



Pulpit & Pew

February 2010
Established 1897

A Monthly Newsletter from Grace United Methodist Church
205 East Monroe, Austin, Texas 78704 512/442-5944 <http://www.graceumcaustx.org>
Rev. Linda M. Kessie, Pastor



Grace at a Glance

What's happening this month...?

- *February 2, 23. 7:00 PM. Book of Revelation Study. Grace Sanctuary.*
- *February 7, 14, 21, 28. 9:45AM. Book of Revelation Study. Grace Sanctuary.*
- *February 11. 7:30AM. Feed the Homeless at First UMC Family Life Center.*
- *February 11. 7:00PM. Administrative Council Meeting.*
- *February 14. 11:00AM. Children's Choir will be singing during worship service.*
- *February 16. 6:30PM. Mardi Gras Party. Grace Fellowship Hall.*
- *February 17. 7:30PM. Ash Wednesday Worship.*
- *February 21. 4:00PM. Faith-in-Action Caregivers Benefit Concert at St. Edward's University.*

Please see page 2 for Lent information and event schedule at Grace.

*Please check the church calendar regularly on our website calendar
(www.graceumcaustx.org/calendar.htm) for new or updated activities*



LENT AT GRACE

We're about to enter the Season of Lent, the forty day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter (minus Sundays, for each Sunday is a

"little Easter" and not included in Lent).

Traditionally, Lent has been a time when Christians re-examine their spiritual life and try to discern the quality of their relationship with God. It is also a time of preparing ourselves spiritually for the celebration that is Easter, that celebration of resurrection and new life and being reconciled/reunited with God by God's gift to us in Jesus Christ.

We begin with Ash Wednesday, February 17. During 7:30pm worship, we'll recall this traditional time of repentance. Ashes were used in biblical times to express penitence: to dust one's self with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. Today's practice is to receive the mark of the cross made in ashes on one's forehead, a sign of our sorrow for turning away from God's path, and our desire to renew our relationship with God.

Lent is about cleaning up our hearts, to journey back to the heart of God. That purpose calls for us to clear out of our hearts those things that draw our attention away from God and God's will for us, and to replace those cleared spaces with areas of new growth/new life in Christ.

I invite you to enter into Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting and attending worship, by doing works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God. May you have a Holy Lent!
Shalom,
Linda

"Goodnight Gracie" Gala

Mark your calendars for April 10, 2010 for our annual "Goodnight Gracie Gala". This year it will be held in the Fellowship Hall and promises to be a great evening of food and entertainment. More details will follow in the March Pulpit and Pew with tickets going on sale the first of March.

-David Arnold

Mardi Gras Party

The annual Grace Mardi Gras Party will be held at 6:30pm on Tuesday Feb 16. Come and join in the fun! There will be mask-making, music, food, fellowship and of course king cake! Please bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner.

-Kathy Calnan and Mitch Mooney

Lent Schedule at Grace

Make sure to mark these Lent season events on your calendar!

February 17 – Ash Wednesday Worship. 7:30PM.

March 27 – Easter Egg Hunt.

March 28 – Palm Sunday.

April 1 – Maundy Thursday Worship. 7:30PM.

April 2 – Good Friday.

April 4 – Easter Sunday.

Early Morning Worship at 7:00AM.

Sanctuary Worship at 11:00AM.



Mitch Mooney, 7th

Tina McCune, 12th

Jack Shelton, 16th

Karyn Couvillion, 22nd

Marie Helgren, 9th

Emily Pilinski, 12th

Dave Burrough, 17th

Jennie Peterman, 27th



PRAYER CORNER

Jean Adams

Betty Bratton

Michael Christelman & family

Brian & Liz Fambrough & Audrey

Wesley & Marie Helgren

Theresa Jenkins

Kenneth Leenen

Zackery Morris

Janice Palm

Ellen Stockberger

Maggie Vaden

Mitch Mooney's brother

All men & women in military service

Dorothy Bos

Rosemarie Burney

Allysa Dunaway

Charley Holloway

Paul Holman

Katie Kennedy & family

Lynn Lefave

Pat Newell

Aileen Simms

Karie Strahan

Bernice Caldwell

Grace UMC

COMMUNION OFFERING



The February 7th Holy Communion Service offering will go to support SAAM (South Austin Assistance Ministry).



As Methodists...

1. We believe in: making disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world.
2. We live by two kinds of holiness: Personal and Social
3. We follow three simple rules: Do no harm, Do good, Stay in love with God
4. We work in four areas of focus: Develop leaders, Create places for new people, Eliminate poverty, and Improve health globally



NEW YORK (UMNS)— United Methodists have raised more than \$1 million for relief work in

Haiti. The donations to the United Methodist Committee on Relief will support its efforts to respond to those most in need following the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. An estimated 2-3 million people need immediate assistance. In a statement, Bishop Joel Martinez of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, UMCOR's parent agency, said he was thankful "for the overwhelming generosity," but encouraged further gifts. "This is heartening but needs to be multiplied many times over," he said. "We believe that contributions to UMCOR at worship on Sunday (Jan. 17) will be a powerful testament to the love of United Methodists for those in crisis." {029} Read more at

<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=lwL4KnN1LtH&b=5259669&ct=7807197>

Here at Grace UMC, in addition to the 23 Health Kits we assembled in worship on January 17, we gave over \$200 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief!



Grace Notes Choir

Hello Grace Family!

It's never too late to join Grace Notes Choir! As we strive to enhance the services at Grace UMC through the gift of music, we invite you to be a part of the glorious

sounds that lie ahead. Come Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!

On February 21st, we look forward to singing for the Faith in Action Caregivers South Austin Choral Benefit Concert held at the beautiful St. Edward's University Campus.

May God bless and keep you well during the winter months.

Musically yours,
Stefen Kane, Music Director

Cell Phone Recycling Fundraiser



ERT Inc., a local Austin company, has placed cell phone collection boxes at Grace for a no cost Cell Phone Recycling Fundraiser. The program is very easy and can be used throughout Grace to earn extra money for the church and its endeavors. Bring in all of your old cell phones, regardless of whether they work or not, and drop them in the collection box. Once the box is full we will have FedEx pick it up and deliver to ERT. ERT then sorts, audits and prices each phone. When the audit is complete a check is issued to Grace. So Remember: Bring in all of your old cell phones and drop them in the box! If you have any friends or family that would like to donate their old cell phones to benefit Grace, bring in those cell phones also! It's for a very worthy cause... our church! Thanks for helping Grace out with this endeavor!

Article/Used Clothing Request



Montopolis Friendship Community Center serves the Montopolis community with a Mother's Day Out program, a clothing room/thrift shop, activities for seniors, and provides a meeting space for their community's groups. In addition, they provide scholarships to deserving college students from the Montopolis area who are attending ACC, A&M, Texas State and UT. MFCC is a ministry of Austin-area United Methodist Women's groups, the Austin District Board of Missions and Austin United Methodist Churches. MFCC wants your clothing: good used adult/teen/infant/children's clothing - especially clothing for teens! If you have clothing to donate, please bring it to the Grace Church office, and we'll deliver it to the center. Thank you!



Children of Grace

The children to Grace are in preparation for the holy season of Lent. The new Grace Children's Choir will be singing during worship on February 14, March 21, and April 4. The Children of

Grace will present "Are You Sleeping?" on Palm Sunday. Come and join us and delight in the glorious sounds of the season as presented by our children.

Thanks for all of your help with the nursery painting and carpeting. Soon our nursery will be in tip-top shape and ready for all of the toddlers of Grace!

Please contact Cas Longo at caslongo@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



The Warmth of Winter

(contributed by Ed Engleking of the Texas Methodist Foundation and taken from <http://www.mattaboutmoney.com>.)

As another Chicago winter stretches on, I've been longing for spring. And isn't that how it is whenever we go through a wintry financial season? We can't wait for a better one to begin.

In my mid 20's, I inherited \$60,000 from an uncle. I used the money to create my dream job, a newsletter for people who take golf vacations. The money enabled me to play some of the greatest golf courses in the world: Pebble Beach in California, the spectacular golf courses of Spain's Costa del Sol, and many more.

Two years later I woke up to the hard reality that I had transformed that gift into \$20,000 of credit card debt. I had become so acclimated to the life I was enjoying and so blind to what was happening with my finances that when the money ran out I just kept funding my adventure on credit cards.

The next four and a half years, during which I paid it all off, often felt like one long winter. I couldn't wait for the debt repayment process to end. But along the way I found some encouragement reading about an affliction faced by the apostle Paul.

"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me" (2 Corinthians 12:7).

Boy, could I relate. My debt felt like the nastiest of thorns that had been twisted into my flesh.

"Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me" (2 Corinthians 12:8).

Three times? How about a *gazillion* times?

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

When I read those last verses I felt a tremendous weight lift from my shoulders. God had already used my financial difficulties to draw me into a relationship with him. But Paul's words told me there was an additional purpose for what I was going through. I realized God was using that time to teach me not to lean on my own understanding, to trust in his provision, and to help me develop more patience. Ultimately, that financial train wreck led me to my life's work: writing and teaching workshops on how to manage money according to the timeless wisdom of God's word.

If you're in the midst of a difficult financial season, it's very natural to just grit your teeth, tough it out, and focus on getting to a better place. But my encouragement is to look for all that God wants to teach you during this trial. It's probably more than you think.

What is he revealing about the true source of the problems you're facing? What does he want you to remember about his character and his concern for you? How might he enable you to use this tough time for the good of others?

Whatever trial you're going through, you can rest assured in God's promise to [provide for you](#) and know that he has [a purpose](#) he wants to accomplish.

The other night as I ran a bag of trash outside to our garbage can and turned to make my usual quick dash toward the warmth of our home, I glanced up and was stopped by the beauty of trees coated in fresh snow glistening under a full moon. I stood there for a moment just taking it in. Then I did something I do far too infrequently: I thanked God for the winter.

By Matt Bell www.mattaboutmoney.com

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 7:15 PM SRCC in Fellowship Hall	2 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Book of Revelation Study in Sanctuary	3 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper in Conference Room 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal	4 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall	5 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	6
7 9:45 AM Book of Revelation Study in Sanctuary	8 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	9 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall	10 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper in Conference Room 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal	11 5 AM - 7AM Feed the Homeless @ First UMC Family Life Center 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Administrative Council in Fellowship Hall	12 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	13
14 9:45 AM Book of Revelation Study in Sanctuary	15 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM SRCC Executive Committee Meetings in Conference Room	16 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Mardi Gras Party 7:00 PM SRCC Historic District Project-- Conference Room	17 11:45 AM SAAM Board Meeting @ Christ Lutheran 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper in Conference Room 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship	18 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall	19 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	20
21 9:45 AM Book of Revelation Study in Sanctuary 4:00 PM Faith-in-Action Caregivers Benefit Concert at St. Edwards University	22 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	23 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Book of Revelation Study in Sanctuary	24 8:30 AM – noon District Professionals Meeting 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous 6:00 PM Fellowship Supper in Conference Room 7:00 PM Choir rehearsal	25 9:00 AM Quilters in Fellowship Hall	26 12:00 PM Faith-in-Action Caregivers South Austin Board Meeting in Library 5:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous	27
28 9:45 AM Book of Revelation Study in Sanctuary						



Grace United Methodist Church
 205 E Monroe St
 Austin TX 78704-2424



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 FAITH • HOPE • LOVE



Our Vision Statement: Grace United Methodist Church invites all, welcomes all, and includes all in the Faith, Hope, and Love of God through Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Statement: We seek to include all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, physical ability or sexual orientation in the journey of becoming disciples of Jesus Christ.

YOUR STAFF AT GRACE UMC



Linda Kessie,
 Pastor



Cheryl Rader,
 Administrative
 Assistant



John Jordan,
 Facilities
 Caretaker



Les Young,
 Pianist/Organist
Stefen Kane,
 Music Director



Cas Longo,
 Director,
 Children's
 Ministry