

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



February 2010

Sundays

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

What Difference Does It Make?

We recently celebrated our year end for Grace Church with reports, statistics and budgets. There was great delight in the amount of money that was disbursed to charities by Grace. Although the amount was significant, it never seems to be enough particularly in light of recent events in Haiti. It would be very easy to develop the attitude of "What difference does it make what I do?"

If I may, this is what difference it makes. Joining together as a congregation, we have helped organizations like:

Meals on Wheels to deliver a nutritious meal to over 600 people a day

Anderson Sunshine House to provide 5 quality shelters to homeless families with children (not to mention programming to assist the families in getting back on their own)

Anderson Interfaith Ministries to meet the ever increasing demands for food, financial assistance, and training of Anderson County's poor (this includes providing 168 families with fresh food through the Manna truck program),

Clean Start to provide showers, laundry service and counseling to over 80 homeless people three times a week (in a building that they now own thanks to groups like Grace)

Anderson Soup Kitchen expand their ability to feed a nutritious lunch to an ever increasing population of hungry people

Habitat for Humanity to build the Apostle's house with the help of other churches to provide the freedom of home ownership for a deserving family. (This house is nearing completion).

Safe Harbor provide shelter to battered women

Calvary Home for Children provide a Christian home for children and ensures that siblings remain together.

Haiti Bread and Water Campaign to provide necessary funding to replace a worn out water system that is critical to the survival of Cange and the medical facilities and to develop self sustaining agricultural programs.

Now we are faced with an enormous challenge in Haiti. The events in Haiti are not about a natural disaster but rather poverty. An earthquake in San Francisco of similar intensity resulted in 63 deaths as compared to the estimated 100,000 deaths in Haiti. The need is money for water, food, shelter and basic medical needs. The focus is on Port-au-Prince. Donating to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund is a good way to provide assistance. We are encouraging you to give to the Bread and Water Campaign as the resources of Cange and its medical facilities are being strained with needs from Port-au-Prince and there is much work to be done. The work of recovery and reconstruction remains. Long term goals will obviously be amended but they cannot be abandoned. I'm reminded of the story of the little girl throwing the beached starfish back into the ocean one at a time. The man watching told her that there was no way she could make a difference as there were thousands of stranded starfish. The little girl bent down and picked up another starfish throwing it back into the life giving ocean and said: "It made a difference to that one!"

Jim Boyer

NEWCOMERS



Please welcome Susan Anderson. Susan moved to Anderson in August, 2009 from Punta Gorda, Florida. Susan grew up in Grosse Pointe, Mi. where she still has family. She lived in Chicago for 26 years. She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1972 with a B.S. in Education. Her professional career was as a banker, an investment bond specialist and stock broker. She was a realtor in Florida and spends her spare time playing golf and tennis. Susan was first introduced to Anderson in 2006 when she visited a fellow realtor who had moved from Florida. She fell in love with Anderson and bought and renovated a house on Glenwood Avenue in North Anderson. She has two dogs, Callie and Maggie (West Highland Terriers), who are her constant companions. Presently, Susan is starting a photography business in Anderson with two different focuses: A Portrait, Wedding, and Pet Photographer and A Home Inventory Specialist. Susan joined Grace Church shortly after her arrival and has loved everything about it.

The ladies of St. Catherine's Guild will meet on Monday, February 1, 2010. The meeting will be in the parlor at 2:00 p.m. The hostesses for this month are: Barbara Davis and Betty Antonakos. We will be listening to a CD of Susan Boyle, the second place finisher in Great Britain's Idol Competition.

Contributions to Haiti relief

Contributions earmarked for the diocesan "Bread and Water Fund-Rescue" will be designated to support the immediate work of the hospital in Cange and to insure the ongoing functioning of the Cange water supply. These may be sent to:

EDUSC
1115 Marion Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
**MARK THE CHECKS BREAD & WATER -
RESCUE, CANGE, HAITI**

Tip of the Verge !

