

The SPIRIT of GRACE

FEBRUARY 2008

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Regular Events: Every Week unless otherwise noted...

Sunday

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

Monday

- Morning Prayer 7
- Quilting Group 2 pm
- Narcotics Anonymous 7 pm

Tuesday

- Morning Prayer 7
- Men's Social, St Luke's 10

Wednesday

- Holy Eucharist 6 pm

Thursday

- Holy Eucharist, St Luke's 2 pm
- Friends Anonymous 4 pm

Friday

- Holy Eucharist 10

Saturday:

- Eucharist 5 p.m.

FEBRUARY COFFEE HOSTS

Eric & Yolly Ferrell and
Jeff & Chalaine Bell

SAVE THESE DATES...

- Feb 2: Jeff Bell's diaconal Ordination, Grace Church 10:30
- Feb 5: Shrove Tuesday dinner, 5-7 p.m.
- Feb 6: Ash Wed 7, Noon, 6 p.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish)
- March 16-23: Holy Week services
- May 11: Pentecost Picnic
- June 7: Ted Estes' diaconal Ordination (KC)
- Sept 21: Bishop Howe's Visitation
- Oct 26: Emmaus Celebration (KC)
- Dec 6: Ted Estes' priestly Ordination (place TBA)

From the Rectory: The Rev. Steven C. Wilson

Lent is at hand. Taken from the same root word as "length," "Lent" means that time of year in which the days are lengthening, otherwise known as spring. Easter, and thus Lent, hasn't been this early since 1913, and won't fall this early again until after our current BCP's calendar expires, which is 2089! Nonetheless, spring is beginning and the days are lengthening, a tiny bit each day.

In this season, some disciplines are traditional. Those disciplines are "self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting and self-denial, reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (BCP 265)

Self-examination is difficult for most of us. We don't like to look too closely at our sinful motivations and self-indulgent pettiness. But I cannot possibly repent of something I do not see and acknowledge. That's one reason the Church urges confession as a discipline for Lent. Sitting down with "other eyes" can help us to see things that are normally hidden from our vision, help to pierce through the veils of self-ignorance and self-deception which we all labor under. A priest is bidden by law, civil and canon, not to disclose any of the contents of such a confession—even that it took place. But it need not be only a priest who is a spiritual light in such instances. A counselor, therapist, or trusted spiritual friend, while not able to pronounce absolution or offer the legal assurance of confidentiality, can often be of even more help.

The early Church, tied to the agricultural realities of a world before refrigeration, wisely chose disciplines which might be of help to the greater community. With winter stores of food running low, for instance, it made communal sense to urge fasting. What food I didn't eat today was still here tomorrow for others to share, and got us all one day closer to the early harvest. We live in a world of stifling abundance—and yet at the same time, a world of shocking want and hunger. Taking on, voluntarily, a small taste of what is daily suffering for millions can help to put us in mind of the needs and wants of the whole world, and help us fight our innate tendency to self-coddling. Fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are simply expected acts for Episcopalians, as are acts of self-denial every other weekday (Mon-Sat) of Lent. The fast is not rigid—no food, or only limited food. It's up to you...but the discipline itself is urged by the Prayer Book and Bible.

Finally, there is the reading of Scripture. The time saved by giving up something—perhaps television? or radio? or political debates?—can be used to delve into Scripture. Consider it a kind of Sabbath break, taking time away from production and consumption and focusing instead on God and our relationship with Him. In our over-scheduled world, what better gift can we give God or ourselves than our time?

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Edith Pemberton, Jeanie Slates
George Bennett Wilson
- 2 Gabriel Castleberry
- 4 Tracy Rogers
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, Ted Estes
Dorothy Bay
- 14 Norma Ovalle
- 15 Sharon Croley, Benjamin Rogers
- 16 Karen Newport, Kelly Heidlage
Benjamin Sawyer, AJ Rhymer
Elle Lonham
- 17 Mary K. Schlecht
- 18 Dorothy Mae Edds
Elizabeth Flanigan
Simon Gonzalez
- 19 Shirley Locarni, Ann Ulmer
Sally Waggoner
- 20 Savannah Orr, Scott Campbell
- 21 Sue Neely
Larry Cebula
- 22 Veronica Sprenkle, Quentin Sprenkle
- 24 Liliana Fuentes, Alex West
- 25 Melvin Anderson
- 26 Forrest "Chip" Marsden
Austin Rhymer, Scott Sawyer
- 27 Landree Heese
- 28 Yolanda Valdez
Dean Sexton

