



Pulpit & Pew

April 2011
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...?

- April 3, 10, 17. 12:30 pm. Confirmation class meets.
- April 5, 12, 26. 7:00 pm. Disciple III Bible Study meets in church library.
- April 14. 5-7 am. Feed My People, preparing & serving breakfast for the homeless, at First UMC annex building 13th & Lavaca Streets.
- April 15. 7:30 pm. ACGS free concert featuring Chroma Duo.
- April 16. 10:30 am. Easter Egg Hunt and lunch.
- April 17. 11:00 am. Palm Sunday worship.
- April 21. 7:30 pm. Maundy Thursday Service of Tables of 12 and Holy Communion.
- April 22. 7:30 pm. Good Friday dramatic presentation of "Golgotha" from ***The Man from Nazareth*** by Diane Huie Balay, directed by Chester Eitze.
- April 24. 7:00 am. Easter Sunrise worship in Aunt Catherine's Garden.
- April 24. 7:30 am. Easter breakfast, covered dish.
- April 24. 11:00 am. Easter worship.
- April 28. 7:00 pm. Administrative Council and Charge Conference.
- May 1. 11:00 am. Bright Sunday worship

Please check the church calendar regularly using our new Google website calendar for new and/or updated events.

Visit <http://www.gracemethodistaustin.org> and click on the Grace Events Calendar link under the bold-faced red heading RESOURCES on the right-hand side of the page.



Administrative Council Meeting, March 17, 2011

Tom Calnan reported for the Trustees that Aunt Catherine's Garden was cleaned up and tended. Trustees voted to continue with the current lease with American Tower Company, which leases our land in

Garfield for a cell tower. Current lease extension expires in 2031, and will provide Grace Church with a income stream through 2031 which will total \$319,000.

David Jester presented the proposed budget which includes an updated amount of total estimates of giving for 2011. The adjusted amount which may be needed to balance this budget is \$39,000. The budget proposes that amount be disbursed to the General Fund from the Permanent Endowment Fund. Administrative Council voted to approve this proposed budget pending approval of Charge Conference for the disbursement of up to \$39,000 to the General Fund for 2011. A Charge Conference for the purpose of this vote will be held on April 28, 2011.

Communications Team reported that Neil Luna held a webinar to train people working on our website.

Elaine Chaney reported for Outreach Team that 5 members of Grace Church walked in the CROP Walk.

Linda Kessie related to the council a request from District Superintendent Rev. Bobbi Kaye Jones to see if Grace Church would like to be considered as a late May Free Store Art Event location. The Free Store Art Event would provide some cohort of children from one of our nearby schools with many creative art projects/supplies for summer fun, with help from their District Office. The District Superintendent expressed an expectation that if we hosted, we would be expected to have real intention and energy for sustaining an ongoing relationship with the school. Discussion followed with questions surfacing about what kind of involvement was expected, if all involvement would have to be daytime volunteering, and whether Grace's membership could provide any daytime volunteers with so many of us working during the day. The Council requested that Linda relay these concerns/questions to the District Superintendent.

Linda also brought to the attention of the Council the UMC global Change the World event which is

targeted for May 14-15, 2011. Globally 16 thousand children die from hunger-related causes every day, while locally more than 49 million Americans struggle to put enough food on the table. Connectionally, more than 11 million United Methodists can be a force to end world hunger. Each congregation is invited to define their hunger relief project and then invite their community to participate. Council discussed our SoCo Ministry and Austin's Caritas food drives and many ideas of how we might promote those. Council was concerned that both *Change the World* and the *Free Store Arts Project* are in May; much work would be needed from this congregation to attempt both. Council tabled further discussion until next meeting, until we hear if we will be asked to be one of the Free Store Art Event locations.

April Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council will not meet on April 21 (that's Maundy Thursday) but will meet on Thursday April 28 as a charge conference meeting.

Charge Conference



A Charge Conference will be held on Thursday, April 28, 7 pm for the purpose of voting on a proposal to withdraw up to an amount of \$39,000 from the Permanent Endowment Fund to balance the 2011 budget. For questions, or discuss, please speak to the pastor or one of the members of the Administrative Council.



Sunday flowers

Our worship altar flowers are provided most Sundays by members of the Grace Church family. The beautiful arrangements are designed by our own David Mitschelen, who donates his flower-arranging talent as a labor of love. After sharing the arrangement with us for worship, you will have a beautiful arrangement to take home or to give to another. Cost is \$40; please make checks payable to Grace UMC and designate "worship flowers" on memo line. To sign up, write your name on the Flower Schedule at the back of the sanctuary, or call the church office.. Please indicate if you wish the flowers to be dedicated in honor or in memory of someone.



Lent Schedule at Grace

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

- April 15, 7:30 PM** Austin Classical Guitar Society's free community concert featuring Chroma Dua.
- April 16, 10:30 AM** Easter Egg Hunt and barbeque lunch
- April 17** Palm Sunday
- April 21, 7:30 PM** Holy Thursday/Maundy Thursday. Service of Tables of 12 Holy Communion.
- April 22, 7:30 PM** Good Friday. Dramatic presentation of "Golgotha" from *The Man from Nazareth* by Diane Huie Balay, directed by Chester Eitze.
- April 24, 7:00 AM** Easter Sunrise worship in Aunt Catherine's Garden
- 7:30 AM** Covered dish breakfast in fellowship hall
- 11:00 AM** Easter worship in the sanctuary
- May 1** Bright (Holy Humor) Sunday worship

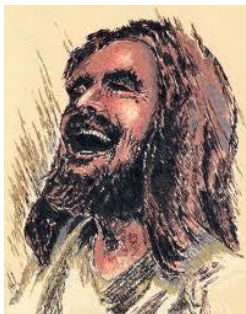
April Birthdays

- Malcolm Caldwell, 3rd
- David De La Rosa, 25th
- Wanda Daily, 28th
- Adam Fambrough, 29th
- Jan Preusse, 8th
- Steven Drinovsky, 26th
- David Burton, 29th
- John Paul Kessie, 29th



PRAYER CORNER

- Jean Adams
- Rosemarie Burney
- Leonard Cain
- Dove family
- Charley Holloway
- Paul Holman
- family of Dorothy Jordan
- Katie Kennedy & family
- Lynn Lefave
- Mooney family
- Zackery Morris
- Mary Nichols
- Valerie Phillips
- Aileen Simms
- Ella Stone
- Charles Turland
- Grace UMC
- Candidates for delegate to the General Conference
- Betty Bratton
- Bernice Caldwell & family
- Michael Christelman & family
- Wesley & Marie Helgren
- Paul Holloway
- Theresa Jenkins
- Judy Jordan
- Kenneth Leenen
- Betty Lusk
- Adah Morris
- Pat Newell
- Janice Palm
- Suzanne & Grant Scott
- Ellen Stockberger
- Karie Strahan
- Men & women in military service delegates to the Annual Conference



Bright Sunday Worship

In the early days of Christianity, all of Easter week was one continuous feast - a week of intense happiness and spiritual joy. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John

Chrysostom who believed that God had played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "Risus paschalis" - the Easter laugh - they called it. Many American churches are resurrecting this custom, continuing the celebration on the Sunday after Easter, named Bright Sunday, or Holy Humor Sunday. In our worship on the Sunday after Easter, May 1, for the second year, we will observe this custom with joy and jokes and laughter! You won't want to miss it!



Easter Offerings

During the Easter season, it is encouraging to see both new and

familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions but greater participation is always welcome. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for the church. Please contact the church office for details.



Easter Flower Orders are being taken from those of you wishing to recognize loved ones "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" on Easter Sunday. Flowers will be presented in the

sanctuary that morning during the worship service and may be taken home afterwards.

White trumpet lilies will be available as well as the most colorful spring flowers to be chosen from azaleas, begonias or hydrangeas. Per unit price is \$10. Lilies do very well the next year if planted in the ground. The other flowers will do well in containers or in the ground as their species permits.

Order forms will be available Sunday mornings or in the church office. Those taking the orders will be available to receive your cash or checks.

-Chester Eitze

Austin Classical Guitar Society

performances have become a tradition at Grace. Some of the most talented guitarists from the far reaches of the globe have visited our church and provided free performances showcasing outstanding virtuosity. During the Lenten season, Grace is blessed to present **Chroma Dua**, featuring classical guitarists Tracy Anne Smith and Rob



MacDonald. Chroma Dua has been described as "a dedicated new voice in the contemporary music world",

"Canadian guitar visionary", and "top class musicians". Find out more about Austin Classical Guitar Society at

<http://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/> and Chroma Dua at http://www.austinclassicalguitar.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22&Itemid=29.



Children of Grace

April Events

*****"Are You Sleeping?"*****

The Children of Grace will present a special Easter message during worship on **April 10**. Please contact Cas Longo if your child will be able to participate. caslongo@yahoo.com

****Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic****

Grace's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, **April 16**. Activities will begin at **10:30**. The egg hunt will be followed by a picnic lunch featuring grilled hamburgers and hotdogs. Children are asked to bring two nonperishable food items to donate to the Caritas spring food drive.

For more info about these or other Children's events, please contact Cas Longo at caslongo@yahoo.com.



Communion Rail Offering

April communion offering goes to One Great Hour of Sharing. Info at:

http://www.umcsgiving.org/site/c.qwL6KkNWLrH/b.3833841/k.F1C8/Special_Sundays_One_Great_Hour_of_Sharing_Overview.htm

Grace Notes Choir



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.

The Grace Notes Choir is currently working on music to enhance lent services culminating on Easter Sunday, April 24th. Our rehearsals are on Sunday morning, starting at 9:15am.

May God bless and keep you well!

Stefen Kane, Music Director



Bastrop Opera House ©

Bastrop's award-winning theatre!

Home of the Spring Street Players and the Colorado River Repertory

Congratulations Chester!!!

The Bastrop Opera House (BOH) festival production of *Souvenir* by Stephen Temperley competed in Fort Worth March 18-20 in the Texas Nonprofit Theatres, Inc. and American Association of Community Theatre Texas/AACTFest2011.

BOH received the following awards:

- Festival participation plaque
- Audience Acclaim plaque (playgoers who have seen all ten plays vote for their favorite, ranking them 1 to 10 with 1 being the favorite)

Actors Jennifer Houlihan as Florence Foster Jenkins and David-Anthony Burger as Cosme McMoon were named to the all-star cast each receiving plaques.

BOH Executive Director Chester Eitze received an award for excellence in directing. Eitze was also elected President of the Texas Nonprofit Theatres, Inc. Board of Governors.

Providing outstanding technical support for the performance and assistance with festival events were Terry Lyne and Scott Moore along with Paul Standefer and Randy Combs of Bastrop and Lisa Holcomb of Smithville. Bonnie and Nick Collier of Smithville were technical support for *Souvenir* when it competed in the first round in Kerrville in early February.

This award-winning comedy travels to Lewisville, Texas to compete in the AACT Regionals April 14 - 16. There will be two plays each from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas and Louisiana entered. One will advance to the Nationals in Rochester, New York in June.

Lent Blessings



Lenten Blessings

Let the Lenten season blessings below aid, enrich, and nourish your soul as you travel on your Lenten journey of faith.

A Blessing for the Journey into Self

May the Wind of God drive away impurity and bring fresh and vigorous possibility to your soul.

May the freeing Spirit unbind those places within

held captive by hopelessness, anxious thoughts and internal discord.

And may you find a middle place of awareness, between the blowing and the stillness, o feel and watch the movement from old to new.

A Blessing for the Journey into Suffering

May the suffering that stretches your soul also render it pliable in the hand of God.

May the stretch be soft, so you can endure it with unyielding patience.

May your vision be clear so that, no matter the trial, you can

see the wonder standing quietly nearby.

And in the very thing you long to cast away, may you find a gem worth keeping.

A Blessing for the Journey of Seeking God

When your soul whispers of its deepest longings,

may you quiet yourself to listen.

May you follow the path of yearning to the One alone who blends the uneven edges into a life of meaning.

May you meet and be united with God and give thanks for the whispers that led you there.

*Blessings taken from explorefaith.org, a website of spiritual guidance for anyone seeking a path to God.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Bible Study: 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship 1pm - ACGS rehearsals 2:30pm - Pecan Street	28 5:30pm - Alcoholics	29 7pm - ACGS rehearsals 7pm - Disciple Bible	30 5:30pm - Alcoholics 7:15pm - Bible Study.	31	1 5:30pm - Alcoholics	2
3 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Bible Study: 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship 2:30pm - Pecan Street	4 5:30pm - Alcoholics 7:15pm - SRCC	5 7pm - Disciple Bible	6 5:30pm - Alcoholics	7	8 5:30pm - Alcoholics	9
10 Children's Special 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Bible Study: 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship 1pm - ACGS rehearsals 2:30pm - Pecan Street	11 5:30pm - Alcoholics	12 7pm - ACGS rehearsals 7pm - Disciple Bible	13 5:30pm - Alcoholics 7:15pm - Bible Study in	14 5am - Feed the	15 5:30pm - Alcoholics 7:30pm - Austin	16 10:30am - Easter Egg 11am - Scrapbooking
17 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship 1pm - ACGS rehearsals 2:30pm - Pecan Street	18 5:30pm - Alcoholics 6pm - SRCC Exec.	19 7pm - ACGS rehearsals 7pm - Disciple Bible	20 12pm - SAAM Board 5:30pm - Alcoholics	21 7:30pm - Holy Thursday	22 Earth Day 5:30pm - Alcoholics 7:30pm - Good Friday.	23
24 7am - Sunrise Service 8am - Potluck Breakfast 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Easter Sunday	25 5:30pm - Alcoholics	26 7pm - ACGS rehearsals 7pm - Disciple Bible	27 5:30pm - Alcoholics	28 7pm - Administrative	29 5:30pm - Alcoholics	30



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