

# DOORS OF GRACE

GRACE CHURCH  
6 ELIZABETH STREET  
UTICA, NY 13501-2263

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## DOORS OF GRACE

Vol. 71, No. 2

February 2012

### February 2012 at Grace Church

This month is traditionally filled with all sorts of events that might peak a person's interest. For someone concerned with the weather, the 2<sup>nd</sup> provides Groundhog Day to imagine a forecast of how long winter might last. Love is in the air on the 14<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Presidents' Day takes place on the 20<sup>th</sup> and local schools suspend classes for a week (2/21-2/25) to provide a time for students, and some families, to vacation.



In the church, Ordinary Time changes to Lent when the revelry of Shrove Tuesday (2/21) and Grace's Pancake Supper rolls into the penitential Season of Lent, at the stroke of midnight (2/22). At 7:30 A.M., 12:10 P.M. and 7:00 P.M., on Ash Wednesday, you will be invited to the observance of a Holy Lent, in the name of the Church, during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. If you come forward for the imposition of ashes on your forehead, each one of us will once more hear those sobering words: *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Early this February, on the 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have the wonderful occasion of Commissioning our new Vestry who will serve Grace as our elected leadership until the Annual Parish Meeting in 2013. Another joyful event that will take place is the arrival of our new Deacon, who has been assigned to our parish church by Bishop Adams. Please join with me in warmly and enthusiastically welcoming the Rev. Deacon Barbara Groves, to Grace Church on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Many of you may already know that Deacon Barbara, with her husband, Thomas, have been associated with St. Margaret's House and Ecumenical Center in New Hartford, and had recently been assigned to St. John's Episcopal Church, Whitesboro.

Grace's brand new Youth Group is forming, and they have had their first meeting. By the first Sunday of Lent, a newly renovated Nursery is scheduled to be ready to provide a safe and joy-filled environment for our youngest children during liturgical services, and from time to time, fellowship opportunities. If you can, please sign-up for the times you are available to assist with child-care. Remember that everyone who works with children or adults in our parish (as in the larger church) needs to have taken or to enroll in the "Safe Church" Program. But we're very fortunate that this program will be lead by our own Dick and Wendy Douglass, during February.

This month brings with it the hope of new beginnings. How invigorating! I expect that it is spiritually revitalizing to be an active communicant in a congregation that is recharging the batteries of its corporate soul through the radiance of Christ's welcome presence right here in our midst, with all that is beginning to take shape at Grace.

This is a year in which you can become an integral part of your parish by joining in fellowship with your sisters and brothers in Christ, through one of the societies, guilds or committees at Grace Church, to make a difference in the lives of others in this wonderful world that God has blessed us, in so many ways, to prosper by using our God-given gifts. This is the year you can invite a "lost" friend, relative, or acquaintance, into the body of Christ, here at Grace Church, Utica, so they too can come to know the joy of the love of God... right here in our community of faith.

So much is happening. There is so much to do. There is so much more that you are welcome to join with others to develop into, if you say yes to become an integral part of our community of faith at Grace Church.

Come and see.  
Come and grow, with us.  
Come... Journey with us!

In Christ's love and ministry,  
Father Leon

## DOORS OF GRACE

*published most months by:*

Grace Church  
6 Elizabeth Street  
Utica, New York 13501  
Office: 315-733-7575  
www.GraceChurchUtica.org

### Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*Watch us on TV, Channel 99,  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.*

### Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Homily  
10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist & Sermon

### THE PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr. *Rector*  
rector@gracechurchutica.org  
Extension 223

The Rev. Barbara Groves, *Deacon* 221  
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Bruce G. Smith, *Organist & Choirmaster*  
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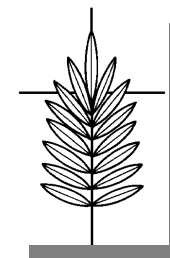
### Grace Church Vestry

Richard Douglass	<i>Sr. Warden</i>
Donald Trotta	<i>Jr. Warden</i>
Lisa Firsching	<i>Assistant Treas.</i>
Helen Storm	<i>Clerk</i>

Theresa Parkany	Ellen Tabolt
Ann Somerville	Robert Gage
Peggy Dobyna	Jean Morris
Clinton Carpenter	Larry Cole

Dan Kenney

***“When was it that we saw you?”  
Matthew 25:35-40***



## **2012 Downtown Ecumenical Noontime Lenten Lunch Series**

**held at**

**St. Mary's of Mt. Carmel-  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
648 Jay St. East Utica**

One block north of Bleecker St. at Mohawk  
On site parking at church. Handicapped accessible (735-1482)

**Tuesdays from 12:00 to 1:00 P.M.  
February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch from 12:00 to 12:25  
Program of Reflection on Biblical Texts  
12:30 to 1:00**

### **Participating Churches:**

St. Mary of Mount Carmel-Blessed Sacrament RCC, First Presbyterian,  
**Grace Episcopal**, Moriah Olivet Presbyterian, Historic St. John's RCC,  
Bethany Presbyterian, Our Lady of Lourdes RCC,  
Our Savior Lutheran, Tabernacle Baptist, Westminster Presbyterian

Free-will donation for lunch appreciated  
Proceeds donated for causes to be announced

A giant in the world of church music died suddenly on January 21 at the age of 74. Gerre Hancock: teacher, writer, composer, clinician and concert organist passed away as the result of a sudden heart attack. Hancock was especially well known for his 30-plus years as Organist-Choirmaster of St. Thomas Church, New York City. Under his leadership, the choir became the finest ambassador of church music this country has. His standards were extremely high and he was always demanding, but his students and his choristers adored him. Following his retirement from St. Thomas Church in 2004, he and his wife (also a highly-respected organist) settled in Austin, Texas and established a church music program at the university-Mr. Hancock's alma mater. Hancock was renowned for his improvisational skills, and he authored an authoritative text on that subject. American Anglican music was greatly enriched by his presence. Our choristers, under the supervision of Sally Pratt, Lisa Firsching and Theresa Flemma are working to raise money for this summer's choir camp. We thank everyone who supported the cakepop sale on Jan. 22. We raised \$150. The next bake sale will occur on Sunday, Feb. 12. The choristers will be selling Valentine's Day cupcakes. ~Bruce Smith



The number 40 appears many times in Scripture, often indicating a time of trial or testing, or simply marking something significant. It rained 40 days and nights during the Great Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. Taking this symbolic number to heart, the Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

#### Refocus for Lent

- Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.
- Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.
- Give up worry – trust God to provide.
- Give up discouragement – be full of hope.
- Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.
- Give up hatred – return good for evil.
- Give up anger – be more patient.
- Give up pettiness – become mature.
- Give up jealousy – pray for trust.
- Give up gossiping – control your tongue.
- Give up sin – turn to virtue.
- Give up giving up – persevere. ~Author unknown

#### Special Dates in February

- Ground Hog's Day... February 2
- Valentine's Day February 14
- The Transfiguration of Our Lord- February 19
- Presidents Day February 20
- Ash Wednesday February 22
- First Sunday in Lent February 26
- Leap Year February 29

#### Baptisms



The next opportunity for baptism at Grace Church is at the during the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. If you are aware of a family member needing to be baptized, please contact the church office at 733-7575, ext. 221 no later than March 26, 2012.

During the 10:30 Mass in the season of Lent, we will incorporate Morning Prayer into the Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Every Friday during Lent the Noonday Prayer will be replaced with Stations of the Cross. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

#### 2012 Pledges

Thank you to all that have sent in pledges for 2012. We have received \$185, 911.50 in pledges so far. There are a few regular contributors who have not yet submitted their 2012 pledge cards. If you wish to do so, please contact the financial office at 733-7575, ext. 234 or you can contact us through email at [finance@gracechurchutica.org](mailto:finance@gracechurchutica.org)



**Emergency Contact:** Please contact the church office: 733-7575 or Fr. Leon Mozeliak, at 733-7575, ext. 223, or you can reach him at 269-7532 or email: [rector@gracechurchutica.org](mailto:rector@gracechurchutica.org). Church.

#### Benefit for Matthew Engstrom

There will be a benefit for Matthew Engstrom on **February 11, 2012** from 1-5 p.m. to assist him and his family with medical expenses from an undiagnosed disease. This will be held at the **Utica Maennerchor** on Flanagan Rd. in Marcy. There will be a Chinese Raffle, a 50/50 raffle, food, and music. The cost is \$15 per person and \$30 per family. For more information or donations contact Crystal at 601-5070 or Anna at 725-8906

#### Youth Group Meetings

During our first Youth Group meeting we decided the Youth Group will meet on **Wednesday nights, from 5:30-7pm in the Munson Room**



for those who are not members of the choir, however, the younger youth members that are members of choristers will leave at 6:15 to attend choristers. We are hoping to begin our meetings within the next month; all youth 7th-12th grade are welcome. If anyone over the age of 18 is interested in helping, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Jessica Keehan, at 315-507-2390. More info to follow...

**Disability Awareness** <sup>©</sup> As we look for ways to reach out to

people with disabilities, remember that God's love has no limits. How can we, as God's church, reflect that love?

### Parish Life Committee

Grace's newly formed "Parish Life Committee" met recently and discussed many upcoming parish wide events. EVERYONE IS WELCOME at all of the events to come. We will kick off our first major event on February 21<sup>st</sup>, Shrove Tuesday with a tasty Pancake Supper from 6-



**SHROVE TUESDAY**

8pm in the Auditorium.



Each Monday thereafter during Lent, we will have Potluck Dinners with an informative Lenten series. These Potluck Dinners will

also run from 6-8pm and will include the following Mondays: February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, and March 26<sup>th</sup>.

There are many other future events planned for ALL of Grace Church parishioners to attend. Remember: ALL ARE WELCOME We have events running every month, so read either or both the "Doors of Grace" and the weekly bulletin. Occasionally, there will be sign-up lists; so please remember to sign up so we will know approximately how many to prepare for. We also have formed Coffee



Hour "teams" so there will always be "goodies" after the 8:00 a.m. service as well as after the 10:30 service. If you are interested in helping out, and are not on the rotation

list, please call Lynn Mozeliak at 507-3296 and she will make sure you are on a "team". Remember, many hands make the task much easier and lots of fun too!

~Lynn Mozeliak

### World Mission Sunday

The Episcopal Church works hand in hand with neighbors around the world and down the block, praying for partner congregations and dioceses, and offering relief to our brothers and sisters during times of crisis. Episcopal missionaries around the world serve as the church's eyes, ears, hands, and feet on the ground.



The last Sunday in Epiphany of each year is designated as World Mission Sunday - a time when the church comes together to focus on the global impact of our call to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" (Baptismal Covenant, Book of Common Prayer, p. 305).

In 2012, World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 19, and will focus on the ministries of the missionaries of the Episcopal Church. The loose offering will go to the World Mission.



### Is Grace Church a Healthy Congregation?

Here are five of the twelve signs of being a healthy congregation, according to the Rev. Ken Howard. Where does Grace stand in light of these guidelines? How can you help us improve?

**Congregation's Spiritual Health.** A church's spiritual climate is a factor to be considered. Is our church characterized as one of peace, happiness, and love? Or, is it found to be one of anger, bitterness and discouragement? This does not mean the absence of conflict, but a church is sufficiently committed to spiritual community that it can engage in honest disagreement without splintering.

**Average Membership Tenure.** How long have people been attending Grace Church? If the average tenure is longer than 20 years, it is a sign that a church is having difficulty reaching and assimilating new people. Therefore, a church would need to have an average membership of less than 20 years to be considered minimally healthy (i.e., self-sustaining), and perhaps less than 15 years to have growth potential.

**Focus of Church Goals.** Is the focus of a church on itself or outward to new people? Do we talk about ministry, mission and purpose? Or, do we talk about

paying the bills, hanging on, real estate, the past and membership care? A clear, outwardly-focused statement of vision and mission, clearly understood by all leaders and a majority of the congregation is necessary for a church to be considered minimally healthy.

**Budget Expenditures.** Where is the money spent? Is it spent on outreach, advertising and ministry? Or, are these areas the first to be cut when the budget gets tight? A church should be maintaining a steady spending level of at least 10% of its budget on such outwardly-oriented activities to be considered minimally healthy.

**Church Rumors.** Is there positive talk about God and God's work in the church? Are there people who believe God can renew the church in the days ahead? Or, do people talk about the past, respond pessimistically to visionary statements and fail to recognize that God is at work in our church? A random sampling of community opinion should be majority favorable for a church to be considered minimally healthy.

Where do you think Grace is...in light of these guidelines? How might we improve? In what ways are you able and willing to help Grace Church, your parish, become a healthier congregation?