Barbara Scott, Verger

The 40 days of Lent

Our Lenten observation begins this year on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Why 40 days of Lent? While Lent is not required anywhere in the scriptures, for most of the last two thousand years, Christians have practiced the custom of observing Lent. Jesus fasted and was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Lent, then, is our time of fasting, prayer, temptation and repentance. We are preparing for the death and Resurrection of Jesus.

If you consult your liturgical calendar, you will notice that Lent is actually 46 days rather than 40. That is because Sundays are not counted as days of discipline and self-restraint. Sundays remain days of celebration. So each Sunday we are allowed to suspend our Lenten disciplines and celebrate.

In every case, Lent is a time for serious, disciplined self-examination, a time to be spent in intensive prayer and repentance. We begin that discipline with the Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday. We strip the sanctuary (the area enclosed by the altar rail) of all flowers, elaborate candles, and celebratory colors during Lent. This is said to help us turn inward and examine ourselves, even as it reminds us of the dark and colorless Sabbath day when Jesus lay dead in the tomb.

MEMORIALS

Received December 16, 2009 through January 15, 2010

In Memory of *Pete Tjouoras* by:

Betty Antonakos

In Memory of *Brock Boyd's Mother* by:

Betty Antonakos

HONORARIUMS

Received December 16, 2009 through January 15, 2010

In Honor of *Barbara Scott's Birthday* by:

Lily Roland Hall

In Honor of *Lena Chapman's Birthday* by:

Lily Roland Hall

In Honor of *Michelle Ricketson's Birthday* by:

Lily Roland Hall

Grace Word of the Month

Lent

Lent is a season of preparation for Easter with fasting, penitence, almsgiving, prayer and study.

Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencton* meaning “spring” or “lengthening” from the time of year when the days grow long. The season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th this year, and ends with the Easter Triduum- Maundy Thursday through Easter Day - covering 40 days excluding Sundays which are mini feast of the Resurrection. Some believe that the word “Lent” may derive from the Latin *lentare*, which means “to bend”. This understanding reinforces a sense of Lent as a time of the preparation for personal and collective transformation. Lent becomes the time to look truthfully at ourselves and make changes. The liturgical colors of purple and unbleached linen are used in vestments and altar hangings.

Some of the festal elements of the liturgy may be omitted such as the alleluias and the Gloria in excel sis and the furnishings may be austere.

Save the Date... Kanuga Family Parish Weekend April 16-18

Christian formation Update

Children Age 4 through 5th grade will begin on February 7th (9:15 until 10:10) a new workshop lesson on “The Mystery of Easter”

Youth Week January 31-February 7th

This is the youth’s fundraising week. Funds will be used for youth outreach as well as scholarships to diocesan events, chaperone expenses and to offset some cost for various other outings

Sunday January 31st Lunch after the service Chicken, baked and fried, with macaroni and cheese, green beans, salad and dessert. Cost is \$6

Wednesday February 3rd Wednesday night dinner with Hamburgers, hotdogs, fries, salads and dessert. Cost \$6

Sunday February 7th Souper Bowl of Caring – make a donation of cans of food (any non perishable) or cash. All these will be donated to AIM and the Soup Kitchen. We will be taking donations all week.

Sunday February 7th Super Bowl Subs \$5.
Thanks for your SUPPORT!!

Grace University

EYC and Christian Formation

Children and Youth

Children age 4 through fifth grade began on January 10 a new workshop on **What’s Special About My Church? 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.

Father Matthew Presents the Sacraments - January 17—February 14

Meeting in classroom beside the Parish Administrator’s office. Led by Melissa Langford.

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.

