



THE MESSENGER

GRACE-ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Volume 57, No. 3

March 2010

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SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Homily
 8:45 AM Breakfast
 9:15 AM Classes
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Homily
 5:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Homily
Nursery available for all services except the 5:30 PM service.

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday - Friday

MESSENGER DEADLINE/ONLINE

The deadline for the April issue of *The Messenger* is 9 AM, March 15! Contact Lucy Owens at 272-7425 or lucy@gracestlukes.org with any questions. **If you would like to go green and receive your copy of *The Messenger* online, contact Lucy.**

Lenten Offerings

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series "Revelation for Episcopalians" Mitzi Minor Returns

A particular branch of evangelical Christianity has captured popular discussions around the book of Revelation and turned it into a code for predicting when a catastrophe is going to destroy the world with God's blessing. That unfortunate reading prevents the rest of us from benefitting from the great wisdom it offers our spiritual journeys. During our 2010 Lenten journey, let's read it together differently and look for this wisdom.

Wednesdays, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24

5:45 PM Evening Prayer in the church
 6:00 PM CATERED MEAL, \$8 per adult;
 \$20 max for nuclear family
 (Trezevant Hall)
 6:45 PM Lecture (McClure Hall)
 For dinner/childcare reservations, email
lucy@gracestlukes.org call 272-7425;
 deadline 9 AM on the Mon. before each Wed.

**Lenten Program for Kids
 Wednesday Evenings
 Third graders to Fifth graders
 6:45 to 7:45 PM**

The 3rd-5th graders will be doing service projects for our church and our community. Come to the Saints Sunday School Room – across from McClure Hall.

The nursery is open in the Parents' Day Out area for smaller children.

Fridays during Lent "Are We Living in The Last Days?"

A Friday Night Home Bible Class & Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings during Lent, Grace-St. Luke's members John and Shelley Baur are hosting a casual dinner and a thoughtful Bible study "Are We Living in The Last Days?" at their east Memphis home. The presenter is William Bell, a nationally known preacher and scholar on the topic of Covenant Eschatology, just back from a teaching tour in Australia.

**Stations of the Cross
 Fridays during Lent at 5:30 PM**

Use the west entrance
 (circle drive & up the ramp).

If you need the code for the door, call the office before 4:30 Friday (272-7425).

Dinner/Bible study on 5 Fridays,
Feb. 19-Mar. 19
 Dinner at 6:30, class 7:00-8:00 PM
 Class size: 12 people maximum
 For Syllabus/RSVP, call 340-7517
 or email jbaur@memphis.edu.

Easter Flower Deadline March 22



If you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one for Easter flowers, you may send a check to the church office listing the names of those you would like remembered. These names will be listed in the Easter leaflets if received before March 22.


STAFF


The Rev. Dr. Ron DelBene, *Interim Rector*,
ext 18, ron@gracestlukes.org
The Rev. J. Brian Ponder, *Associate Rector*,
ext 13, brian@gracestlukes.org
The Rev. Gayle McCarty, *Curate*,
ext 19, gayle@gracestlukes.org
Christi Authement, *Activities and Athletics Dir.*,
ext 22, christi@gracestlukes.org
Beulah Boone, *Sexton*, ext 14
Lakisha Brown, *Sexton*, ext 14
Beth Claybrook, *Financial Assistant*,
ext 26, beth@gracestlukes.org
Julie Denman, *Congregational Life Director*,
ext 15, julie@gracestlukes.org
Hilary Dow-Ward, *Youth Ministries Director*,
ext 20, hilary@gracestlukes.org
Debbie DuGard, *Seminarian Intern*,
gsl@gracestlukes.org
Wesley Emerson, *Organist/Choirmaster*,
ext 16, wesley@gracestlukes.org
Fia Heffington, *Parents' Day Out Director*,
278-2244, pdo@gracestlukes.org
Lucy Owens, *Administrative Assistant*,
ext 10, lucy@gracestlukes.org
Patrick Payne, *Maintenance Supervisor*,
ext 14, patrick@gracestlukes.org
Debbie Smith, *Music Associate*,
ext 27, debbie@gracestlukes.org
Linda Stine, *Financial Officer*
ext 17, linda@gracestlukes.org
Kathy Stubblefield, *Children's Formation Dir.*
ext 12, kathy@gracestlukes.org


