



GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

CROP Hunger workshop to be held at Grace

A Workshop for CROP Walk volunteers from all over New England will be held Saturday, March 20, 2010 at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

CROP walks are a program of Church World Service, the relief and development agency of the National Council of Churches, of which the ELCA is a member. Walkers who sign up gather funds for local hunger programs as well as

for the work of Church World Service. At present, there is a small walk in East Hartford, and there is some interest in starting one in Greater Hartford.

Who Should Come? CROP Coordinators, Treasurers, Recruiters, Committee Volunteers, Clergy, and anyone interested in starting or growing a CROP Hunger Walk in our community. If you would like to know

more about CROP walks and consider this as a future possibility, consider stopping by. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. and workshops will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. A light luncheon will be service.

RSVP by March 12, 2010 to Church World Service New England, 733 Chapin St., PO Box 381, Ludlow, MA 01056. Tel: (413) 583-8355. Email: aporter@churchworldservice.org

March

Volume 2010

Issue 3

Inside this issue:

<i>Crop Hunger Workshop</i>	1
<i>GHICEJ Concert</i>	1
<i>Note from Pastor</i>	2
<i>Holy Week and Easter</i>	3
<i>Good Friday Journey of the Passion</i>	3
<i>Easter Invitations</i>	4
<i>Eucharistic Ministry</i>	4
<i>Guest speakers bring ministry alive</i>	5
<i>Would you like a visit?</i>	5
<i>First Reports of Building Fund Campaign</i>	6
<i>People of Grace</i>	6
<i>Letter to Pastor</i>	7
<i>Senior Retreat</i>	7
<i>We remember with Thanksgiving</i>	8
<i>One City, One Plan</i>	9
<i>Visioning Steering Group Update</i>	10

GHICEJ March 7th Concert "Songs of Peace & Social Justice"

Fundraiser for GHICEJ (Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice)

A presentation of Woodland Concert Series

Date: Sunday, March 7, 2010 4:00 PM
Featuring: Voce Chamber Artists, Massed Choir from ICEJ Member Churches
Works by: Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers, Jean Sibelius, Stephen Schwartz, Lee Holdridge
Tickets: \$15 General Admission
 \$10 Senior/Students
Location: Immanuel Congregational Church
 10 Woodland Street, Hartford

More Information: www.woodlandconcertseries.org
860/527-8121



www.graceistheplace.org

This great wilderness

Note from Pastor

All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion offers in mercy, healing, strength, and pardon.

Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master!

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn 342 ©1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The season of Lent this year, 'Year C' of the lectionary, when most of our Gospel texts come out of the book of Luke, is surprisingly filled with light and promise. We're used to thinking of Lent as a time of fasting and penitence, and it certainly is all of that. We follow Jesus in his steady path to Jerusalem and the certainty of his terrible betrayal, suffering, and death. All the way along, he is teaching people about the reign of God, and we can't help thinking of how far we fall short of such glory.

I think about all the 'would-have, could-have, should-haves' in my daily life. I remember my cross words and resentful thoughts. I especially remember all the times in my life when I have insisted on taking matters into my own hands that I have no business trying to control, forgetting completely about trusting in God and letting God's results be the right ones.

By the time you read this, we will have the first report of our building fund campaign. I know it will be successful – all we really need to do is make sure the steeple is paid for and repay what we borrowed from our investments. We gave ourselves five years to come up with \$150,000, a pretty modest goal. We even added a challenge goal because there are a lot of other things we need to do for our organ and our building. Even so, we worry – maybe we won't have enough, maybe we were too ambitious, maybe we're too small. It's hard to let God decide what constitutes success. Maybe it's more than fixing the steeple and reaching a goal we set for ourselves. Maybe God's view of success is how we learn to pull together, how we raise up new leadership. Maybe it's gaining new sensitivities about the nature of our neighborhood, and maybe it's even how we gain new

understandings of what it means to be part of the wider church.

It helps to remember that throughout Jesus' journey, besides teaching, he was also healing. Luke loved to tell stories about Jesus healing people. Luke helps us remember that right along with the story of Lent comes the promise of Easter. We are forgiven and healed by Christ's passion. For March 7 the Worship Committee has chosen one of the beautiful new hymns in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship, *There in God's Garden*, quoted above. In six short verses of this Lenten hymn, all the tangle of our human lives is depicted as our sorrow is turned to blessing. I hope you will pay attention to the words of that hymn and come to love it as much as we do.

May the Lord our God bring you mercy, healing, strength, and pardon!

Pastor Steege

*By the grace of God, we are a Lutheran congregation,
diverse in worship, Christ-centered in fellowship,
committed to prayer, deepening of faith,
and the stewardship of the gospel and God's world.*

Holy Week and Easter

The journey of Lent leads us to the holy moment on Palm Sunday, better known as the **Sunday of the Passion, March 28, at 9:30 a.m.** when we who have put on Christ in holy baptism are urged to let the mind of Christ be our own. The service will begin with a procession with palms - outdoors, if weather permits. We will hear the voice of the suffering savior, Jesus, in the prophet Isaiah's words, and we will be invited into the agony of our Lord in the extended reading of the story of Jesus' Passion according to St. Luke.

"The Three Days" are considered to be a single service that begins **Thursday evening, April 1, at 7:30 p.m.** We gather with Christians around the world to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy

is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved.

The Good Friday liturgy **Friday evening, April 2, at 7:30 p.m.**, is centered on the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day - the Triumph of the Cross - reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the

world for whom Christ died.

The Good Friday liturgy culminates in the Easter Vigil **Saturday evening, April 3, at 7:20 p.m.** in a shared service at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Sigourney Street, Hartford. This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. The Easter Vigil is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

Good Friday Journey of the Passion Procession and Services - Asylum Hill Churches

Friday, April 10, 2009, 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Asylum Hill Christian Community

The Passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to John

- | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| • Trinity Episcopal (5-10 minute walk) | 12:00 - 12:20 p.m. | John 18:1-11 |
| • Cathedral of St. Joseph (5-10 minute walk) | 12:30 - 12:45 p.m. | John 18:12-24 |
| • Asylum Hill Cong. (5-10 minute walk) | 12:55 - 1:10 p.m. | John 18:25-27 |
| • Asylum Avenue Baptist (15-20 minute walk) | 1:20 - 1:35 p.m. | John 18:28-40 |
| • Glory Chapel (15-20 minute walk) | 1:55 - 2:10 p.m. | John 19:1-16 |
| • Grace Lutheran (5-10 minute walk) | 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. | John 19: 17 -30 |
| • Immanuel Congregational | 12:55 - 3:10 p.m. | John 19:31-42 |

Bus transportation will be available.

Easter Flowers

You are invited to contribute flowers to decorate our beautiful chancel for Easter. Each plant is \$15. Please let us know by **March 24** how many you would like to order, and indicate if you wish to honor or memorialize someone with your gift.

You are Invited to an Easter Breakfast

*Sunday, April 4th
8:00a.m.-9:15a.m.*

Menu Includes:

*Scrambled eggs, French toast, Hot Cross Buns
Assorted Fruits and Beverages*

Prepared and Served by the Brown Family and Assistants

Clean up by anyone able to stay following worship

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter Sunday

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion

April 4, 2010

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Eucharistic Ministry growing at Grace

Several years ago, Grace instituted the ministry of volunteers taking communion from the Sunday morning worship to those who had a difficult time attending worship. These volunteers are called Eucharistic Ministers and they visit and take communion to other members of the congregation. This is in addition to the visits made by the Pastor. The Eucharistic Ministers have gone through training and meet with the

Pastor from time to time to review procedures and support each other in this ministry.

Our list of volunteers has grown and now includes Lloyd Smith, Glenna Brodnicki, Dorothea Glatte, Ted Steege, Barbara Calogero and Nancy Urban. At our last meeting we discussed the fact that there may be members of Grace who, from time to time, have special needs and would appreciate a visit for prayer

and/or sharing in communion. One could be recuperating from surgery, dealing with a long term illness, going through a difficult time in their life journey or just want to chat with another member of Grace. Please know that along with visiting members who are home bound, the Eucharistic Ministers are also available for these more temporary situations and are just a phone call away.

Guest Speakers bring Grace's ministry alive, receive first fruits of "Build Us Up, Lord" Campaign

Five guest speakers in January and February represented each of the five ministries Grace voted to support by tithing all gifts to the "Build Us Up, Lord" campaign, and each received a check representing 2% of the gifts that came in 2009.

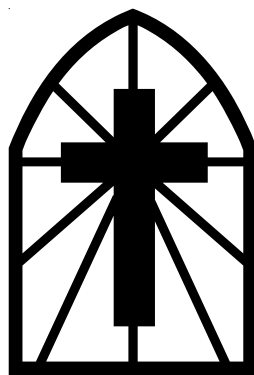
Even before the formal kickoff of the "Build Us Up, Lord" campaign, some \$5,450 of gifts came in, enabling "first fruits" contributions to five key ministries of the wider church in accordance with last July's vote to tithe the campaign's gifts. So the congregation divided \$545 five ways, as a tithe of the gifts received in 2009. Additional gifts will be provided at the end of each

year in the five-year giving period.

Guest speakers included Doreen Rinas for the World Hunger Appeal on Jan. 17; Lena Warren, a 2008 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP), Jan. 24; Ruth Nunnaly, Synod Mission Development Fund, Jan. 31; Tom Schauer, Calumet Camp, 2/7; and the Rev. Dan Carlson, Lutheran Social Services of New England, Feb. 14. The first four speakers introduced themselves in "3 sentences" during the 9:30 services, then made presentations in the Community Room after worship. Since the Annual Congregational meeting

occurred during second hour on Feb. 14, Pastor Carlson preached about the ministry of LSSNE.

Speakers reminded us that several pastors of Grace (including Pr. Fred Teichmann and Pr. John Santmire) were graduates of the Philadelphia seminary. Grace has benefited from special visioning sessions with the Synod Mission Development Fund and has been encouraged to apply for funding of future new mission efforts in Hartford. Calumet Camp has served members of Grace for many years, with the help of scholarship funds from Grace. Several members of Grace have adopted children through LSS, and in-home care in Connecticut is available through LSS.



Would you like a visit?

If you find you are not able to make it to church for any circumstance, even if it is only temporary, you might

appreciate a visit. Our Eucharistic Ministers and others would love to stop by for a chat, or to pray together,

or to share communion, or just to sit. Please call the church office, 860-527-7790, and we will notify the Parish Life Committee.

Thank you, everyone!

The First Report of commitments to our building fund campaign is on another page. We already know that with the continuing participation and support of our members and friends we will make our goal!

Meanwhile we heartily thank all the people who have been working so hard to make our Build Us Up, Lord! campaign a success, beginning with the Leadership Team:

General Chairperson, **Dale Eberhardt**; Communications Chairperson, **Barbara Van Fleet**; Hospitality Chairperson, **Mavis Smith**; Spiritual Emphasis Chairperson, **Gail Lindstrom**; Follow-up Chairperson, **Dale Eberhardt**; Children and Youth Chairperson, **Lou**

Oliver; Personal Contacts Chairperson, **Ted Steege**; Financial Oversight Chairperson, **Mildred Unfried**.



Thank you also to those who hosted the informational gatherings: **Phyllis and Chad Thompson, Sue Carey, Mavis Smith, Emma Coleman Carr, Jody Wynn Rodiger, Maribel Santana, and Gail Lindstrom.**

Special thanks to those who gave up time on February 20 to participate in the Prayer Vigil: **Mildred Unfried, Dorothea Glatte, Darrell Urban, Mavis Smith, Sue Carey, Edith and Guenther Mamet, Judy Dudek, Gail Lindstrom, Marty Holmeen, Jody Wynn Rodiger, and Barbara Ruhe.**

And finally, thanks to all our members and friends who are pledging to make this campaign a success. We give thanks to God for leading us through this important and challenging campaign. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we are leaving a legacy for the future ministry of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on Asylum Hill and beyond.

People of Grace

Come hear the beautiful jazz of **David Eberly**, the soloist on Sunday, March 14th - 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. - in the Atrium of the Hartford Public Library, located at 500 Main Street. This is a part of the Baby Grand Jazz Series.

Congratulations to **Tim Reiher**, who is a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Tim is a senior at Windsor High School.

Welcome new members! The Council approved with

thanksgiving the reception of **Jody Wynn Rodiger** and **Maribel Santana** as members of Grace, with their Affirmation of Baptism scheduled for February 28. Jody's sponsor is **Mildred Unfried** and Maribel's sponsor is **Wendy Colbert**. Please add their contact information to your directories:

Jody Wynn Rodiger
71 Church Street
Manchester, CT 06040
860/951-6394
jwrodiger@yahoo.com

Maribel Santana
P.O. Box 4095
Hartford, CT 06147
860/995-0999
maribel4seasons@aol.com

Speaking of **Parish Directories**, new ones are expected to be ready March 7. Please pick yours up, or call the office, 860-527-7792, if you need one mailed to you.

Letter to Pastor

Pastor Eva,

So good to see you this Sunday! Thank you for your kindness, welcoming and hospitality. The peace the sanctuary offered was nice!

Thank you to for your generous donation. We will put it to good use. Also, thank you for your donation of sporting goods equipment, arts and crafts supplies and rope. We will put that to good use too.

Lastly, a few women asked me about a senior retreat. We have May 10th-13, 2010 available. I would be glad to come down, or send a nice person in the red bus to pick them up and bring them back to Hartford. The bus can hold 14, but if we got only six from your church maybe we could go to another church and combine groups for the week.

The cost would be about \$149.00 per person, but it would include their stay from Monday to Thursday. It would also include all the meals, plus any programing they wanted. Program stuff could be walks, arts and crafts, pontoon boat rides, apple pie making and devotions.

What do you think?

Tom Schauer
Congregational Coordinator
603-539-4773 (Work)
781-608-4892 (Cell)
tom@calumet.org
Calumet Lutheran Ministires

How about a senior retreat?

Tom Schauer has followed up on a conversation some of the people who heard his presentation in February about Calumet Lutheran Ministries. He says they have May 10th-13, 2010 available if we would like to have a retreat for seniors. He will be glad to come down, or send a nice person in the red bus to pick us up and bring us back to Hartford. The bus can hold 14, but if we got only six

from Grace maybe we could go to another church and combine groups for the week.

Calumet retreat specialists will work with us to tailor the perfect program, Tom says. They specialize in Bible studies and recreational activities for senior adult groups. Program could include walks, arts and crafts, pontoon boat rides, apple pie making and devotions. Their

staff will work hard to make sure our time at Calumet is a success. The cost would be about \$149.00 per person, but it would include our stay from Monday to Thursday. It would also include all the meals, plus any programming we wanted.

Let's find out how many would be interested! Please speak with Pastor Steege if you would like to come.

We Remember with Thanksgiving

Geraldine M. (Philbrook) Holmeen, the beloved wife of Martin P. Holmeen, died Tuesday, February 9, 2010. Gerry was born in Perham, Maine, a daughter of the late Levi and Mildred (Parker) Philbrook and resided in East Hampton and Florence, MA for many years before moving to Hartford 13 years ago. Geraldine was an active member of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hartford where she sent birthday cards to the Sunday School Children. She also enjoyed crocheting afghans for her family. Geraldine was extremely devoted to her son David A. Gould, of West Hartford who will miss her dearly. Along with her husband Martin and son David, she leaves close family friend Deborah Weed and cousin Jean Agnew. She was predeceased by her brother Malcolm Philbrook and her sister Marjorie Carson. A memorial service will be held for Geraldine on Saturday, March 6th at 2:00 p.m. at Grace. Memorial donations may be made to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Hedwig Klara Reiher died on Friday February 12, 2010 after a short illness. She was predeceased by her husband Walter Reiher in 1987. She lived in Rocky Hill for 24 years and previously was a long time resident of Norwalk. Heddy was born in Dobareuth, Gefell in Germany on November 15, 1913, the daughter of the late Emil and Katarina (Neuner) Schmutzler. She and Walter immigrated to America in 1954 after fleeing out of East Germany to avoid persecution by the communist

government. She worked hard her whole life and took pride in her skills as a housekeeper for several families. She was a talented German cook, recited German poetry from memory and was a dedicated caregiver to her husband during his long illness. She loved helping her family and especially spending time with her adored grandsons. She was a devout Lutheran and a long time member of Grace Lutheran Church, Hartford. She is survived by her son Dr. Herbert Reiher, daughter-in-law Dr. Anne Moriarty Reiher, grandsons Patrick and Timothy. She was predeceased by 5 sisters and 1 brother in Germany. A funeral service was held on Friday, February 13, at Grace. Donations may be made to Masonicare Hospice 111 Founders Plaza #200 East Hartford, CT 06108 or Lutheran World Relief Services PO Box 17061 Baltimore, MD 21298-9832.

We give thanks for Gerry, Heddy, and all the saints who have gone before us in the faith and now rest in the arms of God.

One City One Plan

Jody Wynn Rodiger submitted the following report to the Visioning Steering Committee after attending one of Hartford's Planning & Zoning Commission Listening Sessions February 9, 2010 with Sue Carey and Ted Steege.

I listened to so many of the Asylum Hill Stakeholders to hear wonderful energy that really is excited about transforming the neighborhood.

I believe that these stakeholders will be critical to the next steps in helping the overall vision of Grace come to fruition. Lots of people are passionate and ready to do good work in Hartford if we might consider sharing our space inside and outside. I keep thinking that Grace might be a really good place for a demo site for a community garden, storm water garden and permeable parking lot. The University of New Hampshire used a church as a demonstration site many years ago and it showed the community it was a green movement supporter. We are

in a key location with lots of traffic.

An Asylum Hill renter who is a leader in the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association talked about creating a recycling center in Asylum Hill where people living in apartments could learn more about how to respect the earth and bring their recyclables, since there is not a system as of yet. They are teaching about this in the schools, but the parents need to be reached

A representative of the CT Coalition for Environmental Justice spoke about many initiatives in Hartford including geothermal possibilities. They meet monthly at Hartford Hospital and have done some pretty impressive work in CT to

advocate for clean-up and more. Good green dollars are starting to flow for work in Hartford and good conversation.

The Program Director for the Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative is looking for local involvement to work at board level for the river work from Elizabeth Park down thru into Hartford. The river runs right in front of Grace, so it might be a good way to connect and offer Grace as a meeting place for work and maybe as a demonstration site.

A board member of Journey Home and Hartford Seminary spoke about the homelessness situation and how we might be empowered and learn more about the solutions and supportive housing.

Please remember, worship begins at 9:30am each and every Sunday. The psalmist says, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" Join us for worship each Sunday.

Visioning Steering Group Update

All kinds of exciting things are up for discussion as the Visioning Steering Group continues the process of 'Holy Listening' - listening to scripture, to one another, and to the neighborhood. Under the co-leadership of **Sue Carey and Gail Lindstrom**, the group met on February 11 to talk about ideas and hopes for future ministry at Grace. A number of Steering Group members have been making phone calls to members of the congregation. It was interesting to compare notes. An overall theme seemed to be the importance of fellowship and hospitality within the congregation. Other themes are beginning to emerge, including the need to get to know our neighborhood and to feel safe here.

We discussed the implications of becoming *the* meeting place for community groups. For example, the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association's Education Committee has accepted our invitation to hold their meetings at Grace from 6:30 - 8 pm the 3rd Tuesday each month.

In this connection, we began to discuss hospitality issues, such as adequately staffing and hosting such meetings. How can we make visitors feel comfortable and welcome? Do we need church folks to:

- Greet people at the door downstairs and give directions? (It's very discouraging to come to the

back door, where there is no doorbell to ring, it's too dark to walk around, and you don't know where you are going. Would another door be any better?)

- Someone upstairs to give directions to the meeting room, restrooms, etc. and to put out iced water containers, cups, etc. and to clean up afterwards

- All this assumes someone is there to unlock the church, turn on lights, etc. and clean up and reverse afterwards.

We talked about the need to do more Holy Listening in the community. Without requiring them to join the Steering Group, the group would like to get more people to be regular representatives at neighborhood meetings or participating in neighborhood projects, and report back about what they learn. We know we have at least one member who helps at Loaves and Fishes, for example, and others tutor at the Noah Webster and Lawson Schools.

It was suggested that we look at the calendar and begin scheduling 2nd Hour Hospitality opportunities to bring in community folks to talk about Asylum Hill, and broaden the view of the neighborhood. Walking tours around Asylum Hill are available that we could organize in the Spring. (The first one is the Good Friday processional!)

Other items: **Jody Rodiger and Pastor Steege** attended the synod's Jan 30 strategy retreat regarding Hispanic outreach, and learned that we are doing the right thing in beginning a patient process of listening to the community.

It was reported that the guidance counselor at West Middle School made a presentation at the February Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association general meeting. He said one of the major issues is the lack of parental involvement or support. Is there a way space at Grace could be used for parents' meetings or support groups, since the school itself is not available for evening meetings?

Jody Rodiger, Sue Carey, and Ted Steege attended a "One City One Plan" meeting at the United Methodist Church on Farmington Avenue. (See Jody's separate report of that meeting.)

Maribel Santana (soon to be a member of Grace) has approached us with an idea for her agency, Abundant Life, that provides after-school programs for children, mostly from DCF. They would like to have a drama program at Grace. Also, the Hartford Conservatory plans to have their big spring recital here in April, and at least one student from the Hartt School of Music has already scheduled his spring recital here.



Grace Lutheran Church
46 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 758

ADDRESS LABEL

Church Staff Directory

The Rev. Eva Reque Steege, Pastor
(Emergency Phone 860-882-7715)
Dale Eberhardt, Organist
Catherine Tomlinson, Parish Administrator
Marilyn Flaherty, Financial Assistant
Onita Chambers, Parish Assistant
Miriam Miller, Sexton

Mavis Smith, President
Emma Coleman-Carr, Vice President
Bruce Klotz, Secretary
Gertrude Kanwischer, Treasurer
Barbara Calogero, Assistant Treasurer
Sally Nolen, Grace Notes Editor

PLEASE NOTE:

The submission deadline for the April 2010 edition of Grace Notes is March 15th. Please forward information to Sally Nolen (sallynolen@live.com) by this date. Thank you.

www.graceistheplace.org