ANNIVERSARIES for FEBRUARY

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

VESTRY UPDATE

At the Jan 15 meeting, the following was discussed

Rector's Report: The Rector went over the organizational matters relating to the Annual Meeting— what offices will need to be elected or appointed after the meeting, and how balloting works. He read thank you notes to the Vestry from staff and seminarians, and discussed the Saturday night service schedule which will begin in Feb.

Fr. Pedro's Report: Fr. Pedro passed around photos of his son Eric's marriage in Guatemala and updated us on his family situation there. His wife should have an appointment with the US Embassy in Feb to discuss her return. ***We ask the parish to be praying for a favorable outcome to this interview.***

Deacon's Report: Deacon Galen discussed our outreach in Haiti and through the Heifer Project. He will be going to Haiti in Sept, and invites any parishioners interested in joining him there to talk with him soon, so that they can begin their shot regimen. He explained the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) work of the Diocese and how it connects to outreach, especially the new diocesan grants program. McCune Brooks move will take place the 18th of Jan, and he should be in the new chapel by that afternoon.

Junior Warden's Report: The walk-through on the parish house went well and, other than carpet and glass in the doors, work has effectively closed on this project. Carpet samples will be arriving in mid-Jan. There have been plaster flakes under the rose window, and that will be looked into, as will fence repair after the ice storm and back hall paint & ceiling work. The library is being brought back "online" and children's books have been moved to the new Spencer Hall reading room, which is "under construction." A new copying machine has been given to the parish and is in the hall near the new drinking fountain.

Treasurer's Report: 2007 was a good year financially, and we are able to present a balanced budget for 2008 with some funds remaining in reserve for emergencies.

Old Business: The budget and nominees for vestry were reviewed.

New Business: Two large cash gifts have been made to the parish: the Vestry voted to send \$5000 from each to the Perpetual Trust and reserve the remainder for the operating fund. The Rector discussed his desire to see a garden installed in the south lot, and will ask for volunteers to form a committee at the annual meeting. Names for that committee were discussed. A request was made and granted to fund our parish nurse's participation at a national conference on parish nursing in North Carolina, hosted by the Episcopal Church, in late March. The discernment committee for Scott Stone has been re-started; a discernment committee will be appointed for Kris Erwin.

At the Jan 20 organizational meeting the following was decided:

The Rector appoints Kevin Johnson as Senior Warden for 2008. The vestry elected Debbie Putnam as Junior Warden for 2008, Marty Griffin as Clerk for 2008, and Larry McGuire as Treasurer for 2008. Jimmie Grimes was appointed to a three year term on the Perpetual Trust-Education Fund committee, and Jinny Hopp chosen as vestry liaison to that committee.

The Parish Prayer List

The Home Bound

Betty Carpenter, Jean Berry, Azalea Baker, Amanda McClanahan, Mary Helen Dunaway, Muriel Hallam, Lois Raschke, Dorothy Taylor, Dorothy Solomonson, Helen Rogers, Carolene Kelly, Juanita Pence, Eunice Yates, Kay McNew, Marvin Page, Patsy Downun, Carmen Courtade, Michelle Short, Patty Fasken, Ann Madsen, Jerry Chrisman

Parishioners, Family and Friends

Lon Orr, Kirby Newport, Roy MayesRon, George Hopper, Jim Armfield, Rick Warden, Bob Young, Brett Mountjoy, Michael Kissel, Fred Taylor, Heather Orscheln, Genevieve Moore, Christina Lewis, Sam Ford, Bob & Barbara Butler, Robyn Gunn, John Holliday, John Gilchrist, Staci Garner, Shar Artym, Traci Bickett, Hershel Jones, Brian & Dawn White, Scott, Melody Hainline, Vikki Houlihan, Ethan

(Iraq) Casey Pugh, Jake Evans Berger, Mark Orr, Derik Campbell, Avery Barnett, Ray Harding, Brent Archer & Patrick Batchelder, Tyler (Afghanistan) Joe Francis, Trey Schesser

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia (USA), Brechin (Scotland), Armidale, Ballarat, Bangor, Bathurst (Australia), Arochukwu, Ohafia, Asaba, Awka, Badagary (Nigeria), Aru (Congo), Athabasca (Canada), Auckland (New Zealand), Banks & Torres (Melanesia), Barbados (West Indies), Barrackpore (North Indies)

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, Mr. Ben Wood Editor

TRANSITIONS, DECEMBER 2007

New Addresses, Etc.

