

The Means of Grace

The Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church

"Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chisled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it."

2 Corinthians 3:2-3



March 2010

Sundays

8:00 am HE Rite I
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am HE Rite II
11:30 am Coffee Time

Holy Week

March 28 Palm Sunday—
Palm Procession

March 29-31

Monday-Wednesday

6:00 pm Evening Prayer

April 1 Maundy Thursday

5:45pm Seder Meal
7:00pm Eucharist and
washing of the
feet

April 2 Good Friday

11:00am Stations of the
Cross
12:00 Good Friday
Liturgy
7:00pm Good Friday
Liturgy

April 4 Easter Sunday

6:00am Sunrise Vigil
7:00am Easter Breakfast
8:30am Holy Eucharist
Rite I
10:30am Holy Eucharist
RITE II
11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

What is a sabbatical? and Why is Father Jack taking one?

A sabbatical is a spiritual discipline based on the biblical idea of the Sabbath day and the Sabbath year. It is a disciplined time of rest that deeply entrusts God with the business of managing the universe without us for a period of time. It is a discipline of trust and rest. That is the theology of the Sabbath. The practice usually includes other disciplines like study, silence, pilgrimage and celebration.

The Diocese of Upper South Carolina has a formal policy on sabbaticals that has evolved over the past decade from strongly encouraging sabbaticals to requiring them in all letters of agreement between rectors and parishes. In that vein, Fr. Jack's letter of agreement with Grace Church requires a sabbatical within the next eighteen months. He will be able to combine his sabbatical with his annual vacation for a total of sixteen weeks. The sabbatical begins April 26th and ends August 15th, a time period that is relatively slower than the rest of the Church year.

What will Fr. Jack do while on sabbatical? The heart of his experience will be a formal pilgrimage on an ancient pilgrimage route. The Camino de Santiago de Compostela is a 500 mile path across northern Spain that Fr. Jack will be walking with his son, Ben over a six week period from May 29th to July 10th. This pilgrimage is laced with the history-laden tradition and discipline of being displaced and wandering with other pilgrims, and seeing what God gives along the way. In addition to the pilgrimage, Fr. Jack's sabbatical will consist of study, a silent retreat, and plenty of home time with his family.

In terms of the life of the parish, a sabbatical every five to seven years gives the priest and the congregation a chance to step back and consider how they want to go forward together. It encourages clergy to stay put, rather than to go looking for imaginary greener pastures. But primarily, it is a time of Sabbath and the unique blessings God has worked into that kind of time since the beginning of creation.

Our life as a parish will continue full speed ahead in Fr. Jack's absence; we will continue to worship together, to encourage each other and to care for each other. Sr. Warden Julie Bates and the vestry will act on Fr. Jack's behalf in making necessary day to day decisions and will be prepared no matter what occasion might arise. Fr. Tom Davis and Fr. David Bridgforth will be at Grace on Sundays while Fr. Jack is away. In case of a funeral while Fr. Jack is out of the country Mother Susan (Jack's wife) as well as Fr. Tom or Fr. David are available if needed. If Fr. Jack is in the country at the time of death or tragedy, he would of course be available, as always.

How should we respond to Fr. Jack's sabbatical? Pray for Fr. Jack and his family especially during the many weeks that they will be separated from one another. Pray for the vestry, especially Julie Bates, and support their leadership with your encouragement and consistent presence. Don't take a vacation away from Church. Sabbatical time is also a spiritual discipline for the Parish to become even more alive and more involved and more deeply in love with God.

