

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

March 2007

Fasting...Prayer...Acts of Mercy... ... Mercy... Fasting... Prayer... Lent

A fifth century Bishop writing on the traditional practices of Lent reminds us,

“There are three things by which faith stands firm, devotion remains constant, and virtue endures. They are prayer, fasting and mercy...these three are one and they give life to each other.”

“Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the life blood of fasting. Let no one try to separate them; they cannot be separated. If you have only one of them or not all together, you have nothing. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petitions of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself.”

The 40 day season of Lent can help us to take a journey of the soul. Prayer, fasting and acts of mercy help us to be open to God's Spirit at work in our lives and in the world. These acts are mostly individual, private. We know times when we feel alone with God.

Yet they are also very corporate, public. We are linked to all God's creation in our prayer, in our fasting, in our mercy. And, we are joined with the Communion of Saints.

The “outward and visible” signs of Lent are many at Grace Church: quiet, penitential worship; the Monday night program; Stations of the Cross; early Eucharist and breakfast on Wednesdays. But let us also concentrate on the “inward and spiritual.” Both the outward and the inward can be means of grace as we prepare for Easter.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855-2005

Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1	7:30 am
Child care	8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristía	9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 2	9:00 am
Christian ed classes	10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 1	11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2	5:00 pm

Weekday Eucharist

Mondays, Rite 1	6:30 pm
Tuesdays, Rite 2 with healing ...	6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite 1	6:30 am *
Thursdays, Rite 2	7:00 am
Fridays, Rite 1	12:15 pm

* Returns to 7:00 am on April 4, the Wednesday in Holy Week.

Grace Church is:

- ✧ A center for worship and fellowship
- ✧ A school for discipleship and stewardship
- ✧ A community for healing and outreach

About Grace Notes

Grace Notes is published 10 times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia—monthly except for combined July/August and December/January issues. Deadlines for submitting copy are by midnight on the 15th of the preceding month. Next Grace Notes deadline: March 15 for the April issue. Articles may be placed in the Grace Notes folder in the credenza in the Commons, submitted by e-mail (grace.notes@gracealex.org) or faxed to 703-549-2832. All articles are subject to editing. Grace Church's newsletter team includes Barry Barr (editor), Michelle Cox, Alice Russell, Beth Wiggers and Margaret Will (layout).

The Curate's Corner

Lenten Change

At the annual meeting, I shared an insight that has been growing in me for the past few months: A rector's job is to teach a congregation about stability. He or she stays for years, even decades, and grows rooted to a place. But an assistant's job . . . well, my job is to teach about change. How do we learn to love and then let go in ways that are healthy and life-giving?

My own life as been an object lesson in change these past months. Steve is finishing his dissertation and moving into his professional role. We are preparing for our relocation to Massachusetts late this summer. I am beginning to discern what kind of job will be right for me once we move. And we share our lives with a toddler who is different each day: new words, new abilities spring up in her overnight.

I know I am not alone in such changes. Many of you are either in the midst or on the verge of major life transitions: graduations, weddings, births, retirements, to name just a few. And to our individual shifts we can add those taking place at a more corporate level. Our parish is about to begin major capitol improvements. The structure of our Anglican Communion is being challenged. Our country is gearing up in earnest for the next Presidential election.

Living with change can be disorienting. So often, our instinct can be to dig in our heels, to hunker down in the safety of what we already know. And yet our call as Christians is not this sort of retreat.

Instead, we are asked to always be on the lookout for the new thing, for God's next good work in our lives.

Lent is perhaps the most profound time of change in our liturgical calendar. Everything we take for granted about ourselves is dismantled and examined—and perhaps put back together in a different order. A daunting prospect—but also a profoundly hopeful one, I believe. For we enter into change knowing that God is always waiting in the whirlwind to lead us onward.

Blessings to you in the midst of your Lenten journey.

