

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

April 2012



Soup with the Confirmands and the Story Behind the Story

Alex Brown and Eli Harrison are pictured in front of a statue of Martin Luther located at the Frauenkirche in Dresden, Germany. Alex and Eli, our confirmands, share some thoughts

about confirmation training on page 2. This picture, uncovered a *story behind the story*. For more about Luther and the Frauenkirche, see the story on page 3.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



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

Soup Supper with the Confirmands

by Jim Hladecek

I had a very brief but interesting experience during soup supper on March 14 as I shared soup with Eli Harrison and Alex Brown. Both young men are in the final stages of their confirmation training and they shared a few thoughts about their training and what effect it has had on them.

Both Alex and Eli commented that confirmation training was not too difficult for them to understand. Eli indicated that he has learned how to pray. He said, "Before starting the class, I never really knew what to say; now, I am more comfortable talking to God." He added, "I learned how people could talk with God and that I could have conversations with Him as well." Alex, also, reflected a bit on his life and how the training has impacted him. "What has changed is that I understand God more now. When I pray, I have to look and listen for God's response. This requires being more open to his response. Prayer goes two ways."

When asked whether they could see any difference when mentioning their faith or church activities in their interaction with their friends, Eli said, "It all depends on my friends. Those who are believers inspire further discussion, while others simply say, 'What?'"

GLC

Church Mice

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My Journey of Faith

by Michelle Haines

I was raised in the Roman Catholic Church. I was the third of six children and was baptized as an infant, received my communion instruction in elementary school and was confirmed as a teen. My parents were faithful Catholics and attended church every Sunday. This meant that all my brothers and sisters and I did too. I attended Sunday school every week and went to church functions as they came up. I never really thought about my faith or what it meant to me, until I was in high school. It was just a part of my life.

As a child in the military, I moved frequently with my family. Our last military base was in Montgomery, Alabama. My family joined the local Catholic Church and we were enrolled in its school. During my sophomore year a weekend retreat was offered. My oldest sister, Jeannene, encouraged me to come. I had never been on a retreat and had no idea what to expect. The retreat was called a "Search Weekend." I don't remember much from that weekend, but I do remember the power of prayer and the laying on of hands. I experienced this first hand along with a desire to learn more. That weekend was the first time I saw anyone really excited about faith and willing to share it. I was able to see how God's word can change people. I felt humble being in this group's presence. This was the very beginning of my personal faith journey.

My journey has been slow. I went to a seminar or two and studied the materials from them. I never seem to get all the

answers – just more questions. I think that is the basis of faith – always having questions. At one class I drew a picture of a circle with the cross in the center. Rays of golden light were coming from the cross. The area above the cross was covered with lights. Below the cross was a tree. It had many branches. This picture represents my journey. I keep Christ as my center; I ask many questions, and a few are even answered. There is always room for more questions and more answers. I keep this little drawing as a reminder of where I've been and the distance I still need to go. My faith is constantly growing.

After Bob and I married, I started trying to discover what God had in store for me and for us as a couple. Prayer became a way of life for me at this time. It's hard to remember when I wasn't praying. Church also became important to me as an adult. I was teaching Sunday school and trying to learn more about my faith. When Andrew and Kathryn came along I felt knowledgeable enough to teach them what God means to me. The questions they asked always kept me on my toes. It also meant I had to keep searching for answers.

Coming to Grace Lutheran church was a homecoming for me. Caring people, who are willing to give of themselves, surround me. I thank God for them daily. I still have lots of questions and I know I'll find some answers. The search will continue. GLC

The Story Behind the Story

compiled by Jim Hladecek

The Frauenkirche with Martin Luther providing support and approval seemed an appropriate background for our confirmands, Alex Brown and Eli Harrison. But Martin Luther in front of a cathedral in Dresden? What was the story behind that?

A little research revealed that the Frauenkirche was built between 1726 and 1743 as a Lutheran parish church despite, or maybe because of, the predominance of the Catholic faith in the region. For the next 200 years, the Frauenkirche dominated the skyline of Dresden.

