



Dr. Michael W. Frye
Pastor

Ellen Koester
Associate in Ministry

Jan Decker
Admin. Assistant

Janice Peery
Organist/Accompanist

Ann Goldfinch
Adult Choir Director
Covenant Choir Director

Lynn Hess
The School of Grace Director

Our Mission:

"To seek the fullness of life
in Christ for all people."



Time to
Spring Ahead

March 13th

March 2011

Letter of Grace

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

5010 Six Forks Road

Email/newsletter: glc@gracelutheranraleigh.org

Raleigh, NC 27609

www.GraceLutheranRaleigh.org

Tele Number: 919.787.1815

Fax Number: 866.430.7093

From the Pastor ...

What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 defines faith in this way: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

During the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9th, our mid-week Lenten services will be following the theme developed by the *Sundays and Seasons* staff of Augsburg Fortress Publishers called "By Faith." For the first four weeks, we will examine the faith journeys of Noah, Abraham, Moses and the Israelites. In the fifth week we will walk in the footsteps of Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." The book of Hebrews will be our scriptural guide during this journey.

Lent is a time to center ourselves in self-examination, prayer, and corporate worship with our church family. I know that most of us get so busy during this time of year, and it may seem difficult to think about adding one more worship service to our schedule; however, mid-week worship during Lent provides us with an opportunity to really walk the walk and talk the talk of faith. Whether or not you follow the discipline of denial of something for Lent, or fasting, or family devotions around a Lenten home altar, you do have the opportunity to join your brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace for an hour of breaking bread together over a meal and of worshiping and praying together. This, in and of itself, can be a meaningful way of our preparing our hearts and minds to encounter the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I believe that this practice of faith as we worship together over those forty days will certainly prepare us to properly celebrate Jesus' triumph over the cross and the grave on Resurrection Day, April 24th.

Our Celebrate Team is calling us to worship as we prepare to come into Lent; our Connect Team is calling us to dine together during the Lenten dinners that begin on March 16th; our Equip Team is calling us to use this time of self-examination and reflection for personal and family devotions, as well as to make use of the educational opportunities that are available to us on Sundays and Thursdays; our Share Team is calling us to not forget the lonely, the sick, the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and all who are less fortunate than ourselves as we follow Christ to the cross; and our Invite Team is calling us to not forget the opportunities that may come our way in the days leading up to Easter to identify and invite someone who may still be searching for a church home.

With one faith and one voice, let us join together in this Lenten Journey as we prayerfully proclaim:

(Cont'd on Page 2)

From the Pastor . . . (Cont'd from page 1)

*Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*

*Bless Sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
together we are seeking the road where faith is found. (ELW, 326)*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Michael

Elementary School Children and Family Event

All children in grades 1 – 5 and their families are invited to a fun afternoon of games and supper on Sunday, March 27 from 3:15 – 6pm at Williams Park at Lynn Road Elementary School (at the corner of Lynn and Leadmine roads). This is a new group as we are shifting the age of participants. We are still expecting parent participation. The afternoon will include brainstorming a new name for the group, games, and supper. Pastor Frye will be offering the Holy Communion instruction class from 2 – 3pm that afternoon. Hot dogs, buns, condiments, and lemonade will be provided. Everyone should bring a side dish (that includes dessert) to share. Please RSVP by March 20 to Suzanne Scott (846-0852 or suzscott@nc.rr.com) or AIM Ellen (787-1815 x113 or aimellen@gracelutheranraleigh.org).



Lutheran Teens Talking — LTT

Lutheran Teens Talking (LTT), Grace's senior high youth group will meet on Sundays, Mar. 6 and 20 from 5 – 7pm. All students in gr. 9 – 12 are invited to attend, and the meeting includes supper. The group will be working on plans for Youth Sunday.



Lenten Practices and Coin Folders

As Pastor Frye mentioned in his article, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. The days preceding Easter were used in the early church for those preparing for baptism to demonstrate their readiness to live the life of following the way of Jesus. Over time the traditional disciplines during Lent have become prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (charitable giving). As individuals consider adopting a discipline for Lent, it is helpful to ask questions like:

How will this practice draw me closer to God?

How will this practice help me share God's love and/or abundance with others?

How will this practice help me see my place in God's mission today?

How does this practice help me better understand what God does and has done for me/us?



