

Grace Notes

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February 1, 2012

From the Desk of Father Curt ...



From the Rector

Recently a friend called my attention to a quotation he had seen. I'm not certain what it meant to him at the time but it gave me something to think about. I'd like to share it as we begin another year, as we talk about discipleship in the weeks of Epiphany and as we anticipate the season of Lent.

"When you go through something hard and wonder where God is, remember a teacher is always quiet during a test."

Entering a new year is often thought of as that "opportunity" to start over. (About the most important thing that I think of as "starting over" is with taxes and that's always a little daunting for me!) But the truth is, we are never sure just how another year is going to go. Optimistically it will be a good year . . . even better than the last. Pessimistically we may fear any number of things: problems with relationships, problems with health, problems with income and finances; the potentials are numerous. In faith, however, we enter a new year with confidence. God is there already long before we ever get there. We may not know what the future holds, but we do know whose hands hold the future. As the quotation reminds us, this may be a time of testing, and our teacher may feel that we are ready for the testing, and remains quiet as we proceed, day by day.

For Epiphany: I have again been intrigued as we have studied the call to discipleship of those 12 individuals who would not only be disciples during his ministry but the apostles who would later be sent out to make disciples of all nations. We speak of Epiphany as the time of the "manifestation" of Jesus as the Messiah, as the Savior and as the Lord. Over the three years of His ministry Jesus opened their eyes through many miracles, and opened their minds

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From the Rector (continued from page 1)

through his sermons and conversations with not only his disciples but those who challenged him and even those who plotted against him. If they hadn't been ready to learn, the test they would soon experience would have resulted in some failing grades.

Epiphany is a time of learning for us as well. On the first Sunday of Epiphany we were reminded that St. Mark begins his Gospel by using the very words, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." That "beginning" didn't end at the close of his writing but that Gospel continues on and on, even into the year we call 2012. For us life as a disciple and as a child of God must always be a time of learning. Our teacher knows the curriculum and knows when and how the tests will be administered. How well we learn determines how well we will get through the test.

And for Lent: (which really isn't that far away) we watch a test that was both experienced and witnessed. Walking that path to Gethsemane was both a test for our Lord (remember his prayer, "If it be your will, take this cup from me . . .") In a very human way we could say it was both our Lord's testing of faithfulness and the Father's testing of allowing his son to suffer an excruciating death. But for the disciples it must have meant a time when God was nowhere around. How could He let them wonder and wander through these days of fear and personal feelings of being lost and deserted? Even Easter was almost unbelievable for them!

Back to us . . . is this one of those times when we wonder where God is in our lives? Fear not, my friends, God is there and he's not about to let us down. And, when the test is over not only does he give out passing grades . . . he gives out crowns of life. That's been His plan for us all along!

Fr. Curt

"Love is the purpose, the way and the answer. It may pop up in the most unlikely places and occasionally may come with a wet nose. You deserve love—everyone does."

- from "The Lazy Dog's Guide to Enlightenment" by Andrea Hurst and Beth Wilson



From the Desk of Mother Alice ...



Mother Alice's column is on hiatus this month. She should be back next month. In the meantime, let her know how much you appreciate her column.

A Note From Father Paul and Cindy Fuessel:

Fr. Paul and Cindy Fuessel would like to thank everyone who sent us such lovely greeting cards for our recent 50th anniversary. The sentiments are all so very much appreciated. I am sure we will re-read them all many times. We were so happy to hear from so many of you. Right now, I think we will save the cards for our children to have to deal with when we are gone, and they are trying to figure out what to do with all our stuff!

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness. We miss everyone so much! It seems hard to believe we have already been gone for over two years.

Fr. Paul and Cindy Fuessel

February Special Dates

Birthdays

- 4th Aaron Eckley
- 5th Ann Bach
Norman Kohl
- 7th Sandra Ong
- 10th Elizabeth Matus
- 15th Sarah Poyer
Willie Rhoads
- 16th Paul Fuessel, Jr.
- 18th William Griffin
- 23rd Steven Michalicek
- 25th Joanne Ribble
- 28th John Wiley, Jr.

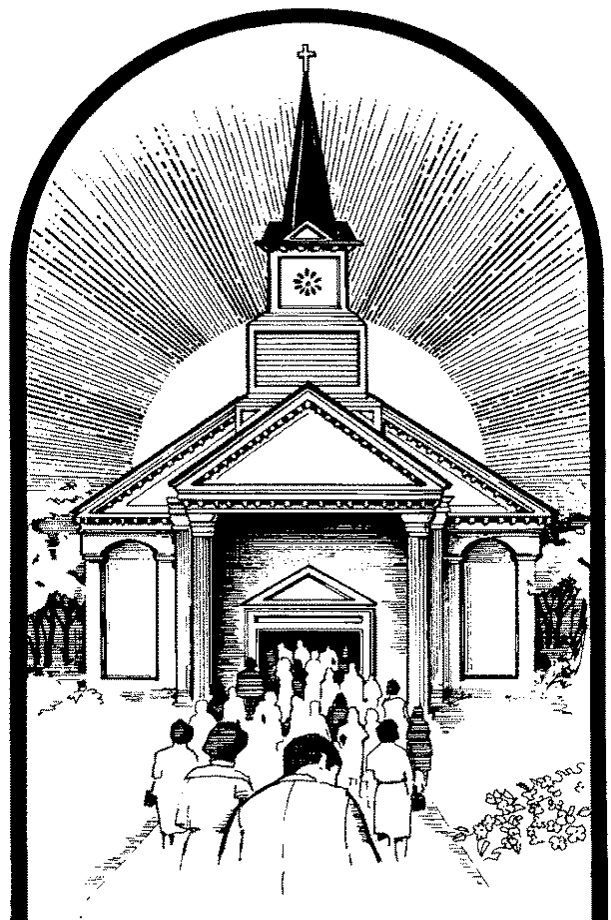
Remembrances

- 1st Irma Bindler
- 8th Herbert Griffin
- 9th Carl Gonzoles
- 14th Ellery Fine
- 16th Monica McCurdy
- 17th William Baxter
- 19th Adeline Cray
- 20th Paul Davis
- 27th Robert Giltrap



Anniversaries

- 10th Wayne and Betty Croy



February 2012 Schedules

Service Participants

Date	Chalice/Crucifer	Lay reader/Lector	Acolytes	Ushers
5th	Doug Wilson	Jane Wunschel	Rachel Tischer Cameron Kiecksee	Gibsons
12th	Kim McIrvin	Aileen Chang-Matus	Rhett Thompson Ayden Crock	Eckleys
19th	Jennifer Poyer	Chris Poyer	Alexis Schirmer Cameron Kiecksee	Stewarts
26th	Sandra Ong	Sarah Thompson	Gordon Gibson	Susie Olson & Linda Thomas

More Schedules on Page 5

Ash Wednesday on February 21, 2012
marks the beginning of Lent.



February 2012 Schedules (cont)

Coffee Hour

- 5th: Paddy Thorpe, Lisa Thorpe, Joy Twentyman
 12th: Jayne Wunschel, Sandra Ong, Virginia Michalicek
 19th: Jennifer Poyer, Julie Stulken, Pat Adney
 26th: Judith Wetzel, Ann Bach, The Schirmers

Please contact Sandra Ong if you are interested in volunteering for coffee hour.



Altar Guild

- 4-5: Jack and Susan Peterson
 11-12: Kim McIrvn, Susie Olson, Paddy Thorpe, and Ann Eckley
 18-19: Judith Wetzel and Jayne Wunschel
 25-26: Barb Cray, Judy Douglas, and Linda Thomas

Green Square Meals

Monday, February 20, 2012

Barb Cray, Susie Olson, Judith Wetzel
 Ron Stewart, Virginia Michalicek

Want to volunteer? Contact Karla Gibson

“Now I set me up to drive. I pray thee, Lord, keep us alive. That we might see another day to sing your praise and work and play.”

- Helen Johnson of Silverton, Oregon

From the Desk of Senior Warden:

Our December Vestry meeting was centered mostly around the budget, we discussed raises for the staff and settled on a 5% raise for Clergy and staff. We talked about a few items that were higher in 2011 but there was a not a need 2012 so we could decrease some of those items. Then we approved a preliminary budget to present at the annual meeting.

Our annual meeting was held on January 15 and it goes without saying that we had a wonderful meal prepared by many parishioners. When we began our Vestry elections there was a suggestion from a member of parish to reduce our Vestry size from 9 to 6. According to the canons it is required to have a minimum of 6 members and a maximum of 15 but must be divisible by 3. That motion was dropped and another motion was brought forth to have a semi-annual meeting mid year which would be announced at least three times and give an opportunity for parish members to prepare their thoughts. This motion carried.

We then held our elections and with three candidates and no further nominations we elected the three candidates by unanimous ballot. Our newest Vestry members are Joy Twentyman, Dorothy Wilson and Jeri Gonzales.

We also had many reports handed out and the treasurers discussed the financial report and the budget for 2012. If you would like copies of any of the reports presented please contact me and I will see that you get it.

The first Vestry meeting of the new Vestry was held on January 29 and the Senior Warden for 2012 will be Kim McIrvin with Karla Gibson serving as Junior Warden. Sue Magner will remain the clerk.

Thank you for all you do to make Grace feel like home.

Sincerely,

Dale Schirmer

COMFORT FOOD

When a friend is in need of a little TLC, no matter what the reason, it's our natural inclination to take them food to help tide them over the rough spots. We've all been there one time or another. But with our busy schedules, it has to be something that is easy to put together and yet has to taste good so that it can help bring comfort to the person(s) we care about.



This month's recipe is courtesy of Richard Belzer. Thanks, Richard!

DATE BARS

1 cup sifted all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

1 pound pitted dates, cut in small pieces (Hy-Vee has chopped dates in 8 oz packages. I use only 8 oz myself.)

1 cup chopped nuts

3 eggs

1 cup sugar

Powdered sugar

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Mix in dates and nuts. In separate bowl, beat eggs until blended; add sugar gradually; mix well. Blend in flour mixture. Pour into a greased 9 x 9 x 2-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees about 35 minutes. Cut into bars while warm (when it is easy to do. -rwd). Roll in powdered sugar if desired. **MAKES ABOUT 2 DOZEN.**

If you have a good and easy recipe to share with our congregation, please send it to editor@crgraceepiscopal.org.



Newsletter Submissions

Beginning in September 2009 all newsletter submissions will be due no later than the 15th of the month for the next month's newsletter. Please mark your calendars to get those submissions in on time. This will give us time to get it together and emailed and/or mailed out before the end of the month.

This is a very lengthy process and we would ask that you make a special effort to follow the deadlines. Any submissions after the deadline will not be guaranteed. (The only exception will be Vestry Minutes that would not be approved by that time.)

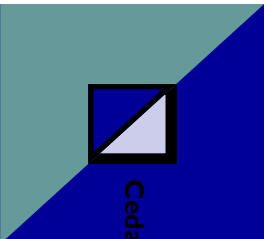
Reminders will be given, but we will not hunt you down.

Thank you for your cooperation

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Or drop off at Grace Church**

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