

THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST AND GRACE

FEBRUARY 2010

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Martha Merritt's

FOOD OF THE MONTH:

Canned goods, rice, pasta and
canned meats

Sunday Services

at Christ and Grace Church

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

9:30 Christian Education

for all ages

10:30 Holy Communion

Nursery during 10:30 church

IN CASE OF SNOW

Since David lives so close, church won't be officially cancelled. We strongly urge each individual or family to use your best judgment and most importantly be safe. The church parking lot does not usually get plowed immediately after a storm. Individuals are needed to help shovel around entrances. If you can help, call Burt Short, 861-0668.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

February 17, Ash Wednesday, begins the 40-day, 6½ week season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday liturgy features a fairly thorough admission of our failure to serve God and our neighbor, and the black mark of ashes on our foreheads is an outward sign that we are mortal, imperfect, and in need of God's mercy, love and compassion. The Holy Communion assures us that we are forgiven, united with Christ and expected to live more faithfully. Services will be held at noon and at 5:30 p.m. Come and make a right start to the holy season of Lent.

LENTEN PREACHERS

- February 23 The Rev. Grady W. Powell, retired Pastor of Gillfield Baptist Church
- March 2 The Rt. Rev. Herman Hollerith, IV, 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia
- March 9 The Rev. Don Phelps, Director of Spiritual Care Services at Southside Regional Medical Center
- March 16 The Rev. Gretchen S. Nelson, Pastor of St. Mark's Methodist Church
- March 23 The Rev. Graham M. Patterson, Chaplain of Crater Community Hospice



LENTEN READING

Gospel in the Global Village: Seeking God's Dream of Shalom is a book of speeches given by our Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori. There are 32 speeches and 34 days in Lent, not counting Sundays. The book comes highly recommended as the Presiding Bishop's deep faith and keen intellect stream from every page.

Gospel in the Global Village takes readers along a spiritual journey from Canterbury to Kansas, from the Bronx to Brazil, as Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori reaches out to communities of faith around the world with a message of justice and peace. (from the back cover)

We will have a limited number of copies available in the Parish Hall for \$14 each. Included will be a bookmark with suggested readings for each day in Lent. Checks should be made out to Christ and Grace with Lenten book on the memo line. Be inspired!

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Once again this year, Episcopal Relief and Development has published a devotional of short daily meditations for each day in Lent. They are available for free on the table outside the Parish Hall. Take one to a friend as well.

2009 YEAR-END STATEMENTS AND 2009 PLEDGE INCOME

The year-end Contribution Statements were recently mailed to all Christ and Grace contributors for 2009. Please take some time to review your statement. If you have any outstanding amount due on your 2009 pledge, please remit it as soon as you are able and indicate that it is for 2009. If you have not received your year-end statement, please call the church office so we may follow up on this.

At the end of 2009, our pledge income was \$16,756 short of the total amount pledged, and our operating budget is dependent on this income. During the month of February, letters will be mailed to parishioners showing an unpaid pledge balance for 2009, per church policy.

Greg Gwaltney, Treasurer

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we continue to hear and watch the overwhelming loss of lives, homes and infrastructure in Haiti, we also know that tragedy more often than not brings out the best in people. The global response of compassion and charity through dollars, supplies and response teams is gratifying. We can only hope that all this attention on one poor, small country will eventually lead to a more successful nation. I can imagine a mission trip of Christ and Grace members in 2011 to help build new homes there.

Our bishop's visitation last Sunday will certainly be a high point in a still young 2010. Bishop Hollerith is a humble man who I believe can lead this diocese back to health and an outward-looking mission to spread God's love and joy. I congratulate our seventeen confirmands who will continue as integral members of Christ and Grace. They were: **Karen Becker, Matthew Burgess, Logan Ende, Elizabeth Gates, Stephen Geisz, Hannah Hardy, Bobby Holleman, Maggie Holleman, Liza Moore, Taylor Pope, Hannah Richardson, Ben Thoreson, Larry Tucker, Hayden Whitley, Kevin Whitley, Meredith Wyche and Janet Wyche.**

Finally, the season of Lent will be upon us before we know it. There are several opportunities described in this newsletter which might enable us to make more of this 6 ½-week period to draw closer to God and God's hopes and dreams for our lives. The inner journey of transformation or sanctification is essential for any who wish to be useful to God, our families and the world. The Book of Common Prayer can be a valuable guide. The Rite I Holy Eucharist liturgy includes certain phrases embedded in the prayers that are jewels. My favorite is in the final prayer of Thanksgiving on page 339 when we ask God "to assist us with thy grace." The beginning of wisdom and change is the admission that we need God's assistance and grace. Lent is a time to ask for both so we can become our best selves.

Faithfully,

SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION (9:30 – 10:45 a.m.)

- January 31 Crazy Episcopal Things, Part II
- February 7 The Minor Prophets, **Tom Little**
- February 14 Angel Food Ministry, **Samantha Ellis**
- February 21 Anglican Islamic Project, Chad Krouse, senior seminarian of Sewanee University of the South
- February 28 Understanding Forgiveness, Dr. Everett Worthington, VCU Professor of Psychology

DIOCESAN PUBLICATIONS

Our diocese mails out two publications to every member of the churches. One is the Jamestown Cross, which is in newspaper form and mailed four-to-six times per year. If you do not receive it, please call Laura in the church office. The other is an online newsletter which comes out weekly. If you would like to receive it, contact Sarah Scott Thomas at ssstomas1@verizon.net.

THE MIRACLE OF GENEROSITY

As I rode by the Walnut Hill Baptist Church, I saw "The Miracle of Generosity" on the sign in front. Immediately, I thought of all the small miracles I see at Christmas and year round at Christ and Grace Church. This Christmas your generosity provided 22 turkey dinners to needy families. Your compassion brought toys and gift cards to 41 children of incarcerated parents. Your kindness shared the message of the Christ Child as you cooked, served and sang to the residents at the Men's Shelter. Your generosity brought them hooded sweatshirts and boxes of homemade cookies. Children in our parish shared in that celebration with caring hands refilling drinks, serving desserts and playing the guitar. Their hearts were open to love of all mankind. It was a very special evening.

All year long, Christ and Grace reaches out to our local and global community with generosity. When the need arises, you are there to assist our own parishioners. Time, talent and resources combine to make a difference in many lives.

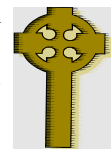
Thank you for sharing your gifts with God's children everywhere.

It is always an honor to behold your commitment and witness the "The Miracle of Generosity."

Maureen McClure, Outreach Chairman

CELTIC SERVICE

Please join us for the next Celtic Evensong and Communion Service on Sunday, February 21. Guitarist Mike Moran will be the guest musician. Pre-service music begins at 5:15 p.m. and the service begins at 5:30. As always, child care is provided and casual dress is encouraged. Please also plan to stay for the reception that follows the service.



OUR HISTORY by Rachel Traylor

Dewey Brown, who wished to enter the Seminary to study to become an Episcopal Priest, served his internship at Christ and Grace Church from October 1997 to January 1998. At the end of this time, the committee appointed to interview him gave its approval for him to enter Virginia Theological Seminary. Dewey was ordained a deacon in Christ and St. Luke's Church in Norfolk, Virginia, on June 2, 2001, and was ordained a priest in St. John's Church, Wilmington, North Carolina, on December 18, 2001. David Teschner was a clergy presenter at his ordination.

