

What's been happening at Grace Church?



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

1. The Children's Pageant, held on Christmas Eve, was the best yet!
 2. The church became even more beautiful for Christmas. 3. St. Valentine was duly honored with a wonderful coffee hour, though photos from this year were not available. 4. The children took on many roles for our monthly Children's Sundays. 5. Church School participants enjoy listening to Fr. John during his visits every week. 6. More beautiful prayer shawls were created and blessed.
 8. Last year's palms were burned on Shrove Tuesday and a wonderful potluck was enjoyed by the hearty souls who braved the bad weather.



PRAYER LIST

To have names added to or deleted from the prayer list, please leave a yellow prayer request slip in Kathryn Parker's mailbox-- upper right--or e-mail her at kparker7@hvc.rr.com.

Please pray for	Prayer Intention	Submitted by	Please pray for	Prayer Intention	Submitted by
Sarah Clark	healing	Peggy Fellows	Bill Gray	comfort, peace	Penny Ames
LynnMarie Monroe	happiness, guidance	Kathryn Parker	Jennifer Bellotto	creativity, love, peace	Penny Ames
Marie	comfort	Kathryn Parker	The people of Tibet	courage, peace, freedom	Penny Ames
Lynn, Kenny, Lily, Madeline	healing, peace, guidance	Kathryn Parker	Barbara, Charlie, Andy Clark	health, prosperity, love	Penny Ames
Kathryn & Shannon Leary	comfort, peace	Kathryn Parker	Richard	health, love, prosperity	Penny Ames
Graham Jamison	healing, comfort	Ellen Jamison	Kathryn Parker	healing, peace, happiness	Penny Ames
Jessi Jamison	healing, guidance	Ellen Jamison	Ron Cosentino		Grace Church family
Justin Guardino	healing, guidance, employment	Ellen Jamison	Julia Logiodice	acceptance at school	Mike Saunders
Lenora Vaughn	comfort	Ellen Jamison	Ilene Stepanick	comfort, happiness	Mike Saunders
Isabelle Townsend	healing, comfort, release from pain	Ellen Jamison	Meri	healing, comfort	Beth Maisonet
Alex Jamison	healing, comfort, guidance	Ellen Jamison	Tara Catizone	healing	Eleanor & Meg Catizone
Linda Totaan	healing	Christine Ford-Huebsch	Leah Veloudas	healing, comfort	Eileen Bloomer
Stephanie and Stanley	guidance	Christine and Les	Katie White	healing, comfort	Anne Caldwell
James Mariano	safe return from Iraq	The Ford-Huebsch Family	Carol McGinis	strength, healing, peace	Sue Scott
Megan, Penilynn, Brandon	well-being	Their Church School Family	Carmen Musolino	Jan & Frank Musolino	
Carlee	healing, well-being	Her Church School Family	Owen and Family	& Frank Musolino	
Lisa Bonkowski	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Ewing Orlando	healing, comfort	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Jayne Hess & family	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Zachary Brownstein	healing	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Lisa Oboyski	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	James Higgins	healing, comfort	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Sammy Rogers	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Nora & Gillian Dirr	comfort, guidance	Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Donna Black	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco	Maryanne Sevarino		Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Ryan DeNisco	healing, guidance	Lisa DeNisco	Gary Anallo		Andrew & Lorraine Higgins
Francine Scott	healing, comfort	Carol Warner	Jeanette Dahl	healing	Martha Lebow
Messiah Warner	personal, healing	Francine Scott	Eddie Zeh	healing	Martha Lebow
Micah Warner	healing, strength	Francine Scott	Jake Lopata	healing, comfort	Marj and Mike Edwards
Norman Warner, Jr.	safety	Francine Scott	Joan Karalis	healing, comfort	Grace Church family
Charles Warner & family	healing, strength	Francine Scott	Nicole Rumsey	comfort	James Rumsey
Denzel Warner	strength, guidance, safety	Francine Scott	Lisa Oboyski	healing, comfort	Lisa DeNisco
The Mather-Cathy family	healing	Pam Mather-Cathy	Nick Gisondi	healing	Patricia Lewis
Lauren Ponzoni	healing, comfort	Nancy Karp	Tom Quinn	healing	Patricia Lewis
Joe Baurenfeino	healing, comfort	Christy Silvels	Artie Colatrella	healing	Patricia Lewis
Jill	healing, comfort, release from pain	Christy Silvels	Kayden Moore	healing	Tim Moore, Mary Beth McGuire
Denise Fallo	healing, comfort, guidance	Christy and Magen	Amy, Ndan, Dylan	healing, guidance, employment, release from pain	
Magen Phillips	healing, comfort	Mom (Christy)	Eddie Zeh	healing	Martha Lebow
Patricia Phillips	rest in peace	Christy and Magen	Harriet, Kathy, Sheryl	healing, comfort, strength	Nancy Karp
Kelley Phillips	healing	Christy and Magen			



