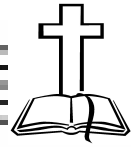




GRACE NOTES



MARCH 2009

From Rev. Lyle:

The Joy of Easter

The greatest joy about Easter is not simply the event that took place 2000 years ago, but about how that event from the past impacts the present. Phillips Brooks made this statement;

“The great Easter truth is not that we are to live newly after death--that is not the great thing--but that we are to be new here and now by the power of the Resurrection; not so much that we are to live forever, as that we are to, and may, live nobly now because we are to live forever.”

The most significant aspect of the resurrection is the way it has the potential to change our lives today. The message of new life reminds us that God through Christ can turn even the most hopeless and lifeless situation into a new possibility for living. It is not personal strength that makes the difference but the power of God within us. The resurrection event is about what God can do. The hope that we have as Christians is that when we open ourselves to God's presence and power it can change us into more faithful and committed followers of Christ. God can take the weakness within us and turn it around into one of our greatest strengths.

It is because of the resurrection that there are unlimited possibilities within each person. We have the capacity to accomplish and become more than we realize. It is not because of who we are but because of God's presence within us.

May we as individuals and a congregation begin to open ourselves to God's power and become the kind of disciples and community of faith that God is calling to be!

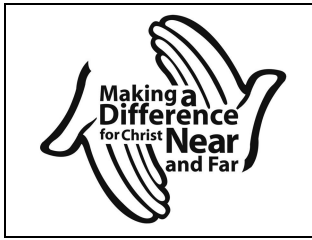
Have a great Easter!

Easter at Grace

Palm Sunday Communion
Walk the Prayer Labyrinth
Quiet Prayer in the Sanctuary
Candlelight Communion
Good Friday Service
Children's Celebration
Easter Sunday Worship

April 5, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services
Apr. 5, 11:30-1:00; Apr. 8, 9:00-11:00, Apr. 9, 4:00-6:00
Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9, 7:00
Apr. 10, 10:30 a.m. at St. Giles', Park St. nr. Lansdowne
Saturday, Apr. 11, 9:00-11:30, for ages 3-11
Sunday, Apr. 12, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.





Making a Difference for Christ: Near and Far

By Rev. Lyle

This is an exciting time at Grace! 'Making a Difference for Christ: Near and Far' is the title of the new vision that we are about to cast at Grace Church. This vision will help give direction for our ministry over the next five years. It is the culmination of a year's work of planning, prayer and discussion.

At the beginning of April you, as a member of Grace, will receive a letter from me with a list of the times and dates of what we are calling "face to face meetings". In the letter you will be asked to select a time and date that works best for you to come and hear about the vision. During each of these meetings, I will be explaining the vision and direction for our ministry over the next five years. At each meeting we will have between 15 and 20 people from Grace attending. These "face to face meetings" will be a wonderful time to experience several things:

1. celebrate the wonderful accomplishments and ministries at Grace;
2. meet new people in our congregation;
3. renew old acquaintances;
4. hear about the vision and direction of the ministry of Christ at Grace;
5. have an opportunity to ask questions, discuss and make comments on the vision; and
6. understand the important role you can play within this vision.

As the minister of Grace I am looking forward to these meetings and welcome the chance to sit down with many of the faithful members of our congregation over a short period of time. It will be an enriching opportunity. So, look for the letter in the next few weeks, and when it arrives, complete the form and return it to the church.



**Grace United Church
U.C.W. Fundraiser for
YWCA Crossroads Women's
Shelter: PORK DINNER
Saturday, April 18, 5:30 p.m.**

Tickets on sale now!

**\$12 per person, available from
UCW members and the church
office. *Thanks for your support.***



**Making a Difference: Near
YWCA Freedom Walk
Saturday, May 2, 10 am
Nicholl's Oval.**

It's the annual walkathon!

**Join the Grace Team – let's walk
together and make a difference!**

**To sign up; contact Sandra Skinner or
call the office. Support Crossroads
Shelter and the Food Action Program.**

The Journey of Faith

'Become a Member of Christ's Family'

By Rev. Lyle

The Christian life is a journey of faith that continues throughout our lifetime. 'Become a Member of Christ's Family' is the opportunity to start the journey of faith in an intentional way. In April/May of this year I want to invite any individuals within the community of our church to join me in a 7 week series to strengthen your journey of faith.

These sessions are for anyone who wants to join the church or deepen their spiritual life. The 7 sessions will explore various aspects of the Christian faith. These sessions will be an opportunity to come and learn and share conversation around being a Christ follower today. The church needs individuals who are willing to commit their lives to following Christ and becoming a valuable member of the church today.

The dates and times will be determined by those who are planning to attend. We will meet and decide on a schedule that is best for the majority.

If you are interested in being a part of these sessions please let me know.

- Session 1: An Invitation to Journey
- Session 2: Taking the Bible Seriously
- Session 3; Thinking Theologically
- Session 4: Stories of Creation
- Session 5: Lives of Jesus
- Session 6: A Passion for Christ: Paul
- Session 7: Out into the World: Challenges facing Christians



Friends The Music of Hope

A joyous evening of music, featuring:



***In the Spirit
Gospel Choir***

***Grace Contemporary
Worship Band***

Proceeds to support



**Saturday, May 2
7:30 p.m.**

Grace United Church

Freewill Offering
(receipts for donations over \$25.)

*Help make a difference in
the lives of orphaned and
at-risk children in Honduras*

A glance back:

A Joy-filled Week-end!

By Marilyn Coward

Another wonderful weekend of faith, fellowship, food and fun took place at Joy Bible Camp, February 20-22. We learned all about Jesus' chosen 12 disciples and how we are like/not like each of them.

Jill Bonter and Paul Tessier led our Music Time, and their obvious joy of music rubbed off on us as we sang with much enthusiasm. Thank you to Jill and Paul for their leadership.

Our groups spent time learning, sharing and growing together. Thanks to Carol Allen, Ross Allen, Colleen Breakenridge, Debbie March and Lloyd Starke for their planning and their facilitating. You did a great job. Thanks also to Glenda Jopling and Colleen for their expertise in putting together the booklets.

Joy is one of those places where the beauty of God's creation is so obvious. Saturday was a glorious, sunny day and many took advantage during the free time to ski, skate, go tubing and go for walks.

When asked, "what did you enjoy about the weekend?" some of the responses were:

"Loved the worship times and music (times of silence are always welcome)."

"Connecting with other people."

"lots of laughter"

"Being new to Grace, it was good to get to know others; loved it."

"group discussions, lots of hugs."

"everything"

Hebrews 10: 24-25 says: *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another."*

Spending a weekend at Joy is a great way to meet, encourage, motivate and love.



Making a Difference Near: Compassionate Ministry busy at Grace Church

The Ministry of Compassion is our community Food Bank, run by tireless volunteers, with the support of one of our Parish Nurses.

Thank you to our congregation for continued support both through donated non-perishable food and donations received in the Benevolent Fund envelopes.

The number of clients we serve is growing significantly and the cupboard is low on soups, pork & beans, canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, soda biscuits, puddings, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Kraft Dinner and oatmeal.

We are carrying a new line of "Friendship Pins" – butterflies, bees, frogs, and ladybugs, as well as the original "Friends" pins. The pins are \$10 each, with \$5 going to the Ministry of Compassion.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers Sandra Cinnamon, Audrey Holme, Lynda McFadden, Bev Smith, Doug Wait and our Parish Nurse Carol Allen.

- Enid Montgomery