On February 13, 1945, that came to an end. Bombing of



Frauenkirche, Dresden, 1880



Frauenkirche, Dresden, 1945. Note the fallen statue of Martin Luther in the foreground.

Dresden took its toll on the Frauenkirche and the dome collapsed on the morning of February 15. The photo illustrating the rubble, all that was left, shows the church ruins and the fallen statue of Martin Luther. In 1966, the ruins were officially

declared a memorial against the war, and commemorations were held at the site on the annual anniversary of the firebombing destruction of the city. In 1985, the city decided to rebuild the Frauenkirche, but little was done until after the reunifica-



Frauenkirche, Dresden, today

tion of Germany.

In 1990 "The Society to Promote the Reconstruction of the Church of Our Lady" was formed, and a large fund-raising campaign began. The reconstruction of its exterior was completed in 2004, its interior in 2005 and, after 13 years of rebuilding, the church was reconsecrated on October 30, 2005.

Frauenkirche is now a hugely popular tourist destination in Dresden. In the first three years after the re-opening, 7 million people visited it. The project has inspired other groups around the world desiring to reconstruct buildings and environments obliterated by war. **GLC**

Grace Lutheran Artists

*Where Art and the Passion Meet
The 14 Stations of the Cross
by Roberta Bymers*

First Baptist Church of Port Townsend has invited local artists to interpret sacred text for the 14 Stations of the Cross. This seasonal showing, *Viewing the Crossroads*, is intended to be



Photo: Lucy Hladecek

Shown here with their "tools" at the ready are Roberta Bymers, Nina Daly and Glora Sutton. Not available for the photo: Ruth Hasse and Patt Roach.

both an exhibition and a source of contemplation. The viewing audience reflects a variety of ages, faiths and denominations. These artists share an interest in grassroots creativity as a means of spiritual expression. Each station includes the scripture passage, the art piece, and pertinent information about the piece and the artist.

Ruth Hasse, Nina Daly, Glora Sutton, Roberta Bymers and Patt Roach, all from Grace Lutheran Church, are among other artists participating in this project. Each artist reflects on a particular station of the Cross and from that reflection creates a piece that is representative of that station.

Viewing the Crossroads may be seen from Thursday, April 5,



Jesus meets His Mother by Jean Du Seigneur.

through Saturday, April 7, between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. nightly at the First Baptist Church, 1202 Lawrence St., Port Townsend. GLC

Winter Shelter Report

by Bob Threlkeld

In early March, Grace Lutheran Church provided a wonderful four-day stretch of service at the winter shelter. Twenty-four members of our congregation cooked, cleaned, served or monitored for two dozen men and women. The shelter is vastly improved from earlier years. It now boasts a new TV room, partitions between cots, new bathrooms, new washers and dryers, and, most noticeable of all, a remodeled kitchen with a three-minute cycle commercial dishwasher! Also, OlyCAP established a much appreciated separate women's shelter this year.

As usual, our group got at least as much from the experience as did the shelter guests. I noticed several folks sitting with the guests, sharing stories or just listening. I think that often this is as important as the food. Speaking of food, what



Grace brought for dinner was spectacular. Spaghetti! Bean Soup! Chili! Stuffed Potatoes! and mounds of sweets and salads! One thing about this shelter – the guests

eat well.

Usually each year there is one poignant moment for Diane and me at the shelter. One evening after dinner a young man brought up his laptop computer and asked us, "Do you want to see my son?" He flipped the screen in our direction and ran through pictures of an 18-month-old little boy, squirming and happy. The young father was in Port Townsend, mother and son in Portland. Who knows why?

Most of the shelter guests don't have much to hang onto.

Share the JOY of Easter!

Join us at
Grace Lutheran's
Easter Brunch
9:15 a.m.

If you desire to share a dish or help,
sign up on the sheet in fellowship hall.

Meet Colleen

Our New Choir Director

by Karrie Cannon

Many members of Grace have probably already met Colleen Johnson who served as probationary choir director during November and December, and was confirmed as choir director in February. Colleen has a rich past and is full of talent, ideas and experience! She first came to Port Townsend



about ten years ago while she sought training in Stephen Ministry leadership. She was charmed by the town and eventually moved here from Michigan.

Colleen has 27 years of experience as a choir director, and was a soloist in various churches in Michigan. She has a BA in vocal performance from University of Michigan, attended Wayne State and Saginaw

State Universities, and has taken conducting classes and lessons.

With this wealth of experience, Colleen expressed three goals for Grace's choir and membership:

1. To enhance worship services and communicate the message of the music
2. To teach sight singing classes to improve people's abilities and confidence; and
3. To give more people the opportunity to sing and listen to different types of music, and to appreciate and enjoy the variety.

She would love to have more people join the choir, but is pleased that the current choir is very accomplished and hard working. She loves that the congregation sings with so much spirit and grace. Our songs are good, and our building is acoustically friendly so that voices are well-projected and balanced.

Because Colleen has done directing for so long, she appreciates good work when she sees it and likes to give listeners options between instrumental and solos to keep the music fresh and appealing. She enjoys the fact that while at Grace she has had lots of support and was able to perform traditional Christmas music. Because variety is usually welcome, she plans to mix contemporary with traditional music, and enthusiastically encourages your feedback to let her know when you like the music and what you would like to hear more often.

When asked about hobbies and interests, Colleen replied,

"Wherever I am, the dessert fairy isn't far behind!" She loves to cook and experiment, including baking breads and cookies and creating soups and just about anything else.

A busy woman here in PT, she sings with Rainshadow Chorale, Chorus, and the Threshold Choir (for hospice patients). She will conduct a candlelight concert on April 26, and a concert this July featuring US composers. In addition, she is responsible for organizing a fundraising dinner for 228 people to be held in a couple of weeks.

Her past includes the directorship of a substance abuse agency, starting the Department of Racial Justice for the YWCA, and teaching anti-racist and oppression courses for eight years. She is especially pleased that a day-care center she started in Detroit, Michigan in 1965 was still going strong the last time she checked on it. One of the consultants and mentors who helped her with the day-care center has a daughter here in PT, so Colleen was able to see her friend when she visited recently.

Welcome to Grace, Colleen! GLC

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Helping a Friend Grieve

by Karrie Cannon

By the time you read this, Grace's first grief workshop will have been completed. This eight-week workshop brought

tears, smiles, thoughtful discussion and healing to those who attended. We will be doing at least one other workshop this year, and perhaps an ongoing/drop-in group, so watch for future announcements or talk to me or Pastor Coe about your interest. Please remember that one need not be a member of Grace in order to benefit from this service. We welcome everyone who needs us.

Because grief and loss affect every part of one's life, when a friend has a loss, he or she might be unable to assume a normal life. We're all affected by others' emotions, reactions and feelings, and we might find it hard to balance our personal needs and expectations while trying to help a friend effectively support herself.

Many of us cope by distancing ourselves, which is a common emotional response. Alternately, we can also feel a sense of vulnerability and anxiety, depending on our own loss history and personality. Understanding this, here are some ways to best help a friend who is grieving:

Coping with your own grief

- Accept your grief and acknowledge the loss.
- Be sensitive and flexible.
- Be gentle with others who may not understand.
- Seek support and offer sympathy.
- Take care of yourself.
- Share information; plan and participate in memorials.
- Offer tangible help to your friend (the bereaved).

Preparing yourself for the task of helping your friend grieve

1. Remember your own experiences with death: who died, how they died and what your reaction was to the death. What did friends do for you that was helpful?
2. Reacquaint yourself with the grief process so you can identify your feelings and how best to help.
3. Think about the special circumstances surrounding the current death, and about how this may complicate grief.



Grieving Man by Vincent Van Gogh

4. Call or visit – friends are needed especially in the time between the death and the funeral or memorial service. Let your friend tell you the details of the death – He's struggling with the reality of what happened.
5. Ask if you can help organize friends and neighbors to share in all of the work and attend to the death-related tasks. Here are some common tasks that need to be done:
 - Phone calls to friends and relatives (ask what he'd like you to say)
 - Housecleaning or pick-up of home where people might be visiting
 - Answering the phone and keeping a record of who calls, phone numbers, a message, date and time
 - Bringing food (list who brought what and if a dish should be returned)
 - Helping with childcare
 - Running errands such as dry cleaning, grocery shopping, etc.
 - Making airport pick ups, deliveries, to and from hotels
 - Finding places for people to stay if coming in from out of town
 - Helping select proper clothes for funeral, including shopping
 - Making travel arrangements if out-of-town travel is necessary (help w/mail, newspapers, babysitting, pet care and plant watering)
 - Encouraging your friend to take time out and rest

Emotional help This is a demanding time for the person suffering a loss, and is emotionally draining. Lots of decisions must be made. This can also be a great test of friendship, so be aware and use good communication skills, such as:

- "I'm available and willing to be here whenever you want to talk." (Then, be prepared for the floodgates to open; make time and be willing to listen). Be a good listener and remember that silence is golden.
- Use good nonverbal cues (nod, make eye contact, touch arm or shoulder), and show you're listening.
- Share your memories about the loved one with your friend by telling stories and relating happy moments you experienced.
- Help solve problems that crop up by verbalizing them to help clarify them and develop alternatives.
- Help your friend organize and prioritize daily tasks.
- Allow mourning to proceed, especially the crying.

Do Not

- Do all the talking
- Tell your friend what to do or make decisions for her
- Discourage emotions
- Promote your own values and beliefs
- Pass yourself off as an authority on grief
- Encourage dependency and/or dominate her time

GLC

Three For One? Hot Dog!

by Neil Potthoff



Whether you are currently making a regular monetary donation to the food bank through your offerings or not please consider our spring quarter Thrivent matching funds plan. We hope this will provide the incentive to continue or the boost to start you as a regular giver to this vital community ministry. From now through the end of June money gifts for the food bank will be matched dollar for dollar by our Grace Thrivent Choice Fund. Later in this period we will make an estimate of the expected total for the three months and apply for the traditional 50% chapter match. Over the time of this emphasis, if you give \$20 a month, it will grow to a total of \$180! (your gift times three comes to \$60; Choice Dollars adds \$60; total these and with a 50% match from the chapter of \$60 that's \$180!) All amounts add up – it's regularity in giving that does the trick.

Gifts must come through Grace Lutheran, so if you do this as part of your regular offering, be sure to clearly specify the amount for the food bank. If you want to do it separately, envelopes will be available on the bulletin board near your mailbox. As a culminating event, we are planning a Fourth of July hot dog banquet with accompaniments, (but no fireworks display) following our Sunday, July 1, service. Of course, there is no such thing as a free meal. But not to worry, you'll have already covered your tab using the installment plan outlined above. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of our congregational advocates: Dave Gaenicke, Jim and Jeni Little, Konrad and Jane Schwencke, or Neil Potthoff.
GLC



STEWARDSHIP

by Mark Dembro



We finished up the month of March and the season of Lent with stewardship on our minds: stewardship of both our money and our time and talents. On Sunday, March 25, we received our pledge cards, discussed financial pledging, and had the opportunity to talk with members of our various congregational committees about volunteering. When we think of volunteering, we should think in terms of pledging our time and our talents, that is, of being good stewards of ourselves. If you missed the volunteer information and sign-up sheets on March 25, please ask any council member how to join in our work within our congregation or out in our community.

Filling in our pledge cards is simple. Our name and the dollar amount of our financial commitment to Grace Lutheran Church is all that's needed. Members of our congregation pledge to give a certain dollar amount every week or every month or for the whole year. Members whose income goes up and down (this can be the case for self-employed people and business owners) may prefer to pledge a percentage of their income rather than a given dollar amount.

The biblical teaching is to tithe, to give ten percent of our income to our church. (If you're new to pledging, and ten percent sounds too high, don't let it scare you. Some people feel they need to work up to tithing over time.) People who tithe will tell you they couldn't imagine not tithing.

We'll turn in our pledge cards during our service on Sunday, April 15. If you have any questions about tithing or pledging, please ask our minister of stewardship, Mark Dembro, or any council member.

In our thinking and praying during Holy Week and Easter Week, let us think and pray about how we shall respond to God's blessings to us. This response is what stewardship is all about. **GLC**

The Rich Man

A rich man was talking to God, "Can't I take it with me when I go?" God always answered the same way, "NO!" Finally one day the man talked God into it and God said, "Okay you can take two suitcases full of anything you want." The man filled up two suitcases full of gold. When the rich man reached the pearly gates St. Peter asked the rich man why he had two suitcases. The rich man said, "It's okay, I've already cleared it with God." St. Peter asked him to open the suitcases; when the rich man opened the suitcase, St. Peter said, "Why did you bring paving slabs?"

Help Wanted: *Opportunities for a New Career*

Minister of Community Concerns and Social Ministry

Bob Threlkeld

I have been responsible for:

1. Overseeing and recruiting members for the social concerns ministry
2. Holding regular meetings of the committee
3. Surveying the congregation annually as to the committee impact and direction
4. Working with committee to define six key ministries for special support (Winter Shelter, Pencil Box, Food Bank, Ugandan Orphans, ECHHO, Quilters)
5. Where necessary, assisting lead persons for each of the ministries
5. Helping define new social concerns ministries
6. Assisting in fund-raising and budget management for social concerns
7. Attending monthly council meetings/writing reports

Minister of Facilities Responsibilities

Dave Peterson

My duties while serving as Grace's facilities guy have been twofold. The first duty is to insure that church and parsonage maintenance is accomplished in a timely manner. The second duty is to implement improvement projects. Although these responsibilities may appear to be daunting, the people and processes we have in place actually make the job really straightforward and enjoyable.

Maintenance is the ongoing correction of problems that occur both inside and outside: plumbing leaks, lights burning out, breaking equipment, and all the surprises with a 60-year-old building, plus landscape maintenance such as weeding and mowing. What makes all this relatively easy is the diligence of others. The church cleaning staff (currently Jim and Jeni Little) correct many of the problems as part of their job. Parsonage maintenance is mostly done by Pastor Coe and Janet. I think they consider it part of their health maintenance program! When needed, a number of volunteers are available, or a local plumber or other experts may have to be called in. When necessary, I might do the work myself.

Facility improvement requires annual planning, budgeting, and accomplishment of desirable projects. The process begins with the design review committee (currently chaired by Sharon Dembro). This committee identifies a prioritized list of improvements with cost estimates for the church council to approve or not. My job is to try to get most of the approved projects done with work parties, hired contractors, individual church volunteers, or myself. This process has mostly worked well for the past few years as you can see.

If you are considering serving as minister of facilities, it isn't necessary that you live close to the church. There are a number of people (I too) who live in town and will happily respond to calls for emergency repairs or other timely needs.

Please consider serving for a two-year term if these responsibilities sound interesting for you. I can assure you that your service will be greatly appreciated.

Minister of Congregational Concerns and Fellowship

Floyd Thompson

Hospitality is a vital concern within our church. The minister of congregational concerns and fellowship and a few committee members try to be cheerleaders for our congregation and try to be especially alert to the needs of visitors and newcomers as well as members. The committee does its best to promote activities that reinforce the sense of family in our congregation and that help participants uphold, assist and comfort each other. Some of the current activities that provide opportunities for fellowship include: refreshment fellowship following Sunday worship; Grace Cinema (complete with popcorn and beverages, of course); special brunches (including Easter morning); the rally day picnic; and the annual Christmas party, including dinner, Christmas tree decorating and whimsical gift exchange.

The fellowship committee also helps coordinate rides for those in the congregation who may need transportation; congregation members assist in providing the rides.

Finally, the fellowship committee maintains the Grace family photo wall by scheduling photo shoot opportunities and updating individual and family photos for the wall and the membership directory.

Minister of Worship, Grace Church Council

David Gaenicke

"The Minister of Worship organizes the worship committee and participates with the pastor in planning worship services and programs; provides for leaders and assistants for services; provides for altar care; and oversees the music program." (By Laws of GLC, from June 2003). The beauty of this position is that there is an established committee: Anne Argites, Michelle Haines, Kathy Gibson (who oversees the altar guild), Choir Director Colleen Johnson, Pianist/organist Lisa Lanza, and Pastor Coe Hutchison. The minister of worship (MW) works closely with the pastor and places the monthly meeting on the church calendar. The MW also works with our church secretary, Crissy Dunlap, who oversees and prints up the monthly schedule of services, assisting ministers, ushers, greeters, lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers, etc. Crissy does the contacting for each position. The MW is also responsible for writing (or appointing a committee member to write) a monthly report to the church council and writing an annual submission for the congregational report. In October, the MW works with the church treasurer to develop a budget which the committee oversees for each year. I recommend this office to any church member who has a love of worship and music and enjoys working with a very capable team of co-workers. **GLC**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Thurs.	April 5	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship
Fri.	April 6	12:00 noon	Good Friday Stations of the Cross
Fri.	April 6	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship
Sat.	April 7	7:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil and Confirmation
Sun.	April 8	9:15 p.m.	Easter Breakfast
Sun.	April 8	10:30 a.m.	Easter Worship
Sat.	April 28	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Church Work Party
Sat.	June 2	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Church Work Party
	June 9-16		Holden Village Trip
Sun.	July 8	3 p.m. – 5:30	Root Beer Social at the Parsonage
Sat.	July 28	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Church Work Party
Sat.	Aug 25		Worship at the Shelton Prison
Sat.	Sept. 15	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Church Work Party

“Good Times, They Are A’Brewin”

At least that is the report from the Men in Motion as they begin planning for another trip to Edmonds for brewing beer, cider and root beer and even possible wine making. Everyone had a great time on the last trip; however, it is rumored that all the fruit of those labors has now been consumed and the communal thirst is growing. Sign up on the bulletin board in the fel-



lowship hall if you are interested in participating, and a date will be set.

This is how it works. We all go together on the first trip. We can carpool and walk onto the Kingston ferry and walk to the brewing center, which is only a short distance from the Edmonds ferry dock. We organize ourselves into groups depending on what kind of beer or other beverage we want to make. Each group makes its batch of beer and leaves it to ferment. The brewing is about a two-hour task; add another half hour on each side for getting set up and wrapping up. Then we are done for that first day. Individuals or small groups can return two to four weeks later on their own schedule and bottle their batches and take them home. A car is needed to transport the bottled beer on that second trip. Some groups may be able to decide what they want to make before they even get there (using information from the last trip). Others may need to taste some samples and decide on-site. In summary, it takes two trips to downtown Edmonds – the first is around three hours and the second roughly an hour and a half.

Sign up for some brewing fun!

Opportunity to Hear Prof. Rolf Jacobson from Luther Seminary

Dr. Rolf Jacobson, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, will be speaking at Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland, on Whidbey Island at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 15. His teaching interests include the Psalms, Old Testament prophets, biblical poetry, biblical theology, and biblical narrative. He emphasizes that the purpose of a biblical text is not just for preaching or teaching, although these are crucial functions. He says the Scriptures must also be used in pastoral care, personal spiritual growth, and for the shaping of Christian mission and theology. In addition, scriptures can also function as catalysts for change and growth within a congregation. Dr. Jacobson is heard regularly on Sermon Brainwave, the tremendously popular weekly broadcast conversation on the coming Sunday’s Scripture readings (Pastor Coe listens to this broadcast almost every week). Pastor Coe is planning to attend Dr. Jacobson’s presentation and would be glad to organize a carpool. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We will probably catch the 3:45 p.m. ferry from Port Townsend and return on the 9:15 p.m. ferry leaving Coupeville.

“The History of the King James Bible” Coming to the Adult Forum

Grace Lutheran is excited to welcome retired Pastor Gene Bradbury to our Adult Forum beginning April 22 to present a program on The History of the King James Bible. 2011 marked the 400th birthday of the King James Bible, one of the best-selling books ever. Rev. Bradbury’s presentation will begin April 22 and continue four Sundays through May 13. Come and learn more about the version of the Bible many of us grew up reading. GLC



From Our Pastor: *“Alleluia! Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!”*

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
 The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

With those words, proclaimed triumphantly three times in the center of our Easter Eve service, Lent will end and Easter will begin. Ahh, but there is much more happening than the simple ending of one liturgical season and beginning of another. The first time I had the privilege to proclaim that particular good news in a pastoral role was the Easter Eve service during my internship. I wept great tears of joy as I boldly (and loudly) proclaimed that great Easter news. Before that point in the service, our worship is somber and reflective, reminding us of the “bigness” of God and the smallness of us; the sanctuary is dim, the mood is quiet. After those words, the lights come up, the music brightens and swells, we read and sing and celebrate God’s great I-love-you-gift to His beloved creation.

That change in the midst of the Easter Eve service is symbolic of even greater things. It reminds us of our baptism where we died with Christ in darkness and rose with Christ into bright new life. It reminds me of the daily, sometimes hourly way that God rescues me from my own darkness. One hour of the day, I can be lost in frustration or peevish feelings toward someone, and then, somehow, God will find a way to shine his bright light into my dark thoughts. It is like shouting, Alleluia, Christ is risen! Once more, God has brought me into light from darkness. He raises me to true and joyous life from thoughts and practices that only lead to my death.

That’s why those words of proclamation are so important. They are a stake in the ground of our lives for God. We shout them joyously, but we also state them with absolute seriousness. Those words are God’s promise to us of new and eternal life. They are God’s light in our darkness, God’s joy in our despair and we desperately need everything that those words promise and deliver. We can lash ourselves to the mast of those words and know that we will survive the worst storms and most tempting siren song that life can send us.

As we draw near to Easter and walk through the darkness of Holy Week, I encourage you to anticipate those words. Think about what they will mean to you when you hear them. Most importantly, think about what they stand for in your life.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
 The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

*God Bless,
 Pastor Coe*

From Our President: *"Humming Birds and Grace"*

My wife, Dianne, and I started feeding humming birds back in the mid 80s when we first moved to Port Townsend. We were amazed how these little creatures (humming birds are the smallest birds in the world) could move so fast and how tiny they were. Because the hummingbird can rotate its wings in a circle, it is the only bird that can fly forwards, backwards, up, down, sideways and hover in mid air.



We couldn't wait for spring to watch for their return. They would always fly to our back door where the feeder had hung the previous year. This became an annual event for us. Then, one winter we noticed there were two humming birds that were still hanging around in the cold winter months. We felt bad for them and feared they weren't going to survive the winter. So naturally we decided to continue feeding them with the hope that they would make it through the winter. To conserve energy while they sleep or when food is scarce, they can go into a hibernation-like state (torpor) when their metabolic rate is slowed to 1/15th of its normal rate.

We found that it is not unusual for the Anna humming birds to stay behind in our area while others head to warmer weather. During migration, some hummingbirds make a non-stop, 500-mile flight over the Gulf of Mexico.

Humming birds are a sure sign of spring for Dianne and me. While some do winter over, there are many that leave and return in the spring. We have talked about how they remind us of Easter. It seems that the winter months are generally cold, grey, and rainy. And we think of how we sometimes get lost in the darkness of the long winter nights. We look forward to the warm days and longer hours of daylight. But most of all we thank God for the light of Christ that shines in our lives.

It seems such a long time between Christmas and Easter, and how we long to hear of Jesus' resurrection and promise of salvation. We think of how our time at Grace helps to remind us of God's love for us. The humming birds look for food in the flowers and the sugar water that we feed them. We look for nourishment from God's Word, Worship, Communion, and our family at Grace. Like the birds, we know we will also be cared for – through God's Grace.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James K. Jensen".

Voice of Grace: World Tour



With Big Ben looming in the background, Keith White displays his copy of *The Voice of Grace* while enjoying a blustery day in London. Meanwhile, on the other side of the globe, David and Linda Gaenicke find themselves deep underground in a volcanic lava tube in Hawaii with their copy of the newsletter. These two photos are excellent examples of how far and



wide and varied are the travels of our congregation. One can only wonder, though, about traveling to Hawaii and spending one's time in rain gear in a lava cave!

Keep your travel photos coming and remember to take along a copy of the *Voice of Grace* to permanently record our newsletters travels.



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