I'm surprised to find that I'm having a tougher time with my father's death than I did with my mother's ten years ago. Mom and I were similar in outlook and temperament. I was definitely closer to her. Yet letting go of my father is decidedly more difficult.

Perhaps it's because he's the last parent to die. Maybe it's because he didn't go as gently as she did - at the end he was confused and agitated. I was with both my parents as they took their last breath, but an unexpected grief came over me soon after life left my dad's body. When my sister and the hospice nurse left the room and I was alone with him, I cried - not just silent tears, but actual sobbing, the kind of crying I hadn't done in twenty years. Conversely, Mom had been dead more than six months before I was able to eke out even a few quiet tears.

I'm learning that grief is highly individual. We all grieve differently at different times in our lives. I thought Mom's death would devastate me; it didn't. I thought Dad's death would be easy; it hasn't been. Once again I discover that I am not in control, a lesson that seems to confront me over and over again.

I'm also learning that love and support from friends is

THE EPISTLE

**Deadline for the April issue of
The Epistle is March 15**

Articles or announcements for *The Epistle* may be submitted by e-mail to: nancykarp@earthlink.net as an attached file, or on a cd or floppy disk left in my church mailbox.

Thank you! Nancy Karp

Co-Editors: Kathryn Parker and Nancy Karp
Phyllis Guradino: printing, folding & mailing.

a holy, powerful healer. I've never been more grateful for Grace Church than I am now. Honestly, I don't know how people without a faith community make it through the rough times. Your calls, prayers, cards and kind words mean more to me than you may realize. The Sunday I returned, the Church School presented me with a hand-made over-size card, complete with drawings, sentiments and signatures and the words We Love You crayoned on the front. Many of you shared thoughts about your own parents' passing. One young girl shared these thoughts in a cleverly designed computer generated card: I hope your Dad has a great time in heaven. I'm sorry that he died. Get happy fast. Oh that we could all express ourselves with such genuine simplicity.

Thank you, all of you, for loving me and for ministering to me. My Dad was not a believer; in fact, he wore his agnosticism like a badge of honor. He had no use for church. But even he would be moved by the way a church, Grace Church, showed his son such love and support these last few weeks.

- Fr. John+

Bishop's Visitation

The Rt. Rev. Mark Sisk will preach and celebrate at Grace Church on June 6, 2010. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church on that date, please see Fr. John.

We
Welcome
the Newly
Baptized!

Austin James Olivarria





Greetings All from the Grace Church Youth Group!

This year should be an exciting one filled with fun and outreach. Our group is expanding which makes each gathering more exciting.

We have had some bad luck with weather on our past few planned events, but we've been able to reschedule and get on with our fun! We've met several times already this year for our regular meetings where we eat pizza and just hang out down in our youth group room. We've planned a night to go to dinner and roller skating at family skate night on February 21st at The Castle in Chester. We're all looking forward to it.

If you know of any youths in grades 6 through 12 who might be interested in finding out more about our group please just have them contact me.

As always we are grateful to have such a warm and generous church family to support us.

