



Pulpit & Pew

February 2012
Established 1897

A Monthly Newsletter from Grace United Methodist Church

205 East Monroe, Austin, Texas 78704 512/442-5944 <http://www.gracemethodistaustin.org/>

Rev. Linda M. Kessie, Pastor

Lent



Grace at a Glance

What's going on at Grace this month?

- February 7. 7PM. Disciple III Bible Study.
- February 9. 5-7AM. Feed My People, preparing and serving breakfast to the homeless, at First UMC 13th and Lavaca Streets.
- February 16. 7PM. Administrative Council meets.
- February 19, 26. 9:50 AM. It's Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back, Lent Bible study in Fellowship Hall.
- February 22. 7:30PM. Ash Wednesday worship with Imposition of Ashes.
- February 26. 11:00AM Worship. First Sunday of Lent.

*As the church calendar is subject to change, please check the online calendar regularly by visiting <http://www.gracemethodistaustin.org/> and clicking on the **Grace Events Calendar** link under **Resources**.*



January Administrative Council

At our yearly Church Conference in November, District Superintendent Rev. Bobbi Kaye Jones reminded us that for the past 3 years Grace Church needed to withdraw from the principle of the Grace Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF) to pay our expenses. In 2011 the PEF disbursement from monies earned was \$12,100. We withdrew \$39,000 from the principle of the PEF to supplement offerings received in order to pay our expenses. It is estimated that at our current rate of withdrawal, the PEF will be used up within 7 to 11 years, depending upon stock market fluctuations. As of December 31, 2011, the Endowment Fund had \$328,748.87. The District Superintendent said, "There are beautiful things about your embrace of all and nurturing of one another and caring for those around you." She asked us to know our financial limitations and to develop a plan for the future related to our financial reality.

The January meeting of the Administrative Council was a brainstorming meeting in response to Rev. Jones' urging that we develop a plan for the future of Grace Church. It was led by Rev. Kathryn McNeely, director of the Ecclesiastes Project of the Austin District UMC, and Jan Berger, professional group leader and member of First UMC Austin. Some questions that were presented are: What are our options? What is the most important thing to us? What is needed for us to worship and minister to all that wish to become disciples of Jesus Christ? How else can we meet our mission (besides what we are currently doing)? What are other ways we can keep what is important to us and meet the needs to worship and minister to others? Can we do it in another way?

These are hard questions. The discussion will continue at future Administrative Council meetings. Members of Grace Church are always invited to attend these meetings and join in the conversation. Administrative Council meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM in the fellowship hall. The next meeting is February 16.

February Birthdays

Mitch Mooney	February 7
Marie Helgren	February 9
Tina McCune	February 12
Emily Pilinski	
Jack Shelton	February 16
Dave Burrough	February 17
Karyn Couvillion	February 22
Jennie Peterman	February 27



PRAYER CORNER

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Adrienne Howell | Randy Ivy |
| Family of Sarah James | Theresa Jenkins |
| Gloria Jimenez | Judy Jordan |
| Sister Mary Margaret McBride | Valerie Phillips |
| Christina Pino | Bill Stone |

Ella Stone

All who are hungry, displaced, sick or in poverty because of natural disaster and for the workers who minister to them



Holy Communion

Communion
Rail Offering

February Communion offering goes to True Vineyard Ministries www.truevineyard.org. True Vineyard Ministries works hand-in-hand with local churches and organizations, local resources, and local leadership in Rwanda to create sustainable enterprise for the worlds poorest. Local churches nominate the poorest widows in their community who can enter into True Vineyard Ministries' program. Many are rape survivors from the 1994 Genocide, are suffering from HIV/AIDS, and have experienced marginalization, hunger, and lack of other basic necessities. These women are also mothers to multiple children.

True Vineyard Ministries provides counseling to help women heal from their



Communion Rail Offering Cont'd

traumatic experiences. Skill-based training is also offered to the women, so they can earn a living, become professionals in their field, empowering them to take pride in their work for [Handspun Hope](#), raising a herd of merino sheep, cleaning, dying and spinning their wool into organic yarn which is sold through [Kidsknit.com](#).

True Vineyard operates the Vineyard Marketplace, a fair trade boutique in San Marcos, Texas, that showcases a variety of products handmade by widows' cooperatives, orphan-headed households, and other artisans working to say good-bye to poverty through hard work and creativity.

Your giving to True Vineyard Ministries on February 5 goes to support their Handspun Hope and Bake the Cycle programs.



Lent is the season of the church year which includes the 40 days prior to Easter (excluding Sundays) and begins on Ash

Wednesday, this year on February 22. It is set apart to be a time of reflection, prayer and repentance, inviting us to look inside our hearts, seeing ourselves with both compassion and truth - to see both our brokenness and our beauty, our failings and our faithfulness.

Traditionally Lent has been a time of fasting, allowing the fast to enter into our lives as a call to prayer. You might fast from coffee, each morning being reminded that you are to be filled and energized with God's blessings. You might fast from television, as a reminder to go outside and take in the drama and the beauty of creation. You might fast from fast food, being reminded to slow down and think about the source of our sustenance as you prepare your own meals. As the fast interrupts our normal way of being, we are reminded to be in prayer.

Another way of marking the season of Lent is through the addition of a spiritual discipline. You might read one of the gospels each week, getting to know Jesus in a new way. You could commit to praying daily for the

church or your community or the world - or all three! You might want to commit to an act of service to the least among us by serving in a homeless shelter, or visiting a local nursing home, or writing to someone in prison, or raising money to increase justice and mercy in the world, or walking in CROP Walk, or preparing and serving breakfast to the homeless. I invite us all to commit to keep this Lent season holy. Set it apart from other times, to make ourselves, our lives, an offering to our gracious and loving God. Make a commitment to fast, or to take on a spiritual discipline for Lent. You will find yourself blessed in the doing.

Shalom,
Linda

Lent Bible Study

“Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back”

By: Ray Buckley



Known for his stories, poetry, and art, Buckley---interim director of the Center for Native American Spirituality and Christian Study---

delineates the crescendo of events leading to the crucifixion so that all can learn how to cope with the stresses and strains of a crumbling world where light is dying out. 64 pages, softcover. Abingdon.



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Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church™



CROP Walk - March 3 & 4

The 2012 Austin CROP Hunger Walk held their kickoff event at First UMC, Austin on January 14. Congregations not able to attend are encouraged to contact the Austin CROP Office at 512/451-2062 to arrange pick up of walk packets and other materials.

The 2012 Austin CROP Hunger Walk will be held on Saturday morning, March 3 and Sunday afternoon, March 4 at Walter E. Long Park, near the Travis County Exposition Center, 6614 Blue Bluff Road. Walkers choose the time best for their own participation.

Registration info and other Walk details can be found at

www.austincrophungerwalk.org



Last year, the Austin CROP Hunger Walk was the city's largest interreligious event

with five world religions represented. Within the Christian religion, United Methodists were the top walking group! More than \$80,000 was raised for local and international hunger organizations. CROP Hunger Walks are an approved Advance in the United Methodist Church (#982380- CROP Hunger Walks). Within the Austin District, the CROP Hunger Walk tradition is strong.

In addition to the Austin Walk on March 3 and 4, the following communities hold their own Walks:

- Buda/Kyle- Fall date to be announced
- Cedar Park/Leander/NW Austin- March 25
- Elgin- April 21
- Industry- Fall TBA
- Lago Vista- March 4
- Lockhart- Fall TBA
- Pflugerville- Fall TBA
- San Marcos/Wimberley- March 25

See Elaine Chaney or Tom Calnan if you are interested in participating.

On Sunday, February 19, 2012 the **LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon and Half Marathon** will take place on the streets of Austin. An estimated 20,000 runners and 20,000 spectators will take part in the Marathon and Half Marathon and participants will travel from all 50 states and over 20 foreign countries. The 2012 LIVESTRONG Austin Marathon and Half Marathon will benefit



26 local organizations through the "26 Miles for 26 Charities" program for the fifth year.

The race will begin at 7:00am on N. Congress Ave near 16th Street and conclude with a post race area located between 6th and 11th street on historic Congress Ave. Runners will be on the roads in various parts of the city until 2pm. "Rolling road closures" will be in effect, reopening after the runners have passed.

The route utilizes Congress Ave., South 1st St., Cesar Chavez St., Winsted Ln., Enfield Rd., Exposition Blvd., 35th St., Bull Creek Rd., Shoal Creek Blvd., Great Northern Blvd., Foster Ln., Arroyo Seco, Woodrow Ave., 51st St., Duval St., MLK, San Jacinto Blvd. and other local roads. Please see the attached map for the 2011 race route.

Sunday, February 19th, road closures and traffic detours in your area include:

- The southbound lanes of S. Congress Ave. will be closed to traffic between 11th St. and Ben White Blvd.
- One northbound lane of S. Congress Ave. will maintain vehicle traffic.

All signalized intersections will be staffed by the Austin Police Department and will allow traffic to cross before and after the runners arrive. Your church is near the beginning portion of the course, so the very last runner should pass South Congress at Oltorf by 8:30am.

A comprehensive traffic control plan, which has been approved by the City of Austin Right-of-Way Management, will be used to position barricades along the route as well as officers of the Austin Police Department. City of Austin required public notice signs will go out along the route, 14 days prior to the event along with letters to business and residences.

For more information and maps, visit <http://youraustinmarathon.com/index.php>.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 5:30pm - 1313 AA	2	3 5:30pm - 1313 AA	4
5 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship	6 5:30pm - 1313 AA 7:15pm - SRCC	7 7pm - Disciple III Bible	8 5:30pm - 1313 AA	9 5am - Feed My People	10 5:30pm - 1313 AA	11
12 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship	13 5:30pm - 1313 AA 7pm - Reconciling Task	14	15 12pm - SAAM Board 5:30pm - 1313 AA	16 7pm - Administrative	17 5:30pm - 1313 AA	18
19 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday Worship	20 5:30pm - 1313 AA 6pm - SRCC Exec.	21	22 5:30pm - 1313 AA 7:30pm - Ash	23	24 5:30pm - 1313 AA	25
26 9:15am - Choir 9:30am - Children's 9:50am - Susanna's 11am - Sunday worship	27 5:30pm - 1313 AA	28	29 5:30pm - 1313 AA	1	2	3



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



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Grace UMC is
 affiliated with the
 Reconciling Ministries Network.



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 Welcoming Statement: Affirming our belief that all people are of sacred worth, we seek to include all people, regardless of race, nationality, age, mental ability, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and family status 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
 Janey Hall,
 Music Director



Cas Longo,
 Children's
 Ministry