

Grace to You

March 2010
Volume 2010, Issue 3

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Let the Children Come

It was Monday evening at Grace and we were in our second session of communion class for preschool through first graders. There were 20 kids up in the very front of the church gathered closely around the altar table, some of them for their first taste of Eucharist. The boys and girls were standing with their hands placed flat around the edges of the altar, most of the kids barely tall enough to rest their chins there too.

We had just heard the story of the Last Supper, talked about Jesus and his disciples, and we were very intentionally praying our Prayer in “remembrance of him.” As we prayed this slightly abbreviated version we got to the first moment in the prayer when, on Sundays, the sanctus bell rings. And exactly at that moment (without any outside cues – I hadn’t even mentioned the bell in class) one of the kids said, “Bongggg.” I smiled, went on with the prayer and assumed that that particular kid just happened to be exceptionally attentive. But then we got to the next place in the prayer where the bell is rung and almost all the kids, without any cue from me or anyone else, chimed in all together, “Bong. . .” right on time! I told them that the bell is rung at very special moments in the story and they looked at me as if that were obvious. Then we broke the bread, shared the bread and went out into the world in peace.

Several of these children have also been present for our Feeding America nights. We have a faithful five year old who looks forward to climbing up into the truck to help us unload and get food down to the tables. We have another five year old and a seven year old too who are specializing in hospitality, walking with guests around the truck and helping their Dad carry food to people’s cars. We have a 3 year old and a 6 year old who can bag with the best of’em counting bananas and putting food in hungry people’s hands.

It’s safe to say that our kids are getting it. And that’s something to celebrate. Children at Grace are being formed in faith by participating in the communal actions of service and prayer. Our kids are being fed and are feeding others. They are allowing themselves to be served and they are serving. They are connecting the meal on the inside with the meals on the outside learning that we do all of this “in remembrance of Him.” They are learning to be present in faith, with open hands and hearts and minds. And look out, acolytes, they even know when to ring the bell.

Way to go, Grace Church. Welcome the children and they will grow.

Peace,
Jen

Grace Episcopal Church Holy Week & Easter Schedule

We Process and Shout Hosanna! - Palm Sunday (March 28) 8:15, 10:30AM

Join us for a blessing of the palms, triumphal procession into church, narration of the Passion of Our Lord, and celebration of Holy Communion. The 10:30 service will begin in the Church yard—weather permitting.

We ‘Do this in Remembrance’ - Maundy Thursday (April 1) 6PM

Join us for an Agape meal, a foot washing, and Communion as we remember the Last Supper. We close with a stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday. An all-night prayer vigil continues in the chapel. Please bring bread or wine or fruit for the meal if you are able. Sign up for the vigil of prayer on the Commons Bulletin Board.

We Kneel at the Foot of the Cross - Good Friday (April 2) 7PM

Join us as we mark the crucifixion of our Lord with the Story of the Passion, solemn reflections, prayers, and song.

We Rise and Proclaim His Resurrection! - Easter Sunday (April 4) 6:30 & 10AM

Easter Vigil (6:30AM) - Gather with us before sunrise in the Church yard as we kindle a fire in the darkness and process inside to listen to the Biblical story of God’s saving actions. At the news of Christ’s resurrection, we shout “Alleluia!”, ring bells, sing praises, and celebrate Holy Communion. (Bring your bells!)

Easter Brunch (8:00AM—10:00 AM) - a chance for worshipers at both services to gather, celebrate and feast. All are welcome.

Easter Service (10AM) - We gather in the good news of Christ’s resurrection, celebrating Communion, and offering our thanks and praise to God.

Come walk with us as we walk with Christ.

Sunday Forum at Grace 9:15 in the Forum Room of the Lower Level

Lenten Forum Series: Back to Basics. . . Sort Of

This Lent will be getting back to the basics, but in a not so basic way, using videos from the NOOMA series by Rob Bell to hit on some of the themes of the season. This is how the producers of NOOMA describe it: “Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God’s work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. NOOMA is a series of short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.”

Our Forums will include a brief NOOMA video (each is about 15 minutes long), discussion and Biblical reflections on the topics listed below. Join us!

Feb 21st God’s Faith in Us with the video, *Dust*

Feb 28th Forgiving Others with the video, *Luggage*

March 7th Forgiving Ourselves with the video, *Lump*

March 14th Loving our Neighbors as Ourselves with the video, *Bullhorn*

March 21st Loving God with the video, *Rhythm*

Supper at 5:45, Holy Eucharist at 6:30 / Program at 7:00

Issues of Food, Faith, and the Future: A Lenten Movie Series
Wednesdays, Feb. 24th - Mar 24th 7:00 in the Forum Room

March 3, Eating Alaska

What happens to a vegetarian who moves to Alaska and marries a commercial fisherman and deer hunter? Join her on a wry search for a sustainable, healthy and ethical meal. Women try to teach her to hunt, teens gather traditional foods, vegans give cooking lessons, she fishes for wild salmon, scrutinizes food labels with kids and finds toxic chemicals getting into wild foods. With humor and compassion, the documentary **Eating Alaska** shows natives and non-natives trying to balance buying industrial processed foods with growing their own and living off the land in the 21st century. Made by a former urban vegetarian now living on an island in Alaska, it is a journey into regional food traditions, our connection to where we live and what we put into our mouths.

March 10, ASPARAGUS! Stalking the American Life

For 30 years, Oceana County Michigan has been the Asparagus Capital of the World. Now its spear-struck residents and family farms take on the U.S. War on Drugs, Free Trade and a Fast Food Nation, all to save their beloved roots. Winner of several awards.

March 17, Chocolat

Vianne Rocher and her young daughter are drifters who are met with skepticism and resistance when they move to a conservative town in rural France and open a chocolate shop during Lent. As Vianne begins to work her magic and help those around her, the townspeople are soon won-over by her exuberance and her delicious chocolates - except for the mayor, who is determined to shut her down. When a group of river drifters visit the town, Vianne teaches the townspeople something about acceptance, and finds love for herself along the way.

March 24, Babette's Feast...

Artistic, sensual and sacred passions unite in Babette's Feast. Written and directed by Gabriel Axel, from a short story by Out of Africa's Isak Dinesen, this Oscar(r)-winning film offers "an irresistible mixture of dry wit and robust humanity" (Newsweek). On the desolate coast of Denmark live Martina and Philippa, the beautiful daughters of a devout clergyman who preaches salvation through self-denial. Both girls sacrifice youthful passion to faith and duty, even many years after their father's death. But with the arrival of Babette, a mysterious refugee from France's civil war, life for the sisters and their tiny hamlet begins to change. Soon, Babette has convinced them to try something truly outrageous - a gourmet French meal! Her feast, of course, scandalizes the local elders. Just who is this strangely talented Babette, who has terrified this pious town with the prospect of losing their souls for enjoying too much earthly pleasure.

Book Discussion Group and Movie for March Focus on the Painted Veil

From Henry Idema

Once in a while I would like to have a book discussion on the last Wednesday of a month, following by a film based on the book for our movie series, which is always the first Wednesday of the month. I will announce these several months in advance to give you the chance to read the book.

The first discussion will be Wednesday, April 28, followed by the film on Wednesday, May 5. I have selected the classic novel, *THE PAINTED VEIL*, 1925, by W. Somerset Maugham, which was made into a wonderful motion picture a few years ago. Copies of the book will be available in The Commons.

Here is a blurb on the novel: Set in England and Hong Kong in the 1920s, *THE PAINTED VEIL* is the story of the beautiful but love-starved Kitty Fane. When her husband discovers her adulterous affair, he forces her to accompany him to the heart of a cholera epidemic. Stripped of the British society of her youth and the small but effective society she fought so hard to attain in Hong Kong, she is compelled by her awakening conscience to reassess her life and learn how to love. *THE PAINTED VEIL* is a beautifully written affirmation of the human capacity to grow, to change, and to forgive.

Both the novel and the movie will raise many psychological, moral, and spiritual issues. The book study will start at 5:30 and run for about an hour and a half. The movie starts with refreshments at 5:30, movie and pizza at 6 following by discussion. Please bring \$5 if you are eating pizza. *You may also bring refreshments to the book discussion, but pizza will not be ordered.*

YOUTH CHOIR NEEDS SINGERS!

From Jennifer Wolfe, Youth Choir Director

Many of our stalwart Youth Choir members of the past few years are no longer with us, due to changing voices, sabbaticals, high school commitments, and other life events. I am looking to the next generation of Grace Youth to step up and fill their shoes (and cool new robes).

YOUTH: Are you between the ages of 5 and 10? Do you like to sing – or are you willing to give it a try? Would your parents enjoy an extra long coffee hour on Sundays?

The Youth Choir rehearses after church on Sundays until 12:30 (with time for a snack first), and sings in church about once a month. On those Sundays we gather for a 10:00 rehearsal. Our upcoming services are:

- Sunday, March 7
- Palm Sunday, March 28
- Easter Sunday, April 4

PARENTS: Many younger children are apprehensive about joining the choir, but this soon changes. You are welcome to sit in rehearsal with your child until he or she feels comfortable. I pair up the younger singers with older “mentors” who help them with music and robes and bulletins. Kids can feel nervous about the “performance” aspect of the choir, so it helps to reassure them that the congregation is looking the other way, that no one will hear their voice all alone, and that they can hide behind a taller singer the first few times.

I will do all I can to make sure that your child has **FUN** and comes away with a greater understanding of both church and music. What I ask from you is a pretty steady weekly commitment so that your singer feels prepared and confident. Please call me at 395-8387, e-mail wolfe@hope.edu, or just join us any Sunday upstairs after church.

Jennifer Wolfe

Bits & Pieces of Grace

By Debbie Coyle

February has been an exciting month. There are lots of things to celebrate and there are some sadnesses to share.

Happy news from Devin Shea who has attained accreditation to teach "Freestyle" skiing. He is also writing a curriculum for the All Mountain Program (AMP) for skiers of all ages at Park City Mountain Resort in Park City, Utah. Most of his time is spent in the instruction of skiers 3-5 years old in the "Signature 5" program.

Congratulations go out to Robert Polik, whose Holland High Jr. Varsity Quiz Bowl Team won first place for the county. Congratulations also to Molly Coyle who was recently awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Hope College. Also, Congratulations to Molly and MacKenzie Coyle, and Graeme Richmond who received Superior ratings at the recent District Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Congratulations to Henry Idema as he announces the engagement of his daughter (Meghan) to Joseph Thue. Meghan and Joe are planning a Fall 2011 wedding.

The Grace family is very busy with artistic endeavors. To name a few; Brian Coyle, Brad Richmond, Mihai Craioveanu, Jen Wolfe, and Rob Hodson will all be involved in the upcoming DeVos Showcase at DeVos Hall on March 1st, Brian Coyle and Bill Bier will be performing with the newly formed Holland Jazz Orchestra on March 26th, MacKenzie and Molly Coyle will be appearing in (and performing music for) the Hamilton High School production of “Les Miserables” March 11, 12, and 13. In addition, the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys will be performing at All Saints’ Episcopal Church.

Grace is happy to welcome a new family to our Community Housing Program house. We are very excited to have them and wish them many happy times together in their new home.

Sadly, February marked the loss of Chris Shier (mother of Lori Shier). Please keep Lori’s family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Please help us celebrate your happy times and share your losses by sending us updates for the Grace To You monthly newsletter. Contact Debbie at deb-coyle@gmail.com or at the church office with your “Bits & Pieces”.

Updates from Children and Youth from Debbie Coyle, Director of CYM

The children and youth of Grace have been very busy so far this winter. From our youngest preschoolers to our graduating seniors, a variety of formation and fellowship activities have given them opportunities to grow in their faith and in their communities.

A class was held for the preschoolers (and anyone else wanting to know more) focused on the meaning behind our Eucharist. Nearly 20 children attended this event which gave them a centered place to ask questions and learn more about why we do what we do.

Education hour has been focused on the season of Lent and for the past few weeks, we have had “special combined Sunday School” to celebrate and mark these special days in the church year. We return to regular classes Feb. 28th - Mar. 21st with Middle School beginning a new series “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss”. On Mar. 28th (Palm Sunday) the classes will be combined for a special follow up to our Lenten Combined Class focused on the butterfly as a symbol of death and resurrection.

The Middle and High School youth continue to meet regularly and have enjoyed times of fun in the snow as well as times of preparing for our Lenten Service Project which is to participate in the Hope College Dance Marathon in March. They will be collecting pledges and participating in a “move-a-thon” activity day on March 7th. Then on March 13th, they will attend the Dance Marathon and present the money they have raised to support DeVos Children’s Hospital.

A group of High School Youth will be attending the National Nightwatch Spiritual retreat at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on March 19th. This trip has been made possible through the generous Whittemore Foundation’s grant support. Grace youth will be joined on this retreat by youth groups from St. Luke’s (Kalamazoo), St. Mark’s and St. Andrew’s (Grand Rapids), and Epiphany (South Haven), as well as youth from Bethany Christian Services (Grand Rapids).

In March, our older High Schoolers will begin preparing for Confirmation which will be held this year in Grand Rapids on May 22nd. We will begin meeting with those wishing to be Confirmed in March.

Finally, it is time to start thinking about Marketplaats. Last year, Grace raised over \$6,000 at the Dutch Food Court during Tulip Time which will be used for our Mission 2010 and our Pilgrimage 2012. Please help us continue to sustain this program by volunteering your time and talent during Tulip Time.

Upcoming Events for Children & Youth:

March 7: 8am-2pm Youth “Move-A-Thon”

March 13: 3pm-4pm - Hope College Dance Marathon

March 18-21: - High School Youth New York Trip to Nightwatch

March 24: Palm Sunday Combined Sunday School - “The Butterfly as a Symbol of Resurrection”

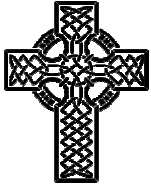
April 10: Diocese of Western Michigan Outreach Day 9-5

May 22: Confirmation

May 23: Pentecost and Celebration Sunday*

*Stepping Up has been scheduled for August prior to Kick off of 2010-2011 program year.

It’s never too late to be a part of Grace Children and Youth Ministries programming. Contact me at the church office 616-396-7459 or debcocyle@gmail.com for more information on how you can support CYM at Grace.



*Prayer List as of February
22, 2010*

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Ruth Thomas, John, the people of Haiti, relief workers, Tina and family, Gail Davison, Stephanie Hartford, Lynn Smith, Donna, Melinda, Chuck Breen, John Funches, Nanette, Florence Coyle (mother of Brian), Amy, Dana Whitelaw, Diane, Janet Huyser, Erin Walker, Katherine McNamar, Judy Ching, Andrew, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem; for the unemployed or under-employed, for the people of the Middle East and other areas of war and unrest, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially David, Matt Olney and loved ones of our parish family, Bobbie Deitenbeck, Judy Zylstra, Ralph, Sharon King, Karla Meeks, Aaron Schillaci, Mike, Brooks, Alex, Dolores & Earl, Yvonne Logan, Karen Trap, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Marian Schultz, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Richard Bailey, Isaac Montgomery, Samuel Moody, Eric Heiberg, Bradley Erickson, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Arty Ropa, Gloria Stegenga, Ann McKnight, Ruth Hill, Betty & Jerry, Bob & Donna, Marge Homan (mother of Carol Homan), Mary Rieckmann, Curt Keegin, Vivian Kingsley, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Patrice Mourrot, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

*Birthdays & Anniversaries
in March*

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Vivian Cook | 18 Dianne Glupker |
| Marilyn Glor | Treecy Meier |
| Mara McNamar | Jim Sligh |
| 4 Erin Linn | 19 Chuck Biolette |
| 5 Katrina Essenburg | Brad Hirdes |
| Ashley Hopkins | 20 Danny Matrosic |
| Karissa Ward | 21 Leslie Sligh |
| 6 Douglas Bier | 22 Patricia De Pree |
| Nancy Hensley | Ken Erickson |
| Catherine Krueger | Mike Phillips |
| Mary Matrosic | 23 Dave Phillips |
| Rosemary Turpin | 25 Gerlinde Knoll |
| Laurie Van Ark | 26 Jim Barry |
| 7 Dustin Jachim | Clara Brower |
| 9 Kyle Murray | Andrew Carmichael |
| 10 Sharon Morrill | David Methric |
| 11 Lyndsey Reimer | Ted Reimer |
| Emily Servinsky | 27 Melissa Easdon |
| Sarah Servinsky | 28 Nance Clark |
| 12 Howard Nyhof | Elizabeth Jenkins |
| 13 Curtis Keegin | 29 Joan Heneveld |
| 14 Pamela Buitendorp-Drew | Lilly Sanchez |
| 16 Sarah Reinink | 30 Gail Geiger |
| 17 David Keegin | Gordon Hignite |
| Mick Schorle | Lorie Shier |
| | 31 Barbara Griffin |



- 3 Sally & Rod Reinink
- 4 Lora Lee & Chuck Murray
- 17 Vivian & Gerard Cook
- 19 Gloria & Gordon Hignite
- 28 Patty & Denis Tabachuk

This page left blank intentionally. Please visit our most current calendar by clicking on the calendar link on the menu bar.

Stephen Ministry Hosts Guest Speaker - "The Grievs We Carry"

The Rev. Jaco J. Hamman, Ph.D. is Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Western Theological Seminary. Before coming to Western Seminary, Dr. Hamman spent three years in New York City working as a pastoral psychotherapist, group therapist, and marriage and family therapist at the Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute. He has a special interest in the confluence of theology and psychology in the lives of individual, families, and groups. He is the recent author of *When Steeples Cry*, a book about congregational grief and has a forthcoming book titled *A Play-full Life*. He will speak to us about the variety of grief we carry from losses to disappointments, from individual to communal and the possibility for growth and healing through it all. Jaco has been a guest of ours before. He is a bright, engaging and compassionate speaker.

All are welcome to join us Monday, February 22 from 7:00 until 8:00 and
Monday, March 22 from 7:00 until 8:00

Refreshments will be provided.



Grace Goes Bowling!

Let's go bowling! Fellowship invites you to join your Grace friends for an afternoon of bowling on Sunday, March 14th following the second service. This is Pizza Sunday, so please have a bite to eat and then head over to Century Lanes. The cost is \$8.00 per person and includes 2 games and shoe rental. You don't have to sign up in advance. The bowling alley is located on Century Lane between 16th and 24th streets. Hope to see you there.

Our next meeting is Monday March 1st, 7:00 pm in the Commons.

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

Marketplaats 2010 Provides a Great Way To Support Children & Youth

From Debbie Coyle

Last year, the people of Grace (alongside the people of First United Methodist Church in Holland), raised over \$6,000 for the Grace Youth Pilgrimage and Mission Program. As you know, as part of our formation program, the youth will be taking a mission trip this summer around the state as part of a local mission to focus on poverty and inclusion. In the summer of 2012, our youth will be traveling to England to walk from Rochester to Canterbury along a portion of the Canterbury Trail (Northdowns Way).

The Marketplaats is a Dutch Food Court held only during Tulip Time at the Civic Center. Grace Volunteers assisted with set up, clean up, serving food and beverages, general hosting, and running errands for other volunteers. In exchange for their hard work we received 50% of the profits from the food court (over \$6,000 last year). This money helped to provide new robes for the new Youth Choir, scholarships for youth activities, and will help cover costs for mission and pilgrimage trips.

You can help this year! While costumes are appreciated, they are not required. You don't need a Dutch costume to support the local economy and the Grace youth by volunteering to work a 3 hour shift at Marketplaats. Sign up in the Commons, or contact Debbie at the church office for more information.!

Eagles Above Us

By Bill Mendenhall,

Taking Grace Green Committee of the Stewardship Commission

As the winter season set in again I waited and watched for the Bald Eagles to come to Macatawa Park and perch in the tall trees above Lake Mac to fish . . . and to rest. And they came.

This year the younger immature birds showed up first with their darker heads and tails, and mixed color bodies, and then the mature adults came with their white heads and tails and darker bodies.

To see them, we have to look above us, in the trees on side of the hills, or across the channel. Sometimes they are moving overhead above Lake Mac or over the big lake, heading out to hunt. Each time we see them it is always a huge thrill . . . all over again. They are very big - 31 inches tall with 80 inch wingspans and weighing almost 10 pounds. Majestic to see.

When people are in the area, I stop and tell them Eagles are above us, and tell them to look up. They are always excited and sometimes we block traffic on the road as we watch.

During my lifetime Eagles have always been one of the very special things in our natural world. When I was young we would watch them along the shoreline of Lake Huron up north. With years of the effects of DDT in the environment we saw fewer of them. As they recovered we saw them come back, and watched them along the shoreline here.

Today, Jill and I, and our dog, enjoy watching them here, up North at our cottage near Frankfort, and on the lakes and in the woods in the Sleeping Bear Dunes area. Sometimes they are in the trees. Sometimes they fly overhead, or take a fish out of the water. Sometimes they are on a fish on the beach. Sometimes they soar on the wind thermals, rising up and dropping down, bumping into each other, just to play. We always notice something new.

If you are near Lake Macatawa, or the beach on Lake Michigan, look up . . . and you may see Eagles above. If you do, you will be rewarded, seeing one of the very special things in our natural world.

Feeding America Continues to Grow, Providing Local Families with Food

By Steve Cloutier, Feeding America Organizing Committee

Outreach Commission

Our second month of food distribution went very well and next month will be even smoother, as we streamline the process. Each month, more guests will come as we show our presence in the community. Each month we distribute 5000 pounds of food to the community. We are asking members of Grace Church to donate toilet paper and laundry soap on a continual basis to support this ministry.

Our day of distribution is the second Thursday of each month. We ask that all volunteers come as close to 4:30 pm as possible to register and be ready for our guests at 5:00 pm

Food distribution begins at 6:00 pm. Come be a part of this amazing outreach ministry of Grace. The remaining distribution dates for the year are: March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9. Please make a note on your calendars.

Stewardship Update

Thank you all that participated in the Annual meeting. It was a good turnout and good exchange of information. A number of you couldn't make it and I want share with everyone where Stewardship's focus will be in 2010. Our Pledge drive was very successful. We achieved 99% of our goal of \$308,000 for total of \$303,566. This was a 3.01 % increase from last year. We received 134 pledges, 2 more than 2009 with 25 of these being new. Our Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) contributors increased by 15 to 41 for a monthly contribution of \$8,802. I personally want to thank everyone for their generosity and commitment Grace, particular in these tough economic times.

Our focus for this year will be to implement the three major initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan that was put together last fall. The first major initiative is the development of a comprehensive database capturing the interests and talent of our membership. A Time and Talent subcommittee has been established and is in the process of developing a Time and Talent Survey that will be ready to send out to all parishioners by April 1. This online survey will be web based but also available by mail for those who do not have access to a computer. Once the results are in, Commission Chairs will be able to utilize it to determine those willing to volunteer or have a talent, skill they can offer. As an example, Fellowship might use to it to sponsor a new parish activities after seeing that many parishioners share a common interests in various areas.

Also, a new Taking Grace Green subcommittee is getting organized with Duanne Masselink chairing this group. We are looking for more members for this committee. If you interested in helping out, get ahold of Duanne or Bill Mendenhall.

The stewardship commission also established an Endowment Subcommittee chaired by Barbara Stauffer to set up a formal Endowment for Grace. This group is working with the National Church, which has expertise in this area. They will be formalizing the legal requirements, investment guidelines, bylaws, etc.

Our goal is to have something set up by mid year end with the intent to formally role it out to the parish by year's end. Look for updates in future newsletter on our progress. As you can see, many initiatives are underway and I am excited about the potential that each offers to our congregation. I hope that you will share the excitement.

Guy Packard
Stewardship Commission Chair

Financial Stewardship Report - Total Gifts

January Budget	\$ 31,377	Year-to-Date Budget	\$ 31,377
January Received	\$ 36,555	Year-to-Date Received	\$ 36,555
Jan. Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 5,178	Year-to-Date Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 5,178

Thank you!

Announcements and Notices

Thank you to our wonderful coffee hour hosts for February!



David & Treecy Meier
David & Ruth Hawley-Lowry
Bill & Nicole Bier

- from Laurie VanArk, Coffee Hour Coordinator

A Sneak-Preview of Movie Night Apr. 7

On Wednesday, April 7, we will be showing a remarkable film which explores the issues of eternal life, heaven and hell, and who goes where: **WHAT DREAMS MAY COME**, starring Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding, Jr., and Annabella Sciorra, 1998. Here is a blurb:

Academy Award winners Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding, Jr. embark on a supernatural journey beyond the realm of mortality in this visually stunning and unforgettable epic. After Chris Nielsen (Williams) dies in an accident, he tries to remain close to his beautiful, mortal wife, Annie. With the friendly spirit (Gooding, Jr.) assigned to guide him, he begins to adapt to his new state of being in a setting that can only be described as heavenly. But when his distraught wife takes her own life, she is banished to an eternal damnation. Chris vows to find her so they can share eternity together, but no one has ever succeeded in rescuing a soul from such a horrific fate. With the help of his heavenly friends, Chris sets out on the most perilous and harrowing journey of his life, or afterlife: a quest for everlasting love that will take him to hell and back!

Refreshments are at 5:30 (please bring something to share), movie at 6 with pizza, and discussion following. Please bring a \$5 donation if you are eating pizza. Hope

Want to learn more about the music at Grace?

Steve Jenkins will be giving a talk and demonstration on "The Hymnody in the Supplements to the Hymnal" March 8th at the St. Mary's Guild meeting. The meeting begins at 7:15 PM.

Holland Is Ready

On Thursday, January 21st and February 18th, Grace hosted a gathering for all those in the area who were wanting to talk about moving forward with LGBT issues in our community. This was organized in collaboration with the student leaders of "Hope is Ready" in response to the many local individuals and groups who have raised their voices around Dustin Lance Black and other local/national events. We felt it was time to sit down together, share our thoughts, organize a bit and see what we can make happen.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 25th at 7:30pm at Grace and we'll be taking steps to organize ourselves around various initiatives. We know that not everyone who is interested will have heard about this group, so please help us spread the word! Join us as we work toward making our community a safe and welcoming place for all.

Unemployment Group To Continue Meetings

Are you someone who is unemployed or underemployed? Know that you are not alone! Several Grace parishioners came together in September and plan to continue gathering on the **THIRD** Thursday of each month from 9:00—10:00 for bagels, coffee, networking, and ideas sharing. Jen will meet with the group in the new Adult Formation space across from the offices on the lower level. Join us on March 18, April 15, and each Third Thursday after that.

The deadline for submissions to the April 2010 issue of Grace to You is March 17, 2010.

Grace Episcopal Church
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Please help us go GREEN! Contact us at gechurch@sbcglobal.net if you are able to view the newsletter online at www.graceepiscopalholland.org/newsletter.

Come and See.....

What's happening at Grace

Important Dates:

March:

- 3, 10, 17, 24: Lenten Supper and Program
- 11: Feeding America Food Distribution
- 28: Palm Sunday

April:

- 1: Maundy Thursday Agape Meal & Eucharist
- 2: Good Friday Service
- 4: Easter Sunday

**full calendar of events and list of birthdays and anniversaries in center...*

