

Grace Episcopal Church

What We're About at Grace

Our Attitude:

"At Grace Church doubts are ok, questions are welcome, please come as you are."

Our Mission:

"To Make Disciples who Spread the Good News of Christ in Jamestown & Beyond"

Our Vision:

"To become a congregation of disciples who experience God, who walk together in love, and who live out the mission of Jesus in our daily lives."

Our Rule of Life:

[also known as the Six Marks of Discipleship]

- + Pray Daily
- + Worship Weekly
- + Read the Bible Daily
- + Serve at Grace and Beyond
- + Relate with Others and Build Spiritual Friendships
- + Give Generously

Staff and Leadership

Bishop of North Dakota

The Right Rev. Michael Smith, D.D.

Interim Pastor

The Rev. Christian Senyoni, O.P.

Priest Associate

The Rev. Bart Davis

Senior Warden: Chuck Ault

Junior Warden: Tish Johnson

Treasurer: Casey Stoudt

Secretary: Kim Kapp

Vestry Members:

Susan Bjerke Kathy Davis

Susan Lippert Alan Pranke

Cindy Ault Mike Rhinehart

GRACE NOTES

November 2015

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Greetings! We have had a wonderful weather so far, we even saw a few snowflakes! But I have most enjoyed the colors of leaves. At our church, there is a particular tree that still has half of its branches with its yellow leaves. This transformation makes me think of what happens to us when we decide to trust our Lord Jesus Christ! It is the beginning of a new season that causes the tree to change colors and eventually losing its leaves as if it lost its life. How true of a Christian life! We also die to our old nature so that new life can burst in us.

We have a unique opportunity to think about such inner change which is caused by our trust in Jesus Christ our Lord. November is the month when we focus on Stewardship; we learn to be grateful for the blessings of this life by thanking God our creator. Part of our gratitude is to live a different life practically, a life that gives God the glory. We learn to care for our families, for the earth that God has entrusted to us and for the work of the Church of whom Christ is the head. We will all receive a letter from our stewardship team with a pledge card. I personally will be making a commitment for the sake of the Lord's work. I encourage you to prayerfully consider this part of discipleship which is "giving generously" Our focus scripture is: "*God loveth a cheerful giver*" 2 Cor 9:7. I believe that God is leading us this coming year as our search team begins its work. My prayer and hope for us are that we would grow closer to God in Jesus Christ as we help each other to be the best followers of Jesus Christ. I firmly believe that when we learn this, not only will we become prosperous and peaceful in what we do (Joshua 1:8), but we will also become the best that God intended us to be.

I am excited about the events ahead this holiday season while celebrating a new Christian year, as we enter Advent season and our Thanksgiving eve service. God is good! Please encourage your friends and family to come to these special services. Our Church family would love to shower them with God's love.

Fr. Christian Senyoni, Interim Pastor

Prayer Corner: Pray Like a Saint

Sr. Pamela Pranke OP



A distinguishing characteristic of Saints, those holy people with an extra special relationship with God, is a deep connection with the Almighty through prayer. This month we learn some of the Saints had to say about prayer and prayers. Allow these holy men and women to ignite your spiritual life in prayer.

'Jesus Christ, Lord of all things! You see my heart, you know my desires. Possess all that I am -- you alone. I am your sheep; make me worthy to overcome the devil.' ~ St. Agatha, (231-251), Martyr

'We set forth our petitions before God, not in order to make known to Him our needs and desires, but rather so that we ourselves may realize that in these things it is necessary to turn to God for help.' ~ St. Thomas Aquinas, (1225 –1274), Doctor of the Church

'Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.' ~ St. John Chrysostom, (349 – 407), Archbishop of Constantinople and Doctor of the Church

'By humble and faithful prayer, the soul acquires, with time and perseverance, every virtue.'
~ St Catherine of Siena, (1347-1380), Doctor of the Church

'... so our customary practice of prayer was brought to mind: how through our ignorance and inexperience in the ways of love we spend so much time on petition. I saw that it is indeed more worthy of God and more truly pleasing to him that through his goodness we should pray with full confidence, and by his grace cling to him with real understanding and unshakeable love, than that we should go on making as many

petitions as our souls are capable of.' ~ Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love, (1342 – 1416), anchoress

*“Lord, teach me to be generous;
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To toil, and not to seek for rest;
To labor, and not to ask for reward -
except to know that I am doing your will.”*
~ Ignatius of Loyola, (1491-1556), Founder of the Society of Jesus

Buildings and Grounds

Dear Grace Church Family,

Maintaining our buildings and grounds is primarily work “behind the scenes” but nonetheless significant! For instance, the church is cleaned weekly by Betty Prodzinski, our cleaning lady, and for that we owe her a debt of thanks! During the past year we addressed repairs to the stonework abutting the south entry which was followed by a major restoration in Riebe Hall; fortunately, the majority of the expense was covered by our insurance. The furnace and air conditioning systems required seasonal attention but now seem to be functioning at optimal levels. The carpet and chairs in Elsworth Hall were professionally cleaned recently; the hard surface entry areas and kitchen are scheduled in the near future for cleaning and polishing.