In February 2001, a member of Christ and Grace Church, Rick Talmage, noticed a bow in the south wall of the Parish Hall. Upon inspection it was found that the south wall had sunk causing a separation between the roof trusses and the wall. Andrew Joyner Iron Works was engaged to repair the building at an estimated cost of \$181,000. Turnbuckles and rods were used to draw the wall back in place. They also had to shore up the roof trusses. During this reconstruction, the Parish Hall was not in use. Instead, Sunday School classes were held downstairs and in any other areas that were available. Lenten services and lunches, as well as other planned events, were canceled.

On Sunday, May 27, 2001, James Harris was honored with a reception for more than 36 years as custodian of Christ and Grace Church. He was presented with a new television.

Nurse's Notes

The celebrations of faith and family during Christmas holidays are over, yet attention to family is just as important in January as it was in December. Since the family of the 1950s is no longer the norm, we as a church need to ask what it means to be “family,” how we support families, and how we reclaim its importance.

Today's families are led by traditional parents, single parents, blended or step families, or unrelated groups. Even though they may look different, each group is made of people who support and love each other in all of life's situations. Without family, people are often set adrift with no direction or support, which tends to make them less healthy. Positive relationships provide unconditional love and encouragement which fosters self-esteem, positive attitudes and better health habits. They ground a person and provide building blocks for other relationships.

How does one build and nurture positive families? Be interested in each other's activities. Attend and support each other's interests and events. Plan outings for the family and offer positive bonding experiences. Listen to each other and learn to “agree to disagree” as families also need to understand and deal with conflict.

All families have highs and lows so it is important to teach children how to handle disappointment and adversity as well as how to celebrate the joys and wonders of family life. Embrace all family life, whether it consists of a biological, church, neighborhood, college or other supportive “family.” Each setting is important to your spiritual, mental and physical health. (Source: *Focus on the Family*)

“By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.” Proverbs 24:3-4NIV

Hope many of you were able to participate in the CPR/AED class as it is everyone's responsibility to care for each other the best we are able.

Jackie Capecci, Parish Nurse

As the season of Lent approaches, I hear the calling to use this time to do something to improve my life. This is a challenge that is always present, but in particular for this time of year. It's not necessarily to make drastic changes, but more to "tweak" myself for participation in the world in which I live. To do this, I find it helpful to reflect on something that doesn't change. I find that stories from the Bible don't change. My understanding of them does, but the basic story is rock solid. For example, The Parable of the Sower, for all intents and purposes for me, should have been titled The Parable of the Different Types of Ground as every time I have heard this parable, I try to figure out which type of soil I am at the moment -- rocky, fertile, dry or thorny. And, yes, I can truly identify with each, some more than others. But the title is, The Sower. Perhaps this Lent, I will focus on the plenteousness of God's love and be grateful. I invite you to do the same. I bet if we spend our time doing that this Lent, we will all meet the challenge to improve not only ourselves but also the world in which we live.

WEDNESDAY POTLUCKS DURING LENT

There will be five Wednesday evenings to share time with each other with food and fun. Beginning Wednesday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m. dinner will be in the Parish Hall. Three suppers will follow with a family movie, seen in three parts. The remaining two suppers will have a 30-minute game time following dinner. Two suggestions for movies have been [Simple Wish](#) and [A Far Off Place](#). Our game choice for the first night is *Apples to Apples*. Your suggestions for a movie choice and a second game choice would be appreciated. Please email them to Claire Brill at cbrill@christandgrace.us.

MUSIC UPDATES

Ryan Hebert will present a recital on the 30-rank Schantz pipe organ at Walnut Hill Baptist Church on Sunday, February 28, at 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Southside Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the concert will feature a variety of music including works by J.S. Bach, Louis Vierne, John Stanley, and others. George Tuckwiller, trumpet professor at VSU, will join Ryan on several selections including two hymns with audience participation. Louise Daniel, organist at Walnut Hill Baptist, will also be featured in a special duet version of John Phillip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Walnut Hill Baptist Church, which has been a prominent member of the Petersburg community, has recently decided to close its doors. This will be the last public organ recital in the church. The concert is free and open to the public. The church is located at 310 W. South Boulevard.

Laraine Smith, soprano, will be performing as a soloist with the Petersburg Symphony at the third concert of the Symphony season. She will be singing three classical selections by Mozart and Mascagni. The concert is Sunday, February 21, at 4:00 p.m. at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 418 Halifax Street, Petersburg.

CPR/AED TRAINING CLASS will be offered on Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please note that there is a cost of \$20 and there is a limit of 20 participants for the class. See Jackie Capecci for more information.

A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.
Abraham Joshua Heschel

Abraham Joshua Heschel fled Hitler's terror in 1940 and came to America. I'm sure he knew suffering, just as the people of Haiti have known suffering. Heschel's quote touches on what I consider one of the most precious gifts God has given us; compassion, and the capacity to do something about it. Our youth are compassionate people. They are willing to give of themselves and their time. I love being with them and seeing others respond to their generous natures, good humor and commitment. February is full of opportunities for them to shine in their compassion. Souper Bowl of Caring provides donations and financial support for Martha Merritt, who is an excellent example of Heschel's quote. We will dedicate our youth room, and prepare and serve meals at the Men's Shelter. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper proceeds will go to support ERD Relief in Haiti, The Boy's Home and Jackson Feild Home for Girls. Please feel free to share in the EYC's greatest strength..... LOVE and DEFIANCE OF DESPAIR.

Namaste,

Sonyia

EYC Dates to Remember

February 5th - 13th Sonyia in Florida

February 7th Souper Bowl of Caring -- Collect Canned Goods and Donations after 10:30 a.m. service for Martha Merritt.

February 14th Dedication of the Youth Room. We will meet at church around 4 p.m., have the service, then have dinner together.

February 16th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper -- be at church by 5 p.m. (supper 6-7 p.m.)

February 17th Meal for Men's Shelter. Meet at church at 5:30 p.m.

February 24th Meal for Men's Shelter. Meet at church 5:30 p.m.

February 28th Ladies Home. Meet at church 9:15 a.m.

LOST AND FOUND

We have numerous pairs of glasses (both prescription and non-prescription) along with other items in the Lost & Found Box. This box is located in the copier room next to the church office. If you think any may belong to you, please check them out. Since these have been around for awhile, they will be donated to a good cause if not claimed by February 28.

SUPPORT THE BOY'S HOME

It's winter! We are still collecting Campbell's Soup Labels for Boy's Home. The entire label is not required; just the UPC (also called the Bar Code) is needed. You may clip the bar code along the dotted lines on the label around the UPC or if the lines are not shown, just clip around the bar code to include the picture of the small picture of the boy next to the bar code. If you do not want to take the time/trouble to clip the bar code, just submit the entire label and we will see that the clipping is done. Also, bar codes from Prego, Pepperidge Farm, Vlasic, Franco-American, Marie's, Mrs. Paul, Swanson and V-8 are acceptable. Thank you for your continued support of Boy's Home.

DID YOU KNOW

The Annual Council of our diocese will be held in Williamsburg, February 12-14. Delegates to Council from Christ and Grace are: **Claire Brill, Missy Gates, Sally Neblett, Ed Betts and David Teschner.**

In November **Lexie Ellis** won first place in Sutherland Elementary School's Science Fair- 4th Grade Experiments Division!

Bee Betts is serving on the secretariat of Cursillo in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. This is the governing body of Cursillo (much like a Vestry).

Washington Street United Methodist Church invites you to lunch every Thursday during the school year at noon. Worship will feature pastors from the Petersburg area followed by a delicious lunch at 12:30 prepared by members of the WSUMC.

Myra and Bill Knapp, former members who moved to Iowa, have informed us that they were having their first child in January. They can be reached myra.hanson@gmail.com or 10540 Linden Road, Linden, IA 50146.