Peace,

The Sabbatical Committee

Julie Bates, Nathan Cox, Melissa Langford, Herb Purvis and Tom Hancock

NEWCOMERS



Please welcome Carroll (Pete) and Kathy Worthington to Grace Church. The Worthington's moved to the area in 2002 after many years in Connecticut where they both worked for Aetna Insurance Co. Pete was in Sales and Financial Services and Kathy was in Claims. They live on Lake Keowee in the Keowee Key community. Pete graduated from St. Lawrence University and Kathy from Rutgers University. They have four children; two sons and one daughter in Connecticut, one son in Greenville, SC and four grand children in Connecticut. Pete and Kathy enjoy playing Bridge and searching through genealogy records. Pete is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Kathy is certified in South Carolina as a resource for health insurance questions. The Worthington's enjoy their three Bichon Frise dogs and a parrot. Pete and Kathy participated in Father Jack's bible study class last fall.

Matching on Haiti Contributions—One of the members of our diocese has agreed to match dollar for dollar all contributions to Bread and Water up to \$200,000. We need to publicize this as strongly and widely as possible.

Please designate your checks to the Gifts of Bread and Water-Challenge and make them to the Diocese of Upper SC. God has given us an opportunity to “act in the world as the body of Christ” and to change Lives. **The Diocesan address is:**
The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina
115 Marion Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Twenty's Thirty's and More—if you are interested in joining this group, please contact Gretchen Foster—328-9292 or Vanessa Rettinger—376-6980.

Tip of the Verge !

The Etiquette of Worship

by Barbara Scott

The courtesies expected during our Sunday morning worship is the topic of this month's column. I was discussing manners and courtesy with an 85-year old gentleman recently. He lamented that we seem to have skipped a generation (or two) of teaching – especially by example – the basic skills of good manners and common courtesy.

What does this have to do with Sunday morning worship at Grace Church, you might ask? Let's acknowledge why we go to church in the first place -- to worship and receive the grace of God.

In order to exhibit the respect due our acts of worship, it seems only natural to extend some courtesy to the liturgy itself. There are certain actions that take place during the service that have an elevated sense of importance and holiness to us. During those times, it would seem discourteous to be moving about or getting up and leaving the pews.

The ushers at church know without a doubt when it is appropriate for latecomers to enter the service and be seated. It is acceptable to enter and find a seat while the congregation is standing during the song of praise (page 356 in the Book of Common Prayer) or immediately following (never during) The Collect of the Day while the Lector is making his/her way to the lectern to read the first lesson. One should not move about while the Holy Scripture is being read. No one should enter or leave during the reading of the Gospel or during any actions accompanying that reading.

The Sermon follows the reading of the Gospel. At Grace Church, we are blessed by exceptionally good sermons that deserve our respect and attention. No parishioner should enter or leave the pew while the sermon is being preached.

If you are not in your seat by the time we affirm our faith by saying The Nicene Creed (page 358 in the BCP), you have missed most of the preparation of mind and heart for the receiving of The Holy Eucharist. If you have not been seated by this time, you might want to stay in the Narthex of the church and follow along until time to exchange The Peace (page 360 in the BCP). Then take a seat during announcement time.

One last thought – our younger parishioners (children) should certainly be able to make it for just over an hour without leaving during any part of the service for a potty break.

Emergencies being the exception, our rule of worship should include the honor due the liturgy – attention and respect. I think my elderly friend would agree.

This article was first published two years ago and is offered again by request.



Grace Notes

I'm excited to announce the slate of our guest musicians for our annual Lenten Lunchtime Concerts. On Thursday, March 4 the talented Anderson native Jay Taylor will amaze you with his phenomenal classical guitar. He can play everything from baroque to Flamenco. On Thursday March 11, Vance Jenkins, the organist from Buncombe Street UMC, Greenville will share his Lenten Meditations in art and music. This program uses sacred art with short meditations written by Dr. Jenkins while matching each selection with an appropriate piano accompaniment. On Thursday, March 18 we will host the Shape Note Community Worship Choir. This passionate group of singers are bringing back the oldest form of Southern sacred singing...It is a totally different and exciting sound from the usual harmonies we are accustomed to hearing. Finally, our last concert is by the brilliant organist David Turner from Christ Church Greenville playing the Lenten works of our beloved Robert J. Powell. Bob has been a part of music at Grace through his service music, choral and organ anthems and involvement with our dedicatory recitals in 2001. He is a real treasure to the Episcopal church and our close friend. Mark these dates and plan on staying for another delicious catered lunch by Pam Garrett. The cost of the lunch is \$6 (reservations recommended) The concerts begin at 12:15 and run around 35 minutes. This has become a popular Anderson tradition! I look forward to seeing you there.

Soli Deo Gloria

Bill

Celebration of the Soul!- GAMAC celebrates the Music of the Heart & Spirit—Enjoy the beautiful music of the Easter season with the GAMAC Choral & Orchestra! Presented at First Baptist Church in downtown Anderson, this performance will feature sacred works by Vivaldi, Mozart, Brahms and Handel. **Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$12 for students.** Call (864) 231-6147. This performance will be presented on **Friday, March 26, 2010 at 8 p.m.** in loving memory of Myrtle Eddins Gillespie and sponsored by her friends.

MEMORIALS

Received January 16, 2010 through February 15, 2010

In Memory of *Elizabeth Ducworth* to the Choir/Music Fund by:

Larry & Pat Larsen
Lily Roland Hall
Lena B. Chapman
Jerry & Gill Powell
Betty Antonakos
Bryan & Stacy Whiffen

In Memory of *Elizabeth Ducworth* to the Pastoral Care Fund by:

Donnie & Joanie Roberts

In Memory of *Josephine Guiseppi* by:

Lily Roland Hall

In Memory of *Josephine Guiseppi* to the Bread & Water-Haiti Relief by:

Donnie & Joannie Roberts

In Memory of *Barry Cutting* to the Bread & Water-Haiti Relief by:

Donnie & Joannie Roberts

In Memory of *Barry Cutting* by:

Bill & Pam White

In Memory of *Virginia Mae Banner* by:

Lucy Williams Bowman

In Memory of *Beverly Cushman and Marian Knobel* to Bread & Water Haiti Relief by:

McDougald Funeral Home

If donors prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate this with your Memorial or Honorarium.

HONORARIUMS

Received January 16, 2010 through February 15, 2010

In Honor of *Lynn Brown* for her loving care of others to the

**SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL BBQ
OCTOBER 30, 2010**

The ladies of Grace Church will meet on **Monday, March 1, 2010 for St. Catherine's Guild.** The meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The hostesses for this month are Barbara Nichols and Phyllis Crosby. Don't miss this meeting, ladies, much fun and many surprises are sure to be had. See you there!

BOILED PEANUTS (something tasty to chew on)
Two poems from series on prayer by Father Jack

NOTE ON SILENCE

There is no such thing
as silence. Listening
to sounds, radiating bands
of hearing. Further, then farther still.

We begin here, hear up close,
this skin touching this air.
Noise. The building has a life.
Distant steps, blowing vents.

Deeper still, breath and pulse,
fluid soundings of flesh.

Further, farther beyond
the windows, wind, rattling
branches, and angry wren.
Lonesome rushing of the street,
engines in the sky.

Still further and then
and then farther the sunlight
silence piercing, shattering
deafening, blinding
all hearing.

Celebrating the colors
in darkness, a midnight rainbow.
Playful radiance, fluid dance,
Tumbling without reference,
Random alphabet, wordless speaking,
Categories turning to stew and steam.

There is no such thing
as silence. Only ears being opened,
listening, listening
the breath,
the prayer.

PRAYER/TAKE ONE

Grasping swim
flailing upward from
the deep without air.
Chocking awake.
At home,
In bed.
It is night,
when dreams are forgotten.

I walk the floors,
around the house, listening.
Street lights casting picturing
frames of old carpets, the sofa,
books tables.

Rooms full of sleep
and breath. Our children,
my wife.

Which day will be the last one?
When that last breathing, that last seeing?
Grief reaches down
that unknown hallway
strangling my throat.

Laying back down,
in blankets of sadness.
Thankful for now,
this night. Lifting up
that day that will come,
ending these long nights.