Rectory maintenance included a plumbing repair and minor carpentry work after a leaky pipe created water damage and mold. One of our summer storms caused a large tree branch to come down, creating “millwork” for enlisted volunteers! A new storm door and interior side door will soon be installed on the north side of the rectory.

The congregation tended to the grounds in so many ways: donating time and energy to the

upkeep of the landscaping, watering and tending the new plantings, and donating perennials and annuals which colored our landscape. (Rose bushes on the south side of the church were still blooming after Halloween!) On the church's north side there is a newly installed paver system to divert water from seeping into the undercroft, more work remains, but this is a significant step in keeping water away from the foundation.

The onset of winter will usher in its standard issues—ice, snow, and temperature control—but we seem to be well prepared for what might come our way! Thank you for your contributions, seen and unseen, in the maintenance of Grace Church. You are appreciated!

Sincerely, Tish Johnson, Junior Warden

Advent Party on November 29!

Advent begins on November 29 and we will celebrate it with our annual Advent Party, beginning at 4:00 pm in Riebe Hall.

Join us to make your Advent wreath at 4:00. Bring your old wreath if you have it and get new candles and greens for it. Or just make a new one from scratch! We will have all the supplies.

There will also be Crown Cookies to decorate, to remind us that the King is coming.

The evening service will begin at 5:00, followed by a potluck. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship of our church family as we begin a new church year! Happy New Year!

Choir for Christmas

Jackie and the choir members are looking for more people who would be willing to join us to sing at Christmas services. Music is a wonderful way of cementing and celebrating our traditions. If you would like to sing, please get in touch with her or with any of the other choir members. Young and old and in-between are all welcome!

Grace on Campus Cindy Ault, Faculty Advisor

Our campus ministry had been fairly inactive of late, with the exception of a men's bible study led by Jake Havron. I actually tried to curb Fr. Christian's enthusiasm last year, since he had quite enough to do. But we are making a big effort this year. We have a core group of students involved and I have high hopes for the future. Our mission is to Explore Christianity (even the hard questions). The group sponsored and organized a debate in early November between Dr. Brian Lang (Philosophy) and Dr. Bruce Jensen (Biology) on the topic of genetic manipulation of humans- what is acceptable and what might not be. There were slightly over 100 people in attendance and many stayed on even after the debate was over.

Next on the agenda are discussions of some questions in Christianity, beginning on Nov. 17th with a discussion of the words of Jesus in John 3:3: "No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again"(John 3:3). "What does being born again mean to you?" is the question. Students will be invited to express their views and respectfully listen to those of others.

Andrew Mogga, a member of Grace on Campus, contributed the following:

"Starting my freshman year of college was an exciting and scary time of my life. Grace on Campus is an organization I joined to get to know the university and community. It is a rewarding group to be a part of and it allows me to meet new people, as well as strengthening my relationship with God"



Health Ministry: Time to Get Vaccinated, Flu Season has Arrived

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. ~ 3 John 1:2

Yes, 'tis the season for your annual flu vaccination. Confirmed cases of influenza have been reported to the North Dakota Health Department. Influenza is a serious illness that kills over 400 North Dakotans annually, most of them over 65 years of age. Receiving a flu vaccination protects you and others from becoming infected. Take advantage of receiving a vaccination at Central Valley Public Health Department, pharmacies and health clinics. ~ ND Department of Health www.ndflu.com



PREVENTING INFLUENZA

Get a vaccination

Wash hands thoroughly

Use hand sanitizer when you cannot wash your hands

Stay home if you are ill

When coughing or sneezing use a tissue or cover your mouth with your arm or sleeve

Up the Hill

As up the hill of life I climb,
I look across the valley of time
And peer through the mist of years
Recalling times of laughter and tears
And also searching my mind to find
For a good life, a good word
I can say to thank the Lord.

A poem written by Ernest Hubacker for the residents of Jamestown when he was only 92. He celebrated his 100th birthday on Oct. 16, 2015.

Remember your Blue Boxes: UTO ingathering is coming soon!

If you have anything to be included in the December edition of Grace Notes, please send it to cault@uj.edu by Nov. 27th.