— *The Rev. Anne Michele Turner,*
Assistant Rector

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

- Ella Marie DiGiore, daughter of Marc and Kristin DiGiore
- John Alexander Everett and Gabriella Dashielle Everett, children of Clay and April Everett
- Lauren Addison Feeley, daughter of Christopher and Christine Feeley

Transfers in

- Diane P. Dellefield from Christ Church, Alexandria

New members per baptismal information

- April and Clay Everett
- Debra K. Kreeger

Transfers out

- Mary Elizabeth Daly and Mary Catherine (child) to Christ Church, Alexandria

— *Dorothy Daniel*

ONE Church: ONE Mission

the 212th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia

The Very Rev. Shannon Johnston was elected as Bishop Coadjutor. He will be consecrated at the National Cathedral on May 26th. He will succeed Bishop Peter James Lee when he retires, within the next three years, and no later than 2010. Bishop-elect Johnston will have oversight of the deployment process. To learn more about Bishop-elect Johnston you can go to www.thediocese.net

Bishop Lee's pastoral address stressed mission, unity and preserving legacy.

We also conducted other business at Council. The following resolutions were approved by the Council:

- Affirmed establishing a site at which day laborers are treated fairly.
- Affirmed the Millennium Development Goals by endorsing "The ONE Campaign".
- Designated October 30th as a memorial for James Markham Amber, a lifelong Episcopalian who gave his life on an Arctic exploration in 1881.
- Expressed support for faithful Episcopalians in Congregations within which a majority voted to leave the Episcopal Church.
- Endorsed a Companion Diocese of Relationship study.

There were two other resolutions sent back to committee:

- A resolution to change the way we present and consider resolutions at Council
- A Local Option regarding the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions.

Eleven Courtesy Resolutions were approved.

The 2007 Budget was approved as was church status for Church of the Messiah, Chancellor.

The following people were elected to the Standing Committee:

The Rev. Susan Goff (St. Christopher's, Springfield)

The Rev. Daniel Robayo (Christ Church, Luray)

Ms. Martha W. High (St. John's, McLean)

Mr. Alexander H. Slaughter (St. James's, Richmond)

Annual Council conducts the business of the Diocese, and in between Councils the Standing Committee and Executive Committee conduct the business of the Diocese. Our representative to the Executive Committee is Kirk Gibson from Emmanuel, Russell Road.

On June 24, 2007, four Diocesan Bishops from the Diocese of Southern Virginia, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia, Diocese of Virginia and Diocese of West Virginia will celebrate the Holy Eucharist in Jamestown Island.

Virginia State Day at the National Cathedral will be October 24, 2007.

For any further information about Annual Council, please go to:

www.thediocese.net

Shrine Mont Reflections

I'm sure most of the people who went to Shrine Mont wanted to strengthen their ties with our parish family, and that was a huge part of the reason why I went.

But I'll let you in on a secret: I'm a closet liturgy junkie. When Mother Turner said there was going to be U2charist during the retreat... *well!* Little did I know that would be just a warm-up to a full weekend of prayer, including an Australian version of Morning Prayer and two meditations on the Stations of the Cross, one with thoughts from Grace parishioners, one with hurting calves and an unforgettable view of West Virginia as the end of a hiking trail proclaimed, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"

What moved me most is when we came together Sunday morning for a final Eucharist, and we sang "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation," as one. Well, almost as one. I was crying and blubbering too hard to make much of a sound above a croak. Really, it was not pretty, but the lesson learned was that U2 songs, nature hikes, and even tears can all be liturgical and in the service of God. *Glory to you, Lord Christ!*

— David Tepper

—Jane Rosman

The Answer is in the Room

Several years ago, I enrolled in a year-long leadership program at work. The program included assessments, rotations, training and study. It was rigorous and provided much opportunity for self-exploration and learning. The most important take-away was that *the answer is in the room*. No one person has a monopoly on good ideas, and just because a person is a leader does not mean that they alone have the *right answer*. Experience demonstrates that our best work is produced in community – an environment where all ideas are welcome and the solution is a product of consensus that can be *owned* and supported by many. This learning has served me well in my

career and leadership skills development.