Grace word of the month Confirmation

The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation, nor is Confirmation a prerequisite for receiving communion. Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the church (BCP, p. 298). Accordingly, Confirmation has been increasingly understood in terms of a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises. Some dioceses, including our diocese, require that candidates for Confirmation be at least sixteen years old to insure that the candidates are making a mature and independent affirmation of their faith. Candidates may have individual presenters who will support them in their Christian life by prayer and example. It is not necessary that the presenters be members of the clergy. The candidates reaffirm their renunciation of evil, and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of baptism. Those present in the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidates in their life in Christ. The bishop leads the congregation in renewing the baptismal covenant. The Prayers for the Candidates from the baptismal liturgy may be used as the Prayers for the Candidates for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation (BCP, p. 417). The bishop lays hands on each candidate for Confirmation. The BCP provides specific prayers to be said by the bishop for Confirmation, for Reception, and for Reaffirmation. The bishop may shake hands with those who are being received to welcome them into this communion, and the bishop may lay hands on them in blessing. The bishop may also bless those who reaffirm their baptismal vows.

The Bishop will visit Grace on October 3rd. If you are interested in confirmation, please contact Father Jack or Lyn Merchant. Classes for confirmation will begin in August.

EYC Events

February 26-28th DYLTIC rescheduled
March 7th EYC 5-7pm Cooper's host
March 12-14th Happening #63
March 21st EYC 5-7pm Baker's host
March 28th EYC 5-7pm Hancock's host

Christian Formation Notes

Lenten Meditation materials are available in the cloister. A few on-line meditations are available at d365.org

 [Episcopal Relief and Development](#), [St. Paul's Online](#)

April 4th Easter

No Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30 liturgy

Grace University

EYC and Christian Formation

Children and Youth

Children age 4 through fifth grade will begin Marked as Christ's Own Forever on March 7th. **Parents** be sure to **pick up information** about this lesson in your child's class.

Middle School meets in the classroom beyond the Parlor and is using the "Attitudes" part of the Living the Good News curriculum.

High School class meets in the library classroom and is using Movies and TV that Teach.

Adult options

Sunday morning 9:15 am

The Gospel of Mark meets in the Parish Hall. Discussions led by Jim Boyer and John Woodson.

Episcopal Christianity: Sundays 9:15 in Rector's Study, starting February 21-March 28—Learn about the basics of Christian belief and practice from the Episcopal perspective as we study both our Baptismal Covenant and catechism. The class is for everybody and especially those interested in joining Grace Church, being confirmed or baptized or to have a child baptized.

Lenten Wednesday Night Dinners

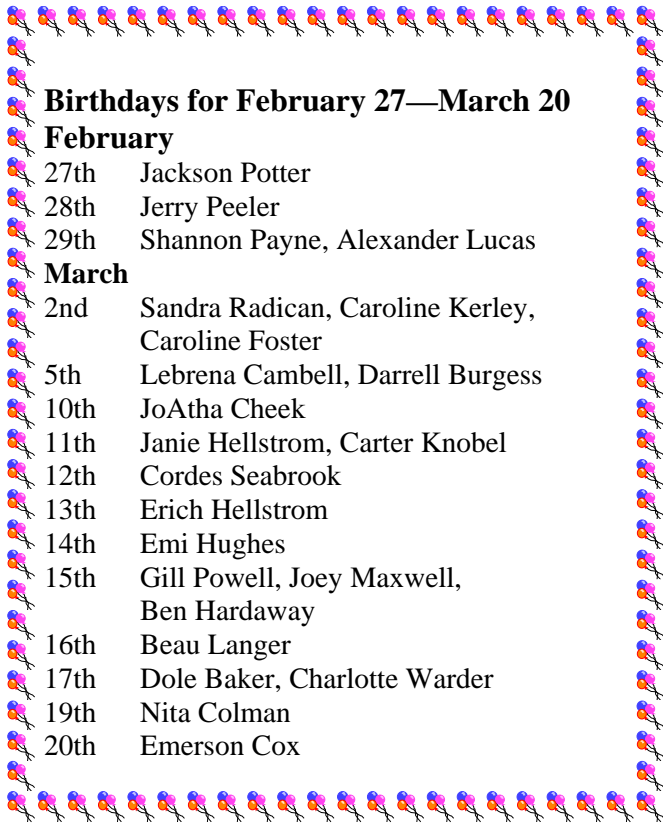
Feb. 24	Grace BBQ or Homemade Lentil Soup
March 3	Black Beans and Rice or Homemade Tomato Soup
March 10	Casserole Surprise
March 17	Homemade Potato or Split Pea Soup
March 24	Homemade Chicken or Vegetable Soup
April 1	Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