- Barbara Pinkall

Church School News

As you may or may not know, throughout the year the church school children take a collection each week. The money collected, along with a portion of the money they receive from their fundraisers, is recorded so the children can decide how they want their money to be used. This past December we spoke with the children and they decided to give half of their money to the church and the other half to an organization called **Blessings in a Backpack**. This group gives children, who receive free lunch at school, a backpack filled with food on Friday afternoons so that they can take

home food for the weekend. That way they can have meals on the weekend as well, not just when they are at school. The backpacks come back to school on Monday and then are prepared for the following weekend. I am proud to say that we were able to give \$177 to this group and \$177 back to our church family. I hope that we will be able to do even more this year.

-Mrs. Christine

Church School Calendar

- March 7th- Children's Sunday.
Arrive at 10 am and bring a snack to share.
- March 14th- regular classes.
- March 21st- regular classes.
- March 28th- PALM SUNDAY. Classes will be brief so that we can fully participate in the Mass with our families.
- April 4th- EASTER SUNDAY and Children's Sunday.
We will have our traditional egg hunt and flowering of the cross followed by going to Mass with our families.
- April 11th~April 25th-regular classes.

I NEED YOUR HELP

We would like to host a children/ family event in April. I am looking for suggestions as to what you and your family would like that to be. Please email or call me with ideas thunligh@hotmail.com or 845-541-0674

The Stained Glass Windows of Grace Church:

I Am the Good Shepherd

1929

One of the earliest and fondest images of Jesus is of a shepherd. This is a common picture of our Lord, but we do not often meditate on its deeper layers of meaning. The large window near the choir section depicts Jesus as The Good Shepherd in a red robe, red being the color symbol of His Passion, with the Holy Spirit signified above His head in the form of a descending dove, holding a sheep in His arms. Notably, He has no sandals on His feet, for in this way His poverty, and His solidarity with all of the poor and marginalized, can be captured by visual symbolism. We should also note the Northern European style of this window because of the white male with red hair; while it is certainly natural for cultures to picture the Redeemer in ways which allow their own inherent characteristics to speak, it is still important for us to remember that such a picture is limiting. While we cannot be absolutely certain of our Lord's precise physical features, we can be sure that He did not look as if He originally came from Scotland!

But the primary purpose of this window is to enlighten us, to let the light shine on the Church (us). It uses the pastoral image of the shepherd, the one who is closely tied to the flock, who is with them always, who hunts for the lost sheep, who guides the flock, feeds them, protects them, whose voice they not only recognize but also trust. These are the associations that early Christians quickly assigned to the Christ. They soon were transferred to Bishops, for we see in their major symbol of a shepherd's crook (called a Crozier) the same type of connection, the same level of trust, the same degree of care. And to some Christian communities this imagery has been attached to the local "pastor" who has been trained in "pastoral" care. This window, in other words, reminds us of the common, everyday presence of our Savior in our lives, of His care and love, of the guidance and mercy we can turn to when we ourselves have gotten lost, or need to be fed, or protected.

These are fundamental truths of our faith that tell us a great deal about the God of peace who comes to us and addresses us in the Word and Sacrament, in community and solitude, in the ordinary and the routine. When we reflect on these truths we come to a richer and deeper understanding of God's activity in our daily lives, an activity comprised of love, the essence of holiness.

From the booklet prepared by the Stained Glass Restoration Committee (no longer existing) in 1994.

– Kathryn Parker





From the Junior Warden

While we were attending a Super Bowl party, Janet casually mentioned that I was junior warden of our church. This was met with almost total indifference. I am not sure if this was indicative of the status of Roman Catholic/Anglican relations (most of those attending the party were Roman Catholic) or the fact that Peyton Manning was orchestrating a touchdown drive (Janet has little interest in football). Whatever the root of this indifference, it may have turned out to be a blessing. I would probably be unprepared to give the concise explanation of the role and responsibilities of junior warden that would be suitable for the setting of a Super Bowl party. After some consideration, it occurred to me that a more workable concept of the duties of both senior and junior warden might be in order.

After researching the topic it became apparent to me that many Episcopal churches have a relatively strict division of the duties between senior and junior warden. The junior warden will often be responsible for the physical upkeep of the church, rectory and grounds, while the senior warden often serves as the rector's advisor and liaison to the congregation. A similar model uses the idea of people's warden (junior warden) who is elected by the congregation and a rector's warden's (senior warden) who is appointed by the rectors. Both would be responsible for their respective duties described above.

