

THE EPISTLE

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To Live in the Moment

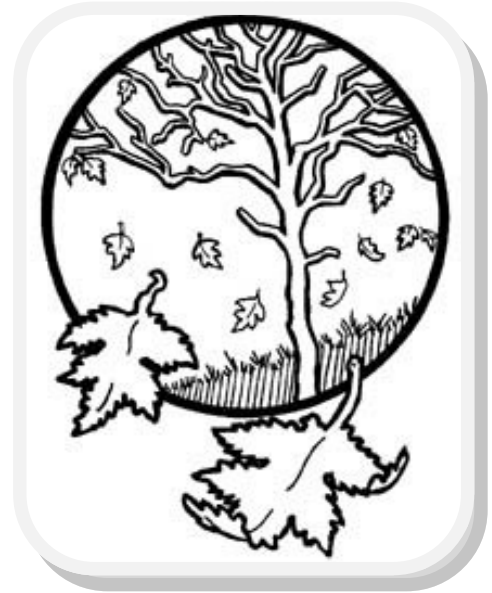
By Father John Warfel

I envy people who love winter and fall. Whether it's skiing, ice-skating or just playing in the snow, for them it is the best time of the year. Not for me. And even though I enjoy the brilliance of the autumn leaves (I am looking out at a spectacular display of color from a second floor rectory window even as I write this) I dread what's coming – short, cold days.

Now I'm not saying that I don't delight in the occasional snowfall, especially from the inside of a warm room looking out. But I am already counting the days until December 22nd when the days begin to lengthen ever so slowly.

And that's my problem; the problem I've had all my life. Instead of embracing the here and now, I find myself focused on an illusive moment sometime in the future. When I was a kid, it was the last day of school. When I was a teenager, it was emancipation from parental control. When I was a young adult, it was the fantasy of finally making it in the world. In seminary, it was Ordination and so on. I've spent a great deal of my life counting the days instead of fully living them.

If you can relate to this even slightly, I invite you to join me in a conscious and purposeful attempt to be more present to the moment, to the here and now. Even if the circumstances of the present are not to your liking (as the advent of cold weather is not to mine) let's try to embrace the moment regardless. Each moment brings its own beauty, its own challenge, struggle or joy. Let's live each moment fully as it comes, because whether good or bad, we have it only for a moment. ■



 **GRACE**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Welcoming Anglo-Catholic Parish
58 North Street, Middletown, NY 10940 845-343-6101
Father John Warfel, Rector

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THE EPISTLE

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From the Junior Warden



By John Cusack

On a recent family vacation, my family and I were struck by the beauty and bio-diversity of Bryce Canyon and the majestic immensity of the Grand Canyon. After experiencing these and the other natural wonders of the region, I could not help but believe that a higher power had to have significant input in their creation. Random forces of wind and water were not an adequate explanation of such ecological marvels. It was easy to see how Na-

tive Americans of the area felt such a deep connection and responsibility toward these mystical places. The beauty and wonder of these newly-experienced places lead me to start thinking on how they would impact my spirituality. What was the prevailing Christian thought on how we should view and interact with God's earthly creations?

A survey into Christian Environmentalism reveals a rather conflicted approach to the topic. On the one hand Christianity has taken an Anthropocentric (I had to look this one up) view of the world. This is the belief that human beings are central and the most significant entities in the universe. Reality is viewed through an exclusively human perspective. Genesis 1:26-28 is often quoted in support of this view- "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish in the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." However, Leviticus 25:23 is an equally compelling counterpoint to a position of stewardship rather than ownership and domination of the earth. Here the Lord states that "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.

This latter view has a strong foothold in modern Episcopal thought. Organizations such as the Episcopal Ecological Network and the Episcopal Public Policy Network have both espoused an approach of stewardship towards God's creation. Recent General Conventions have taken to this more nurturing approach toward our planet, passing numerous environmental resolutions. This trend toward stewardship will prove not only to be a practical approach to preserving the earth's limited resources, but will also lead to a deeper con-

Adult Education:

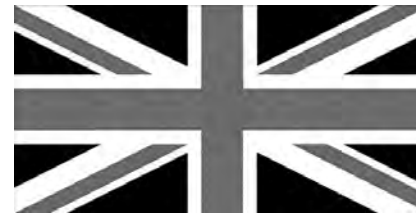
The Way Jesus Prayed:

The Book of Psalms

Lead by: Tim Powers

Sunday, November 7, 14 & 21

9:15 to 10:15 am



The British Are Coming!

16th annual

"Merrie Olde Crafte Faire and British Festival"

Location:

Grace Episcopal Church

58 North Street, Middletown, NY 10940

(located on the corner of North & Depot Sts.)

* Ample municipal parking close to the church

Date & Event Times:

Saturday, November 20th, 2010

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Handmade Craft items, Bake Sale & Raffle

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

White Elephant tag sale

9 am to noon

**** English Fish and Chips Lunch**

will be served from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Tickets are \$10.00 at the door or \$8.00 in advance

Kids 10 & under \$5.00

**** Afternoon Tea with cookies, cakes and sandwiches**

will be served at 3:00 pm

Tickets are \$9.00 at the door or \$7.00 in advance

Kids 10 & under \$5.00

Tickets are available through the Church office 343-6101.

For further information, please visit www.gracechurchmiddletown.org



** Advance tickets are recommended

More Pictures of Grace



Fr. John Warfel & Tom Mollicone



Children's
Sunday



Rick & Sue celebrate 40 years together

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Pictures, articles, announcements,
and prayer list additions/revisions
may be e-mailed to:

Kathryn Parker at
kpark7@hvc.rr.com or
Meredith Loughran at
bjj@hvc.rr.com

Stewardship

By Rick Scott

By the time you read this, Commitment Sunday will be behind us and most of you will have completed a commitment card for 2011. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, I thank you for your participation in this important aspect of church life. With the commitment each of you have made, the Finance Committee can begin their work of crafting our church budget for next year.

Now take a moment to pat yourself on the back. Making a commitment is not easy, particularly in this uncertain economy. It can be quite scary to wonder if you will be able to fulfill your financial commitment to the church. If you have that concern, you are not alone. I hear that a lot. But, if you have considered your commitment within your budget and treat it as one of your regular monthly expenses, you may find it less painful than you imagine. If for some reason you do have unforeseen financial difficulties, you can always alter your commitment. Nobody is going to compel you to meet your original commitment under such circumstances.

If you have not completed a commitment card, it is not too late to do so. The Finance Committee can develop a budget only on income that they know they can expect. Unpledged income is only a guess and not something that can be counted upon. Therefore, I encourage everyone to make that commitment to your church.

Again, I want to thank each of you for your prayerful participation in this important activity of the church. Commit what you can, but make your commitment to God as a member of your Grace Church parish family.

Pictures of Grace



Pot Luck Dinner



Youth Group at Dorney Park

What Brings You to Grace?

Grace Church is thriving because of Y-O-U. In this new section we want to highlight one or two members of our church family. Share your story with a little Q & A. Fill-in-the-blank forms are available at the back of the church. Fill one out and put it in the Epistle mailbox (found in the boardroom) at coffee hour. Your story may be picked for the next edition!



Q: What's your name?

A: Meredith Loughran

Q: When did you start attending Grace Church?

A: About 6 years ago

Q: What brought you to Grace?

A: I was originally hired as a Soprano section leader for the choir.

Q: What keeps you at Grace?

A: I often wonder that myself! Seriously though, every year I've been here I feel I've taken a deeper step into the church. I started off as a choir member, was later tasked with maintaining music for our youths, and now inherited the Epistle from Nancy Karp's capable hands, with some serious guidance from the lovely Kathryn Parker. It's not just the people, the space or the ceremony that keeps me commuting 35 minutes to church—it's a safe haven for my week-long battered spirit.

Q: What is your favorite part of the church? And why?

A: I am partial to the Lady's Chapel, the space between the organ & the boardroom. It's a little nook in the church that bursts with activity one moment and just as quickly falls still & quiet. It's a place where I can be invisible or social.

Q: Do you have a favorite moment during Mass?

A: Communion. It's the one time during church that I pray for me.

Q: If you could share one thing about Grace Church with a stranger, what would it be?

A: The diversity of Grace Church is amazing. Age, race, color, and sexual orientation are all secondary to our freedom to worship in a loving environment.

Prayer Shawls



**The next blessing is:
November 28th**

Welcome newly baptized:



Gene Lawrence Iannuzzi III



Prayer List

continued

Please Pray For	Prayer Intentions	Submitted by
Norman Warner, Jr. Owen and Family	safety	Francine Scott Jan & Frank Musolino
Patricia Phillips	rest in peace	Christy and Magen
Patrick Knockwood	guidance, safety	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Patti & Al Gessner	healing	Patricia Lewis
The people of Tibet	courage, peace, freedom	Penny Ames
Richard	health, love, prosperity	Penny Ames
Ron Cosentino		Grace Church family
Ryan DeNisco	guidance	Lisa DeNisco
Sammy Rogers	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco
Sarah Clark	healing	Peggy Fellows
Sheree VanDeBogart	healing, comfort	Gordon VanDeBogart
Stephanie	healing, safety	Christine and Les
Susan Heintz	healing, comfort	Eileen Callahan
Tara Catizone	healing	Eleanor & Meg Catizone
Tom	healing, guidance	Kathryn Parker
Tom Quinn	healing	Patricia Lewis
Tonya, Gina, AJ & Lia Brooke	comfort, guidance	Patricia Lewis
Zachary Brownstein	healing	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins



To submit your prayer intentions, please e-mail:

Kathryn Parker at kparker7@hvc.rr.com or Meredith Loughran at bjj@hvc.rr.com

Grace Church Youth Group

By Barbara Pinkall

As many of you know, the Youth Group at Grace Church is open to youths between sixth and twelfth grade. We have had an exciting year thus far.



We've had several opportunities to get out and have some fun as a group, including a summer trip to Dorney Park, which was our send-off to long-time youth group member, *Alyssa Denisco*. Alyssa left for college this past August and she

is loving her college experience!