Rick Warden, 1735 Hazel St, Apt 16A
Mike & Heather Anderson and Lily Thompson, 2007 South P Street, Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Dr. Matt Anderson, 305 Briarwood Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301

Newcomers

Joel & Tami Maneval, sons Dayton & Tate, 9838 Redbud Rd, Jasper 64755 394-2109
Ray & Lisa Tubaugh, 2441 Jonathan St 358-8755
Bob & Sue Anderson, 2004 Amber Lane 358-9054

The Faithful Departed

Barbara Rowlette, aunt of **Jeff Bell**, departed this life on Wed, Jan 2
Cleona Kollmeyer, grandmother of **Sherry Russow**, departed this life Sun, Jan 13
Larry Hostetter, great uncle of **Kris & Amanda Erwin**, departed this life Mon, Jan 14
Barbara Beagle, aunt of **Sherry Russow**, departed this life Mon, Jan 14
Sister Evelyn Paul Weeks, friend of **Margie Tucker**, departed this life Wed, Feb 23
Dr. Anne Marie Shannon, friend of clergy, departed this life Wed, Feb 23

Congratulations

On the birth of **Trenton Michael Lynch**, born on Sun, Jan 7, son of Andy & Sabrina, grandson of Mike & Pam Robertson, Jim & the Rev. Susie Lynch and great-grand son of Ted & Earleen Evans.

Banns

The Rector publishes the banns of marriage between **Micah Grigsby** of this parish and Susan Brand of Jasper. Nuptials to be solemnized in August 2008. This is the second time of asking.

The Rector publishes the banns of marriage between **Lindsey Kester** of this parish and Jason Hodges of Webb City. Nuptials to be solemnized October 2008. This is the second time of asking.

EDUCATION

YOUTH CHOIR

Young people (grades 3-12) are invited to join in leadership of worship through singing and instrumental accompaniment. Practice Weds at 5 p.m. See Madi Kyger or Fr Steve for details.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: WED at 7 p.m.

The Prophet Isaiah: Foreteller or Truth-teller?

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

Please join us for our year-long exploration of the "basic stories" of the Bible, as we work our way through the narrative of the Faith! What does the Bible say about....

The Sacrifice of Isaac, Jacob the Weasel, Joseph and his brothers (Genesis), the young Moses story (Exodus). The Exodus, Wandering in the Desert & Crossing the Jordan in March.

COMPUTER CLASS

Computers 101: A course for people who need to know the basics. Offered by our own Craig Diggs on Thurs, Feb 7, at 6 p.m. here at the Church. Call Craig, 388-2215, for information.

FELLOWSHIP & PARISH LIFE

DINNER & A MOVIE

6 p.m. Dinner will be a choice of Cream of Chicken Soup or Chicken Noodle Soup. And our new popcorn maker will be inaugurated as well! 6:30 p.m. Join us for "Keeping Mum," the rollicking tale of the hijinks that ensue when the vicar's difficult and snippy mother moves into the rectory in a nice little Church of England parish...

6x2 DINNER CLUB

One of the activities the Vestry Stewardship Committee has chosen for fellowship and fun at Grace Church is the 6 + 2 Dinner Groups. Beginning in March, three Couples and two singles (two men, two women or one of each) will meet together for a meal. This group will decide their own times, menus, places to eat and etc. Sign up will begin Feb 1. The sign up sheet will be in the back hall of the Parish House. Question? Call Julie Anderson—358-5526 (home); 388-0709 (cell) or email andersonj@carthage.k12.mo.us

BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets at 7 p.m.m on Thurs, Feb 7, to discuss the first chapters of Francis Collins' **The Language of God**. Call Renee Cebula at 358-2925 for details on this group and their exciting new book!

WORSHIP

ASH WED

Services of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes are held at 7 a.m., Noon, 6 p.m. & 7 p.m. (Spanish) on Wed, Feb 6.

SUNDAYS IN LENT

Beginning on Sun, Feb 10, the color of the season turns to purple, a dark and somber tone appropriate for the somber nature of Lent. We DO NOT say or sing "alleluia" until the season is ended, and so service music changes from the Gloria in excelsis to the Trisagion (holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal One, have mercy on us!) At Rite II services (Wed & Sun 10:30) the Eucharistic prayer is C. There are no flowers on the altar.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for the devotion known as the Way of the Cross at noon on Ember Friday, Feb 15. Other services of the Stations will be held in March.

SAT SERVICES

Sat night eucharist begins again in Feb! Feb 2 we will observe the Presentation in the Church at 5 p.m. Feb 9, 16 & 23 will be in the Parish House at 5 p.m. These services are "come as you are," and are intended to provide a comfortable "first experience" of Episcopal worship for newcomers and those members of the parish who find Sunday worship a bit daunting, especially our young adults. While conforming to the BCP, Parish House services will be considerably more casual than most of our worship services.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all our friends at church who have been praying for Heather during the past few months. Heather just returned from M. D. Anderson after her first check up since the June surgery. She got a great report, but is still recovering from the numbness on the left side of her face. The surgeon believes she will eventually experience significant improvement in the found area with in the next year. Thanks again for all your prayers and love.

Gary & Carolyn Cole

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Brigid of Kildare</i> Parish wide Women's retreat	2 PRESENTATION of OUR LORD 10:30 Ordination of Jeff Bell
3 LAST EPIPHANY	4 <i>Cornelius the Centurion</i>	5 <i>Martyrs of Japan/SHROVE TUES</i> 5-7 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. St. Catherine's	6 ASH WED 7 a.m., Noon, 6 p.m., 7 p.m. (Spanish)	7 7 p.m. Book Club	8 6 pm Dinner & a pm Movie	9 9 am St Margaret's Guild
10 LENT I 9:15 Blood Pressure clinic	11 Meals on Wheels begins	12 6 p.m Stewardship Cttee	13 <i>Absalom Jones/EMBER DAY</i>	14 <i>Cyril & Methodius</i>	15 <i>Thomas Bray/EMBER DAY</i> Noon Stations of the Cross	16 EMBER DAY
17 LENT II	18 <i>Martin Luther</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	19 7 p.m. Vestry	20	21	22 Meals on Wheels ends	23 <i>Polycarp of Smyrna</i>
24 LENT III	25 ST MATTHIAS	26 7 pm Book Club	27 <i>George Herbert</i>	28 <i>Oswald of York</i>	29	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Noon, Spanish 9:15 am Acolyte practice and Christian Ed	7 am Morning Prayer 2 pm Quilting Group 7 pm NA	7 am Morning Prayer 10 am Men's Social Hour, St Luke's 5:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Holy Eucharist 7 pm Dinner, Youth Group & Bible Study	2 pm St Luke's Eucharist	10 am Holy Eucharist	5 pm Holy Eucharist

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS IN FEBRUARY, 2008

Last Epiphany: Feb 3, 8:00 am

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

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Margie Tucker
 Subdeacon: George Platt
 Lectors: Chuck Edds
 Dana Cameron
 Acolyte Mentor: Brad Cameron
 Servers: 1 Lisa Snodgrass (Capt)
 Crosses: 1 Ellen Salchow Stiles
 2 Sam Weidemann
 Torches: 1 Jackie Spencer
 2 Jay Simmons
 3 Tom Simmons
 4 Oliver Sprenkle
 Ushers: Larry McGuire
 Claude Newport
 Sacristan:
 AV Team: Mike & Ryan Robertson
 Greeters: Kevin Curtis

Lent 3: Feb 24, 8:00 am

Chalice: Larry Ross
 Subdeacon: Wayne Ytell
 Lector: Glenda Erwin
 Server: Nancy Dymott
 Sacristan:

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Marty Griffin
 Subdeacon: Ted Estes
 Lectors: Marty Griffin
 Rosalie Griffin
 Acolyte Mentor: Karen Washburn
 Servers: 1 Greg Spencer (Capt)
 Crosses: 1 Haley Kester
 2 Cecilie Washburn
 Torches: 1 Jimmy Slates
 2 Drew Schesser
 3 Elle Lanham
 4 Sydney Harlin
 Ushers: Frank Lane
 Mike Goolsby
 Sacristan:
 AV Team: Frank Lane
 Greeters: Troy & Liz Salchow

Lent 1: Feb 10, 8:00 am

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Ruth Smith
 Server: Brad Cameron
 Sacristan:
 Home Communion: Ytell/Ross-A Madsen

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Garvin Dunaway
 Subdeacon: Regine Anderson
 Lectors: Julie Anderson
 Mark Sponaugle
 Acolyte Mentor: Michele Sexton
 Servers: 1 Ashley Heidlage (Capt)
 2 Deandra Sexton
 Crosses: 1 Alex Weidemann
 2 Carlie Wakefield
 Torches: 1 Ashleigh Wilson
 2 Sarah Wilson
 3 Lanceton Pettie
 4 Matt Goolsby
 Ushers: Mike Robertson
 Jim Creighton
 Sacristan:
 AV Team: Jim & Colby Wakefield
 Greeters: Michael & Jennifer Cartright
 Home Communion: R. Anderson
 G Snodgrass—L Orr

Ash Wed, Feb 6: Wed Services

7:00 a.m.

Chalice: Jeff Bell
 Reader: Marty Griffin

Noon

Chalice: Galen Snodgrass
 Reader: Margie Tucker

6:00 p.m.

Chalice: Regine Anderson
 Reader: Julie Anderson
 Ushers: Chuck Erwin
 Chris Wilkowski

7:00 p.m.

Spanish Service

Wed, Feb 13 6:00 p.m.

Chalice: Scott Stone
 Reader: Kelly Roske

Feb 20

Chalice: Ron Ferguson
 Reader: Madi Kyger

Feb 27

Chalice: Margie Tucker
 Reader: Mariah Marsden

Lent 2: Feb 17, 8:00 am

Chalice: Wayne Ytell
 Subdeacon: Larry Ross
 Lector: Wayne Ytell
 Server: Michele Sexton
 Sacristan:

10:30 a.m.

Chalice: Tom Flanigan
 Subdeacon: Bonnie Jones
 Lectors: Wade Hamilton
 Jerry Sample
 Acolyte Mentor: Scott Stone
 Servers: 1 Austen Heidlage
 (Capt) 2 Mariah Marsden
 Crosses: 1 Madeline Marsden
 2 Colby Wakefield
 Torches: 1 Chase Taylor
 2 Ian Henderson
 3 Brandon Edwards
 Ushers: Loren Erwin
 Greg Kester
 Sacristan:
 AV Team: Elisa & Audrey White
 Greeters: Joel & Melissa Erdman

Presentation of Our Lord Sat, Feb 2 5:00

Chalice/Reader: Galen Snodgrass
 Sacristan:

Feb 9

Chalice/Reader: Garvin Dunaway
 Sacristan:

Feb 16

Chalice/Reader:
 Sacristan:

Feb 23

Chalice: Scott Stone
 Reader: Glenda Erwin
 Sacristan:

SAT. EUCCHARIST RETURNS

Beginning on Feb 2, we will return to weekly eucharist at 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Service will be held in the Parish House, not the Church, and will conform to the Book of Common Prayer, but in a slightly more “contemporary” direction (chairs rather than pews, a free standing altar rather than east-ward facing, standing rather than kneeling communion). We ask that you invite those folks in your life, especially young adults, for whom Sunday morning is “just too early”—after all, since the service will end before 6 p.m., there is still lots of time for all those Sat night activities which wear people out!

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Aging is one of today's hottest topics, and positive or successful aging is the promised outcome of a myriad of products, procedures, pills and prophets. While we should be suspect of these many claims to eternal youth, there are proven ways we can age more healthily.

We all know that diet and exercise are important, but, did you know that research studies have documented that church affiliation, particularly active engagement in activities through your congregation, is a path to successful aging? People who take an active role in serving on committees report feeling younger than their chronological age and experience fewer health problems. The large group of baby boomers and older adults in general are in excellent health and are aging well. However, in order to maintain optimal health and reduce the health risks that for some a sedentary lifestyle has produced, closer attention to diet, exercise, remedies for caregiver stresses and promotion of healthy living will be necessary.

For many people who have been full-time in the workforce for 40+ years, retirement brings both opportunities and challenges. Meaningful engagement in volunteer work not only fosters sustained optimal physical and mental health, it provides a wealth of learning opportunities and contributes to feelings of worth for aging and older adults. And, importantly, the potential value of the contributions of active, vital, well-networked and committed adults to ministry through our congregation and in our community is too large to calculate. Grace church offers many opportunities for volunteer effort. Of course I want to mention the parish nurse ministry. I can use individuals who can sit with someone for a limited time, such as while the care giver is going to the doctor; drivers for appointments; telephone buddies; and other duties we have not investigated at this time. Let us know if you have free time and I am sure we can offer you a bevy of choices to serve.

Project for Lent We are a country where overeating is common, while much of the rest of the world is malnourished. Could we deny ourselves snacks or fast food and save that money for a donation to provide food for those who are starving? We could contribute our savings to the Millennium Development Goals. Grace Church intends to apply for a grant from our Diocese toward these goals. Our church must raise \$500.00 to apply for the maximum grant. Please see Deacon Galen's article in this newsletter for more information regarding these goals. As a congregation we might be surprised how quickly the money could be raised by just giving up soft drinks for Lent. If you don't drink soda, possibly you have chips or cookies or an occasionally candy bar. All this adds up. Consider doing this for a Lenten project. Deacon Galen or I will collect the money at the end of our Lenten season. I am sure we can make great progress in collecting toward that \$500.00 goal.

40 Days of Lent Father Steve had a great idea to go along with the project above! 40 days of weight loss during the 40 days of Lent. We all know the drill – eat a nutritious breakfast; healthy snack midmorning; smaller portions; healthy snack in the afternoon; dinner, that includes fresh vegetables and a late night snack of something like Jell-O or cereal. Remember to consider calorie intake, must have fruits and vegetables every day, exercise if possible and watch the pounds drop off. I have an electronic scale if you want to weigh here at church and watch your progress. Watch for the Lenten calendar that will have 40 days of helpful hints, And Sundays are free, every Sunday of Lent you can celebrate your new eating plan, by having a little of what you are limiting in your diet during the week. Join me in this process. Believe me; I can use all the help I can get!!

Good luck and God bless. Barbara Mountjoy, Parish Nurse

If you have trouble falling asleep, look at the ingredients in any pain relievers you're taking—several brands of aspirin and acetaminophen contain caffeine. Two of these tablets typically contain 150 mg. of caffeine—as much as a cup of coffee.

THE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director what the criterion was which defined whether or not a patient should be institutionalized. "Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub." "Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger than the spoon or the teacup." "No," said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

OUTREACH

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 week we need volunteer bingo callers to help with the social highlight of the week-end 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, Carolyn Cole or Shirley Stigall 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.

QUARTER TUBE

Don't forget that Grace Church collects your quarters weekly during service to help the Heifer Project fund purchases of breeding stock and plants for farm cooperatives in impoverished, hungry Third World countries. We have sent rabbits, chickens, ducks, llamas, pigs, water buffaloes, fish, sheep and goats to Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa!

MEALS ON WHEELS

We need volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels, on the following dates, it can be a day or week, Feb 11-15 and Mon, Feb 18-22. If you would like to help with this ministry please call Steve or Sue Friede 359-5273 or the church office.

SAVE THE DATE!

Make reading come to life! A Resource Fair for Grandparents Raising their grandchildren at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb 20 at Freeman Business Center Conf. Room, 3220 McClelland Blvd, Joplin. Contact Jinny Hopp for more information.

PLANNING FOR HABITAT

Would you be interested in working on a Habitat for Humanity house in Carthage? See the Rector to get on an "informational" list!

HAITI TRIP

A trip to our sister parishes in Haiti is scheduled for late Sept. See Deacon Galen **TODAY** if you are interested: there are several required in advance!

MBH

McCune Brooks hospital is seeking volunteers for various hospital positions. Contact Mike Riley at 358-8121 to discuss volunteer needs during weekday business hours.

PUT IN THE PHOTO OF THE ANIMALS ON JAN 6

Wise men Gaspar, Melchior & Balthasar (Kris & Steve Erwin, Alex Wiedemann) brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Infant Christ on Epiphany Sunday, Jan 6. Their pack animals, a llama, a miniature highland ox, and a baby Sicilian donkey, carried the gifts to the manger—somewhat reluctantly, as you can see!

CALL KIM, GET A PHOTO FROM BISHOP'S BALL OF FR STEVE & SAM WIEDEMANN GETTING AWARDS

At the Bishop's Ball in Kansas City on Fri, Jan 25, parishioner Sam Wiedemann was awarded "Most Active New Member of Diocesan Youth Projects" and Fr. Steve awarded the Purple Cross for Clergy Service to youth.

Planning trips?

You might consider the following for your vacation plans

Sept 21, a mission trip to Haiti: See Deacon Galen
Dec 6: From Budapest to Prague cruising the Danube for "Christmas market": See Fr. Steve
Late Autumn/Early Winter 2009: Egypt, including Coptic Churches in Cairo & Abu Simbel Temple: See Fr. Steve
Summer 2010: The Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play: See Fr. Steve

PLATICANDO EN ESPANOL:

Padre Pedro Valdez

2008, INICIO DE UN NUEVO AÑO

Cada Nuevo Año hacemos un sin número de propósitos para aprovechar mejor nuestra vida en el Nuevo Año. Nos proponemos algunas metas pensando en desarrollar actividades que nos lleven a cumplir nuestra ansiada meta; comenzamos llenos de dinamismo y Buenos propósitos, pero cuando nos vienen días difíciles o complicados nos vamos desviando y hasta nos olvidamos de nuestra meta. Necesitamos una fuerza especial para regresar a nuestros propósitos iniciales, necesitamos la fuerza del Espíritu Santo para retroalimentar nuestra fe y continuar hacia la Meta deseada.

En estos días meditaba sobre las palabras de San Pedro cuando respondió categóricamente a la pregunta de Jesús, camino de Cesarea de Filipo: “Tu eres el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente.” En nuestro diario vivir e involucrados en muchas actividades año con año nos hacemos nuevos propósitos para vivir bien y desempeñarnos lo mejor posible; tratamos humanamente de pensar en lo mejor para nosotros y para las personas que nos rodean, muchos de esos propósitos son Buenos y los desarrollamos con toda Buena intención, pero creo que necesitamos darnos un poco más de tiempo a la hora de desarrollarlos; es decir busquemos un tiempo especial, tiempo para meditar, encontrarle sentido a lo que deseamos y ponerlo en manos de Dios, tratemos de ver si es su voluntad y no la nuestra.

Es muy importante que nos preocupemos en buscar y ser receptivos a la voz de Dios en nuestras vidas. Jesús respondió a Pedro, al contestarle la pregunta, “Bienaventurado eres, Simón, hijo de Jonas, porque no te lo revelo carne ni sangre, sino mi Padre que está en los cielos.” ¿Cuándo fue la última vez que recibiste una Revelación? ¿Como actúas, Hoy, de acuerdo a esa revelación? Nuestras acciones deben de girar de acuerdo a Revelaciones divinas, de esta manera nuestras metas y Buenos propósitos no se quedarán en ello, buenas metas y Buenos propósitos. Si Dios no te ha revelado lo que espera de Ti, no te desanimes, pronto escucharás la voz de Dios. Tu también puedes llegar a ser “Bienaventurado”, porque recibes Revelación; esto no es un privilegio para los santos, gente que no ha pecado, sino es un privilegio para todos los Hijos de Dios por la mediación de Jesucristo y por el Poder del Espíritu Santo. **QUE EN ESTE NUEVO AÑO TUS PROPOSITOS Y TUS METAS ESTEN DE ACUERDO A LOS PROPOSITOS DE DIOS PARA SUS HIJOS AQUI EN LA TIERRA.**

P. Valdez

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEACON:

The Rev. Galen Snodgrass

In the coming months you will be hearing and reading even more information about the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) for those living on a \$1.00 a day overseas. The last General Convention of the Episcopal Church asked all individuals, churches, and dioceses to give 0.7% of their income to address the following needs of individuals outside the United States. 1) Eradicate extreme hunger & poverty. 2) Achieve universal primary education. 3) Promote gender equality and empower women. 4) Reduce child mortality. 5) Improve maternal health. 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. 7) Ensure environmental sustainability. 8) Develop a global partnership for development.

Individually every Episcopalian is asked to donate \$7.00/\$1,000 of income to a group/organization that addresses one or more of the goals. If you are currently doing that now, thank you for seeing the need of other human beings created in the image of God. If you haven't, pray fully consider and explore the many options.

Our parish has and is continuing to address MDG goals 1,2,4,5,& 6 by participating in Food for the Poor, Heifer International, St. Andre's, St. James & St. Philips schools in Haiti, and the Maison de Naissance Birthing Clinic in south Haiti. 2008 will give Grace Church the opportunity to increase funding in two ways.

First, this year the diocese has allocated \$12,000 for the MDG's (part of our diocesan pledge) and desires to double that amount by offering a maximum \$500 matching grant application to every church. We raise \$500 or more then will match the first \$500. Grace Church has our own MDG Committee that will explore the organizations we contribute to as well as new ones. They will also be assisting in the grant application process with the first deadline being Good Friday. If you want to be on this committee then call the church office and we'll get back to you.

Second, Diocesan Council, Barbara Mountjoy is a member, has designated additional monies from the Emmaus Celebration Box (the purple and white ones) will supplement the current budgeted amount of \$12,000. If you don't have one of these boxes contact the office so we can get you one.

Write your name on it and Grace Church-Carthage so the treasurer can keep track of the incoming funds. The Emmaus Box ingathering is April 6, 2008.

All of this time, treasure, and talent is being done by the people of God for the people of God in an effort to slightly balance the scales of global poverty. MDG's is a grassroots effort where a few dollars can make a big difference.

Some examples: \$120.00 provides medicine, doctor's visits, and purchases mosquito netting for one child for a year. A Micro-loan of \$25.00 to \$50.00 allows a woman to triple the size of her market stand, making it possible to support her family and repay the loan within two years. A teacher makes \$60.00 a month at the schools listed above. If you have questions, please feel free to call.

Haitian Episcopal Learning Partner's (HELP) Mission Trip September 24-October 3

Dr. John and Jane Torontow of HELP will be leading a medical mission trip to the city of Torbeck this fall. Most medical trips involve 8-10 people that go to be present with our sister parishes and schools in the area. If you can apply a band aid and give medicine to a child, you can be a part of this trip. There will also be opportunities to visit schools, encouraging them to continue their education. Attending Episcopal services is also a part of the visit. Most importantly, it is a place where you will be warmly received by the hospitable Haitian people, and they will capture your heart.

Vaccinations for preventable diseases are extremely important. The CDC recommends the following: 1) measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT), other routine vaccinations. 2) Recommends Hepatitis A, which should be administered when considering a trip and then a follow up 1 month and at 6 months. 3) Recommends Hepatitis B 6 months before travel and one more just before or soon after. 4) Malaria treatment is a must with chloroquine tablets beginning one week before departure, during and several weeks after. If you're interested in going, now is the time to start your vaccinations. Jasper County Health Department is your most economical option and can be contacted at 358-3111. When making an appointment, let them know your destination and length of stay. **Contact me if you are interested in going.**

Deacon Galen

DAILY BIBLE READINGS IN FEBRUARY

Fri, Feb 1: Genesis 17:15-27, Hebrews 10:11-25, John 6:1-15,

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

Sun, Feb 3, Last Epiphany: Exodus 24:12-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

Mon, Feb 4-Tues, Feb 5: Proverbs 27:1-6, 10-12; 30:1-4, 24-33, Philippians 2:1-13; 3:1-11, John 18:15-38

Wed, Feb 6, Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-22, Corinthians 5:20b; 6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thurs, Feb 7-Sat, Feb 9

Sun, Feb 10, Lent 1: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 32

Sun, Feb 17, Lent II: Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17, Psalm 121

Sun, Feb 24, Lent III: Exodus 17:1-7, Romans 5:5-11, John 4:5-42, Psalm 95

PATRONAL FEASTS

Please pray for St. Oswald's Church in the Fields, Skidmore, on its patronal day, Feb 28, the commemoration of Archbishop Oswald of York, died 992. St. Oswald's is the only "rural" church in our diocese

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