ANNUAL SOUP LUNCHEON



Thursday January 28, 2010
11:30 am—2:00 pm

Volunteers needed, please call
Dena Cullen 222-9425

MILESTONES & MEMORIALS



Birthdays for January 26—February 23rd

January

- 26th Anthony Gugnoni
- 29th Vylene Purvis, Maggie Ricketson
- 31st Brooke Jenkins

February

- 1st Jack Hardaway, Caroline Langford
- 3rd Judy Fletcher
- 4th Wesa Lund, Leanne Ramey
- 7th Nancy Wactor, Clay Crenshaw
- 10th Phil Leigh
- 11th Nathan Cox
- 12th Nancy Welch
- 15th Stuart Knobel
- 16th David Bradham
- 17th Mark Rowland, Sarah Whiffen
- 19th Etta Harrison
- 21st Gina Hellstrom, Joey Benson
- 23rd Don Shaver, Tom Hancock

“Our Prayers are asked for:

Healing: Doni Rhinehart, Julie Kent, Stuart M. Barnes, John Bostater, Karlann Bostater, Dotti D’ambrosio, Clarence and Martha Smith, Bob Thomas, Margie Osburn, Horace B. Bladon, Bill Cheshire, John Josey, Leis Jacobsen, Jillian Sparks, Dewey Pearson, Barb Flagel, Robin Speer.

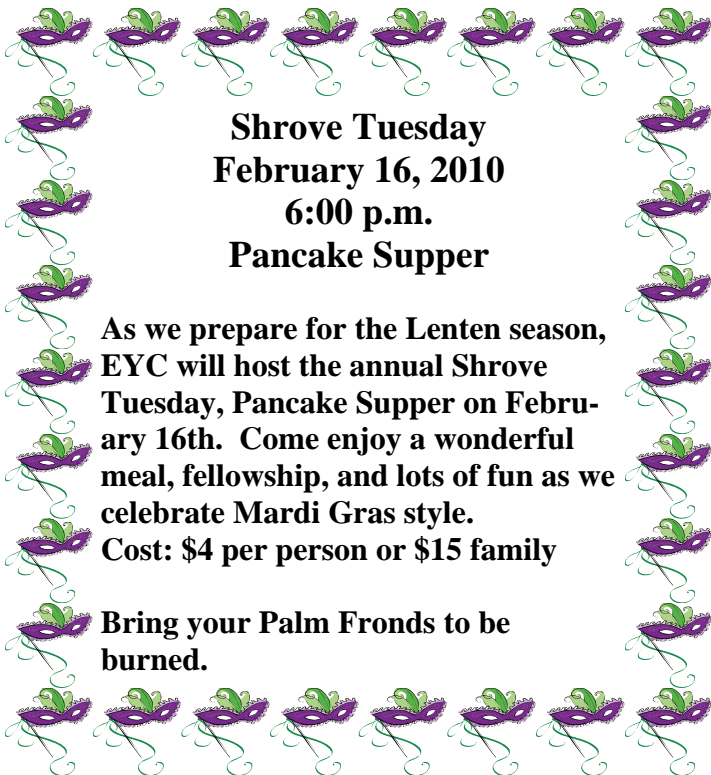
Expectant Families: Matthew & Lauren Cheek, Nathan & Amy Cox, Carey & Erin Hughes.

Monthly Stewardship Report for December

Budget for 2009	\$ 303,409
Needed Monthly	\$ 25,284
Received December	\$ 40,907
Received through December (including prepaids)	\$ 307,294
Needed through December	\$ 303,409
Diocese Assessment for 2009	\$ 51,698
Assessment Paid through December	\$ 51,698

Ash Wednesday Liturgies, February 17, 2010

7:00 AM
12:00 NOON
7:00 PM



Shrove Tuesday February 16, 2010 6:00 p.m. Pancake Supper

As we prepare for the Lenten season, EYC will host the annual Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper on February 16th. Come enjoy a wonderful meal, fellowship, and lots of fun as we celebrate Mardi Gras style.
Cost: \$4 per person or \$15 family

Bring your Palm Fronds to be burned.

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