

# Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 18, Casanova, Virginia 20139 (540) 788-4419 March 2010



## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Ones,

We have entered Lent with a smudge of ashes and the words "You are dust and to dust you shall return." Ash Wednesday is a day on which we look at our mortality and begin to consider a season of difficult things that Jesus faced. Lent is a season that begins with the story of Jesus facing temptations in the wilderness and ends with His death on the cross. While we may not face these particular difficulties, we too face difficult issues and difficult times in life – both as individuals and as a congregation. We face such a time now as a congregation as we struggle with paying bills and declining attendance. In times like these, our faith in God can sustain us, helping us through and reaching beyond the time of trouble. Let us seek to learn what can be learned through the struggles and move ahead in our walk with God as we do. To that end, keep praying for your leadership, clergy and vestry, that they may have wisdom and discernment and also pray for God's gracious provision for our needs, both spiritual and temporal.

Ordinary income for the month of January was \$11,930.64 (budget \$11,325.00); we were

With all of this in mind, I offer to you the latter part of Joel chapter 2 for your contemplation. We read an earlier portion of this chapter on Ash Wednesday this year.

*I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten - the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm - My great army that I sent among you. ~ Joel 2:25*

God brings about both the good and the bad. The seasons of famine have a divine purpose in our lives. They accomplish things that only these hard places can accomplish. But there is a time when those hard places have accomplished their purpose and He begins to restore. God did this with the nation of Israel after a season of famine and devastation.

*Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for He has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten - the great locust and the young locust, the blessed by a bequest from Fr. Jim Chipps of \$10,013.15 for our building fund, and \$240.00*

*other locusts and the locust swarm - My great army that I sent among you. You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will My people be shamed. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will My people be shamed" (Joel 2:23-27).*

God wants each of us to know that there is a time when He will restore in order to demonstrate His gracious hand in our lives. He is a loving Father who tenderly guides His children through the difficult places. As God is taking us through a time of leanness, know that He is the restorer of that which the locusts have eaten. Depend upon Him in this time. Speak to Him in prayer often and then wait patiently for Him to bring this about in our lives and our life together. He will do it.

Your faithful sheepdog,  
Jim+

## TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 2010

was contributed for the benefit of the victims of the Haiti earthquake; total income was

\$22,183.79. Expenses totaled \$11,558.21 (budget \$11,325.00), resulting in ordinary income for the month of \$372.43.

Please continue to pray for Grace Church that it will grow spiritually, financially and numerically. If anyone has any questions regarding this report or any financial matter, please feel free to contact me.

Treasurer

**Wonderful Wednesdays in Lent**

Each Wednesday in March, we will join with the good people of St. James, Warrenton for dinner, evening prayer and a time of teaching at St. James. The schedule will be as follows:

- Lenten Supper at 5:30
- Evening Prayer at 6:15
- Study at 7pm – Bob Seiple – former President of World Vision International

St. James Episcopal Church  
73 Culpeper St., Warrenton, VA

Folks who wish to carpool can plan to meet at the Parish Hall and travel together.

**Summary of Jim’s ministry in January of 2010:**

In January I made 8 home visits, 6 hospital visits, met with 7 people in my office and had 18 “other” visits by phone or some other place and officiated at the graveside portion of the funeral for The Rev. James D. Chipps. I prepared for and led our annual congregational meeting and served as celebrant and preacher at St. Andrew’s, Ada on the same day. I attended the annual Diocesan Council meeting in Richmond, the Region 13 Clericus (clergy) meeting and a monthly clergy colleague group that meets in the Chancellorsville area.

In addition to all of this I attended drill one Saturday for the Virginia Defense Force, in which I serve as a chaplain, and made 3 hospital visits to VDF members.

# Grace Church

# March 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	4	5	6
7 Worship 9 AM  Daylight Sav- ings Time be- gins	8 7:00 Vestry Meeting  *Jeremy Jacobs *Andrea Warren	9	10 11:00 AM Se- nior Center	11  Ruritan Dinner 7:00 pm	12	13
14 Worship 9 AM	15  <b>Grace Notes deadline</b>	16   *Charlie Dawson	17 Senior Center 11:00 AM	18   *Ronnie Shipe	19	20
21 Worship 9 AM	22	23	24 Senior Center 11:00 a.m.  *Carol Goshorn	25	26   *Barbara Whitbred	27
28 Worship 9 AM Palm Sunday  *Stephanie But- ler  Healing Service 5 PM	29	30	31 Senior Center 11:00 a.m.			

\* = Birthday    #Anniversary

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

- Mar 8                 Jeremy Jacobs &  
                              Andrea Warren
- Mar 16                Charlie Dawson
- Mar 18                Ronnie Shipe
- May 24                Carol Goshorn
- Mar 26                Barbara Whitbred
- Mar 28                Stephanie Butler

## Grace Church Serving Schedule -- March 2010

Date	Svc	Day	Lessons	Lector	Acolyte	Altar	Coffee Hosts	
Mar 7	HE 9:00	Lent 3	Psalm 63:1-8 Exodus 3:1-15	1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9	Dee Garrett	Jack Perry	Charlotte Perry	Judy Ball & Barbara Whitbred
Mar 14	HE 9:00	Lent 4	Psalm 32 Joshua 5:9-12	2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	Judy Ball	Doris Pearson	Mignonne Spellmeyer	Sue Ballentine
Mar 21	HE 9:00	Lent 5	Psalm 126 Isaiah 43:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Pam Ruffner	Madell Day	Doris Pearson	Mary Neal
Mar 28	HE 8:00	Palm Sun.	Psalm 31:9-16 Isaiah 50:1-9a	Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 23:1-49	Betsy Anderson	Jack Perry	Betsy Andersons	Mignonne Apellmeyer & Dee Garrett
Apr 4	HE 9:00	Easter	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 John 20:1-18	B. Gould- thorpe	Doris Pearson	Carol Goshorn	Karen & Jimmy Walton

### Sunday School Teacher Schedule

**Mar 7 Dale Cirillo**

**Mar 14 Mary Neal**

**Mar 21 Charlotte Perry**

**Mar 28 Betsy Anderson**

**Apr 4 Amy Vasbinder**

### GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

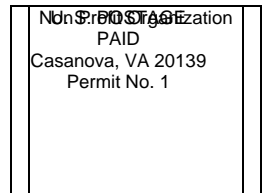
**The Rev. James Cirillo, Rector**

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Services every Sunday at Grace Church on Route 602 in Casanova at 9:00 AM, followed by a coffee fellowship and Sunday School for all ages in the Family Center near the church.

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