2010 VESTRY


Sandy Baker, John Baur, Patrick Burnett,
Karen Clark, Thad Cockrill, Ann Dillard, Jim
Greer, Steven Hoover, Mike Jones, Candy
Jefcoat, Bheki Khumalo, Lucius McGehee,
Hal Morse, Andy Nix, Charles Pazar, Betty
Peyton, Barney Rolfes, Paula Sappington,
Jennie VanDeveer, Peggy Williamson, and
Tom Wyatt

eNews, Pastoral Notices, Directory & eMessenger

 The eNews, which is sent out by email weekly, contains event reminders and first time announcements.

 Want to save money and trees? Sign up for the eMessenger. It's a pdf version of *The Messenger*.

 Ever want a phone number, address or email and the office is closed? An up-to-date **online directory** is also stored online.

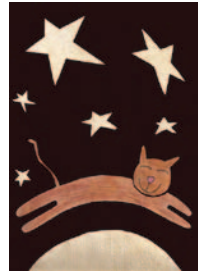
 We also email **pastoral notices** when a parishoner or loved one has died.

Contact lucy@gracestlukes.org with your email address & she'll get you added to the GSL eDatabase!

**VALENTINE'S CARDS**

Pastoral Care gives heartfelt thanks to THE CLUB, the new pre-EYC group for the 3rd thru 5th graders at Grace-St. Luke's Church, for the wonderful Valentine's cards! Led by Kathy and Bill Stubblefield, they lovingly created cheerful cards for special members of the GSL family: loved ones who were sick, at home and unable to join us for worship services or just in need of a smile or a thank you. We also remembered each member of the Search Committee with one of their hand-made love-filled creations.

Special thanks to: Mary Grace Brewer, Gray Clark, Stuart Collier, Sally Crow, Margo Huber, Joanna McCall, Connor Raspberry, Shelby Speck and Charlie Wiener. We are indeed blessed by their helping hands and joyful hearts! Thank you from Rev. Gayle and all the members of Pastoral Care!!



Luna Nova Music Presents Benefit for House of Mews

Sunday, March 7, 3:00 PM
First Congregational Church

Diane Glueck's art class drew cat pictures to use for the House of Mews Benefit Concert. Diane is the GSL Middle School art teacher. Be sure to check them out at <http://www.lunanova.org/>.

Linens for Lent

Members of the Episcopal Church Women of West Tennessee are collecting household items for homeless families. They especially need gently used sheets, towels, blankets and linens. Homeless parents with children work with the YWCA and MIFA to learn how to lead a stable lifestyle. After reaching their goals, they can leave the homeless shelter or transitional housing and move to an apartment. Usually they have nothing and need linens desperately.

Last year with the help of Grace-St. Luke's, Calvary, Holy Communion and other churches throughout the Diocese, Starter Kits were given to more than 10 homeless families. For more info, contact Sherri Smith Lemmi at mail@lemmis.com or 763-2261. A drop box is outside Lucy's office. The deadline is **Palm Sunday, Mar 28**.

Prayer in Recovery Workshop

The Recovery Commission of the Diocese of West Tennessee will host a workshop on Prayer in Recovery from 6:00 – 7:30 PM on Friday, March 19, at Grace-St. Luke's. Come share and learn the different ways we practice prayer and meditation in our lives. Free and open to everyone. For more information, please call Shannon Tucker at 281-0785.

St. Clare Retreats for Women

A St. Clare Retreat for women will be held on **Friday, Mar. 5**, at St. Columba Conference Center beginning at 8:30 AM and ending with lunch. The Rev. Bee French will lead the meditation, which is followed by a time of silence for individual prayer. The cost is \$20, which includes morning coffee and lunch. Reservations may be made with Dana Sue Percer at DSPercer@gmail.com or by calling 829-3251. Please try to have your reservations in by March 2.