Neither of these models is entirely descriptive of the process at Grace Church. We employ a more flexible division of labor, with our Senior Warden (Claire) taking on the lion share of the responsibilities. However, they do encompass much of what the wardens do at Grace Church.

Perhaps a better summary of warden's duties comes from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC. Here the wardens are described as having: 1) legal responsibilities with regard to property and contracts; 2) fiduciary responsibilities; 3) responsibilities to the congregation; 4) responsi-

bilities to the rector (and other clergy). Put more directly, the wardens' overarching duty is helping the rector and congregation to establish and maintain the mission of the church.

To this end, we need your help. This help can start with increased communication. Attend a vestry meeting. Approach Father John, your wardens and vestry with any questions or concerns you may have. Grace Church, like most churches, faces many challenges. Your contributions are essential in our meeting them.

John Cusack

Stewardship Committee

Grace Church now has a Stewardship Committee! I thought we always had a Stewardship Committee you might be saying, and you would be correct. But, Stewardship at Grace for the past several years was just about the pledge drive and to do that we didn't need a committee. Well as long as we had Phyllis we didn't need a committee. If it wasn't for her, we would need a committee of 10.

But we, that is your Rector, your Wardens, your vestry and your chairperson of the Stewardship Committee (that's me) believe that the people of Grace deserve more than just a pledge drive because stewardship is way more than just a pledge drive. In this space over the next several months there will be articles covering many aspects of stewardship. Some of those articles will expand your understanding of stewardship while others will address issues that we may have about our own stewardship process. We hope that you find the articles helpful as well as enjoyable.

I would like to thank Claire Newquist, John Cusack, Beth Maisonet, and Rose Schaller for joining me in bringing to you an active productive Stewardship committee.

– Rick Scott, Chairperson

A Special Church School Project



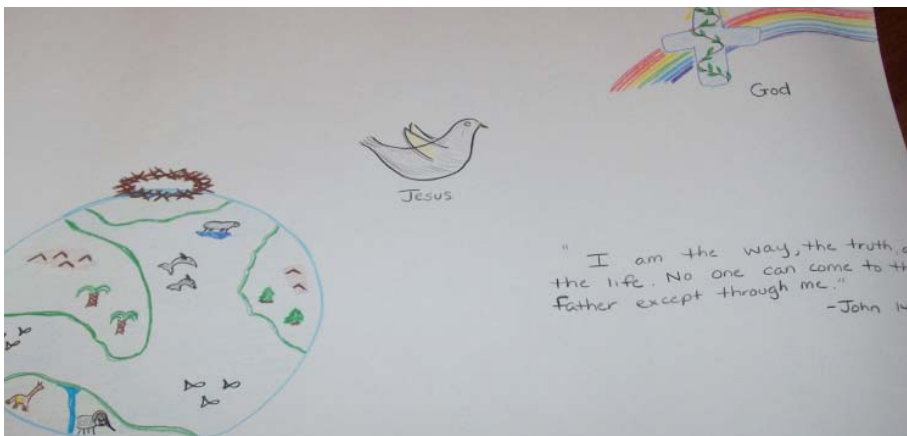
Alyssa: I have two clouds, one is me and one is God. I have a bridge connecting the two clouds and that is Jesus. To show that Heaven is bigger than Earth, Earth is beneath the clouds.

By Alyssa Myruski, Melissa Greve,
Lilly Guardino and Mrs. Meg

The students learned that Jesus brings us closer to God. When you believe in Jesus, he acts as the bridge so you can get close to God & be forgiven for sins. These pictures can also be seen hanging in the nursery for anyone who wants to get a better look.



