

Voice of Grace

We are called to proclaim the Word and celebrate the sacraments. We gather in Christian community for nurture and support. We are sent out in service to others.

A Monthly Newsletter

February 2011

Kenneth Kasule's Letter to the Uganda Orphans

One of the major missions of Grace Lutheran Church is the Uganda Aids Orphans project. Our congregation has been supporting the education of 21 young children who have lost their parents due to AIDS. With the help of Kenneth Kasule, our coordinator in Uganda, we have been able to provide these students with tuition, books, health care and many other basic requirements for living. Kenneth is our eyes, arms and hearts in coordinating this important mission in Uganda. The following Christmas letter from Kenneth to the students was so heartfelt and touching that it is included in this issue of the *Voice of Grace* for your information.



Kenneth Kasule, left, poses with the children.

To my lovely sisters and brothers in Christ!

I want to tell you that I love you all so much more than you can imagine. I have many things to think and worry about, but before I think about anything, I think about you. My biggest worry is how would it be and or how will it be if anything happens and I am not able to get the support to keep you in schools!

I don't want even to think about it, but it is important to think about it in order to have better plans for the future. Your education is very important to you and to our country Uganda, the country I have loved so much. You have the potential and all the intellectual capacities we need to get our country to another level and all you need is to have your brilliant ideas polished through schools by getting the education you need to realize your dreams, which are real for the development of our country Uganda. Some people are not aware of this yet, but I am glad that I know this already.

When I was very young, I was not very close to my God. With time, I got to realize how wrong I was! Luckily, I was able to under-

stand that it was never late, and I turned back to my God and decided to work hard and I loved reading the Bible very much. When I joined the university, I read the Bible in the university library (I did not have my own by that time). Proverbs 19 vs 1 says "it is better to be poor, but honest than to be a lying fool." Verse 17 says "When you

give to the poor, it is like lending to the Lord, and the Lord will pay you back." I was very encouraged with these readings from the Bible and that is the reason I have you all and try as much as I can to see you going through your education trend. It is my pleasure if I have been of help to any of you. In my life I came to believe that I can't fix my hopes and dreams to any one, not even to my biological parents, but to God. My hopes and dreams are fixed to God and I always pray

to my God to get my dreams realized. This is one of my dreams to see myself being able to help others or reach the help to those deserve it. I also read Job 27:1-7 whenever I am faced with hard experiences which require me to make a hard decision. It is also somewhat similar to Psalms 27, which I also read.

"God our Father, walk through my life and take away all my worries and illnesses and please watch over and heal my sweet family in Jesus' name, Amen."

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Your brother in Christ,

Kenneth

Tuition support and contributions to this mission are always needed. If you have not had an opportunity to participate in this mission or wish to help with a student's tuition, you may secure a pledge form from Jim Hladecek. Tuition pledges may be paid now or over the next 12 months.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



Adult Forum & Sunday School 9:15 a.m.



From Our Pastor: *"The Still, Small Voice of Love"*

A blessed Epiphany to each of you! It was a glorious Advent and Christmas season and that glory continues as we celebrate the revealing of Jesus Christ to the world during the liturgical season of Epiphany. This is the season when we remember the arrival of the Magi at

Jesus' birthplace and their gifts. We hear about the coming of the light in our Epiphany readings even as we wait for the blessed light of longer days and shorter nights. The season of Epiphany is framed by some of my favorite Scripture readings. At the beginning of Epiphany we read about the baptism of Jesus and we hear God speak from the heavens, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). On the last Sunday of Epiphany we hear the report of the Transfiguration when Jesus went up the mountain with Peter, James and John and was changed, transfigured, right before their eyes. Again, at that time, God's voice is heard from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with him I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matt 17:5). Those wonderful words form bookends to our celebration of Epiphany.

God spoke those same words to each of us at our baptism. And God continues to speak those words to us every single day. God says to you, "You are my child, my beloved, with you I am well pleased." We can spend a life time living into those words and really understanding God's unconditional love for us.

I am reading two delightful daily devotional books this year. The first is *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. This is an insightful and challenging book that I have read a number of times before and it is good to get back to it. The second is *Bread for the Journey*, a compilation of excerpts from the writing of Henri Nouwen, one of my favorite authors. I would like to share a recent reading from *Bread for the Journey* that connects to this Epiphany theme of God's words for us.

The Still, Small Voice of Love

Many voices ask for our attention. There is a voice that says, "Prove that you are a good person." Another voice says, "You'd better be ashamed of yourself." There is also a voice that says, "Nobody really cares about you," and one that says, "Be sure to become successful, popular, and powerful." But underneath all these often very noisy voices is a still, small voice that says, "You are my Beloved, my favor rests on you." That's the voice we need most of all to hear. To hear that voice, however, requires special effort; it requires solitude, silence, and a strong determination to listen.

That's part of what prayer is, solitude, silence, and listening to the voice that calls us, "my Beloved."

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, may you hear that wonderful voice today and every day for the rest of your eternal life.

*God Bless,
Pastor Coe*

Grace Notes



Columbarium Coordinator



We are pleased to announce that Karen Swanson-Woolf has agreed to accept the position of columbarium coordinator. Watch for more information coming soon in the *Voice of Grace*. Thank you to Karen for accepting this position.

Sunday service this is a good substitute and it is a wonderful mid-week "refresher" even if you are there on Sunday also. We look forward to seeing you.

Stephen Ministry Training Series Available

A new training session for Stephen Ministers will be starting up soon at First Presbyterian. Stephen Ministry is an excellent "one-to-one lay caring ministry" that has been around for many years. It is a significant commitment, as the training requires 80 hours. But in return there is the significant reward of learning more about how to care for others. This is a great ministry and you can learn more about it at www.stephenministries.org. If you are interested in attending the training, please contact Pastor Coe.



Kah Tai/Life Care Center Worship Schedule

Grace Lutheran Church has the privilege of leading Sunday afternoon worship every couple of months at the Kah Tai/Life Care Center. We offer wonderful music and singing, Holy Communion, and lots of love and care. Join us for this service at 2:00 p.m. on the following Sundays in 2011: February 6, April 13, June 5, August 7, October 2, and December 11. (Note that this list includes a change to the December date from that which was published earlier. This is the most current schedule.)



Grace Offers Mid-week Services On A Trial Basis through March 2

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through March 2, we are offering a 7:00 p.m. mid-week Holy Communion service. The service is designed to be intimate and comfortable with easy music and lots of candlelight. It is very much a "come as you are" service. An opportunity for healing prayer is additionally offered as part of the 3rd Wednesday service. We will evaluate these services after this trial period to determine whether to continue them after Easter. Please come and join us for these meaningful worship opportunities. If you can't make the



Our hearts were warmed by all the wonderful Christmas cards and greetings Janet and I received from you. And the financial gifts were so generous. Thank you all so very much and may God bless you! Pastor Coe and Janet

Help Wanted



"Greeters" are needed for an occasional Sunday morning. Talk to Joan Bender about lending a "hand."

Bible Trivia

1. Where was Rahab's house located?
 - a. Next to the temple
 - b. Beside the city gate
 - c. On the east side of the city
 - d. On the city wall
2. After speaking with his donkey, God opened the eyes of Balaam. What did he see?
 - a. God
 - b. His own sin
 - c. His enemy lying in wait
 - d. An angel of the Lord with his drawn sword in his hand.
3. To whom was the book of James written?
 - a. To all the saints
 - b. To the twelve tribes
 - c. To the church
 - d. To the faithful brethren
4. The elders asked the Lord to make Ruth like what two other women?
 - a. Sarah and Hagar
 - b. Miriam and Rahab
 - c. Rachel and Leah
 - d. Hannah and Mary



Find answers to these Bible Trivia questions are posted on the back page of this issue.

Remember the Food Bank!

Floyd Thompson reminds us that the need for food at the Jefferson County Food Bank is never ending. Reports indicate that there is a greater need than at any other time to keep bringing food to the church for distribution to the poor in our community.



Grace food bags are available for you to fill and leave by the front door of the church. Once filled you may take another bag to bring again the following week or whenever you are able.



Get ready to laugh and enjoy yourself as Grace Cinema presents the comedy film, *Dan in Real Life*. The film will be shown on Friday, February 11, starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. As usual, popcorn and soft drinks will be free and plentiful.

Dan in Real Life is a moving comedy starring Steve Carell as Dan. Dan, a widower, is a good father, maybe a heroic one, but a bit overprotective; he's clenched with fear. Taking his bratty princess brood for a weekend reunion at his folks' idyllic home on the Rhode Island shore, he gets sucked into the swirl of parents, brothers, and kids. It's a shock to see a family house-party movie ruled by affection rather than backbiting. The first morning, Dan drives into town for a newspaper, and it's there he meets the one that he didn't dare hope to meet. Marie (Juliette Binoche) has glossy chestnut curls, an overbite to die for, and all the tenderness and moxie and understanding that a woman would need to be with a lonely man with three daughters.



Dan presses for her phone number, even though she's got a boyfriend, and then returns to the compound in a blissful daze, only to learn that the boyfriend is...his brother Mitch (Dane Cook). And, guess what? She's staying for the weekend! It's a jaw-dropper of a twist, and here's the thing: There's no enmity. Dan loves his bro, who looks like he might be settling down at last. Dan has to hold in his feelings — more than that, he has to try to kill them — and the whole movie spins around Carell's inspired performance as a man who is going quietly nuts because the universe has decided to toy with him.

We'll see you at the movie!

From Our President: *"The Gift That Keeps On Giving"*



Christmas and the holidays are far behind us now. The Christmas tree has turned to compost; the wrapping paper has been recycled into tomorrow's newspaper, and we can't remember what we got for Christmas, unless it was that Mercedes Benz we were hoping for.

There is a school of thought that after such a wonderful time of year there is a tremendous let down for some folks. This can be so severe that it can cause deep depression. But I find that this is just the beginning of an opportunity to experience the best year ever.

When we were young our parents taught us how to share and that was a good thing. Most of us have passed that on to our children, who in turn have passed it on to their children.

We were given a gift 2000 years ago in a lowly manger in Bethlehem. It's the only gift that truly keeps on giving. Our Father wants us to share that gift as well.

So, how do we share a gift like that? I believe there are many ways we can do that. First of all, I think we all have some kind of talent or talents with which God has blessed us. That talent can be music or sitting quietly with someone who is hurting or listening to a grandparent tell the same story you heard just an hour ago or cooking someone's favorite meal, and the list goes on. These are just a few of the ways that we can share God's love and his gift of Jesus Christ. We have been blessed so that we can be a blessing to others.

Yes, "He loved the world so much that he gave his only begotten son." Just stop and think about that for a minute." He loved the world so much." The gift can be shared at a Kah Tai service once every other month. The gift can be shared at the shelter during the winter. The gift can be shared with your children or grandchildren. The gift of Jesus is very portable and easy to carry around so it won't be a burden to pack when you leave town. Take this gift with you wherever you go and share it freely.

This gift that God has given us is truly "the gift that keeps on giving." So, do not despair that the Christmas holidays are behind us but rather rejoice that the rest of our lives are before us and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ is the greatest gift of all. And don't forget to be polite and share the gift of Jesus with those around you. Remember, God has said (insert your name here) "you are my beloved child with whom I am well pleased." How can we not share that?

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." (James 1:17)

Yours in Christ,



Grace Lutheran Church congregation enjoyed the 2010 Christmas party celebrated on December 12.

The party began with decorating the church Christmas tree in the sanctuary. The saying, "Many hands make light work," certainly applied here. Young and old participated in putting

up the tree, stringing the lights (see inset photo of Konrad Schwencke hanging the lights) and hanging the many Christmons that decorated our church trees for decades.

Then, the celebration moved to the fellowship hall where we enjoyed the magnificent "special" hors d'oeuvres, salads



Christmas Party – 2010

and desserts brought by our families.

The much anticipated special event was the gift sharing. Following congregation custom, participants could choose a wrapped gift or take a gift they wanted from somebody else. This inspired lots of good-natured competition! One of the hits

of the evening was a laughing monkey that brought many smiles. While several of the gifts changed hands during the evening, it was Darwin Haines (Bob Haines' father) who took the monkey home!

Where Is Home?

by Bob Threlkeld

On the first day of the new year, Patt Roche, Diane, and I served dinner at the winter homeless shelter. Tucked into the back basement of the American Legion Hall, the shelter is the result of a remarkable effort by a few individuals and by many Port Townsend churches and civic organizations. It meets some very basic needs for those without much: hearty food and a warm, safe place to sleep during the long Port Townsend winter.

The shelter is filled with cots. The guests pile most of their belongings at the foot of their bed, to be hefted out at 8:00 a.m. in the morning, then carried around throughout the day until the shelter reopens at 4:00 p.m.

We served up chili, cole slaw, and brownies that New Year's evening. A quiet group of mostly middle-aged men (and one woman) lined up and silently dished up their food. They sat at tables and chatted while they ate.

A man with a long white beard sat alone. A tall younger man sat down next to him and said, "Arnie, what are you going to do after the shelter?"

The older man was silent.

The younger man persisted, "Do you have any plans?"

"I just want to go home," the older man said, staring at his



plate.

"Where is home?"

"I just want to go home," the man repeated.

The younger man, clearly down on his own luck, put his arm around the older man's shoulder. He thought for a minute and finally said, "Well, maybe some of us can help you find where that home is."

The spirit of Christ is very clear in places like this shelter...

The winter shelter is one of Grace Lutheran's ministries and will be highlighted at our service on Sunday, February 6. The church is committed to providing meals and monitoring service from March 6 through March 9. As you did last year, please lend a hand.

Council Highlights

by Linda Cooley

December 14, 2010

Council approved \$250.00 to be sent to the synod for October synod support payment.

Discussion on repairs needed to the organ. The music and worship committee will do further research and council will revisit the matter in January.

Council reviewed the 2011 draft budget presented by Vice President Roberta Bymers. Roberta will make the revisions presented and the council will approve a proposed budget at the January 9, 2011, meeting to go to the congregation for consideration. Mark Dembro will be meeting with church groups to discuss stewardship.

The audit committee will get an annual audit underway after the first of the year.

Pastor Coe presented a breakdown of existing memorial funds and presented a plan to combine the funds into one fund except for those accounts that have specific designations as to how the money is to be spent. The council approved a policy on the use of memorial funds.

Peace Lutheran Fellowship has asked that Grace be their congregation of record. Pastor Coe is looking into further details but it appears that there is little impact on our congregation to do so and we want to help them out as much as we can.

Karen Swanson-Woolf has volunteered to be the columbarium coordinator.

Roger Mills will work with Crissy to pick out a new computer and software for her office.

January 11, 2010

Council approved \$300.00 to be sent to the synod for January synod support payment and approved automatic payment of \$300 per month unless council votes otherwise.

Council discussed organ repairs. This item will be included in the long range planning for future items.

After being circulated among groups within the congregation, the proposed 2011 budget is ready for presentation at the January 23 Grace semi-annual meeting.

Last year, members and others contributed approximately \$51,000 additionally to outside charities through designated offerings.

Treasurer reported that a new computer for the secretary has been purchased.

At his request, the executive committee will do a mid-year employment evaluation on Pastor Coe.

The executive committee will meet to review possible capital projects (mostly presented by the design review committee) plus work that needs to be done to repair the organ and put together a prioritization of projects to be reviewed and adopted by the council

Men's Ministry (Men in Motion) will be starting up again. Dates of events to be announced.

A Glimpse of the January 2011 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting



Have You Shared
Your Faith in
Christ Today?

Men in Motion

by Jim Espenson

Yes, you read that right. The Men in Motion are back in town. Our first event will be held Saturday, February 19, here at Grace Lutheran Church. Our speaker will be Pastor Bill Wolfe of the New Life Church in Port Townsend. Pastor Bill played in a back up band for Merle Haggard his senior year of high school. He spent time in Alaska and continues to play an awesome guitar to this day. Hear Pastor Bill share his faith walk. Enjoy some good ol' Gospel music by the Motion Band. Breakfast will be served by the men of Grace. This is the time to invite your buddy, who may have said, "I used to go to church but haven't been for many years" or the guy who seems to be looking for something more in his life. So, bring your buddy or your neighbor, to share with other men who knew that "real men" need Jesus. There will be a sign-up list on the bulletin board; please sign up early and expect a good time. If you have any questions please see Jim Espenson or call 385-7551.



Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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Stump the Pastor

Have you ever had a biblical or religious question for which you never could get an answer for? Perhaps, you had a question that you never really had the opportunity (or nerve) to ask? Now is your chance to ask that question. Pastor Coe is



opening the door for your questions with "Stump the Pastor." You will find a Stump the Pastor box in the fellowship hall and a pad of paper. Write your question and put it in the box. As time goes on, your question will be addressed... unless the impossible happens and you... stump the Pastor.

Listen to the Music!

When did you check the Grace Lutheran Church website last? Did you know that if you go to gracelutheran.us and navigate to the Grace Music page, you will hear a beautiful selection sung by our very own choir. Keep checking your church website. Changes are being made weekly to keep you informed.

Answers to Bible Trivia questions: (1) d. on the city wall, Joshua 2:15; (2) d. An angel of the Lord with his drawn sword in his hand, Numbers 22:31; (3) b. To the twelve tribes, James 1:1; (4) c. Rachel and Leah, Ruth 4:11

Church Council

President: Jim Espenson
 espenson@cablespeed.com

Vice President: Roberta Bymers

Secretary: Linda Cooley

Ministers:

Resources (Treasurer): Roger Mills

Facilities: Dave Peterson

Worship/Music: David Gaenicke

Stewardship: Mark Dembro

Evangelism: Joan Bender

Education & Youth: Kathy Gibson

Community Concerns & Social Ministry: Bob Threlkeld

Congregational Concerns & Fellowship: Floyd Thompson

Youth Representative: Brian Snelgrove

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Choir Director: June Mills

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Wolff

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