Women of the Passion

The Gailor Guild of Church of the Holy Communion invites you to join us for a reading of "The Women of the Passion" on **Monday, March 29**, at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. This is a very moving and spiritual account of the Stations of the Cross as viewed from the perspective of the women who were there. Each station will be read aloud by a member of Gailor Guild as the walk to the cross is experienced.



First Friday Fellowship

Interested in connecting with other young adults at GSL?

First Friday Fellowship is a place where newcomers and newly involved parishioners can connect for fun and fellowship. We plan to mix and mingle for lively conversation, libations, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. For those needing childcare, the church nursery will be available from 6 - 10 PM for infants to age 9 at the affordable price of \$15 total for one child, \$17 for two, or \$20 for three or more (per family).

The March FFF will be held on **Friday, March 5, from 6-10 PM** at the home of Kim and Johnny Norris, 2364 S. Strathmore Circle. An evite will be sent out as usual; however, if you have not been on the list in the past and would like to be included, please email Kim Weiss at kimweiss@comcast.net to be added.

Looking towards Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary

Track 2 ✕ Year C



Lent 3 – March 7

Exodus 3:1-15 • Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 • Luke 13:1-9



Lent 4 – March 14

Joshua 5:9-12 • Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 • Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Lent 5 – March 21

Isaiah 43:16-21 • Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14 • John 12:1-8



Palm Sunday – March 28

Liturgy of the Palms
Luke 19:28-40 • Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11 • Luke 22:14-23:56



Go to the link below to access Sunday lectionary readings online at your convenience, and then reflect and pray over them at any time. Also offered is an overview, scripture backgrounds, a reflection and prayer starter to enhance your worship experience.

<http://www.gracestlukes.org/spirituality-and-worship/preparing-for-sunday/>

39'ers March 12 - Monthly 39'ers Meeting

The 39'ers will gather on **March 12** for wine, cheese and the best conversation that can be found at 11:30 AM, with a light lunch at noon, followed by the program, all for only \$6. This month's program is presented by our own Betty Calandruccio, who will present a unique picture of the country music star Dolly Parton. This will be an entertaining, spellbinding, must-hear program! Reservations to Lucy by noon on **Wed., March 10**, at 272-7425 or lucy@gracestlukes.org or 272-7425.



Join us on the Third Thursday to Hear Downtown Farmers Market Manager

Maryanne Lessley, Manager of the Downtown Farmers Market, is the speaker for the March 18 Third Thursday gathering. At this Saturday morning "happening" from April through October, we might find parishioner Brenda Maguire playing her harp for an appreciative crowd while parishioner Debbie Hooser leads a group of nursing students in a health education event. It is a fun way to shop for the very freshest produce and includes a wide variety of products with something to appeal to everyone. The mission of the Memphis Farmers Market is to serve as a community-gathering place where local farmers, producers and artisans can offer fresh agricultural and related products. Maryanne coordinates this event and professes to be "wild about the market." Come to hear her stories about the many interesting vendors and the "behind the scenes" stories of this weekly event.

Join the "empty nest set" on **Mar. 18** in Trezevant Hall at 6:30 for an evening of wine, appetizers and conversation as well as dinner and an excellent program – all for only \$10 per person. To make planning easier for our hosts, please make reservations with Lucy (272-7425 or lucy@gracestlukes.org). In keeping with church policy, your reservation is your agreement to pay for your meal.

Annual GSL Men's Retreat April 23 - 25, 2010

More stable than a UT Football coach. More reliable than a UofM basketball ACT score. Faster than a speeding chain saw.

The GSL Men's Retreat has begun signing up participants with video and special effects at a table in Trezevant Hall for the weekend of April 23-25. Our retreat leader will be the Rev. Brian Ponder and our theme is "Think About a Time." The Retreat will be held at St. Columba Conference Center.