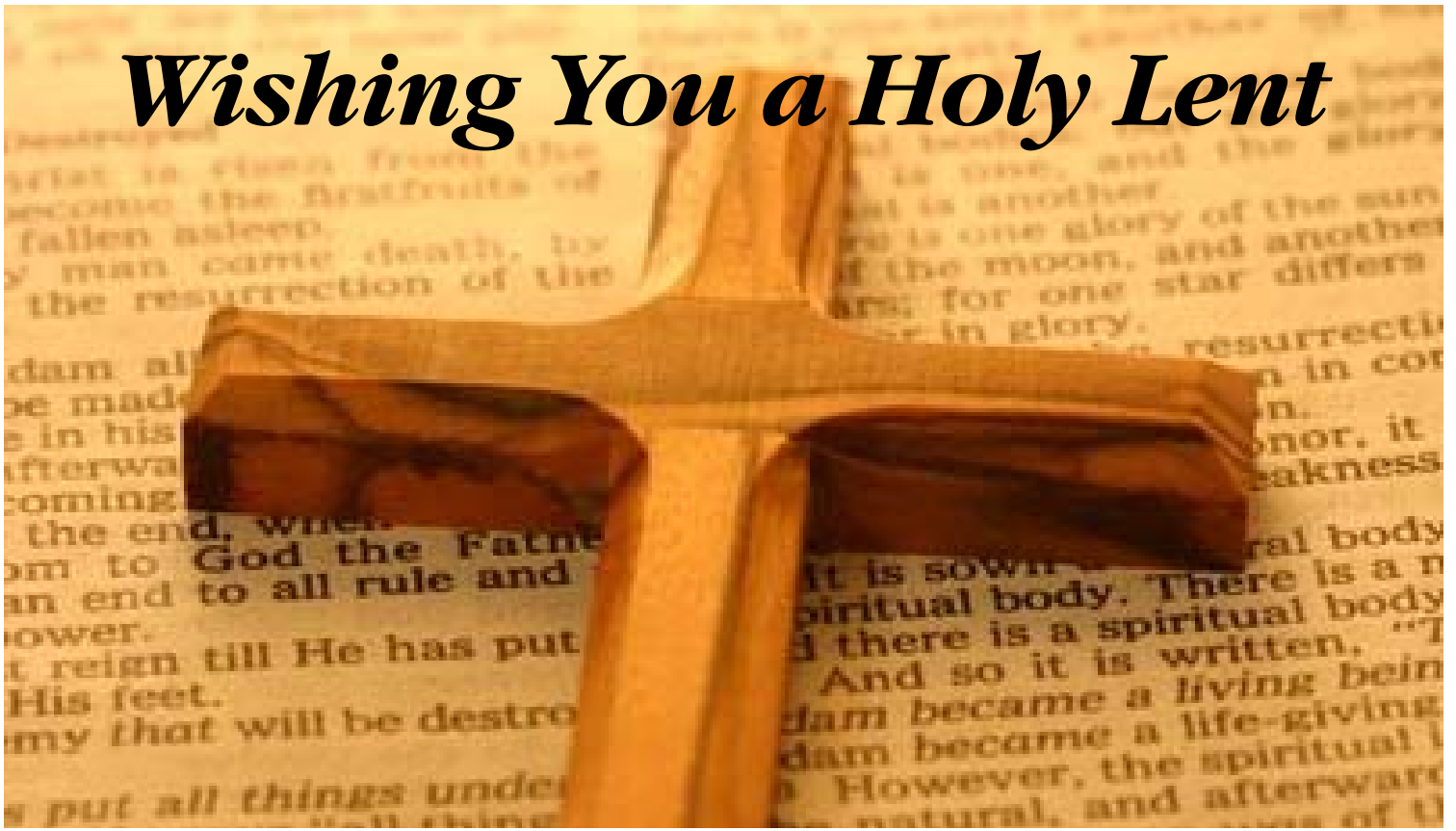
Melissa: I drew the Earth showing us as the people. Jesus is the rocket ship bringing us closer to God, who is in Heaven.



Lilly Guardino Mrs. Meg: "I am the way and the truth and the life no one comes to the father except through me" John 14:6

Lilly: I have a river with two sides and stepping stones going across to lead us to one side or the other. Fish are in the river as people of Earth to show that we can choose to go to one side of the river or the other. One side is plentiful and beautiful with food and many resources. The other side is dark and empty. The plentiful land represents the path of Jesus & God. The barren side is the path of sin. Because of Jesus, the stepping stone is in the middle allowing us to choose the path of God at any time in our lives.

Wishing You a Holy Lent



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