A traditional practice at Grace during Lent is the distribution of coin folders. In many places, coin folders are linked during Lent with the practice of fasting from some food or beverage item, and giving what one might normally spend on that item to a specific cause (almsgiving). At Grace, the coin folders are collected and that money along with the offerings from the Wednesday evening worship services are placed in a discretionary fund. Pastor Frye authorizes expenditures from that fund to help both members and non-members who are in need. Those needs might range from mortgage or rent assistance to gas money or groceries. The needs vary greatly and often exceed the resources that are available.

Lenten disciplines can be a great way of focusing on a renewed understanding of baptism and its place in the lives of individuals and of the community. Everyone is invited to take time to focus on this Lenten journey. Contact AIM Ellen if you would like to talk about ideas for a Lenten discipline.



New Option for Thursday Evening Bible Study begins March 24th

The Thursday evening Bible study led by AIM Ellen will be completing its study on the Gospel of John in early March. A new study will begin on Thursday, March 24th. This study will look at one or more of the lectionary texts for the coming Sunday. This study will not require advance preparation, and participants can easily come for one or more of the sessions without losing continuity. If you are looking for a Bible study as a Lenten practice, come and explore your options with the group that meets in the library. This study will continue through Thursday, April 14th. Contact AIM Ellen if you have questions. No experience necessary. Everyone is welcome.



Stewardship Corner

A Personal Lesson in Stewardship

In almost every volume of the Letter of Grace there is a note of gratitude from someone in our church family who has been touched by the kindness of others in the congregation. I used to skim over those notes without paying them much attention. In recent weeks they have become more meaningful to me.

In January I got a scare regarding my health. My lower back had been bothering me since early fall and by New Years I decided that it was time to see the doctor and get it taken care of. (To my wife's dismay it takes me much too long to give in and get help.) Consultations led to a back x-ray and then to a MRI, which showed some unusual motting on my spine. The orthopedic doctor suggested I consult an oncologist. Having been treated for cancer twice before, I was worried and afraid. I only shared what was happening with Pastor Frye, Aim Ellen, and a couple of my fellow committee members at church.

In December when my father passed away the kindness and support I received from my Grace family was wonderful. Sympathy cards and kind words on Sunday morning meant a lot to me. Then as one uncertain medical test led to another, the prayers with Pastor and from Ellen along with the gentle words of my friends at Grace assured me that I was not alone. Tracy Hausfeld, who works with cancer patients everyday, was especially reassuring. She even baked some brownies for a committee meeting that took place on my birthday. It was a pleasant celebration at just the right time.

Most of the articles I've written about Christian Stewardship have been concerned with the money we give or time we commit to "church work." However having felt God's healing hand through the acts of my friends at Grace, I realize that loving one another may be our most important stewardship responsibility. I am convinced that if we make it a priority to care for and support each other, as God challenges us to do, that the other aspects of living our lives as Christian stewards will fall naturally into place.

Now when I see those notes gratitude in the LOG, I will remember how God's people affected my life and be reminded of my responsibility to care for others.

To my relief, every medical test came back negative. There is no cancer for which I am thankful.

Our Prayer could be:

Heavenly Father, Thank you for enabling me to be a part of the Christian community that is Grace Congregation. Help me to recognize opportunities to share your love with the people in my church family. Let me use the gift of health in your service. In Jesus Name, Amen.

— submitted by John Hefner, Congregation President & Stewardship Chair

Women of the ELCA News



Dear Sisters in Christ,

What a joy it is to sit down once a month with like-minded women, enjoy an inspirational and thought-provoking program, plan with others for programs of good works, and be fed at the end by some of the best cooks in the parish! Speaking for all of us, it is our wish that you could join us, even if not every time, just to see how warm and friendly it can be.

February's meeting was just such a meeting: we were all there raring to go. We started off with a short program by Barbara Rodberg (we have kept to our pledge of short meetings sparing our working and older members having to travel to and from home at late hours), dealing with Epiphany, and asking each of us what, in our own lives, we would recognize as a personal Epiphany. A curious idea evolved; our own Baptism, as viewed from various points in our lives, involves the process of epiphany. The first time most of us experienced Baptism, either by being there or by word of mouth, it was a fact, an experience, a party opportunity. Later on, looking back as perhaps a young adult, it was a satisfactory feeling of belonging to something bigger than oneself, a minor epiphany if you will. With religious maturity it becomes such a joy, such a privilege, such a gift. We belong to Him; he loves us. What a blessing!

