



The Anchor Line

Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach, Florida February, 2012

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church:

We are in the midst of our busiest time here at Grace Church.

On February 2nd, 3rd, and 4th our diocese meets in its Forty-first Annual Convention. Clergy of our diocese and lay delegates from the sixty-three parishes of our diocese—which includes both northwest Florida and southern Alabama—will assemble at Christ Church Cathedral in Mobile. I will be joined by our other delegates Mike and Basma Swearingen and Sam Richardson.

Join us for our annual Super Bowl party on Sunday evening, February 5th. Come any time beginning at 5 PM, thirty minutes prior to kickoff scheduled for 5:30 PM. CST. And, you don't even have to be that interested in the game to have a good time—I certainly don't have a dog in this fight—but come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship. Please bring a bratwurst friendly side dish or snacks to share, and also your favorite beverage of choice.

Our forty days Lenten preparation for Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. Celebrations of Holy Communion are scheduled for 12 noon and again at 5:45 PM. Ashes, a sign of our mortality and penance, will be imposed at both services. Following the evening service, a catered, meatless supper will be served, so you will not need to bring a dish to share that night.

For that matter, our customary Wednesday potlucks will again be suspended during the Lenten season, and as we did last year we will be offering a soup and bread supper. A few people will be asked to prepare the meal each week—you'll find a sign-up sheet in Wilhite Hall. For these simple but satisfying meals on the Wednesdays until Easter a free will offering will be received to cover costs. Our Wednesday potlucks will resume on April 11th, right after Easter Day.

On the Wednesdays of Lent we will have our midweek celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 5:45 PM, immediately followed by our meal and then a presentation given by guest speakers on February 29th, and on March 14th and 28th; on the alternate Wednesdays—March 7th and 21st, and April 4th we will remain in church following Mass to make the Stations of the Cross and then have supper.

But before the arrival of Lent, we'll have our Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 21st, in Wilhite Hall, from 5:30 PM until 7:30 PM; Sam Richardson is already busy making plans for this festive annual event and you can find further information in this newsletter.

Also, remember that on the fourth Thursday of every month (except in March when we rearrange things a bit for the Yard Sale), our own Grace Church serves dinner to our guests at the weekly Supper at Grace—the other weeks being hosted by different churches and organizations. Not only is this an important ministry of outreach to the poor, needy, and lonely of our community, but I also truly believe and have seen the Lord's promise fulfilled here about it being more blessed to give than to receive. But on our Grace Church Thursdays, remember that we need your help especially in a couple of ways. First, home baked desserts are very much needed and appreciated by our guests. And second, help is needed toward the end of the evening, beginning at 6:30 PM, with clean up. It's not hard at all, and the work goes quickly. You can then join your fellow workers for supper at 7 PM and a final tidying-up operation, you'll be on your way home by around 8 PM. Can you help once in a while!

In most Episcopal churches you will find an Altar Guild, and Grace Church is no exception. An Altar Guild is comprised of women—and sometimes men too—who care for and prepare the sacred vessels, altar linens, and other appurtenances of worship. These individuals work alone, or in pairs, or in small groups, sometimes on Saturdays and before major holy days, and also a little bit before and after most services, to make sure that things will be done—in a particularly Anglican phrase—"decently and in order." It is a wonderful and fulfilling ministry, done in quietness and out of the spotlight. I think I can rightly also call it a form of prayer, done not with the lips but with the hands. The ladies—and at least one gentleman—at Grace who undertake this work do an excellent job, but there is room for more helpers. It has been awhile

since we've met as an Altar Guild and so I've scheduled a meeting for the Sunday morning prior to Lent, February 19th, between the services, at 9:15 AM. If you're interested in this service to our Lord and his Church, please join us. We will be finished by 10 o'clock for those who need to warm-up with the choir.

One of the challenges of a smaller congregation is the provision of Christian education for young people. It is often difficult to schedule and staff an engaging effort for a small number of children of disparate ages. Years ago as decline occurred at Grace church some families needed to leave for other churches to provide religious training for their children. And then, newer families would visit, but finding not much here in this regard would continue searching for a church. And yours truly felt no small amount of frustration, often expressing the thought that if we could get all, or at least most of these families here at the same place and time, we would be able to provide something for them. But over the last few weeks, I see something starting to gel! At Christmas, Liz Boswell organized something of a small but crowd-pleasing children' choir. And as she continues in this undertaking, Basma Swearingen is beginning to organize a Sunday School accompaniment to this good beginning. Our Treasurer Sid Eadie has indicated to us that in 2011, Grace Church has turned the corner toward health and viability—and this in a downturned economy! And now it looks like we will be able to begin offering something for our young people on Sundays. This is a small, but a wonderful and an important beginning for something much needed at Grace Church.

Sincerely,



***Episcopal Bridge Club
will meet on
Tuesday, February 28th, 1:00 pm
in Wilhite Hall
Everyone is invited.***



Join us for our Mid-Week service on Wednesdays beginning at 5:45 pm with the Holy Communion followed by a Pot-luck Supper. It is a great time of food and Fellowship!



"Fellow"ship
Group

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, February 14th-12 noon
Triple J's Steakhouse on Thomas Dr.



Join us in Wilhite Hall Sunday,
February 5th between the 8:00 am and
10:30 am worship service for good
food and fellowship!! Invite a friend.



Our Hosts for February

8:00 am

February 12th~Rose and Bert Hummell

February 19th~Barbara and Tom

February 26th~Barbara and Tom

10:30 am

February 12th~Marsha and John Benton

February 19th~Carl and Susan Walters

February 26th~Grace and Sid Eadie

A special thank you to all our hosts!



Grace Church will be hosting a card party and luncheon on Friday, February 17th, 2012 from 10 AM until 3 PM. Get your card group or game group together and join us for the game of your choice (maybe bridge, pinochle, canasta, shanghai rummy, dominos or bunko). Cost will be \$10.00 per person which will include lunch. Please call Grace Eadie at 230-0858 or Basma Swearingen at 233-0113 to make your reservation.



PLAN ON ATTENDING our annual Super Bowl party on Sunday, February 5th. The fun begins a half hour before kickoff. Fresh bratwurst grilled and simmered along with fixings will be served.

BRING your favorite snack, side dish or dessert to share along with your favorite beverage. Come join us for the fun and fellowship.



We will have an Altar Guild meeting immediately after the 8 am worship service on Sunday, February 19th.

Those serving the month of February



	<u>8 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
<u>2/5</u>		
Chalice	Demo	Steere
Acolyte	Demo	Steere
Lector	Pope	S. Steere
Intercessor	Demo	Steere
Counters		Steere
Greeters	Tom Mellen	George Smith
<u>2/12</u>		
Chalice	Westmoreland	Richardson
Acolyte	Westmoreland	Richardson
Lector	Westmoreland	K. Russo
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Richardson
Counters		Richardson
Greeters	Tom Mellen	George Smith
<u>2/19</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Walters
Acolyte	Knafelc	Walters
Lector	Gray	Walters
Intercessor	Gray	Walters
Counters		Walters
Greeters	Tom Mellen	George Smith
<u>2/26</u>		
Chalice	Gray	Eadie
Acolyte	Gray	Harris, Sr.
Lector	Gray	S. Steere
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Robertson
Counters		Eadie
Greeters	Tom Mellen	George Smith

If you have a conflict, please get a substitute.

February 5	Isaiah 40:21-31 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 Psalm 147:1-12, 21
February 12	2 Kings 5:1-14 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Mark 1:40-45 Psalm 30
February 19	2 Kings 2:1-12 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9 Psalm 50:1-6
February 26	Genesis 9:8-17 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15 Psalm 25:1-9

***Join us on Sunday mornings at
9:15 am for Adult Bible Study!***



If your birthday or anniversary is not included--or if it's incorrect--please be sure to let us know!

2/15	Cecilia Trusler
2/24	Winifred Rogers
1/3	Barbara Westmoreland
2/20	Janice and John France



This year the ECW will once again do our annual rummage sale. We've scheduled it for Saturday, March 3rd at 7 AM. I hope everyone keeps us in mind as you do your Spring cleaning. We especially like all those "White Elephants," old jewelry and furniture. Unfortunately there is very little room for storage at the Church so please hold onto your items until the week before unless it is an emergency. Pick ups will be available if you call ahead and please NO major appliances.

This event supports the Homeless Christmas gifts, Grace's working budget, parish receptions and special gifts to parishioners and Church projects. I hope everyone will donate what they can and come out to help us the week before to set-up, sort, tag, sell and FINALLY, clean up afterward. For more information please call Dawn at 235-4136, Phyllis Demo at 774-7607 Or Jeanine Pope at 230-1519. We really appreciate your support. Thanks.

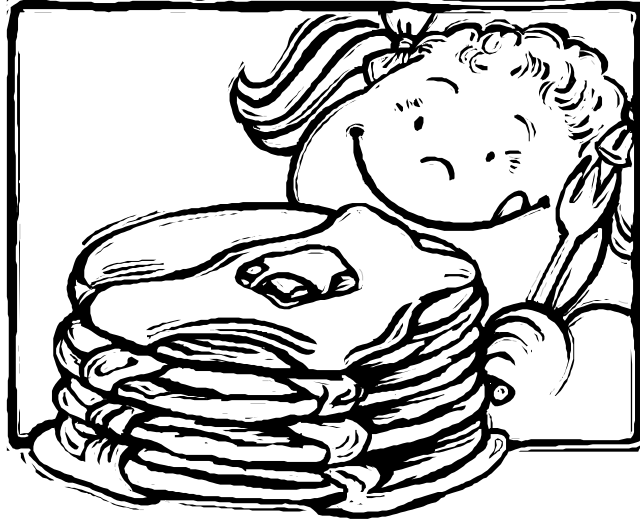
Jeanine

P.S. There will be NO bake sale this year.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed 1	Thu 2	Fri 3	Sat 4
			Holy Communion 5:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	Supper at Grace 6:00 pm	CONVENTION →	
5 Fellowship Bkfst. Super Bowl Party	6	7	8 Holy Communion 5:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	9 Supper at Grace 6:00 pm	10	11
12	13	14 Men's Fellowship Luncheon 12 noon Triple J's	15 Holy Communion 5:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	16 Supper at Grace 6:00 pm	17 Card Party 10:00 am	18
19 Altar Guild Meeting After 8 am service	20	21 Bridge Club 1:00 pm Pancake Supper 5:30 - 7:30 pm	22 Holy Communion 5:45 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	23 Supper at Grace 6:00 pm	24	25
26	27	28 Episcopal Bridge 1:00 pm Wilhite Hall	29			

PANCAKE SUPPER



Join us Tuesday, February 21st from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm for our annual Pancake Supper. \$7.50 for adults and children 16 and younger are free.



Donations of your time and your resources are needed to continue our ministry of Supper at Grace on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. If you can help serve and or clean-up, (on the 4th Thursday of each month) please contact Phyllis Demo at 774-7607 or contact the church office.

Grace Episcopal Church
ECW MINUTES
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA

Minutes of January 11, 2012

The Grace Episcopal Church Women (ECW) luncheon meeting was held Tuesday, January 11, 2012 at Triple J's restaurant. Present were Fr. Joe Hagberg, Phyllis Demo, Basma Swearingen, Sayre Steere, Rose Hummel, Pat Diamond Hill, Jeanine Pope, Dawn Briley and Grace Eadie.

ECW minutes of the October 25, 2011 meeting were distributed for the membership to review.

Treasurer, Sayre Steere, reported as of January 11, 2012, the balance in the ECW checking account is \$856.82. A total of \$500.00 was spent on gift cards that were given out at Christmas time.

Items of discussion were as follows:

Phyllis thanked Basma and Mike Swearingen for hosting a wonderful Church Christmas Party at their home. It was a great success.

Basma made several suggestions for fund raiser events that would include our winter visitors. One suggestion was to have a special theme and in lieu of a silent auction, sell raffle tickets for a hand made quilt. Basma made the quilt and brought it to the meeting for all to see. It was agreed to have a St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 17, 2012.

Yard Sale – the annual church yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 2012, from 7AM until noon. Phyllis Demo will be out of town and Jeanine Pope agreed to be the “point of contact” for this

event. Jeanine expects lots of help from the congregation. Grace Eadie will place a “yellow border” ad in the News Herald for the yard sale, create a flyer for the winter visitors to post at their condo buildings, and will make signage for the church area. A group luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012. Location TBD.

Easter Tree – discussions were held with regard to having an Easter Tree which would help needy families with Easter items and clothing. The idea is to have a tree with gift cards attached that would have needed items for each child. Members of the congregation would select a card, purchase the needed items, wrap them, label each gift with the child's name and bring them to the church for distribution. Suggested items could be candy, Easter Baskets, clothing, shoes, etc. Dawn will put some information in the bulletin regarding the Easter Tree.

Some dates of interest were announced along with the Daylight Savings time change. The Diocesan Convention is Feb. 2,3,4; Supper Bowl is Feb. 5; Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22; Easter Sunday is April 8 and the time change will be the 2nd Sunday in March. Fr. Joe suggested having soup and bread suppers during lent. There will be a sign up sheet in Wilhite Hall.

Sayre Steere suggested that a refresher course be set up for the Altar Guild members and any new members who might want to participate. Fr. Joe will be in charge of this course and will get it on the schedule.

It was agreed that ECW meetings will be a mixed schedule.....some dinner meetings, some luncheon meetings and some just sit and talk meetings between services. The next ECW meeting will be a pot luck at the church on March 6, 2012, at noon.

Think about ECW officers for next year. Officer's selection will be held at the April meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Grace Eadie, Secretary

Thousands visit, offer prayers, watch videos on the new Episcopal Church website

The Episcopal Church

Office of Public Affairs

www.EpiscopalChurch.org
January 24, 2012 (All day)

Since its December 28 redesign launch, more than 55,000 have visited the Episcopal Church website 84,000 times, viewing 294,000 pages!

www.EpiscopalChurch.org

"In less than a month, the Episcopal Church website has experienced a lot of traffic and participation," noted Anne Rudig, Episcopal Church Director of Communication. "The response has been overwhelming and we are gratified that we are engaging newcomers and members alike. People are lingering, clicking, and viewing videos."

The top 10 pages visited were: Find A Church; Bulletin Inserts; live/on demand worship; sermons; the Bible; Baptismal Covenant; I am Episcopalian; calendar; history; and the Book of Common Prayer.

And, already hitting the 10,000 mark is the number of plays of the many videos offered on the site.

On a daily basis, dozens of readers have submitted prayer requests, knowing that a community is praying for and with them in the section *Prayers of the people*.

In addition, more than 300 local congregations have updated their own information in the *Find a church* section, which provides rapid access to Episcopal churches in the United States and the 15 other countries of the Episcopal Church.

"Keeping church information updated on the website is an important evangelism tool," Rudig continued. "Dozens of churches have taken advantage of this key element and we invite all churches to check their listing."

Key to the new website is the many opportunities for dioceses, congregations, provinces and Episcopalians to post videos and photos of local mission in action.

On December 28, the Episcopal Church unveiled a new welcoming, eye-appealing, easy-to-navigate, experiential website.

The new website features a motif of stained glass windows, each of which holds a small piece of our contemporary church and provides many avenues to experience the Episcopal Church, its beliefs and its many ministries.

And, the website is available in Spanish and English.

Among the key features on the home page: What we believe; What we do; Who we are; Ministries; Multimedia; Calendar.

New features include: Prayer for the day; Worship;
Prayers of the people; Find a church; and Social media.