I look forward to applying this lesson as your Senior Warden. In doing so, I am reminded of Jesus' words in Matthew: "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." I am also drawn to Paul's first letter to the Corinthians that describes love as patient and kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude; that love does not insist on its own way, is not irritable or resentful, and does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth; and that love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. For me, this is a reminder to

strive to do God's work in a manner that reflects the light and life of Christ.

At Grace Church, the *entire parish* is in the *room*. I pray that all ideas are welcome and that our process of decision-making and discernment is guided by the Holy Spirit and forged in the crucible of God's love.

Thanks for your support and prayers.

Faithfully,

— Michael Jones, Senior Warden

More Flower Donors Needed

More donors are needed to provide the altar flowers! The flower fund is currently paying \$118.00 a week for flowers. The fee is \$50.00 when someone contributes toward altar flowers. The Altar Guild does not want to raise that price; however, more than 2 donors are needed each week to cover the cost.

In addition to the weekly flowers, we need more donors for Easter and Christmas. Easter and Christmas flowers must be ordered at least 2 months before the day they are needed so they are really ordered on faith that we will have enough donors to pay the bill. The yearly report for

Grace Church showed that the flower fund was in the black; BUT when the bill for Christmas flowers and greens was paid, it put our budget in the red. At Christmas 2006 we had only 83 donors. If we are to continue to have the beautiful flowers in the Nave and on the altars for Christmas and Easter, 115 donors would be ideal.

Here's the important message: Flowers can be donated in thanksgiving for a baptism, a marriage, a birthday, an anniversary, in memory of a loved one or any other appropriate reason. The donor chooses the message to go in the bulletin.

What happens to the flowers after the 5:00 pm service on Sunday? The Lady Altar flowers remain in place all week for daily services. The High Altar flowers are rearranged into 3 or 4 individual arrangements and delivered to parishioners who are unable to attend church. Many positive comments are received to express appreciation for the flowers on the altars and flowers received after the Sunday services.

Please call Liz Saalfeld, 703-425-8129, if you have any comments, questions or concerns.

— Liz Saalfeld

Grace Episcopal School

Grace Episcopal School is gearing up for some wonderful events and activities in the coming months that I would like to make you aware of. On April 14 the school will hold its Auction/Gala at the Campagna Center. The nautical theme for this year's event is "Come Sail Away on the S.S. Grace." We hope you will come and bid on the many items that have been donated by area businesses and parents. In conjunction with the auction, the Auction Committee is selling raffle tickets for a \$5000 cruise for 4. Each raffle ticket is \$60 (these would be great Easter basket gifts). If you would like to purchase a ticket to the event or a raffle ticket, please stop by the school office. The committee is also soliciting business ads for the Auction program. There are many different size options available. If you own a business and would like some reasonable

advertisement to a wide range of clientele please complete a business ad form. They can be found on the credenza outside the school office or call the school office.

Another program sponsored by the school that takes place during June is a summer camp called June Jamboree. This is the 3rd year for the camp. This camp is open to parishioner children and grandchildren, as well as school students. The camp is geared for ages 3–12 (3 year olds must be toilet trained). The hours and weeks that June Jamboree will be in session are June 11-June 29 from 8 am-5 pm. Parents/Grandparents can enroll their children/grandchildren for 1, 2 or 3 week sessions. The brochure and registration forms can be found on the credenza outside the church and school offices.

— Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School

The Rector's Cross Honorees

One of the highlights of our annual parish meetings is Father Malm's announcement of recipients of the Rector's Cross. This year's honorees were Ruth and Cleve Corlett.