All proceeds from these meals go to charities. The March 3 dinner will be for Haiti as a medical team from Anderson will be going down the following week. All meals will include fruit salad and sandwiches.

OUTREACH NOTE:

Meals on Wheels has been given a challenge grant from the Stringer Foundation. Any money donated to Meals on Wheels before March 1, 2010 will be matched by the foundation. Also, Meals on Wheels has begun a program to generate income that provides prepared dishes for you to pick up on your way home. One must call ahead and order. For more information contact Meals on Wheels.

MILESTONES & MEMORIALS



Birthdays for February 27—March 20

February

- 27th Jackson Potter
- 28th Jerry Peeler
- 29th Shannon Payne, Alexander Lucas

March

- 2nd Sandra Radican, Caroline Kerley, Caroline Foster
- 5th Lebrina Cambell, Darrell Burgess
- 10th JoAtha Cheek
- 11th Janie Hellstrom, Carter Knobel
- 12th Cordes Seabrook
- 13th Erich Hellstrom
- 14th Emi Hughes
- 15th Gill Powell, Joey Maxwell, Ben Hardaway
- 16th Beau Langer
- 17th Dole Baker, Charlotte Warder
- 19th Nita Colman
- 20th Emerson Cox

Prayers

Pray for healing and comfort

- Doni Rhinehart
- Julie Kent
- Stuart M. Barnes-cancer
- John Bostater
- Karlann Bostater -chronic leukemia
- Dotti D'ambrosio-widow
- Clarence and Martha Smith-health issues
- Bob Thomas-heart attack
- Horace B. Bladon- Fr. Jack's Grandfather
- Bill Cheshire
- John Josey
- Leif Jacobsen-bone marrow cancer
- Dewey Pearson
- Barb Flagel
- Robin Speer
- Rebecca Veeck-health issues
- Jennifer Gaffney-health issues
- Glenn Jacobus -bone cancer
- David Rutledge
- Jean Benson-recovering for pneumonia

Requested by

- Hugh Osburn
- Kathy Bostater
- Kathy Bostater
- Baillie Brown
- Baillie Brown
- Baillie Brown
- Fr. Jack

- Greta Jacobsen

- Ellie Cooper
- Ellie Cooper
- Martha Gregory
- Anne Radnor
- Fr. Jack

Expectant Families: Matthew & Lauren Cheek, Nathan & Amy Cox, Carey & Erin Hughes.

Parish Family Weekend—April 16-18

\$199 for adults, children attend free

We will gather, learn and work! Sign up with Joe Maxwell or Lyn Merchant.

Monthly Stewardship Report for January

Budget for 2010	\$ 315,516
Needed Monthly	\$ 26,293
Received January	\$ 21,423
Received through January (including prepaids)	\$ 36,065
Needed through January	\$ 26,293
Diocese Assessment for 2010	\$ 48,501
Assessment Paid through January	\$ 4,042



Easter Flower Memorials

If you would like to place flowers in the church in celebration of the Resurrection, complete the form and return to the parish office **before MARCH 21**. Minimum contribution for flowers is \$20.

Memory of _____

Honor of _____

Given by _____

Amount enclosed _____

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