Nancy Rawlings, Missy Gates and Samantha Ellis have graciously agreed to coordinate receptions for special occasions in addition to their responsibilities for Celebrations of Life receptions after a burial service.

The Youth Room downstairs was built with money that Ben Kinsey left the church in memory of his wife, Nancy. We will have a brief dedication service on Sunday, February 14, at 4:00 p.m.

Chad Krouse, who interned here in 2006, in preparation for seminary and the priesthood, will be our guest speaker at adult education and the preacher on Sunday, February 21.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings amounted to \$2,526. Jackson Feild for girls and Boy's Home each received contributions from Christ and Grace for \$1,263. Thank you for your generosity.

Polly Williams is president of the Boy's Home board and **Bud Syme** is the treasurer.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

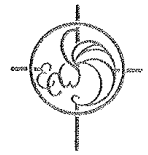
The UTO began in 1889, with the first ingathering of \$2,188.64, given to build a church in Anvik, AK. Since then, UTO has grown to be a spiritual and financial partner in the mission work of the Episcopal Church, awarding grants yearly.

Its mission is to expand the circle of thankful people and to significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ love. UTO encourages daily prayers, offerings, and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. Its values are Thanksgiving (for joy, blessings, and challenges), Generosity (for all offerings are granted), Missions (for expanding the church), and Ministry (for meeting compelling human needs.).

For example, the UTO has provided kitchen equipment, playground centers, handicap access, a school in Dominican Republic, family counseling, dental clinics, half-way houses, after-school programs, a library for a seminary in Africa, just to name a few things your generous gifts have funded.

THE ECW CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB – CPC needs your hardback and paperback books, books on tape, and videos. Please leave them on the stage in the Parish Hall as soon as possible. The sale will begin Thursday, February 18, and end Sunday, March 28.

THE ECW THANKS YOU for your generous support of all the fundraisers we have had, which included the Bake Sales, Wreath Sale, Cookbook Sale, and the Night Circle's Poinsettia Sale. We appreciate the 10:00 Circle and the Night Circle pledges to support the ECW and our missions. We extend a hearty thanks to the wonderful and gracious cooks at Christ and Grace who willingly gave delicious food to the Lenten Luncheons and the Celebrations of Life Receptions. ECW thanks you for supporting the Ann Rusmisell CPC Book Sale and giving to the UTO. We also want to thank all those who help pay the ECW Southern Diocese dues so we can give in Christ and Grace's name to the church locally, in the community, and in the nation and the world. Our Church family is truly blessed by you.



Staff

The Rev. David H. Teschner, Rector
 Mrs. Claire Brill, Lay Assistant
 Mrs. Sonyia Elder, Youth Coordinator
 Mr. Ryan Hebert, Music Director
 Mrs. Laura Craig, Parish Secretary

Contact the Church

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Web site: christandgrace.us

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9-4 p.m.

Friday 9-2 p.m.

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Christ and Grace Church

1545 South Sycamore St.
 Petersburg, VA 23805

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Petersburg, VA

PERMIT NO. 75

February 2010

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:00 a.m. Circle Meeting at Donnie Lynn's Home	2 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	3 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 12 Noon Healing and Holy Eucharist 6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper	4 7:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal	5	6 9:00 a.m. CPR Class
Bring a monetary donation (Bring a monetary donation.)	8	9 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	10 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 12 Noon Healing and Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. Garden Club	11 7:00 a.m. Bible Study	12 ANNUAL COUNCIL ←	13 10:30 a.m.
Breakfast → of Youth	15 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	16 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Shrove Pancake Supper 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	17 10:30 Bible Study Ash Wednesday Services 12:00 Noon 5:30 p.m.	18 7:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal	19	20
	22	23 12:15 p.m. Lenten Service 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal	24 10:30 a.m. Bible Study 12 Noon Healing and Holy Eucharist 6:00 p.m. Lenten Potluck/Movie	25 7:00 a.m. Bible Study	26	27
the Ladies'						