Shortly after Father Malm became our rector in 1989, he decided that each year he would recognize particularly noteworthy service to the parish, usually over an extended period of time, and often unnoticed. Over the years the award has gone to individuals such as Lew Wood, the first honoree, in 1990, and Gail Rittgers in 1991; to couples such as Jean and Lucy-Lee Reed in 1995; and to groups such as our Episcopal Youth in Community (EYC) in 2000. More than 33 parishioners have been recognized.

(continued on page 8)

Graceful Worship

Stations of the Cross

*Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One, have
mercy on us.*

Trisagion

As we travel through Lent, some of us have joined the Friday 12:15 PM service and participated in "walking" the Stations of the Cross. This practice has a long history. Since the Peace of the Church under Constantine (313 AD), many Christians have desired to walk where Christ walked in the week of his Passion. Over the centuries,

thousands of pilgrims from all Christian denominations have journeyed to Jerusalem to retrace the steps of our Lord from Pilate's palace, down the Via Dolorosa, to Calvary. For most Christians this pilgrimage is an unrealizable dream. Many Christians re-enacted this memorable journey by traveling between various churches, called "stational churches," each of which was dedicated to a particular incident identified in the Passion. Later, the custom arose of having "stations" affixed to the wall of the parish church

each with a scene representing one of 14 Passion events. The faithful would make their pilgrimage by reading scripture and praying at each of the stations.

We keep this ancient commemoration each Friday during Lent at the 12:15 PM service before the Holy Eucharist. For those who have not made the "pilgrimage," come and share this devotional meditation on our Lord's Passion.

— Michelle Cox

Music Notes

Lent is upon us, and it is becoming more and more the practice to take on something for Lent rather than give something up. Why not consider joining a choir and helping your fellow parishioners prepare for the great festival of Our Lord's Resurrection? Just contact Thom Robertson; there are always openings in the choirs.

There is a veritable feast of special musical events coming this spring; below you'll find something for every taste!

- **Sunday, March 18th at 4:00 pm** – Organist Thom Robertson will present an all-Bach organ concert. One of the featured works will be Bach's famous "Passacaglia in C Minor". (Thom plans on repeating this concert on the new organ, so you'll want to be able to compare!)
- **Wednesday, April 4th at 7:30 pm** – Choral Tenebrae sung by the Alleluia Singers and Schola Cantorum. This very special "service of darkness" on the Wednesday of Holy Week is a chance for you to sit in the beauty of Grace Church with candles for illumination. Lessons from Lamentations and Psalms are chanted, interspersed with anthems. Those who have attended in the past have found this a very meaningful service.
- **Saturday, April 7th at 8:00 pm** – The Great Vigil of Easter will celebrate the Resurrection, featuring both Alleluia Singers and Schola, plus a brass quintet. The next morning all our choirs will present special music.
- **Tuesday, May 1st at 8:00 pm** – Grace Church's Choral Society will begin rehearsals for "A Night on Broadway". This is your chance to spend six weeks preparing a special concert which will be presented on Tuesday, June 5th.
- **Saturday, May 5th at 7:00 pm** – Back by special request, the Brass Quintet will join organist Thom Robertson in a program of grand and heroic music for organ and brass.
- **Saturday, May 19th at 7:00 pm** – Another repeat! The Old-Fashioned Hymn-Sing and Ice Cream Social returns another year. Here's a treat for both of your palates!
- **Sunday, May 20th at 4:00 pm** – Evensong at Christ Church in Old Town, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Episcopal Church in Virginia. The Grace Church choirs will join with choirs from Christ Church, St. Mary's in Arlington, and Emmanuel to sing a special service of choral Evening Prayer.

— Thom Robertson, Music Director

Journey to Adulthood 2007

Every group of young people has its own identity. Sometimes that personality comes out quickly, hits the ground running and never stops moving during the life of the group. Other times, it is a moving target that morphs and contracts and tries on different personas, depending on who is present and what the members are doing. Both systems are normal, both work in helping teens get through all the dramas and traumas of high school.

Our current J2A group falls into the second category; with three members away at boarding school and five different local schools represented, the group is journeying forward in a very fluid way. The adults who work and play with them will tell you that this kind of a process yields bonds that may not be visible, but are unbreakable nonetheless. This group has a sense of purpose even while it is noncommittal. It displays tremendous humor and, at times, amazing vulnerabilities. They are constantly rewarding us with their observations about life.

When we went to Richmond, we asked them to come up with a Bible story to match the landmarks they had to locate. For example, when we stopped by St. John's, site of Patrick Henry's famous declaration, one member stated, "Well, Patrick Henry said "Give me liberty or give me death," and Jesus died to give us all liberty." Neatly put, don't you think? On that same adventure we went to the Jefferson Hotel, warned the group that we were about to enter a five-star hotel and asked whether anyone knew what that meant. We were told (and accepted) that it means the group had to be on "five-star behavior." That phrase is now shorthand for us all.

Now the rubber meets the road. During March we will focus on exploring what we believe about our faith and why, as part of the process towards confirmation on Easter Eve. The diocesan youth program—Parish Youth Ministries (PYM)—is offering a Saturday event with Bishop Lee and Bishop Jones that promises to be both fun and meaningful. After that, we will have an overnight full of faith exploratory exercises, activities, and games to challenge built-in assumptions and physical dexterity!

After all this, the group will have even more ways to define itself. Look for the new personalities to emerge over the next two years!

— Chrissie Crosby

Bishop Lee to Celebrate at the Easter Vigil

Easter Vigil 2007 will be Bishop Lee's 12th visitation for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation since his consecration as Bishop on May 19, 1984, at the National Cathedral. Of these 12 visits, five have been for the Easter Vigil. In fact, over the last 22 years Bishops have celebrated the Easter Vigil 14 times at Grace Church.

Bishop Lee has visited Grace for many other events including the Sesquicentennial Celebration in June 2005, the dedication and blessing of our new and renovated facilities in December 1994, and for Lenten Monday night programs.

Prior to becoming Bishop, Peter Lee was Rector at The Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, NC, from 1971 through 1984, where Father Malm first met him in 1972. He and the parish sponsored Father Malm for ordination in 1975.

It is with joy and excitement that we once again welcome Bishop Lee to celebrate with us for what may be his last time as Bishop. What better way to show appreciation for his leadership and ministry!

— *Barry Barr*

PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 1

All Palm Sunday liturgies include the blessing and distribution of palms

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Choral Eucharist with procession and dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel

9:00 am La Santa Eucaristía with procession

11:15 am Choral Eucharist with procession and dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Monday, April 2

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 3

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 4

7:00 am Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm Choral Tenebrae for congregation and choir

Maundy Thursday, April 5

7:00 am Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm Liturgy of the Day, foot washing, procession to the Altar of Repose, stripping of the altar, Prayer Watch (continues all night). Child care will be available for children ages 6 weeks through first grade in the nursery from 7:15 pm through the end of the service.

Good Friday, April 6

6:30 am Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

12:00 noon The Stations of the Cross

1:00 pm Silence

1:30 pm Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel, Veneration of the Cross, and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

3:00 pm Concluding Prayers

5:30 pm Children's Liturgy

7:30 pm Tenebrae

Holy Saturday, April 7

9:00 am Morning Prayer

8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter with service of light, lessons and collects, Holy Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The Rt. Rev. Peter J. Lee, Bishop of Virginia, Presiding and Preaching. The Vigil service is followed by parish Agapé celebration in the Auditorium. Child care will be available for children ages 6 weeks through first grade in the nursery from 7:30 pm through the end of the service; there will be no child care for the Agapé as all ages are welcome.

Easter Day, April 8

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Festival Eucharist

9:00 am La Santa Eucaristía

11:15 am Holy Baptism and Festival Eucharist

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist

March Birthdays

3/1	Eugene Alford	3/18	Emma Carter
3/1	Yanira Rodriguez	3/18	Aidan Lyons
3/1	Stephanie Scharnweber	3/18	Grace Lyons
3/1	Peter Zuidema	3/18	Michele Portch
3/2	Mary Ridley	3/19	Ovidio Flores
3/2	Shirley Tyler	3/19	Valerie Fowler
3/3	Gladys Burcham	3/19	Barry Smoot
3/3	Beau Grimes	3/20	Barry Barr
3/3	Vi Legere	3/20	Gail Miller
3/3	Cindy MacIntyre	3/21	Taylor Ballenger
3/3	Caroline Olsson	3/21	Madison Busker
3/3	Alice Russell	3/21	Victor Crepeau
3/3	Tyler Smith	3/21	Kristin Moore
3/7	Meghan Cummings	3/22	Kathleen Arthur
3/7	Chuck Dodd	3/22	John Boulanger
3/7	Sarah Martin	3/22	Dawna Gardner
3/7	Jeannine Raymond	3/22	Jeff Gustafson
3/8	Emma Lundgren	3/22	Paige Medley
3/8	Ada Rairigh	3/22	Liz Rugaber
3/8	Eddi Rairigh	3/22	Suzanne Warren
3/9	Laura Gaines	3/22	Ethan Woodhead
3/9	Scott Knudsen	3/23	Mia Giacomo
3/9	Greg Ruff	3/23	John Stewart Gnorski
3/10	Gregory Cox	3/23	Patricia Hansen
3/10	Sophia Jordan	3/23	Easter Thompson
3/10	Renata Kamakura	3/26	Lisa Doelp
3/11	Joyce Stancil	3/26	Georgia Gillette
3/11	Karen Wille	3/26	Patt Sullivan-Perry
3/13	Scott Call	3/27	Audrey Adlis
3/13	Virginia Holsinger	3/27	Ashley Metz
3/14	Alexandra Jordan	3/27	Jessica Trejo
3/14	David Rainey	3/28	Jo Belser
3/14	Liz Saalfeld	3/28	Alice Thompson
3/14	Mai-Lan Smith	3/30	Brad Bergmann
3/15	Christian Flores	3/30	Samuella Hunt
3/16	Jean Centers	3/30	James Murphy
3/16	Michael Key	3/30	Marianne Swearingen
3/16	Molly McKay	3/30	John Undeland
3/17	Jeremy Barr	3/30	Dottie Williams
3/17	John Hazard	3/31	Ben Miles
3/17	Swep Nelson	3/31	Kate Schneider
3/18	Betsy Bamford		

Parish Notes

St. Andrew's Guild and the Evangelism Committee Welcome Newcomers

Members of the St. Andrew's Guild and the Evangelism Committee welcomed fifteen newcomers (and three infants) to a newcomers' reception in Merrow Hall on February 2. These receptions are held three times a year and play an important role in the warm welcome we seek to offer to those who are looking for a church home and faith community. Using Merrow Hall was a break from recent practice and allowed us to offer child care and easy parking in the never-certain winter season. The next reception will take place in May or June. To any newcomers reading this whom we might have missed, please contact Khacki or John Berry at 703-486-6833 or john.berry@gracealex.org.

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(continued from page 5)

The names of the honorees are engraved on a plaque which hangs on the wall outside the rector's office. The plaque is also inscribed with the following scriptural reference, which characterizes the commitment, contributions and spiritual underpinning of the body of honorees.

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on his law day and night. They are life trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season. (Psalm 1).

We need your flower donations

You are invited to participate in decorating the church with beautiful Easter flowers. Please complete this form, clip it out, and return it with a check for \$35.00 to the parish office or place it in the Sunday offering. The check should be designated for Easter flowers and made payable to Grace Episcopal Church. Please return your form and check no later than Monday, March 19. Questions? Call Liz Saalfeld, Grace Church's Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 703-425-8129.