Our Christmas Party was a success—we distributed 54 baskets, and it seems the people we gifted were in a place to be particularly glad to receive them. Our hearts were gladdened by thank you notes and reports of recipients standing up in church to express their appreciation for our thoughts of them. You folks have no idea how much we receive in return for thinking of you at this time. Thank you, as well.

— submitted by Jean Gerald

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Our Women of the ELCA SUNDAY was held on Feb. 13th, 2011. Many of you contributed your love and support on this day. The church mice told me that we were very well received, indeed. My Temple Talk was based on our 2011 Theme, "Women of Faith – with Arms Wide Open". The women of Grace really step up to WELCOME, SERVE, ACCEPT, COMFORT, and SERVE our Congregation, our Community and our World. Special thanks to Ellen Koester for giving our sermon "Face in the Mirror", Judy Frye for playing our music, and Janice Perry for the use of her special written verse for "All the Faithful Women" hymn. Thanks also for all the women who contributed their time to the Worship service and the WELCA Coffee Project and refreshments for after both services.

The Fair Trade Coffee Project isn't just coffee. On many occasions people express that they don't drink coffee. We offer many different varieties of TEA and CHOCOLATE, too. Try our newest flavor of "CHAI" tea. The Dark Raspberry chocolate bar is one of the favorites. We also offer whole bean coffee on many varieties and also some decaf blends. On occasions we offer gift baskets which include either coffee or tea and some chocolate as well. Soon we will be scaling down some of our varieties, but, you will still be able to purchase them by buying a full case at a reduced price. Now is the time to try some of our coffee and tea in the Fellowship Hall after our services from now until May. All net proceeds go to the North Raleigh Ministries and remember that your purchase will help improve the lives of the small coffee and chocolate farmers from around the world.

Upcoming Events:

Our next Women of the ELCA meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, in the conference room. The Bible Study, "Looking Into the Mirror", will be lead by Joanne Keithly and the refreshments will be provided by Betty Wahlstrom.

April 8-10, 2011 Spring Retreat at Kure Beach – Topic "Sacred Spaces" (contact Evelyn Wood)
Eighth Triennial Gathering – July 14-17, 2011 – Spokane, WA.

This verse was written by Janice Perry -

"We thank God for the women, who meet within the place. With countless hours of service, they witness here at Grace. They share their time and talents, all gifts from God above. With service unto others, they demonstrate His love."

(websites to check out: www.ncwelca.org * www.womenoftheelca.org * www.elca.org)

— Thank you and God Bless, Dorothy Conners

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer Opportunities



Team CONNECT is looking for volunteers to assist with the Lenten Suppers and Easter Breakfast.

Groups of people are needed to set up and take down tables, food preparation, and serving and cleaning up the kitchen. A planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1st @ 7:00pm. Please contact Jill Nobles for additional information at jmnobles@bellsouth.net or 676-8143.

Augsburg Sunday School Class



We have just finished a quarter studying portions of Isaiah and the gospel of Mark. Beginning March 6th our new 13 week class will be entitled: "We Worship God." What could be the purpose of such a study?

The New Testament church crafted some of its most profound theology through worship. In song, prayer, and creed the early church expressed the truth it had come to know in Christ. We are heirs of that worship and will study texts that reflect some of the early church's worship.

Today, through Word and Sacrament, God's spirit is conforming us to the image of the Son, so that the church can be the body of Christ in and for the world.

Our writer is Brian Peterson, pastor of congregations in Minn. and Va. Now on the faculty at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.

Any and all interested in Bible Study and discussion are invited to come join this group of learners. We meet at 9:45 in classroom #3 each Sunday morning. All are welcome. Questions? — Lois Jean Query (847-5497).

Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries



1. **Faith Center at Kure Beach is NOT for sale.** More information is on our web site.
2. **Summer Staff search is under way for quality Christian adults to serve as counselors on our 2011 summer staff.** Applicants must be 19 years minimum, love kids, and want a fun and exciting challenge.
3. **Summer Camp** Register now! Brochures have been sent to your church. Info available on web site.
4. **Work Day at Camp Agapé is March 26th.** Stay overnight Friday, work Saturday breakfast and lunch are provided. Projects includes putting up the cross at the Lakeside Chapel, painting, trail work, wood splitting Also if you are not able to do physical work we have light office work. Must have reservations E-mail ACEed@agapekurebeach.org
5. **Spring Golf Outing 3rd Annual April 11th at Lochmere Club in Cary.** Overnight accommodations at Camp Agapé. Help send a kid to camp!
6. **Mother – Daughter overnight retreat May 6-7, 2011.** Celebrate your relationship with the women in your family. For Mothers and Daughters of all kinds and all ages. Contact Katie at program@agapekurebeach.org or call Camp Agapé for details.
7. **Special Needs:** electric or gas golf carts
8. **Volunteers needed for various maintenance tasks, wood working, painting, and plumbing.**

Contact Camp Agapé:
Contact Kure Beach:

Telephone: 919-552-9421
Telephone 910-458-0783

E-mail: agape@agapekurebeach.org
E-mail: kurebeach@agapekurebeach.org

Agapé Kure Beach Ministries Website -- www.agapekurebeach.org

Thank You

I want to thank all my Grace prayer partners for your continuing concern and support for me through your prayers, cards and phone messages during these past weeks. There is no doubt in my mind about the power of Graces' prayers! I am grateful, indeed, to be part of such a caring community.

— Lois Jean Query



Dear Grace Family,

Thank you so much for the care packages you have sent me this school year! I loved the pillow and all of the nice messages in it. I also really appreciated the care package with the popcorn. It's nice to know that you are thinking about us college kids even when we're away from home!

— Sarah Jones

Thank you to our Grace Family for the loving expressions of all our Grace family for their loving care with their presence. It was very comforting to know so many loved ones shared their day with us. Vernon was a very dear husband and father.

— Margarette Peoples

To All My Friends at Grace Lutheran Church:

I want to thank all the members for your prayers, cards, and visits that I received during my illness. They all made me feel better as I returned back to feeling much better. I also want to express to the WELCA for the lovely basket of fruits and homemade cookies I received. Now I am enjoying being back at church with my Grace family.

— Thank you, Melba Fowler

Member Information

ADDRESS CHANGES

Thomas Chapman
711 Glen Hollow Drive
Durham, NC 27705
Tele # 919/998-9059

David & Judy Grigsby
and children Will & Christine
3850 Althorp Drive
Raleigh, NC 27616
Tele #919/424-7151

Janet Decker
6811-104 Highline Street
Raleigh, NC 27616
Tele # 919/785-2272



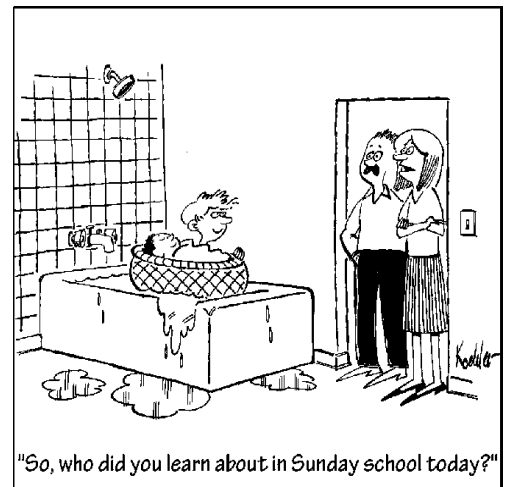
What is faith?

"Sight is not faith, and hearing is not faith, neither is feeling faith; but believing when we neither see, hear nor feel is faith; and everywhere the Bible tells us our salvation is to be by faith. Therefore we must believe before we feel, and often against our feelings, if we would honor God by our faith."

— Hannah Whitall Smith



On a Lighter Note



**Grace Lutheran Church
Leadership**

Congregational Officers

President

John Hefner

Vice President

Jill Nobles

Secretary

Brian LeBlanc

Treasurer

Barbara Rodberg

Financial Secretary

Jeff Wyatt

Our Mission:

**“To seek the fullness
of life in Christ for
all people.”**

As we

Celebrate

Brian LeBlanc (Council)

Laurie Secor (Council)

Bill Hagen (Congregation)

Donna Sanders

(Congregation)

Equip

John Hefner (Council)

Suzanne Scott (Council)

Tracy Hausfeld (Congregation)

Vic Lebsock (Congregation)

Connect

Jill Nobles (Council)

Corrine DeArmitt (Council)

Ray Valdillez (Congregation)

Donna Lebsock

(Congregation)

Invite

Barbara Rodberg (Council)

Greg Stevens (Council)

Mike Loesch (Congregation)

Eric Kohl (Congregation)

Share

Marika Yeh (Council)

Christine Hamaker (Council)

Pete Hauser (Congregation)

Tim Hess (Congregation)

Charles Breeding

(Congregation)

Deanna Loesch (Youth)

Year Round

Operational Groups

Finance

Ron Zechman, chair

Property

Barbara Irene, chair

We Believe in Prayer

Prayers the past month



For praise and thanksgiving...

