

Lois J. Moose
Creator and Editor

Richard D. Moose
Founder and Printer

The MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
Madison, South Dakota

ALPHA 8 OMEGA

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Three Hundred Six North West Third Street
Madison, South Dakota 57042

January 1986
Vol. 1 No. 1

Katherine Brewer
113 N. Union
Madison, SD 57042

Epiphany 1986

Dear Friends In Christ:

Christmas Day has come and gone. Packages have been opened, the tree is beginning to shed its needles, most of us have been overfed with holiday treats, and those of us involved in the liturgical life of the church are ready for a quiet moment or two to recuperate. The frenetic pace of the holidays has slowed down to a point where we, the Christian community, can contemplate the message of the angels and the witness of shepherds and kings.

Who is this child, born of Mary, yet proclaimed by the angels to be the Saviour, Christ the Lord? Who is this child who compelled the shepherds to come and behold and then to go out to share what they had seen and heard? Who is this child to whom gentile kings brought gifts fit for one who would rule as king--the one whom Simeon would acknowledge as "the light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel"?

During the Epiphany season, which begins on January 6, we celebrate the good news of Jesus made manifest to the world, and we are called to proclaim him in our midst. The Collect for the Epiphany reads thus: "Lead us, O God, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face...." We come Sunday after Sunday as the body of Christ, affirming his presence with us through word and sacrament. We confess in creed and prayer that Jesus, born as a human, yet called to be Son of God, Ruler of Creation, is the one who dwells among us. We are called through the power of the Holy Spirit to know this Jesus, the Christ, and to make him known to a broken world.

Who is this Jesus for us, the people of Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, South Dakota? How is he to be manifest among us? In the next weeks you will be asked to consider your continued support of the ministry in this church through your time, talent and treasure. In that process I would encourage each of you to reflect on how the Lord is present in this place and to what ministry you are being called. Each of you has been blessed with gifts for ministry--teaching, lay reading, pastoral care, hospitality, and on and on. As the three kings presented their gifts to the child, so are we to present to him all that we are so that he may use us, our selves, our gifts, our possessions, in a world which desperately needs to hear the good news one more time. How is he made known in this day? Through you and me, his people, his body.

Who is this Jesus? He is the one who has come to show us the way to peace on earth and good will towards all people. Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit to love and serve him.

God's peace,

Karen

30 November 1985

Dear Friends at Grace Church,

Gloria, the boys and I send our greetings and love. Please allow me to be sentimental and to say how much we think of you and miss you all very much!

This past semester in New Testament studies, my class has been doing exegesis of various passages. One that I've been "trying my hand at" is Matthew 20:1-16, the Parable of the Laborers In The Vineyard. In researching the historical contexts of the parable, I found it fascinating to see how the parable maintained relevance and insight from the time of Jesus through the development of the early church.

Jesus' audience, whether it had been his disciples, scribes, pharisees or the Jewish masses, no doubt would think his description of the kingdom by this parable rather curious to say the least! Although Jewish teaching envisioned the establishment of God's kingdom by the Messiah through a Divine plan, few saw the kingdom revealed in Jesus Christ and fewer still understood him when he spoke of the kingdom's present inclusive nature. Sinners, tax collectors, Gentiles and Jews are receivers of God's gift of grace, love and a special place in God's kingdom. Matthew's immediate audience has been characterized as one composed of "little ones", Christians of Jewish descent in the process of building a church without the aid of bishops, priests

and deacons. I couldn't help but think of the similarity to Grace Church!

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder..." Grace Church is also part of "the kingdom", although at times we felt more like a wayward vassal! Christ the King never let us close the doors and slip away! Some of the laborers in the parable were prone to grumble; I guess we did too but but grumbling is far better than not caring enough to grumble, right?

My family and I were relatively newcomers, coming around the "eleventh hour". Like the householder, you gave us full and equal membership; we didn't have to earn our acceptance. The parable has two meanings of the verb, "to give". In 20:8, the Greek "apodid" is used. This form of the verb is generally used in a context of work(s) or giving an account of (Matthew 12:36, Luke 16:2, Rev 22:12). However, the verb form, "didomi", to give as a gift, is used in 20:4 and 20:14 of the parable. The latter form, to give as a gift was your response to Gloria, the boys and me! (I had to slip some Greek in just to prove I haven't always been sleeping in my Greek class!)

This is as far as I got

With Advent and Christmas, the actions of giving and receiving take renewal meaning. You, as friends and members of Grace have given us so much over the years that trying to find an appropriate gift in return is quite impossible! So please

realize that you all are in our hearts and prayers, especially as
we begin celebrating the most wonderful Gift of all!

Love,

Jim, Gloria, Julian, James and Joel

Jim, Gloria, James, Julian, Joel

February 2, 1986

ANNUAL

MEETING

11:00 Holy Communion

12:00 Potluck Dinner

1:00 Meeting

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Annual Christmas Program was held on December 15, 1985 during the Church service. The program began with a reading by Kitty Brewer. The Congregation then sang "Joy To The World." The members of the Sunday School held up letters of MERRY CHRISTMAS and members told the meaning of each letter. The program concluded by the Congregation singing "AWAY IN A MANGER."

