



Birthdays for April

- 4th Lang Foster
- 5th Violet Clark
- 6th Ed Rampey, Tab Bates
- 7th Elliott Holman
- 9th Parker Baker
- 10th Chuck deVarennes
- 12th Betty Ezelle, Stacy Whiffen
- 14th Lucine Hohn, Courtland Hack, George Hack
- 15th Bill Trent
- 16th Al Sloan, Janet Rippy
- 17th Bryan Whiffen, Johnny Martin
Galina Hack
- 18th Parker Bates
- 24th Dorothy Poupalos, Rosemary Digby
Sam Elsner, Levi Bilbrey
- 25th Susan Hardaway
- 26th Crawford Knobel
- 27th Jacob Arnold
- 28th Terry Hines, Valerie Peterson

Pray for healing and comfort

Julie Kent
 John Bostater
 Karlann Bostater -chronic leukemia,cancer
 Leif Jacobsen and Anna May Jacobsen
 Barb Fligel
 David Rutledge
 Marla Pietrawski-breast cancer
 Don Holton-cancer
 Karen & Arnold Smith
 Joseph Glenn
 Robin Hewitt
 Michael Kiminski
 James Callahan, Jr.
 Pam McGowan
 Bob Burden
 Faybell Deck
 Jean Rutledge
 Reginald Lawton -stroke
 Keith Betts -cancer
 Lauren -healing
 Wynelle Williamson-pneumonia
 Larry Jordon, Joanie Queen, Thomas DeMichael
 Nita Kelly-cancer, Sandy Kooistra, Chris Wisdom
 Miller Grover—brain tumor
 Signe Kralich-ovarian cancer
 Sam Crane-throat cancer
 Brian Dodd-heart
 Rebecca Veeck
 Ardith Speer-breast cancer
 Mrs. Dorothy Wilson-Rousseau
 Suzanne McMahan
 Michael Heath
 Kelly Brunelle
 Tara Driver
 Debi Frantz
 Bolton Ellenberg
 Roger Mudd
 Marcella Gugnoni
 Jeff Makison
 Gerald King-cancer
 Sara Miles
 Phil & Vicky Brown
 Michael Bays, Cancer
 Matthew Sharkey
 Cory Lundeen
 Smith Pruitt-cancer
 Jo Zeffiro
 David Tyson
 Gerald Hobby
 Lillian Bowers
 Joe Aurichio
 Becky & Krysten Pazik
 Mike McCauley, cancer
 David & Kendra Patten & Family (adoption)
 Miles Ming Patten (health & healing)
 Tom Mauldin-fracture vertebra
 Judy & Mark Blakenship
 Terry Anderson
 Julie Stevens
 Jamie Prince
 Eddie Frantz
 Beau Langer
Deaths: Margaret Bates

Requested by

Kathy Bostater
 Kathy Bostater
 Greta Jacobsen

Anne Radnor

Jo and Bill Trent
 Greta Jacobsen

Lynne Prince
 Mary Harris
 Ellie Cooper
 Kim Scott
 Pam Herold
 Anne Radnor
 Alan Lawton
 Susan Anderson
 Sharon Homer-Drummond
 Lisa Arnold's mother
 Don & Patty Cleveland
 Rob Elsner

Josephine Peterson
 Ken Cauley
 Nancy Welch
 Ellie Cooper
 Bill Speer
 Tony & Annette Guiseppi-Eli
 Gloria Byrd
 Joe & Carol Ball
 De & Opie Reid
 Jackie Lenhart
 Lisa Tucker
 Greta Jacobsen

Tony Gugnoni
 Lynne Prince
 Valerie Peterson
 Janet Rippy
 Cindy Baker

Ellie Cooper
 Mary Winiarski

Mary Harris
 Lisa Tucker
 Linda Hoffman
 Gugnoni Family
 Donna LeBrun

Heather Tucker
 Heather Tucker
 Carol Avinger

Greta Jacobsen



The Means of Grace

The Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church

April 2016

"Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chisled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it."
 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

SOMETHING GOOD AND DIFFICULT

Hey all,

As most of you know the General Convention of the Episcopal Church approved same gender marriage this past summer for each diocese that chooses to do so. The Bishop of every diocese decides how this will or won't happen. Our Bishop, Bishop Waldo, is asking every parish to study a curriculum that he has helped write and to decide if they will or will not apply for permission to offer this ministry.

Grace Church has had classes studying this curriculum the past two summers and this month we will be having study and discussion groups Sunday mornings **April 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th at 9:30.** We will start in the parish hall for a brief summary of one part of the curriculum and then break up into smaller groups to discuss. The four topics, one for each week, are Tradition in the Church, Scripture, Ethics and Unity /Common Life. The curriculum is unusually well balanced in that it gives multiple thoughtful understandings both for and against same gender marriage.

We have a planning team whose members will be helping with each discussion group. The planning team is a balanced group made up of parishioners who are both approving and not approving of same gender marriage, and each discussion group will have two leaders each reflecting that.

The vestry will be participating as well. After we have finished the four sessions the vestry and the planning team will talk and decide if Grace Church should apply or not to the Bishop for permission for me to bless same gender marriages.

Obviously this is a tense topic, so the first thing to remember is that the real issue isn't the issue itself. The real issue is Grace Church as a community deciding what to do together in a way that reflects the thoughtful and loving heart of the parish; and not falling to the ideologies that surround us, that strive to divide and turn people against each other. The world does not need more angry Christians yelling at each other. We are doing something else.

Think of this as an opportunity to grow in faith as a community by doing something that is hard and contrary to the culture around us. We will study together, pray together, share what is on our hearts in a way that is kind and honest, we will listen to each other, we will disagree in love.

I am fine with whatever is decided and I will not push things to the point of dividing the parish. Grace Church is a diverse congregation with many different understandings on this. Our diversity is our strength. Only in difference does love become something real rather than convenient. At Grace, love is real and that is the real issue at hand.

It is important to understand each other and still disagree. There are deeply mature Christians on both sides of the marriage question, both are deeply biblical, deeply Christ centered and deeply Spirit led.

Not everyone who disagrees with the same gender marriage is a gay hater or homophobic. They simply believe gender and procreation are really good things that can't be ignored.

Not everyone who agrees with same gender marriage thinks we should do whatever feels good and that scripture is optional. They simply believe there is a different way to read scripture and the Holy Spirit is further developing how Holy Matrimony is understood, much like how the understanding changed from polygamy to monogamy, in allowing for divorce and remarriage and for procreation being understood as a vocation and choice rather than as a requirement.

So please participate fully, pick up a copy of the curriculum in the parish office or parish hall, read up beforehand, relax, know your heart, speak kindly, and listen.

Remember, the real issue isn't the issue (the world wants us to think it is). The real issue is Grace Church growing in love and faith while doing something difficult. Living into the resurrection of Christ requires the Church to become a community that can do hard things. This Easter season practice resurrection by doing something good and difficult.

Pax,
 Fr. Jack

Monthly Stewardship Report for February

February 2016 Revenue	\$20,811.00
February 2016 Expenses	\$27,005.00
February 2016 Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$ 6,194.00)
YTD 2016 Revenue (Including Prepaids)	\$ 56,823.00
YTD 2016 Expenses	\$ 58,823.00
YTD Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$ 2,000.00)

Coffee Hour

"We all love the joy of fellowship that Coffee Hour provides. Unfortunately, we are relying on the same 7-8 families to host Coffee Hour. We are in desperate need of more families, or individuals, to come together to help host this weekly get together! Please don't feel like you have to provide lunch for the entire congregation! A few trays of cookies and someone to make coffee and lemonade for the kids is simply perfect! Please contact Heather Tucker at htucker@teksystems.com, or call [864-324-2477](tel:864-324-2477) to sign up and help!!!"

*Join Us
 For Breakfast & Fellowship*

Easter Sunday

March 27

7:00 a.m.

Christian Formation

Easter Morning

Easter Morning we will **not** have Sunday School. The Easter Egg hunt will be at 9:30. Under age 4 will hunt eggs in the Memorial Garden; age 4 through 1st grade will hunt eggs on the playground, and 2nd through 5th grade will hunt eggs on the front lawn. Remember your baskets!

Youth

Youth will meet **April 10th** and **April 24th** at 5-7 pm.

Save the Date

The Senior Sending Forth Service is **May 15th**.

Women, Wine and Wisdom will not meet again until **April 5th**. We will begin a video series of World Religions.

Open Invitation

Anyone interested in exploring issues concerning Mental Illness, please join us on Friday, **April 8** and Friday, **April 22** from 1:30-3:00 pm in the church library. For more information contact Deacon Mary at 864-650-4266.

Ingathering and Blessing of scarves, blankets, and shawls for Pastoral Care will be Sunday, April 17, 2016

Anyone who has knitted, crocheted, or created scarves, blankets, or shawls for Pastoral Care may bring their creations to the church and place them in the baskets in the cloister. They will be blessed on Sunday April 17, 2016 and will be given out to our parish family members who may need a reminder that their Grace Church family is holding them in their thoughts and prayers while they are healing or going through a difficult time.



Saturday Servants

Grace Church will be making sandwiches for 300 bag lunches every Saturday in **May**. Please mark your calendars and come join us from 9:30 – 10:30 AM.

Donations of peanut butter and grape jam/jelly are also needed and may be left in the

cloister or in the parish hall. Also needed are team captains or co-captains for each of the Saturdays. If you are interested in serving as a captain or co-captain please contact John Griggs or Deacon Mary (jeffers6sc@att.net) Thank you.

OUTREACH

International Festival for Global Missions

Grace Church will be having an International Festival for Global Missions on **April 10**. This event will be for the benefit of our missions in Haiti and Ecuador. It will be held at the church following the 10:30 service. This will be a family friendly event with food from around the world, especially Haiti and Ecuador. In addition to raising money for these missions, we hope to increase the awareness of the importance of our efforts in these countries.

The festival will be immediately following the 10:30 service. There will be a charge for the food and all proceeds will go to these missions.

We hope that those of you who enjoy cooking will help with the diversity of foods. Volunteers needed to prepare an international dish. Prepare your favorite item and we will sell tickets for samples. If you would like to participate in this event, please contact Jim Boyer @ 617-0653 or call the church office.

B² for Ecuador (Books and BBQ)



Date: April 2nd, 2016

Location: Grace Episcopal Church

Book Sale: 2-7 PM (No Tickets Required)

BBQ: Serving 5-7 PM

Dinner:

BBQ Chicken
Cole Slaw
Creamed Corn Casserole
Baked Beans
Rolls
Dessert
Tea and Lemonade
Bring your own wine/beer

Price: Adults \$12

Children (6-12) \$6

*Children under 6 yrs. old Free

Wednesday Night Meals for April

Catered by Pam Garrett

6th Fried Chicken Tenders

13th Country Steak

20th Baked Spaghetti

27th Baked Chicken

Please call the church office by noon on Tuesday for reservations. **If you have to cancel your reservations, please call Phyllis by noon on Tuesday, if not the church will have to pay for any "no shows".**



Education Involvement???

Thank you to everyone who shared their involvement in Education on the easel that was in the cloister. There are now cards in the pews to fill out if you would like to be involved in Education (example - mentor, volunteer, reader, etc.) or if you were not able to share on the easel, this is another opportunity to let us know how you are already involved. Please fill out the card and place it in the offering plates. If you have any questions please speak to Deacon Mary Jeffers or contact her by email jeffers6sc@att.net. **Thank you.**

The St. Catherine's Guild will meet in the Grace parking lot at 2:00 pm on Monday, April 4th, and caravan over to the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home at 4605 Belton Hwy in Anderson. It's about ten minutes from Grace. All men and women are welcome to join us as we visit these wonderful men and women who served our country. Little Debbie cakes have been requested as a treat for the residents.



On Sunday, April 17th

The St. Catherine's Guild will host a

Tea Party for the entire congregation! Join us after the 10:30 AM service for tea and other beverages, as well as finger sandwiches and treats for adults and kids. If you'd like to bring sandwiches or treats to share, please contact either Pat deVarennes or Dena Cullen.

God is everywhere! Do you see it?

The Ology Mystical Tour is a group fellowship where we will discuss the everyday presence of God in our lives. All are welcome! **First Meeting Saturday, April 16th at 5:00 p.m. potluck.**

For more information please contact Connie Pearce 864 634 4728 or email Conniepearce56@gmail.com

MEMORIALS

Received February 24, 2016 through March 15, 2016

In Memory of **Vylene Purwis** by:

Suggs Johnson, LLC

Pat Larsen

William & Sheila Hilton

In Memory of **Vylene Purwis** to the Good Shepherd/Capital Campaign Fund by:

Bob & Lynne Prince

Al & Sandy Sloan

In Memory of **Vylene Purwis** to the Christian Formation Fund by:

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Elsner

In Memory of **Vylene Purwis** to the Grace Endowment Fund by:

Jim & Kathe Harris

In Memory of **Herschel Talbert** by:

Pat Larsen

In Memory of **Margaret Bates** to the Good Shepherd/Capital Campaign Fund by:

Al & Sandy Sloan

Melissa Cashman

Suggs Johnson, LLC

Lily Roland Hall

Jim & Kathe Harris

JPS Composite Materials Corp.

Rosalyn Silverstein

Jane Gray Suggs

William & Bertha Sanchez

John Taylor

Pat Larsen

Ken & Melissa Langford

In Memory of **Margaret Bates** to the Pastoral Care Fund by: Jerry & Gill Powell

In Memory of **Cordes Seabrook** to the Good Shepherd Fund by:

Rosalyn Silverstein

In Memory of **John Edwards** to the Good Shepherd Fund by:

Rosalyn Silverstein

If donors prefer to remain anonymous, please indicate this with your Memorial or Honorarium.

Acolytes Needed: The processional at the 10:30 service has started getting a little longer! The first few torchbearers have been trained and are starting to participate in services. More acolytes are still needed. Anyone interested, please contact Abby Burden at mrs_burden@yahoo.com