Mark Hanson, ELCA Presiding Bishop, Leonard Bolick, our Synod Bishop, for Pr. Michael, AIM Ellen, and for all pastors, teachers, and leaders in the Church

The ministries of this congregation, The School of Grace , PLM-Families Together, North Raleigh Ministries, Helen Wright Center, Meals on Wheels, Food Bank, Kairos Outside, Alpha, Alliance Medical Ministries, Urban Ministries, Open Door Clinic, Joy of Discovery Lutheran Church, The Universal Christian Church of Haiti

Our Prayer Partner Congregation, Christ Lutheran Church, Stanley, NC

The President, Congress and Supreme Court of the United States

Leaders of all nations, especially those entrusted with finding a lasting peace in the Middle East

Our military forces (especially Todd Allen, Gabbi Althouse, Jason Ball, Alex Berry, Griffin Burns, Jordan Cooper, Jordan Grant, Lauren Holmes, Reginold Seabrook, Jamie Thomas, Greg Troehler)

For people around the world in need...

Victims and families of those involved in terrorists attacks

Our neighbors who aren't sure where their next meal will come from

Victims and families of the earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, and Turkey

For our homebound members...

Roz Sekadlo (3905 Iverson St., Raleigh 27604)

Paula Stresemann (Long Leaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Ctr., Wilson, NC)

Pong Zumhagen (Phoenix Assisted Care, Cary, NC)

For illness, surgeries or injuries... (Members)

Scott Bolin

Sharon Herrmann

George Richards

Lyn Cornelius

Linda Jones

Ron Sanders

Pat Dicke

Brian Nobles

Larry Spicer

George Drakulic

Betty Olsen

Nancy Thompson

Joan Fitzgerald

Janice Peery

Dr. Tom Thompson

Jean Gerald

Margarette Peoples

Stacey Waddell

Shirley Hanson

Lois Jean Query

For illness, surgeries or injuries... (Family/Friends of Members)

Sgt. Bradford

Aubrey Humphrey's friend

Nancy Charles

Pat Brown's friend

Jason Chamblee

Aubrey Humphrey's friend

The Chitinis Family

Suzanne Hagen's friends

Sue Clark

Bonnie Torgerson's friend

Maggie Huber

Bente Pederson's cousin

Jennifer Middleswarth

Wayne & Dorothy Conners' daughter

Dusty Muller

Aubrey Humphrey's friend

Mary Parker

Former member of Grace

Mary Lou Sielschott

Suzanne Hagen's aunt

Mary Woodward

Suzanne Hagen's friend

For families of...

Muriel Anderson

Lorrie Rhea's sister / member of Amazing Graces

Joanna Fenimore

Fred Fenimore's mother

Irene Koester

Ellen Koester's mother

Luella Loesch

Mike Loesch's grandmother

William Motzer

Wilma Tannler's brother-in-law

Vernon Peoples

Margarette Peoples' husband & member of Grace

Erika Reter

Member of Grace

Mary Williford

Suzanne Scott's Grandmother

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March 2011

Mission Teams Host the Fellowship Time

Members and friends of Grace in attendance on Feb. 20 were privileged to experience the Great Grace Social hosted after both services by the Invite Mission Team. Invite shared information on its ministries including showing both the Grace and School of Grace websites. Other mission teams will be hosting times after worship in the coming months so that everyone may learn more of the ministries being offered and ways to be involved. Upcoming dates include:

March 13 – Share Mission Team
March 27 – Celebrate Mission Team

May 1 – Connect Mission Team
May 15 – Equip Mission Team

Everyone is invited to take a few minutes after worship on those days to learn more about the ministries of the congregation.



Christ has no body now, but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which
he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which
he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which
he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands,
Yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes,
You are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which
he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours!