Literacy Center, Crisis Center, Community Clinic, hospitals, or other community service group of your choice. Start small—4 hours a month.
- 4.) Give \$1 a day to some worthy undertaking. Pay for that by cutting out a petty self-indulgence—gum, cola, “supersize me.”
- 5.) Talk to someone you rarely talk to—a relative, neighbor or new face who isn’t in your “comfort zone.”



EASTER EGG WORKSHOP

Have you ever wanted to learn how to make those elaborate Ukrainian Easter eggs, *pysanky*? This year’s recipient of the state prize for best egg, Carolyn Trout, will show one of her masterpieces in the White House in April. But before that, she’ll be here, at Grace Church, the evening of Tuesday, March 3, promptly at 5 p.m. Join us for this workshop, which will last one hour and end with a Ukrainian meal. In order to determine the format of the presentation (is it a “hands on” workshop or a more traditional “presentation”?) we need to know how many to expect. The larger the group, the less able we will be to actually watch Carolyn make eggs, but we can still learn the technique and meaning of this traditional art form, and see examples of her work.

Please let the office know, by Feb 18, if you are planning on attending this workshop. Be the envy of all your friends and family at Easter when your table is decorated with beautiful, elaborate *pysanky* that you made yourself!



El Poder de las Palabras

Presta mucha atención a las palabras que usas. Ellas tienen una fuerza enorme, pueden sanar o herir a las personas de nuestro alrededor. Las palabras que emitimos son el reflejo de nuestro mundo interior.

Si dices que estás luchando para prosperar o que no tienes suerte en la vida, detente un instante y percibe lo que realmente estás diciendo. Las palabras tienen mucha fuerza, con ellas podemos destruir lo que hemos tardado tanto tiempo en construir. Cuantas veces una palabra fuera de lugar es capaz de arruinar un proyecto largamente ansiado, cuantas veces una palabra de estímulo tiene el poder de regenerarnos y aportarnos paz. Para prosperar en la vida no precisas luchar, sino consagrarte en cuerpo y alma en esa misión. Si constantemente te repites que no tienes suerte en la vida, luego no te lamentes si sientes que la fortuna nunca llama a tu puerta. Nuestros pensamientos y las palabras que son su manifestación tienen el poder de construir nuestro futuro.

En la vida todo es una cuestión de actitud y decisión. Cuando acudimos a una entrevista de trabajo o a una cita amorosa y nuestra mente está cargada de miedos e incertidumbre, tenemos darnos cuenta que este miedo al rechazo está creando en nosotros la situación favorable para que nos digan ¡no! En cambio si mantenemos una actitud positiva y esperanzadora tenemos más posibilidades de que nos digan ¡sí! Nuestra propia desconfianza inspira suspicacia en los demás. Nuestra seguridad despierta y transmite firmeza en los demás.

“El mal es lo que sale de la boca del hombre” leemos en el evangelio este mensaje una clara advertencia sobre el cuidado de las palabras que usamos, no por una cuestión de formalidad o educación, sino como una finalidad terapéutica. Las palabras insultantes o despectivas nunca han creado un futuro mejor. El uso de expresiones agresivas, al igual que los malos pensamientos es sumamente peligroso y arriesgado, anula nuestra vida encerrándonos en un círculo de fracaso y frustración que es acrecentado a través del trato despectivo hacia un sector de la sociedad. Si sientes que la palabra pobre cultiva tu vanidad es mejor que te refieras a ellos como “los más necesitados”, y en este reciclaje del lenguaje puedes referirte a los presos como a “los que están siendo educados” o a nuestros enemigos como “aquellos que aún no nos aman” o a los malvados como “los que aún no son buenos”.

Más allá del significado de las palabras encontramos otro nivel mucho más abstracto, pero no por ello menos poderoso. Las palabras son el medio de manifestación de nuestro espíritu. Cada palabra es una oportunidad de expresión de nuestro espíritu y es por ello que tenemos ser capaces de transmitir en nuestro lenguaje la fuerza de nuestro espíritu. No se si habréis observado que algunas personas tienen un lenguaje muerto, hablan pero lo que dicen no expresa ningún poder, son locuaces pero no transmiten nada. Cuando hablamos demasiado, o cuando exageramos o falseamos los hechos, nuestras palabras se vuelven inefectivas. Nuestras palabras precisan expresar no solamente la verdad, sino también la propia comprensión y realización.

Si queremos experimentar el poder de nuestras palabras, si deseamos que nuestro lenguaje transmita la fuerza curativa del espíritu, si anhelamos que nuestras palabras sean elemento de paz, sosiego y curación hacia las personas de nuestro alrededor, es preciso comenzar haciendo que nuestras palabras sean fidedignas, y ello sólo se consigue cultivando el hábito de la verdad. Di siempre la verdad, lo antes que te sea posible. Manifestar siempre la verdad nos adentra en el mundo de la firmeza y la seguridad en nosotros mismos. Nos transmite una confianza que vivir en la mentira nunca consigue. Las mentiras siempre terminan arruinando nuestra vida; nos encadenan puesto que una mentira siempre acaba precisando de otra mentira para sostenerse, debilitando así nuestro poder interior. Cuando nuestra mente se instala en la verdad, nuestra mente se llena de firmeza, de seguridad y confianza, y son estas cualidades las que impregnan nuestras palabras transformándolas en elementos de curación.

Muchas enfermedades son únicamente el producto de nuestros pensamientos desequilibrados. La violencia, las mentiras, el resentimiento y tantas otras cosas existen y conviven con nosotros en este mundo, vivimos en un medio contaminado en donde es fácil contagiarse; más aún cuando percibimos que somos nosotros, los seres humanos, la fuente de la que emanan dichas formas. Ante ello tenemos que cultivar cualidades de amor, verdad y gratitud, creando un sólido mundo interior, en donde la creatividad y la verdad brillen; para luego extender este mundo interior a las personas de nuestro alrededor.,

Las palabras son la manifestación de nuestro mundo interior, al cuidar de nuestro lenguaje purificamos nuestro mundo interior. Al cultivar el hábito de la verdad construimos una plataforma de determinación, seguridad y confianza que nos abre las puertas del bienestar y la consecución de nuestros objetivos. Recuerda que la vida siempre ayuda a quienes se ayudan a sí mismos. Crea un poderoso mundo interior, permite que tus palabras sean su vehículo y transformaras tu vida.

GRACE CHURCH UPDATE

February 2009

Please fill out and mail or bring to the office

Name: _____ DOB: _____
month-day-year

Spouse: _____ DOB: _____
month-day-year

Anniversary Date: _____

Street: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Workplace & phone: _____

E-mail _____ E-mail _____

CHILDREN (include adult children)

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ School _____

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ School _____

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ School _____

NAME: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Grade _____ School _____

We will only publish names, address and home phone number (unless you ask us to keep that number confidential). However, schools, grades, cell numbers and email are very useful as we seek to minister to your needs and keep you updated of events.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS IN FEBRUARY

Sun, Feb 1, Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

Mon, Feb 2, The Presentation: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

Tues, Feb 3-Sat, Feb 7: Isaiah 52:1-12, 54:1-17, 55:1-13, 56:1-8, 57:1-13; Galatians 4:12-31, 5:1-25—6:10; Mark 8:1-27; 9:1-29

Sun, Feb 8, Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany: Isaiah 40:21-31; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Mon, Feb 9-Sat, Feb 14: Isaiah 58:1-12, 59:1-21, 60:1-17, 61:1-10, 62:1-5; Galatians 6:11-18, 2 Timothy 1:1-15, 2:13-26, 3:1-17, 4:1-8; Mark 9:30-50, 10:1-52

Sun, Feb 15, Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany: 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Mon, Feb 16-Sat, Feb 21: Isaiah 63:1-15—64:9; 65:1-25, 66:1-6; 1 Timothy 1:1-18, 2:1-8, 3:1-16, 4:1-16, 5:17-25, 6:6-21; Mark 11:1-27, 12:12-44

Sun, Feb 22, Last Sunday of the Epiphany: 2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

Mon, Feb 23: Deuteronomy 6:10-15; Hebrews 1:1-14; John 1:1-18

Tues, Feb 24, St. Matthias: Acts 1:15-26, Philippians 3:13-21, John 15:1-16

Wed, Feb 25, Ash Wednesday: Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs, Feb 26-Sat, Feb 28: Deuteronomy 7:6-26; Titus 1:1-16, 2:1-15, 3:1-15; John 1:29-51

CANDLEMAS

Did you know Groundhog Day is actually a biblical event? The 40th day after Christmas, Feb 2, is the remembrance of Christ's presentation in the Temple as the "light to enlighten the nations." Hence, the candles of "Candlemas," which cast shadows.

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