The participating members were:

Annie Brewer
Ben Johnson
Chad Johnson
Mary Johnson
George Johnson
Heather Graham
Jamie Graham

Following the program was a coffee/hot chocolate period with gifts given to each child of the Church (these gifts were donated by members of the congregation).

A fun time was had by all! Kitty, Janice, and Children of the Sunday School - really great program, we all enjoyed it!

Janice Johnson visited Ethyl Roberts and reported that she is doing well. Ethyl wishes everyone the Best in the New Year and hopes everyone had a Happy Christmas.

WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

JANUARY 19-25

Theme: Acts 1:8

"You shall be My Witnesses"

? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

If you are wondering what all the homemade items on the table in the Guild Hall are - they are items donated by Lola Boyd for a church fund raiser. If you would like a memento of Lola pick up an interesting item and give a donation.

The new Hymnals have arrived and will be in use on January 19th. We certainly are looking forward to seeing and using them. If you would like to give a hymnal in memory of someone to the Church, a donation of \$8.50 to the Memorial Fund would be in order. The Church has received approximately 40 hymnals.

Raffle Result

The Grace Episcopal Church had a raffle giving away a TV Set. The drawing was held on December 15, 1985 and the winner was Elenar Margeson of Madison. With all the tickets sold, the fund raiser was very successful!

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

There is a Resolution being discussed with the ECW and the Diocese that would combine the two in joint cooperation of the Church for the purpose of representation of the Church Women at the Convention. This would allow the ECW to have to lay delegates at the 1986 Convention. These two members would be the President of the ECW and the Niobrara Women (2nd Vice President of the ECW). This would bring the number of lay delegates to 218. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board so take a look at it and give your support, your voice, and be heard.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

5th Ben
12th Annie
19th Ben
26th Annie

Copies of the Constitution & Canons of The Episcopal Church, revised by the General Convention, will be available through the Diocesan Office during January 1986. Contact the Diocesan Administrator for details.

REMEMBER: Put your name on your offering envelopes.

"If God sends us on stony paths, He provides us with strong shoes."

Corrie Ten Boom



EPIPHANY from the Greek epiphancia a manifestation or showing, more particularly of a divine, or at least supernatural, being. The Feast of the Epiphany celebrated on January 6, commemorates the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. See Prayer Book page 211.

Feast of the Epiphany began in the East as early as the third century as a memorial of the Lord's baptism in the river Jordan by St. John the Baptist. Matthew 3:16-17 tells that on this occasion the heavens opened and a voice was heard saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Certainly this was a "manifestation."

In former times Epiphany was also called Twelfth Day, January 6 being the Twelfth Day after Christmas. Twelfth Night, an evening of considerable merry making was the night before Twelfth Day and would therefore more properly have been called Epiphany Eve.

Taken From Trinity Times

<u>CASH RECEIPTS</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>2 Mo. Total</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Pledges	406.00	296.00	702.00	4872.10
Plate	<u>34.53</u>	<u>26.00</u>	<u>60.53</u>	<u>429.49</u>
Total	440.53	322.00	762.53	5301.59
Refunds				897.86
from Memorial acct.				450.00
from Diocese				1000.00
from Interest				22.68
Pearson Book Fund				880.00
Hall Seminary				170.00
Miscellaneous (envelopes)				4.50
for Sunday School				25.00
=====			Total	<u>8751.63</u>
++=====		Bank Bal. Jan. 1, 1985		<u>1178.69</u>
				9930.32

DISBURSEMENTS

Heat	21.75	58.49	80.24	1567.09
Electric	15.25	25.66	40.91	321.70
Telephone	10.48	10.48	20.96	102.91
Clergy	50.00	50.00	100.00	1732.00
Organist	40.00	30.00	70.00	440.00
Pledge - for 1984				100.00
Pledge 1985 (Bal. 587.50)				762.50
Insurance	195.00	-	195.00	820.00
Suffragan Bishop's Fund				50.00
Pension Fund (Refund 39.00)				117.00
Books, Printing, Church News	29.45	2.40	31.85	579.88
Sunday School Material	16.10		16.10	16.10
Maintenance	-	10.00	10.00	218.00
Miscellaneous				166.47
Pearson Book Fund	30.00	30.00	60.00	170.00
Pearson Seminary				800.00
Hall Seminary				175.00
Bills paid from Ins.				630.87
Repairs	<u>383.50</u>	-	<u>383.50</u>	<u>383.50</u>
<u>TOTALS</u>	791.53	217.03	1008.56	9153.02
		Bank Bal. Nov. 30, 1985		<u>777.30</u>
				9930.32



January



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

			1 New Years Day	2	3	4
5 10:00 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Worship 12:00 Coffee	6 Feast of the Epiphany	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:00 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Worship 12:00 Coffee	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:00 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Worship 12:00 Coffee	20	21	22	23	24	25
		WORLD	WEEK	OF	PRAYER	
26 10:00 Sunday Sch. 11:00 Worship 12:00 Coffee	27 Birthday Heather Graham	28	29 Birthday Ruby Stewart	30	31	