Sign up at church on Sunday morning and get ready for a great retreat! More info and registration form also available at <http://www.gracestlukes.org/events/mens-retreat/>.

**No Classes
on March 7**



Christian Education Adults, Youth and Children

**No Classes
on March 7**

Did you know?

The GSL Crossmen serve a delicious hot breakfast each and every Sunday morning in Trezevant Hall. If you attend the 8:00 service, join us following the service for breakfast and at 9:15 for Christian Ed. If you attend the 10:30 service, come early for breakfast at 8:45 & class at 9:15. What a great Lenten discipline – one that may become a habit you'll be glad you have!

Adult Christian Education Sunday Mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 AM Feb. 21-28 + Mar. 14-28.

“Tell Me All Your Thoughts on God”

The Book of Job as a Journey to Understanding

Our Sunday morning Lenten study explores one of the most challenging writings in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: the Book of Job. Traditionally, studies of Job have focused on the relationship of God to human suffering. Clearly, this is an important element in the book, but at the same time that Job and his friends are asking questions about Job's situation, they are also asking questions and making assertions about the nature of God, particularly God's relation to humans, the cosmos, animals, and the natural world. As a book, Job raises questions about the standard wisdom-based understanding of obedience and suffering found in texts such as Proverbs. In our five-week examination of the Book of Job, we will explore a variety of concepts and see how this ancient text of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament speaks to our need for answers to some of life's most challenging questions. The course will be taught by Daniel Pigg, a GSL parishioner. He is a Professor of English at UT Martin, where he also teaches courses in religious studies. He is completing a MAR degree focusing on the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament at Memphis Theological Seminary. Class meets in McClure Hall.

The Everyday Holy: A 20s to 40s Offering

Join us for soul-searching, fellowship, coffee/tea and conversation specifically geared towards those aged in their 20s-40s. Parish and guest presenters will facilitate sessions on just how “the Holy” is experienced in their day-to-day lives and living—some of it haphazardly, some of it through disciplined practices. Class meets in the Lounge.

“Listening for God”

For those who love to read, listen, and discuss how God speaks to them through literature, we're continuing with stories from *The Celestial Omnibus*, and a rotating facilitation by class members. Drop in to sample, or stay all season. Class meets in the Peete Room.

Christian Education for Youth Sunday Mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Rite-13

Grades 6-8, Led by Donna and Jerry Sanders
Doan House, 2nd Floor, 1768 Peabody

YAC

Grades 9-12, The Chapel

Children's Sunday School Offerings Sunday Mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 AM

Little Lambs

Two years old and very young three years old,
Nursery Area - Little Lambs Room

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Atrium 1, Three to six year olds, Amanda Robbins
Nursery Area, Atrium One Room
Atrium 2, Six to nine year olds, Pete Shearon
Jackson Library, Atrium Two Room

Saints Sunday School Class – Third to Fifth Grades
Room 212, Evans Building, Bill Stubblefield

Nursery

The nursery, located downstairs in the Parents' Day Out area, is open from 8 AM to the conclusion of the 10:30 AM service.

- 1) Baby Room – infants to 18 months,
- 2) Little Lambs Room – 18 months to very-young-threes,
- 3) Sunday School Room – very-young-three to six-year-olds.

Important notices for 5th grade and under

Wednesday Evening Lenten Service Projects for 3rd -5th grade, Mar. 3, 10, 17 & 24 (the evenings that Mitzi Minor speaks) in room 212, across from McClure Hall from 6:45 to 7:45 PM. The Nursery will be open from 5:30 to 7:45.

The Club (3rd-5th Grade youth group) will gather **March 21** after the 10:30 service in Room 212.

The Children's Christian Education Committee will meet **March 24** at 5:30 in the Lounge.



Church Athletics

Christi sends a sincere THANK YOU to all of the 2009-2010 GSL Basketball Coaches. YOU ROCK!! They are listed as follows: Donnie Sappington, Chip Morrow, Randy Engel, Brett Ragsdale, Holly Ritchey, Jon Lakey, John Huber, Amy Morad, Bruce McMullen, Alec Mclean, Chris Brown, James Overstreet, Dave Erickson, Jeff and Web Emerson, Ellie Bennett, Steve McHugh, Scott Young, Stephanie Anderson, Jack Horn, Bruce and Daniel Williams, Todd Brown, Hannah Allen, Callie Smith and Bubba Halliday.

Spring Sports Skills Assessment scheduled for **Mar. 20 & 21**. To download a flyer with location, times and other info, go to gracestlukes.org/uploads/files/sports/BaseballAssessment.pdf.

CAMP GAILOR MAXON DATES

Pre-Camp: Thurs., June 3 - Sun., June 6

Rising 1st, 2nd & 3rd graders with a parent

Camp I: Sat., June 12 - Sat., June 19

Rising 10th, 11th, 12th & college freshmen

Camp II: Sun., June 20 - Sat., June 26

Rising 7th, 8th & 9th graders

Camp III: Sun., June 27 - Sat., July 3

Rising 4th, 5th and 6th graders

Applications can be downloaded at www.duboseconf.org/camp.html. Questions? email cgmdir@blomand.net

Member News

Baptisms on February 7, 2010

Sarah Gray Yant, daughter of Trey and Anna Catesby Yant

Death

George Arthur Nash, died 1/26, buried 1/29/2010

Virginia Roseborough Morton, died 1/16, buried 1/20/2010

Transfer In

Jessica Puckett from Church of Our Saviour, Chicago, IL

Jeniffer Hanson Church from St. John's, Memphis

Jennifer L. Balink from Calvary, Memphis

Added by Canon

Russell Church, St. Dunstan's Anglican Church, Benoni, South Africa

Christine Cox Lee

Added as Baptized Members

Deanna Katelyn Henley, daughter of Jessica Puckett

Bruce Lee, husband of Christine Lee

Berent Clayton Balink and Astrid Brinker Laurence Balink, children of Jennifer Balink

Caroline Barrett King

William Merritt Wilson



March EYC Schedule

EYC, The Doan House, Jr. High: 5:30-7 PM Sr. High: 6:30-8 PM
March 14, 21, 28

March 5-12 NO Sunday School or EYC-GSL Spring Break

Teen Group at St. John's 7-8:30 PM, Grades 9-12
March 3, 10, 17 & 24



Spring Fling

13th Annual

Junior High

Lock Out

March 26th

More info can be found on the registration form, which is on the EYC bulletin board or online at gracestlukes.org/uploads/files/eyc/springfling2010.pdf.



News From GSL School

by Tom Beazley

GSL's Student Council organized a school-wide fund drive in February to raise money for Episcopal Relief & Development Fund's earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti. The school enrolls 520 students, and the Student Council's goal was to raise a minimum of \$3 per student. The students ended up raising just over \$2,000 to contribute to relief efforts. In addition, the Student Council plans to allocate proceeds from the spring dance to contribute further to this effort. Congratulations to all of our students for leading and supporting this effort to help those in need in Haiti.



(Pictured left to right): Student Council vice-president Claire S., vice-president Baker B., Head of Middle School Thor Kvande, secretary-treasurer Sullivan F., and president Margaret Grace H.

March Lay Service Schedule

March 7

Altar Guild: M V Rogers, S Barnett, D Dale, L Trotter, C Wallace

Breakfast Cooks: P Wilson, C Kerwin, J Moore, B Foster, L Strickland, C Pazar, S King