Please circle one: "In memory of" or "In thanksgiving for"

Please print the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Easter bulletin:

Given by (enter the name or names of the donors exactly as you want them to appear): _____

Check enclosed: \$ _____

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Outreach Mission Subcommittee

During the past months, the Outreach Mission Subcommittee has been busy writing guidelines for mission trips sponsored by Grace Church. In its March meeting, the Vestry will consider these guidelines as well as two proposals for 2007 summer trips to Honduras and New Orleans.

Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest in mission at the annual parish meeting. We will contact you soon to ask how you would like to participate in this important ministry. We welcome everyone — whether you want to travel or become involved in other ways. Please join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 pm in the St. John Room. For more information e-mail

ana.mcglynn@gracealex.org or
deborah.crabtree@gracealex.org.

Hey Mom! Does this sound like you?

What does God expect of me as a mother? How does being a mom today differ from past generations? Can motherhood be spiritual? What does the Bible say about raising a family? How can I balance everything? What about me? Want to hear other moms' experiences and thoughts about motherhood? This is what the Spiritual Moms group is all about.

Can't make the morning group meetings? There's an EVENING Spiritual Moms group too! Please join us in the library for discussion and fellowship every other Thursday evening from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (check the calendar on the bulletin insert or weekly calendar on the web for the actual dates). Childcare is provided in the nursery.

For more information please e-mail natalie.page@gracealex.org

Parish Staff

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Pedro Hernández Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2007

Mary Hix Exec. Comm. Member-at-Large
Mike Jones Senior Warden
Vola Lawson La Gracia
Chris Rugaber Youth
Barbara Sherlock Outreach

Class of 2008

Jo Belser Register
Cindy Diehl Pastoral Care
Jane Rosman Worship
Richard Smith TNT
Jan Spence Junior Warden

Class of 2009

Khacki Berry Evangelism
Anne Caputo Fellowship
Linda Durand Treasurer
Eleanor Reed Day School Board
Phil Smith

Alternates

Michelle Cox Assistant Junior Warden
Nat Ames

Non-vestry Program Coordinators

June Huber Communications
Donna Triplett Education
John Berry Evangelism
Ruth Corlett Fellowship
Barbara Read Outreach
Nancy Robinson Pastoral Care
Howell Medley Stewardship
Jenny Wolff TNT
Jeff Gustafson Worship
David Crosby Youth

Grace Notes

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From Children's Ministries

New Resource Room

The Children's Ministries Resource Room is open! This office on the second floor (formerly Thom Roberston's office) has been transformed into a space for children, parents, and Sunday School teachers. It will be open on Sunday mornings and at other times by arrangement. The Resource Room includes books, music and other materials for exploring the Christian story; materials may be used in the room or checked out and taken home. The room features a mural painted by the Rite-13 class and a special corner for children to explore. Please stop by and visit one Sunday soon!

Sunday School and Lent

During Lent, our Sunday School classes will be observing the season in several ways. We continue the tradition of mite boxes; this year, each Sunday School class will decide together where they would like their collection to be donated. Each class will also take on a service project one Sunday morning during Lent as a way of reflecting on Christ's call to serve others.

Lenten Morning

On Saturday, March 31, Anne Turner and Ashley Metz will collaborate on two parallel events.

- Mother Turner will offer a retreat for women on the theme of "Coming Home to God." The retreat will focus on preparation for Holy Week and is meant for women at all ages and stages of life. The morning will include ample time for quiet and reflection.
- Ashley Metz will offer an activity morning for children aged 3-7, featuring games and crafts designed to explore the Holy Week and Easter stories.

Both events will last from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Nursery care will be provided for children from six weeks to three years. Please call the parish office to register for the retreat and/or the activity morning.

— *The Rev. Anne Michele Turner,*
Assistant Rector
March 2007