The Youth Group will continue our volunteer work, and serve our church family in many ways during this year's Crafte Faire. We recently participated in the Crop Walk.

We are in the preliminary stages of planning a summer camping trip. We hope to camp near Great Adventure for five days and get the kids two-day passes to the park to use while we're there. We will have to do some fundraising to make this happen, so I am sure you'll be hearing more about that as we decide on what our fundraising efforts will be.

Although we had to say goodbye to Alyssa this year, we got to welcome four new members! We hope to continue to grow in the future, so if you know a youth between grades six and twelve, please invite them to join us! Contact Barbara Pinkall, Lorraine Higgins, or Rebecca Scott for information.

See you in church!



October 24: Several members of the Youth Group participated in the Crop Walk to raise funds for local food banks and communities, including the Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen.



Join us at the Crafte Faire on Saturday, November 20th.



We meet every other weekend.

November/December dates:

November 21

December 5

December 19



For information contact:

Barbara bpinkall@frontiernet.net

Lorraine rainydawn75@yahoo.com

Rebecca beakerx@hotmail.com





Prayer List

Please Pray For	Prayer Intentions	Submitted by	Please Pray For	Prayer Intentions	Submitted by
Alex Jamison	healing, comfort, guidance	Ellen Jamison	Amy, Ndan, Dylan	healing, guidance, employment, release from pain	
Artie Colatrella	healing	Patricia Lewis	Barbara, Charlie, Andy Clark	health, prosperity, love	Penny Ames
Bernadette Delaney	healing, comfort	Rebecca Scott	Beth Finger	jobs	Barbara Pinkall
Bill Gray	comfort, peace	Penny Ames	Carlee	healing, well-being	Her Church School Family
Carmen Musolino		Jan & Frank Musolino	Charles Warner & family	healing, strength	Francine Scott
Cindy Barrett	healing, comfort	Martha LeBow	Denise Fallo	healing, comfort, guidance	Christy and Magen
Denzel Warner	strength, guidance, safety	Francine Scott	Don Lofman	healing, comfort	Kathryn Parker
Donna Black	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Eddie Zeh	healing	Martha Lebow
Ephraim Goldthorp	healing, comfort	Peg Claster	Ewing Orlando	healing, comfort	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Francine Scott	healing, comfort	Carol Warner	Gary Anallo		Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Graham Jamison	healing, comfort	Ellen Jamison	Ilene Stepanick	comfort, happiness	Mike Saunders
Isabelle Townsend	healing, comfort, release from pain	Ellen Jamison	Jake Lopata	healing, comfort	Marj and Mike Edwards
Jake Phillips	healing, comfort	Christy and Magen	James Higgins	healing, comfort	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Jayne Hess & family	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Jeanette Dahl	healing	Martha Lebow
Jennifer Bellotto	creativity, love, peace	Penny Ames	Jessi Jamison	healing, guidance	Ellen Jamison
Jill	healing, comfort, release from pain	Christy Silvels	Joan Karalis	healing, comfort	Grace Church family
Joe Baurenfeino	healing, comfort	Christy Silvels	John Behler	healing, comfort	The DeNisco family
Joseph Dirr	healing, comfort, guidance	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins	Julia Logiodice	acceptance at school	Mike Saunders
Julia O'Hara	healing, guidance	The DeNisco family	Justin Guardino	healing, guidance, employment	Ellen Jamison
Kathryn Parker	healing, peace, happiness	Penny Ames	Kathryn & Shannon Leary	comfort, peace	Kathryn Parker
Katie White	healing, comfort	Anne Caldwell	Kayden Moore	healing	Tim Moore, Mary Beth McGuire
Kelley Phillips	healing	Christy and Magen	Krystina Kun	healing, comfort	Christy Silvels
Lauren Ponzoni	healing, comfort	Nancy Karp	Leah Veloudas	healing, comfort	Eileen Bloomer
Lenora Vaughn	comfort	Ellen Jamison	Lisa Oboyski	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco
Linda Totaan	healing	Christine Ford-Huebsch	LynnMarie Monroe	happiness, guidance	Kathryn Parker
Madison Phillips	healing, comfort	Christy and Magen	Magen Phillips	healing, comfort	Mom (Christy)
Marie	comfort	Kathryn Parker	Mario Brooks	guidance, safety, travel	Magen Phillips
Martin Romano	healing, comfort	Eileen Callahan	Matthew Rales	healing, comfort	Peg Claster
Maryanne Sevarino		Andrew & Lorraine Higgins	Meghan Littlejohn	healing, comfort	Peg Claster
Megan, Penilynn, Brandon	well-being	Their Church School Family	Messiah Warner	personal, healing	Francine Scott
Meri	healing, comfort	Beth Maisonet	The Mather-Cathy family	healing	Pam Mather-Cathy
Micah Warner	healing, strength	Francine Scott	Nick Gisondi	healing	Patricia Lewis
Nicole Rumsey	comfort	James Rumsey	Nora & Gillian Dirr	comfort, guidance	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins