



April 2009 • Volume 25, No. 4

Maundy Thursday Opportunities *Thursday, April 9*

Seder Meal – 6:00 p.m. Remembering the Exodus

Grace will again partake of the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 6:00 pm. The meal will be served in small groups of approximately a dozen, in several rooms around the church. Each room will have a leader, a mother, and a child and will be appropriately lit and prepared. The observance of the Seder meal will lead directly into the Maundy Thursday service in the sanctuary. A sign-up sheet in the narthex will help us prepare the appropriate number of place settings for the ceremony. Please sign up and show the number of family members who plan to attend.

Jesus and his disciples met together to partake of the Seder meal on the evening of The Last Supper. It is a familial occasion that remembers the exodus of God's people from the bonds of slavery. Grace has a history

Church Work Day

Join us for a day of sprucing up and cleaning up our building and grounds in preparation for Holy Week.

We'll be planting, cleaning, polishing and doing other minor repairs. So, bring your rags and lets get busy!!
9 am - ?

Lunch will be provided

We are called by the Holy Spirit into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ, glorifying God, growing in faith, serving others, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

of the observance stretching back several years. This will be the second consecutive year in which we have observed the meal in this intimate small group setting. We hope your family is able to attend.

Worship – 7:00 p.m. Remembering Christ's Final Meal

The Worship Ministry is adding a worship element to our Maundy Thursday worship service this year at 7:00 p.m. We will be including hand washing this year instead of the foot washing you have seen in years past. Each of you will be invited to participate – an opportunity to experience a more personal and intimate relationship with Christ than just watching foot washing.

There will be four stations set up in the Sanctuary. Each station will have two hosts, one of whom will wash your hands and one of whom will dry. You will be invited to go to one of the stations prior to going to the Table for Communion. Anyone who does not wish to have their hands washed may go directly to the Table.

If you would like to participate by washing or drying, please contact Virginia Kendrick at 817-557-2695. She is recruiting six more folks who will make this service one of their Holy Week offerings. Family pairs (husband/wife and/or parent/youth/child) will be welcomed.





From the Pastor

Dear Friends –

Amazing things happen in the church. This

month we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus – the most amazing thing of all. But regularly we gather together to offer praise and adoration to God. Children grow up knowing God’s love. People pray for one another. We eat and enjoy table fellowship together. We honor contributions made by folks of all ages. And we do things for others, not based on merit or

friendship or any honor that might come to us. We reach out in mission, service, and care because we can and because other people are children of God, too.

On the list of minor amazing things, is the fact that I am still serving as your interim pastor! April is month 25. I have so enjoyed walking beside you on your faith journey and being a part of your worship and study and service. Thank you for this privilege, and for whatever time we will continue to be together, “Thanks be to God.”

*Elizabeth Johnson Pense
Interim Pastor*



To activate the Grace Presbyterian Church Prayer Chain:

- Phone John Matson at 817-465-0014
- Email johnmatson@tx.rr.com
- Go online at www.gpcarlington.org using the prayer chain link

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Becky Couch & Valerie Knox
co-editors

Leslie Seggelink
Roving Reporter

- Deadline for submission of articles and photos is the 15th of each month.
- All photos should be digital in either .tif or .jpg format(s).
- Articles/information may be submitted through email and/or MS Word document.



Boy Scout Troop 421

March Events

March was a very busy month for the troop. The Tejas District had their camporee at Sid Richardson Scout Ranch in which the troop participated. The very next weekend the troop and the Venture Crew spent the weekend backpacking the Cross Timbers Trail on Lake Texoma in preparation for their Philmont backpacking trips in the summer of 2010.

April Events

The troop expects another large group of Webelos Cub Scouts to join the troop in April and will have a campout at Worth Ranch to welcome the new members. The older Scouts will be teaching the new Scouts the basic camping skills to prepare them for summer camp in July at Camp Hale in southeastern Oklahoma.

New Eagle Scout

Jackson Eudy successfully completed his district board of review for Eagle Scout on March 1. His application has been sent to the national council for final approval. Upon that approval, Jackson will become Troop 421’s 53rd Eagle Scout. Congratulations, Jackson!



**SESSION BRIEFS -
March 10, 2009
Stated Meeting**

The Session ...

- elected Elders Ron Musfeldt and John Matson as Commissioners to the March called meeting of Grace Presbytery.
- finalized plans for a Spring Session Retreat at Westminster PC in Arlington for March 14
- authorized Elders Harold Walker and John McRoberts to finalize negotiations and complete the new sign transaction, then authorize installation, prayerfully by Easter!
- heard a report from Moderator Betsy Pense regarding her tenure at Grace and immediate plans for Grace in the coming weeks as we await a new called pastor.
- voted to meet with the 2009 Confirmation Class on Sunday afternoon, May 24.
- removed with regrets the Reck family and Linda Short from the roll ... welcomed Brian and Net Musfeldt back to the active roster.
- discussed possibilities for a more distinct and formal non-profit umbrella to operate LIGHTT.
- set Sunday, October 4, 2009 as kickoff Sunday for the Fall Stewardship campaign.
- voted to renew the church's contract with Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Pense.

Your Pastor Nominating Ministry Is Still Hard at Work

As quiet as we may seem to be, we are as busy as ever. We continue to meet each Monday evening for at least two hours. We are still receiving Pastor Information Forms to evaluate. We make reference calls and have telephone conferences. This would be a daunting task if it were not for God's Holy Spirit, which continues to lead us, even after seventeen months. We experience excitement and anticipation as we evaluate each new candidate. And we experience disappointment when various circumstances prevent a candidate from being considered. We have complete faith in God's plan and we trust the process that Presbytery has developed for this search.

Please pray for discernment for the Pastor Nominating Ministry. Pray for patience for each of us as we wait for the pastor God has planned for us ... for that perfect match for Grace. We know that God is with us - to the end and beyond.

- voted to allow budgeted employee educational expense funds to accrue for up to three years.
- set a single late Summer Session meeting for July and August on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.
- voted to allow Children's Education to spearhead a planting project around the playground fence on the west side of the building.

Nifty Fifty's Plus *Fun, Food & Fellowship for Folks over Fifty*

Saturday, April 11, 2009
6:30pm
Potluck Supper

Hosts: Dave & Marsha Walker
Invocation: Dick Townsend
Devotional: Joan Townsend
Program: Ronald McDonald
House

Commendations:

The following individuals were commended for their service:

Carol Mapp for her mission emphasis, leadership and expertise shared through the Good Grief Class

Tom Whinery for his efforts to present Faith in Action to the congregation

Dick Townsend for his constant behind-the-scenes dedication and service as the church book-keeper and accountant.



Children's Education ... *Spring is a very busy time!*

In CE we are planning Heifer Project events that will begin on April 26 with a Minute for Mission and jar decoration. Collection will be on May 3. We are looking forward to the participation of all the children and congregation in this most important mission. It is always exciting and fun to determine what animals we can send to people in need.

The Mission Tree for April will be decorated with colorful paper eggs created by the children. The backs of the eggs will have special prayers and scripture verses to share with our Grace family.

On Saturday, April 4, the CE

team will be preparing the ground around the children's playground for planting of sage. Our goal is to beautify the area. All helping hands - big and small - will be welcome!

PARENTS: The children's One Great Hour of Sharing collection boxes will be offered during the Children's Time at both services on Palm Sunday, April 5.

VBS News: Be sure to read the half-page VBS announcement in this issue of the GraceVine. You'll also want to know that this year family participation will be encouraged. Family members will make the journey together into "Rome and the Underground Church." This will be a wonderful experience for everyone in your family, and we are looking forward to your participation!

BIRTHDAYS

Mike Dillman	4-01
Marji Breault	4-04
Bruce Capehart	4-05
Valerie Knox	4-05
Alex Wulff	4-05
Sam McAllister	4-07
Kent Couch	4-09
Logan Dillman	4-09
Jimmy Fabio	4-09
Chris Askew	4-11
Dawn Coleman	4-11
Maggie Curtis	4-12
Bill Irwin	4-12
Sherry Tipton	4-12
Bob Curtis	4-13
Bill Epperson	4-17
Mike Ross	4-17
Dick Townsend	4-21
Jessica Bayless	4-24
Mitch Conine	4-24
Briana Howland	4-24
Taylor Curtis	4-29
Jeffrey Young	4-29

VBS 2009

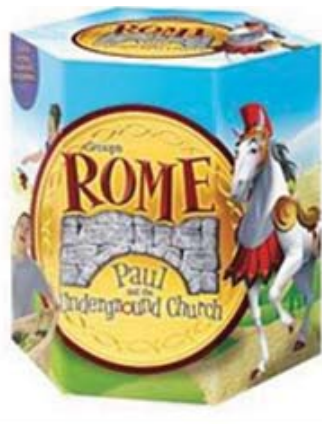
"Rome: Paul and the Underground Church"

Join your kids as they explore a crowded Roman marketplace ... tip-toe past Roman guards ... encourage Christians in an underground church ... and visit Paul for daily discoveries about God's love!

Rome ... where the Bible comes to life! Race a chariot, try on a toga ... nibble on medieval fare ... and experience the power of Scripture and the courage of the early church!

Rome ... where the Apostle Paul is your Bible teacher!

Westminster Presbyterian Church



joins with Grace Presbyterian Church and is transformed into a Roman marketplace where kids will experience the sights and sounds, taste and smells of first century Rome.

Strap on your sandals and get ready for a fun adventure!

Who: Children ages 3 years – Going into sixth grade (Fall 2009)

When: Mon. Aug. 3 – Fri. Aug. 7
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Grace Presbyterian Church

5500 Mansfield Road
Arlington, Texas
(817) 468-0317

Speak to Ron Musfeldt at Grace (GPC) or Dianna Boger at (WPC), or call the church offices for information!

We are very excited again this year to join with Westminster to share God's love and Bible stories from the book of Romans.

Pre-Register NOW!

VOLUNTEERS needed!





Day Circle

Monday, April 13

9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Lesson #8: *All Are Invited*

Lesson Leader: Charlotte Sutton

Devotional: Jennifer King

Hostess: Julie Bayless

Night Circle

Tuesday, April 21

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Lesson #8: *All Are Invited*

Lesson Leader: Joan Smith

Devotional: Nancy Howland

Hostess: Nancy Howland

Yarn Ministry

Tuesday, April 14

Thursday, April 23

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Room 100 at the church

We are busy preparing scarves for Tom Whinery's next trip to Romania. Several prayer shawls have been given to friends and members of our congregation who have been in our prayers for various reasons. If you know someone who needs to feel God's love in a very tangible way, please talk to Becky Couch or Kathy Wulff or Queta Lopez. And join us for these evenings of fellowship!



Women of Grace General Meeting Tuesday, April 16 7:00 p.m.

Check the WOG Board in the hallway for details on this month's activity. The bulletin and Mid-Week GraceNotes will also have all the details of something exciting for all the women of our church! You won't want to miss it! Be sure to bring your dimes to contribute to the Birthday Offering which will be taken at this meeting.

The Birthday Offering Tuesday, April 16 taken at the General Meeting

The Birthday Offering is collected at our April general meeting each year and then submitted to Presbyterian Women to celebrate the blessings in the lives of all women. The Birthday Offering was begun in 1922 by Hallie Paxson Winsborough. After visiting a school for girls in Japan, and realizing their needs, she challenged members of the Women's Auxiliary (PCUS) to give one penny for each year of their lives as a birthday gift to the school. This year's nationwide goal is \$800,000. Due to the change in the value of money since 1922, it is suggested that each woman give 10 cents for each year of her life (or \$10.00 if she prefers not to reveal her age).

There are two grant recipients this year:

La Mujer Obrera in El Paso, Texas was founded in 1981 and responds to the needs of thousands of Mexican immigrant women

who have lost their jobs as factory workers. The organization is in the process of renovating a facility to house the next phase of its sustainable community - Centro Mayapan. Centro Mayapan will revitalize the South Central neighborhood of El Paso – providing training and support for businesses and low-income women, including a cross-border trading network with indigenous women's cooperatives in Mexico.

His Kids, Too! in Dzerzhinsk, Ukraine is a children's home for orphans. The home provides health care and education as well as all the basic needs. Since it was opened in 1998, it has expanded from caring for 400 children to more than 5,000 in 21 orphanages. The grant money will be used to either renovate an existing building or construct a new building. The Children's Home is a place where children are nurtured, loved and educated in a Christian environment.



Serving at Grace

Who Benefits from Stephen Ministry?

STEPHEN MINISTRY



People Who Need Care . . .

- Receive quality, Christ-centered, confidential care for their hurts and needs
- Find hope, healing, and a new sense of self-worth through the support of a Stephen Minister
- Know they are remembered and supported by their congregation in times of personal difficulty
- Receive ongoing care for continuing needs long after the onset of a crisis, when many others have forgotten about them
- Grow in a deeper relationship with their Lord as they experience God's unconditional love for them through their Stephen Minister

Our Pastor . . .

- No longer shoulder the entire burden of caring in the congregation, as if the pastor were the only one able, willing, or called to do this ministry
- Receive support and care from the lay people who are part of the congregation's Stephen Ministry Team
- Reach more members of the congregation with quality Christian care
- Experience renewed joy and satisfaction as they equip others and so extend the reach of their own ministries

- Have more time to focus on the ministries that only the pastor can do

Our Lay People . . .

- Discover, cultivate, and use the spiritual gifts they have been blessed with
- See themselves as active partners in the mission and ministry of the church
- Find all aspects of their lives enriched by the distinctively Christian caregiving skills they learn and practice
- Experience great joy as they see God working through them to bring hope and healing to a hurting person
- Grow spiritually as they experience the Lord's loving presence in community with other Christian caregivers

Our Entire Congregation . . .

- Discovers that many members want to be involved in meaningful ministry and will respond to the call to become a Stephen Minister or Stephen Leader
- Becomes a more loving community that is more sensitive and responsive to people's needs for care
- Is able to provide more quality Christian care, so that fewer people slip through the cracks
- Is able to reach out to the unchurched who are hurting and introduce them to the healing love of Jesus in their time of need
- Sees itself as not only being served by the pastor, but as a caring body of believers actively involved in serving one another in love

For more information about Stephen Ministry, or if you would like to have a Stephen Minister walk with you through one of life's hurdles, please contact Louie Nash (817) 465-1957 louie@nashfolk.net



New Day and LIGHTT ... February Giving by Grace Members

- 117 bags of food
- 82 snacks and fresh fruit
- 4 cases baby food
- 4 cases baby cookies
- 2 baby books

We have an awesome God who touches our hearts to give so generously. Our new freezer is totally full of food for the LIGHTT youth! Thank you so much and God bless you all.

Joan B Smith



Using our time & talents in service. . .

Early Service

Late Service

April 5 - Palm Sunday

Acolyte
Joys & Concerns
Liturgist
Communion Servers

Mark Hellberg
Chris Conn
Joan Smith, Hector Bayona
Harold Walker, Chip Black

CC Waggoner

Virginia Kendrick
John Matson, John McRoberts,
Betty Sicks, Ron Musfeldt,
Gehlin Mentli

Communion Baker
Communion Set-up
Communion Cleanup
Counters
Guardian Angels

Susan Musfeldt
Barb McAllister and Jamie Curtis
Cathy and John Matson
Doug Fabio and Virginia Kendrick
Barb or Sam McAllister

Anna Waggoner

April 9 - Maunday Thursday, 7 pm

Acolyte
Ushers
Liturgist
Communion Servers
Communion Baker
Communion Set-up
Communion Clean-up

Miranda Ross
Paula Bauerle, Mike McCoy and Tom Denny
Martha Kinard
Virginia Kendrick, Sam McAllister, Jan Nash and Ann Stites
None- Intinction
Barb McAllister and Jennifer King
Barb McAllister

April 10 - Good Friday, 7 pm

April 12 - Easter Sunday

Guardian Angel
Acolyte
Joys & Concerns
Liturgist
Communion Servers

Bill or Ruth Irwin
Molly Wulff
Peggy Hellberg
Kathy Wulff
Ron Westphal, Terry Hendricks
Joan Smith, John Hendricks

Dixie Conine
Andi Hutto

Dave Kinkel
Mike McCoy, Joan Townsend
Dick Townsend, Lisa Whinery,
Tom Whinery

Communion Baker
Communion Set-up
Communion Clean-up
Counters

Janet Denney
Barb McAllister and Mike McCoy
Melinda and Dave Kinkel
Sam McAllister and Dave Kinkel

April 19

Guardian Angels
Joys & Concerns
Liturgist
Counters

Mary Steele
Martha Kinard
Bill Wulff
John McRoberts and Tracy Loftin

Frank Bauerle

Mike McCoy

April 26

Guardian Angels
Joys & Concerns
Liturgist
Counters

Ann Livingston
Sam McAllister
Mark Hellberg
Bill O'Mary and Rod Jones

Cindy Hutto

Joan Townsend



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Join with us to offer praise to God

April 5 – Palm Sunday

8:30 and 11:00 – join us for “the parade” as we recall Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the beginning of his passion – including Communion

April 9 – Maundy Thursday

6:00 – Seder meal (reservations needed)
7:00 – a quiet time of worship including hand-washing and Communion as we remember the betrayal and passion of Jesus

April 10 – Good Friday

7:00 – a dramatic presentation of the passion story – Jesus’ betrayal and crucifixion – using scripture and songs

April 12 – Easter Sunday

6:45 a.m. – a sunrise service led by church members including scripture and music 8:30 and 11:00 – joyful and celebrative worship offered to God in thanksgiving for Jesus’ resurrection; including Communion

ANNIVERSARIES

Marc & Jenny Ross	4-11
Stephen & Ana Waggoner	4-22
Mike & Twyllia Dillman	4-25
Sam & Barb McAllister	4-29
David & Marcia Walker	4-29

Ordinary Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am	Contemporary Celebration Service
9:45 am	Church School
11:00 am	Traditional Service

Welcome to life together in Jesus Christ! We extend an invitation to membership in Grace Presbyterian Church to all who feel called to grow in faith and discipleship with this warm fellowship of Christians. Please let the Pastor or an Elder, know of your desire to join. Come join our family of faith!

Grace Presbyterian Church
5500 Mansfield Rd.
Arlington, TX 76017

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