

Grace Episcopal Church  
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# *Grace Church Chronicle*

March 2010

Volume 24, Issue 3

## **Keeping the Covenant**

Dear Grace Church Family,

We are now well into our Lenten observance and we may well be wondering what all this is really about. A former colleague of mine at Yale Divinity School once suggested that it is really all about our covenant with God. What you ask is a covenant? If you check your dictionary you will discover that the first definition of covenant is, “a formal, solemn and binding agreement”. In this case, the agreement is between God and each of us as God’s people. The notion of this kind of covenant between God and human kind goes back to the earliest history of the Hebrew people. The first covenant of record occurs when Yahweh covenants with Noah not to destroy all life on earth with another flood. The sign of this covenant is the rainbow that appears in the sky and has ever since been a sign of God’s goodness and protection. Later in the story of Genesis, God covenants with Abram (Abraham) to give him more descendents than there are stars in the sky if only Abram will be faithful to God alone. This obedience by Abraham will later be tested when God asks him to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham’s only son. As the story of the people unfolds, the next great covenantal moment comes when, having been freed from bondage in Egypt, the Hebrew people agree to worship and follow Yahweh alone and to be governed by the commandments given to Moses. We all know how hard a struggle that turned out to be. As history of the people of God continues to unfold, it is filled with the challenges of abiding by the covenant. Every time the people drift away, God sends a prophet to call them back to the way of the covenant. This works for a while but the drift begins again as the people forget the agreement that they have made with Yahweh.

As we come into the times of Jesus, we are reminded early on that Jesus has come to establish a new covenant. This new covenant strengthens the relationship with God through a recasting of the covenantal relationship that grounds it not in a process of judgment and atonement but in the reality of the dynamic of love. Even though Jesus is to seal this new covenant with the sacrifice of his life and the gift of the resurrection, there is still no guarantee that God’s people will walk the path they are called to follow. The history of the church is filled with examples of our failure to meet the expectations of the new covenant to love one another as God loves us. God does not abandon us in the midst of our struggle to observe the covenant but continually encourages and nurtures us as we seek to do that which God calls us to be about.

My friend would say that this is really what Lent is about. It is our annual opportunity to reflect on what we need to do to reconcile ourselves to God and to seek the renewal and repentance necessary to refresh our covenantal journey. All of us are people of the covenant: a process of adoption by God that begins with baptism and of which we are reminded every time we participate in a baptism (as we will do later this month for Tegan McGraw) or participate in the Easter Vigil. The baptismal covenant reminds us of our own very personal relationship with the God who loves us. Lent offers us the opportunity to do the work needed to refresh the covenant and to recommit ourselves to being God’s people at work in God’s world at this time and in our lives as individuals and as a gathered community of faith. It is an exciting opportunity, a challenge that is within our reach and a reminder of who we are as people marked by God’s love.

I wish all of us a productive and holy Lent.

David+

## Holy Week Schedule:

- Tenebrae 7:30 PM
- Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM
- Good Friday 7:30 PM
- Holy Saturday 7:30 PM
- Easter Sunday 8 AM, 10 AM

## World Day of Prayer

11 AM Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 465 Park Ave., Windsor - All are welcome!

## Scot Symphonic Band Concert

On March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM, the Church is co-sponsoring with the Highland Dance Group, the Scot Symphonic Band. The band is composed of 90 musicians representing all areas of The College of Wooster, Ohio. The members of the band are about 70% non-music majors. They come from all four classes, 17 states, and represent just about every area of professional interest. Some of them continue to study their instruments in college, but many do not. They are basically a group of young people who enjoy music and want to belong to performing ensemble.

Clad in Dress MacLeod tartan kilts, this colorful musical group from Ohio features a Bagpipe and Drum Corps and Highland Dancers. A Scottish uniform was selected because of the Scottish Presbyterian heritage of the college, and the pipe band and dancers have been a part of the Scot Band since its early years.

The band's repertoire is selected from standard band literature and is planned for a variety of tastes. Most of it is "serious," but the program also includes music written in a lighter style. No band concert would be complete without the inclusion of at least one march, and no Scot Band concert would be complete without the music of Scotland.

## Monthly Calendar Regular Events

### Mondays

- 4-8:30 Highland Dancers, Great Hall
- 5:30-6:30 Future Generations Bible Study, Music Rm.
- 8:00 PM AA, LPH
- First Monday – FIL Board Meeting 4:30 PM
- Second Monday – Pastoral Care, Music Rm., 10 AM
- Third Monday – Brownies, Tuttle House

### Tuesdays

- 9 AM Weight Watchers, LPH
- 7-9:30 Scottish Dancers, Great Hall
- First and Third Tuesdays – Daisy Scouts, LPH, 6:30 PM
- Second Tuesday – Vestry, Music Rm., 7:00 PM
- Last Tuesday – Book Club, Tuttle House, 1:00 PM

### Wednesdays

- Discussion Group, Music Rm., 10 AM
- Fun in Learning (FIL), Tuttle House 3:30-5:30
- 7 PM Weight Watchers, LPH

### Thursdays

- Afternoon Prayer Service, Music Room, 12:30 PM
- FIL, Tuttle House, 3:30-5:30
- Senior Choir Rehearsal, Music Rm., 7:30 PM

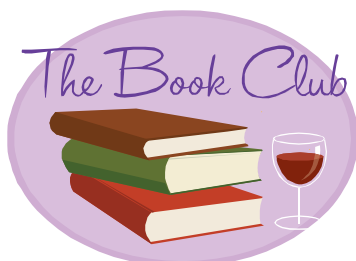
### Fridays

- Windsor Club, occasional Fridays, LPH, 7:30 PM
- First Friday – Boy Scouts, Tuttle House, 6:15-7:30 PM

## **FOOD of the MONTH**

Canned Tuna Fish

The food bank is particularly low on rice, pasta, tomato sauce, cereal, juice, jelly, crackers and macaroni and cheese.



### **Grace Church Book Discussion Group**

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 30 at 1:00 in the Tuttle House.

Book: A Woman In Business: The life of Beatrice Fox Auerbach

Author: Virginia Hale

Hostess: Cynthia Winchester

Meets: Tues., March 30th at 1 pm in the Music Rm.

Tells the story of a self-effacing, diminutive woman from a retailing family who became the chief executive of the largest privately owned department store in the country - (our beloved G.Fox & Co.) Her accomplishments were all the greater because she was a woman in a man's world. And, that is only half the story of all her achievements.

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## **Wine Tasting**

There will be a wine tasting in the Great Hall on April 10, 2010 at 7:30 PM.

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY !**

*If you were born in March and your name is not on our list, please notify the Church Office, 688-1232, so that we may include you in our Birthday Prayers.*

Joseph Cimbak

Peta-Gaye Davis

Ben Doolittle

Hilary Flanagan

Michelle Hawran

Andrew Hutchinson

Bill Johnson

Mark Korber

Madeline Korber

Nevin Lescher, Jr.

JoAnne McLeod

Gotha Nordberg

Pat Nye

Rose Phillips

Martha Porteus

Shontelle Ramsey

Rashad Ramsey

Bonnie Richards

Joanne Roach

Ken Roach

Jeff Senk

Sarah Thrall

Chris Torres

Jeremy Wall



# Grace Episcopal Church School

## **CHILDREN'S LENTEN BOOKLET**

This year, children in Grades K-8 have created their own version of the adult Lenten Book which is available to you each year. The idea is to foster family time using both books at a planned time each day during Lent. Parents can share the prayer or thought in their booklet and children can share the one designated for the same day in their booklet. If your family did not receive their Children Lent Book, please see Jenny Hawran.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

**Next class is March 7**

**Grades 9, 10 and above**

Confirmation Classes continues on March 1 from 12-Noon to 1PM. Classes are scheduled to take place the first Sunday of each month through the month of April.

The make-up class for anyone who has missed one or more class this year is scheduled for **April 18<sup>th</sup>** at 12noon

Students, please remember to bring your Confirmation materials with you each time.

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY**

**March 21**

**During the 10am service**

The children will serve as Lectors, Ushers, Singers, Greeters and much more. Please join us on this special Sunday celebrating our children!

Assignments will be going home beginning March 7

There is **NO** Church School or Youth Group on Children's Sunday, March 21.

## **STUMP THE PRIEST**

During the Lenten and Easter season when children generally have a lot of questions about Jesus and faith...we are introducing a new opportunity for our children to submit

questions to Father Parachini having anything to do with The Bible, our Worship service and the Episcopal church.

A "Stump the Priest" box will be set up in the Tuttle House for children and teens to submit their questions. Father Parachini will answer those questions at designated church services...the first one being Children's Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>!

## **CONFIRMATION**

**Saturday, April 24, 2010**

11 AM at Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford.

The following teens will have completed the required 2 years of Confirmation instruction and are eligible for Confirmation in April:

Jack Hart  
Katie Hewitt  
Michelle Hawran  
Dylan McGuigan  
Victoria Socolosky

## **Christmas Pageant Director Needed for 2010**

While it seems like we're thinking WAAAY ahead, we need to get the word out that we have no Christmas Pageant Director for December of 2010. Our wonderful Children's Music Director, Carol McOmer, will still be directing the music portion of the pageant, but we need a Pageant Director to work with the children to present the story of the birth of Jesus.

## **What is involved with being the Christmas Pageant Director?**

- Scheduling 4 Pageant rehearsals
- Sending email reminders about rehearsals
- Choosing a Pageant to present from ones we already own, or finding a new one to present.

- Working with Church School Directors, Children's Music Director and Teachers in casting parts for the pageant
- Running rehearsals with the children with the assistance of Teachers and Directors.
- Working with the Children's Music Director to integrate music into the pageant.
- Getting all materials for the Christmas Pageant Bulletin to the Parish Administrator

The Pageant Director works closely with the Christian Education staff. In other words...we all help each other out!

Please consider this very heartwarming ministry. Our high school seniors, whom we survey each year, consistently mention the Christmas Pageant as one of their most endearing and cherished memories here at Grace Church.

## **Find Us on Facebook!**

Did you know we have a Fan Page on Facebook? Go to our webpage at [www.gracechurchonthegreen.org](http://www.gracechurchonthegreen.org) and click on the ***Become a Fan*** icon on the front page. Facebook is a powerful and FREE way to advertize Grace Church to friends, family and to the community.

To become a "fan," you DO need to sign up for a free Facebook account. But you CAN see a limited version of the page without signing up for an account by clicking on the link above the ***Become a Fan*** icon that says *Grace Episcopal Church Windsor Connecticut on Facebook*.

## **A Prayer After the Earthquake in Haiti**

Lord, at times such as this,  
when we realize that the ground beneath our feet is not  
as solid as we had imagined,  
we plead for your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble about us,  
we know too well how small we truly are  
on this ever-changing, ever-moving, fragile planet we  
call home.  
Yet you have promised never to forget us.

Do not forget us now.

Today, so many people are afraid.  
They wait in fear of the next tremor.  
They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble.  
They roam the streets in shock at what they see.  
And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief and the  
names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster.  
Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still,  
and shelter them under your wings when homes no  
longer exist.

Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly this  
day.  
Console the hearts of those who mourn, and ease the  
pain of bodies on the brink of death.

Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion,  
we who watch from afar, as the poorest on this side of  
the earth find only misery upon misery.  
Move us to act swiftly this day, to give generously  
every day, to work for justice always,  
and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.

And once the shaking has ceased,  
the images of destruction have stopped filling the  
news,  
and our thoughts return to life's daily rumblings,  
let us not forget that we are all your children and they,  
our brothers and sisters.  
We are all the work of your hands.

For though the mountains leave their place and the hills  
be tossed to the ground,  
your love shall never leave us, and your promise of  
peace will never be shaken.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven  
and earth.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever.  
Amen.

# March 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Lacrosse, LPH 7-8:30 Weight Watchers starts 9AM - LPH	3 7 PM Weight Watchers, LPH	4	5 Windsor Club, LPH  11 AM World Day of Prayer, Christ the King Lutheran, Windsor	6
7 3 Lent  Scot Symphonic Band Concert – 7 PM	8  Girl Scouts Leaders Mtg.  6:30-8:30 PM, Music Rm.	9	10  Lenten Program 6:30 PM Soup 7:00 Program	11	12	13
14 4 Lent  Tegan McGraw baptism, 10 AM	15	16	17  Lenten Program 6:30 PM Soup 7:00 Program	18	19 Windsor Club, LPH	20
21 5 Lent	22	23	24 Lenten Program 6:30 PM Soup 7:00 Program  7:30 PM Legacy Comm., Great Hall?	25	26	27  9 AM Altar Guild Clean-up Day
28 Palm Sunday  Bake Sale	29	30 1 PM Book Discussion, Music Rm.	31  Tenebrae 7:30 PM	NEW Office Hours: 9 -3 Monday thru Friday 860-688-1232  Rev. David Parachini can be reached in an emergency at: Home – 203-484-4439		

# April 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours: 9 -3 Monday thru Friday 860-688-1232  Rev. David Parachini can be reached in an emergency at: Home – 203-484-4439				1  Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM	2  Good Friday 7:30 PM	3  Holy Saturday 7:30 PM
4  Easter Sunday 8 AM 10 AM	5	6  7 PM Lacrosse, LPH	7	8	9	10  7:30-9 PM Wine Tasting, Great Hall and Kitchen
11 2 Easter	12	13	14	15	16  7:30 PM Windsor Club, LPH	17  Ordination of Bishop Ian Douglas
18 3 Easter  Children's Sunday, 10 AM	19	20	21	22	23  1-6 PM Blood Drive, LPH	24  11 AM Confirmation, Church of the Good Shepherd, Hartford
25 4 Easter	26	27  8-5 PM, Census Training, LPH	28  8-5 PM, Census Training, LPH	29  8-5 PM, Census Training, LPH	30 8-5 PM, Census Training, LPH Windsor Club, LPH 4-8 PM Highland Dancers, Great Hall and Music Room	

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Time sensitive material

- If there is news you feel should be included in the Chronicle, please let Carol know at 860-688-1232.
  
- Please submit any information for the Chronicle by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.
  
- Any group that would like to meet in the church MUST pass it through Carol in the office first. We are having problems with rooms getting double-booked because it has not been known that a group is planning on meeting.