Lay Service Participants

8:00 *Lectors/Chalicers:* McGehee, Whitlock, Whitlock, Brewer

10:30 *Acolytes:* K Rasberry, C Rasberry, K Ayres

Ushers: E Taylor, G Uhlhorn IV, M Tate, B Spiller

March 14

Altar Guild: M V Rogers, S Barnett, D Dale, L Trotter, C Wallace

Breakfast Cooks: M Herr, C Mercer, M Crow, D McLemore, K Patton, B Williams

Lay Service Participants

8:00 *Lectors/Chalicers:* Edwards, Busby, Busby

10:30 *Acolytes:* L Robbins

Ushers: T Claybrook, G Uhlhorn V, P Taylor, H Spiller

March 21

Altar Guild: L Tual, C Jefcoat, L McLemore, L Niell, V Rowland

Breakfast Cooks: H Morse, T Claybrook, J Mercer, W Ayres, B Morse, I Hendry, D Douglass

Lay Service Participants

8:00 *Lectors/Chalicers:* Rolfes, Adams, Smith, Smith

10:30 *Acolytes:* E Shearon, R Waring, M Cline

Ushers: J Rasberry, L Wardlaw, B Terhune, B Stubblefield

March 28

Altar Guild: L Tual, C Jefcoat, L McLemore, L Niell, V Rowland

Breakfast Cooks: T Bolding, J Rasberry, G Simonton, C Johnson, M Pleasants, M Tyler, J Woo

Lay Service Participants

8:00 *Lectors/Chalicers:* Rolfes, Adams, Whitlock, Whitlock

10:30 *Acolytes:* Z VanDeveer, S Collier, M Allen

Ushers: R Norcross, B Tual, S Tate

The Altar Gifts in March are offered in loving memory of

March 7 Andrew Alexander Mitchell, James Henry Williams, William Parker Halliday, Caroline Wilkinson Halliday, Charles B. Allen, Jr., Dorothy Reeve Allen, Charles B. Allen III, Joann Lockard Allen, Anne Pillow Halliday, William Parker Halliday, Jr.

March 14 Ernest Joseph Smythe, Marion Summers Smythe, Henrietta Clarke Smythe, William Hamilton Smythe, Margaret Dyck Thinnies, Katherine McAlpin Hinds, Stanley Robins Hinds, Mary Clay Tate Smythe, William Hamilton Smythe, Jr.

March 21 Lacey Tucker Scott, Gwin Chalmers Scott, John Gwin Scott, John McArthur Skipper, Lois Hardage Skipper, Louisa Warfield Scott, Elenna Thisbe Scott, Noah McArthur Scott

March 28 Florence Boyce Battle, Walter Preston Battle, Garth Connally Jones

Gifts have been given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for:

Betty Peyton from Ben and Lynda G. McCarty

Wesley Emerson, Debbie Smith and our fabulous Grace-St. Luke's Choir from Frank Langford

Gail and Maurice Tyler for their 50th Wedding Anniversary from Frank Langford

Gifts have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Marguerite Hickey from Betsy and Preston Wilson

Tif Bingham from Frank Langford, Julie and George Ellis, Nancy and Rodgers Menzies

Clay Morris Chandler from Nancy and Rodgers Menzies

Byron Hutchison from Frank Langford

Dr. Irvin Rainey from Alice Anne and T.V. Miller

Virginia R. Morton from Carol Titus, Avenue Bank, Ron and Lynn Samuels, Johnny and Janice Guthrie, Mike and Judy McGehee, Mary Morton, Rick and Joseph Curtsinger, Sycamore Bank, W. L. Nichol IV, Patricia H. Evans, Charles B. Morton, Jr., Elinor B. Peek, Nancy and Michael Zoretic, Jane and Ed Corley, Pete and Eleanor Thomas, Ann Arnold, April Hofner, Jason Senfort, Jo Schofield, Wanda Cohoa, Rev. Theodore O. Atood, Jr., Michael and Barbara Paslay, Bettye Pittman, Linthicum Parker Turner, John and Ann Dillard, Janet and Shep Tate, Barbara and Buddy Adams, Helen White Saino, Suzanne and Billy Plyler, Laura and Rob Riley, Beth Fortune and Debbie Turner, Corinne Wilson, Armelle Maxey, Bettie C. Welsh, Karen P. Orsini, Betsy and Preston Wilson, Bill and Mary Hance, Anna Hance and Sarah Tell, Elizabeth and Chad Miller

William M. McCarson from Bettye Pittman, Barbara and Buddy Adams, Betsy and Preston Wilson

Diane Reddoch from Flo Seger

Martin Edwards from Betsy and Preston Wilson

2010 Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary Episcopal Church

Mondays-Fridays, 12:05-12:40 PM

For a schedule of speakers, go to

www.calvarymemphis.org/news/lentenseries.htm

March 2010

For the most up-to-date GSL event info, go to gracestlukes.org/events

April 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	March 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

8:00am & 10:30am & 5:30 Eucharists 8:45am Breakfast 9:15am Christian Ed 11:45am Coffee Hour 4:00pm MoreTAMeal 5:30pm Jr EYC/6:30 Sr EYC	12:00pm Weight Watchers 1:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm EFM	9:00am Bazaar Ladies 9:00am Staff meeting 1:00pm Food Pantry	5:00pm PC Team 4 5:00pm Canterbury Choir 5:45pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Fellowship Mtg 6:00pm Dinner 6:20pm St. Cecilia Choir 6:45pm Lecture 7:00pm Teen Group 7:30pm Adult Choir	12:00pm Executive Com. 5:45pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Dinner 6:45pm Lecture 7:00pm Teen Group 7:30pm Adult Choir	5:00pm PC Team 5 9:30am Sr. Fitness 11:30am 39ers 1:00pm Daughters of the King 5:30pm Stations of the Cross 6:30pm Lenten Home Bible Class	9:30am Sr. Fitness 5:30pm Stations of the Cross 6:00pm ARC Prayer Workshop 6:30pm Lenten Home Bible Class
8:00am & 10:30am & 5:30 Eucharists 8:45am Breakfast 9:15am Christian Ed 11:45am Coffee Hour 4:00pm MoreTAMeal 5:30pm Jr EYC/6:30 Sr EYC	12:00pm Weight Watchers 1:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm EFM	9:00am Bazaar Ladies 9:00am Staff meeting 1:00pm Food Pantry	5:00pm PC Team 2 5:00pm Canterbury Choir 5:45pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Dinner 6:20pm St. Cecilia Choir 6:45pm Lecture 7:00pm Teen Group 7:30pm Adult Choir	6:30pm Third Thursday 9:30am Sr. Fitness 5:30pm Stations of the Cross 6:00pm ARC Prayer Workshop 6:30pm Lenten Home Bible Class	Jr HI Spring Fling 7:30pm Fri-8am Sat 9:30am Sr. Fitness 5:30pm Stations of the Cross	
Palm Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am & 5:30 Eucharists 8:45am Breakfast 9:15am Christian Ed 11:45am Coffee Hour 4:00pm MoreTAMeal 5:30pm Jr EYC/6:30 Sr EYC	12:00pm Weight Watchers 1:00pm Food Pantry 4:30pm EFM	9:00am Bazaar Ladies 9:00am Staff meeting 1:00pm Food Pantry	5:00pm Canterbury Choir 5:30pm Children's CE Mtg 5:45pm Evening Prayer 6:00pm Dinner 6:20pm St. Cecilia Choir 6:45pm Lecture 7:00pm Teen Group 7:30pm Adult Choir		12 STEP MEETINGS AI Anon: Thurs 10:30am Alcoholics Anonymous: Tues 6:30 & 8pm Narcotics Anonymous: Sun 8pm, Sat 10am Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous: Mon & Thurs at 8pm, Sat 4pm, Women's meeting 6:45 Thurs. Suicide Anonymous: Wed 7:30pm	



GRACE-ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1720 PEABODY AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38104-6124
901-272-7425, 901-272-9833 (FAX)
gsl@gracestlukes.org www.gracestlukes.org

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UP PARISH DATE

The season of Lent is often referred to as a season of transparency...a time of looking carefully at our lives, discovering areas in which change is called for, and embracing the discipline of living into new decisions. It seemed appropriate that this Lenten message be an update of how your Vestry has been looking at our common life, discovering areas in which change could happen and then choosing the discipline of living into new ways of responsible ministry.

Transparency has been a theme of the past two years of interim work here at Grace-St. Luke's. There have been occasions when the Vestry has asked me to provide updates regarding our common life, primarily how finances affect our parish. This update column is another way of providing essential information about the parish's finances and how our lower levels of funding are affecting our ministry and especially the life of our lay staff.

Over the past seven years, pledging units have declined from 390 to 259. In 2009, 50% of our total household units made a pledge. The average of the pledges we lose each year due to death or physical move is \$3,000. The average of the new pledges we receive is \$1,500. Fixed costs of insurance, utilities and maintenance continue to rise each year. In 2009, after all pledges had been received, we were faced with a preliminary deficit of over \$100,000 in our annual budget.

In November of each year, your Finance Committee begins to seek ways to present a balanced budget. They are faced with the challenge of creating a budget where our anticipated operating expenses are in line with our annual pledges - our operating income. They have kept you updated how that struggle to balance the budget takes place and they have asked for a greater participation from all members in making pledges or increasing pledges. We give deep thanks to those of you who have responded with additional support. Despite this additional support, we have not been able to avoid deep and difficult cuts. Over 70% of our budget is dedicated to salaries and associated expenses. And because our fixed costs, such as utilities and maintenance cannot be reduced significantly, the burden has fallen upon lay staff and programming.

Last year, after making difficult decisions, our budget was finally balanced and approved in February. The hard decisions that were required included: lay staff assuming 10% of their insurance premiums, ceasing overtime for our sextons, reducing the financial assistant's position to one day a week, reducing communication costs by publishing *The Messenger* only once a month and encouraging people to receive all publications by email.

The proposed funding levels in the budget for 2010 were essentially

the same as 2009, except that many of our expenses increased over the prior year. In other words, the 2010 budget required us to take in even more income to cover the same bills and expenses during the upcoming year. We were also faced with the likelihood that in 2010 we would see the continued effects of the current national financial situation resulting in giving at the same level or below. This year 259 of our total household units pledged compared to 289 in 2009. Many parishioners reduced their 2010 pledges below their 2009 levels. Fixed costs increased, and the preliminary deficit to overcome to balance the 2010 budget was approximately \$62,000. The hard task for the Finance Committee began again. The difficult decisions were made and a balanced budget was adopted at the recent February Vestry meeting. Again, two decisions placed the burden of a balanced budget upon the lay staff and programming.

Beginning in February, all lay pension contributions were frozen for this year with the understanding that a pension plan would be reinstated in 2011 or no later than January 2012. Secondly, the full-time position of the Director of Youth Programming will be eliminated at the end of the school year. A new part-time Youth Director position will be funded beginning in June. The duties associated with the three-times weekly GSL School chapel presently included in the present full-time position will be reassigned to the clergy. This change was not made without full consideration of the potential impact to the program. There was Vestry consensus that a part-time position is an appropriate level of support for this critical program and that we can have a thriving youth program led by a part-time Youth Director with committed support from the parish, vestry, and clergy.

A Youth Program Committee composed of Vestry members, parents of youth, students, and Human Resource Committee members will be created to evaluate how this program can best serve the needs of our parish with the available resources, review the needs of our youth program, determine a job description for this part-time Youth Director's position, and serve as an interviewing group to recommend the best candidate.

Hard decisions have been made as a result of our income. We are not alone here at GSL with these issues. Churches as well as businesses are called upon to make decisions. I know that many of you have experienced similar circumstances and have struggled with balancing your personal budgets. There is an expectation that we will experience some financial uncertainty continuing into the next year. We will also continue to approach our work as good stewards of our resources and ministry.

Your Vestry and I recognize the seriousness of these changes and have prayerfully considered every alternative. We value your support and prayers for the ministry of GSL as we go forth together.