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*Alpha & Omega Newsletter*  
Grace Episcopal Church  
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# ALPHA 8 OMEGA

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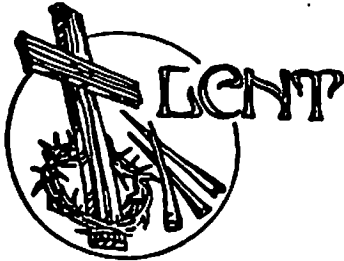
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*As the days of this month begin to pass into eternity, we thank Thee, God, for the joy of living each one - for laughter and fun and even for moments of pain and sorrow. We thank Thee for home and family, for good food, and for the hands which work so tirelessly to make our home a foretaste of Thy heaven. Amen.*

*by Thyra Ferre Bjorn*



On several occasions you have heard me say that Lent is a time for us to enrich our lives by fasting, and self-denial; by reading and meditating on God's word. And if the Easter event is to have any special significance for us, then we need to prepare ourselves through a liturgical experience that will heighten our awareness of the meaning of the cross and what it means to us as Christians.

If we are to sharpen our understanding of the cross we must experience the depths of penitence so we can rejoice in the heights of redemptive new life. The uplifting experience of the greatest celebration in the Christian year is so intimately related to one's own personal trip through the valley of the shadow of death that we cannot experience the one without the other. Without Easter, Good Friday is a cruel hoax. And without Good Friday, Easter, quite literally has no meaning at all.

In other words, we have to travel the path Jesus traveled through Holy Week if Easter is to be the magnificent celebration of new life which it is meant to be. To take in the Easter celebration of new life without subjectively participating in the events memorialized on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday is like winning the prize without the race. It's like trying to wear the crown without having carried the cross. It sentimentalizes the great Easter celebration of new life by ignoring the weight of the sin and spiritual death that makes the Easter event so meaningful in the first place.

*From Trinity Times*

February 1986

Dear Friends in Christ:

On February 2 Bishop Anderson will be with us to celebrate the Eucharist, to receive Judy Doërr into the Episcopal Church, to fellowship at a potluck dinner, and to deliberate with us during our Annual Meeting. However, he comes also to share a dream, a vision, for the diocese and for our lives together in Madison as part of what has been called the Wider Area Ministries, or WAM. Simply put, it is a vision of a shared ministry between Madison, Flandreau and DeSmet, one born in the hearts of Bill Alexander of Brookings, Lola Boyd of Madison, the Sneves of Flandreau, only to name a few, and now has a chance of coming to fruition. What can that mean for us?

First, with financial support from all three communities and perhaps some help from the Diocese, there will be consistent full-time pastoral ministry and leadership again in Madison with adjunct support to Flandreau and DeSmet. Each congregation has potential for growth. It is important to determine what that growth can come from and then to bring those people into the church. That takes leadership; that takes planning; that takes a willing body of committed Christians to carry it off. It is not impossible. Look at DeSmet and the growth that has occurred there. Look at the commitment of Flandreau to the T.I.M.E. campaign.

Second, this is an opportunity to see ourselves as part of a larger community. As we struggle to keep the doors open Sunday after Sunday and to provide the bare essentials for worship and ministry, it is easy to forget that, in fact, Grace Church is part of a diocese that struggles to provide the necessary ministry to its people. In these days of crisis we no longer have the luxury of just taking care of our own. We, in fact, are being called to look beyond our own borders to behold the needs and wants of our brothers and sisters around us. One way that we can help is to join hands with those in other congregations who share the same vision, a vision whereby we pool our resources, our gifts and talents, our time and treasure--a networking, if you will--in common prayer, through word and sacrament, through praise of our God who will lead us into all truth.

The Wider Area Ministeries is a big vision, one that will challenge and stretch all of us. I encourage you to pray that the Lord will guide and direct all of us in the days ahead.

*Karen*

# Echo's from the Past



The first baby baptized in Grace Episcopal Church was a baby girl, named Gladys Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Murray. She was born October 25, 1890 and baptized on Easter Sunday, March 29, 1891. p. 42 Book #1

The first marriage recorded for Grace Episcopal Church was performed by Rev. Cleveland at the Rectory on February 26, 1890. The Marriage of William Blackie and Olivia Harper.

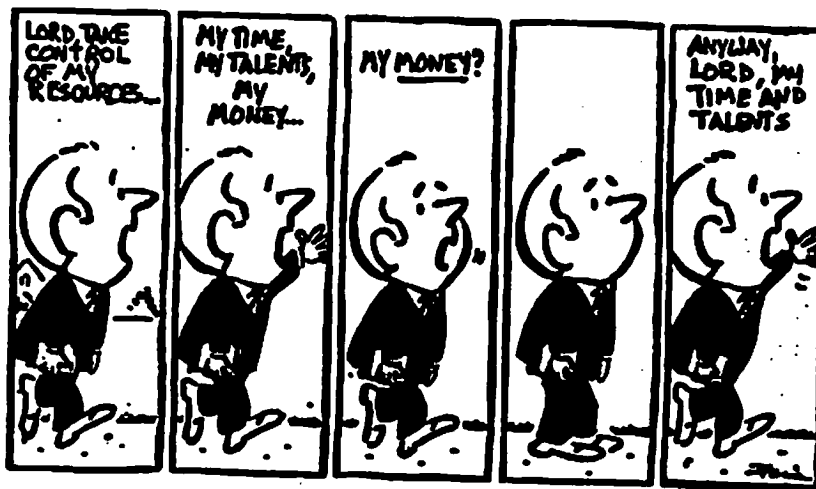
The first marriage performed in the new Grace Episcopal Church was for Leroy Seaton and Annie S. Boyd. Performed by Rev. Cleveland. p. 102 Book #1

The legal description of the lots secured for Grace Episcopal Church: S 1/2 of SE 1/4 Block 7 Kennedy's Extension, Madison, Dakota Territory.

Seating capacity of Grace Episcopal Church was 130 people. Services were held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month and on Friday evenings.

ONE STEP CLOSER

A meeting was held January 22, 1986 to discuss the possibility of a priest being placed at Grace Episcopal Church. Prior to this meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Hunter and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stewart had a meeting with Bishop Anderson to discuss this. Bishop Anderson indicated that the Diocese would be very supportive, both spiritually and financially, of placing a priest here. But we as members need to support ourselves and the Diocese in this by attending services regularly and pledging the best we can to show that we are willing to help in any way we can.



This was taken from the TRINITY TIMES:

Once upon a time there lived a wise old man. He lived a full and abundant life. Near the apparent end of his life in this world, his son made one of his many visits. During that particular visit, the son asked his father if he would give him something -- a symbol -- by which he could always remember him and who he was.

The father thought for a while and then pointed his son to the drawer of his desk where he would find a black book which was now his. The son found the black book and, upon opening it, discovered that he now had in his possession the stubs of his father's checkbook for the last several years. An obvious look of surprise and disappointment came over him, thinking that he had received something that was worthless.

But the wise old father went on to tell his son that what he had given to him was something of great value. For he said, "There in my stubs and cancelled checks, is the story of my life. It is the only autobiography I will ever write. It is the record of my hopes and dreams, my values and priorities. Those stubs of my cancelled checks contain the story of what I lived for; they are the story of my life."

Community and church are interchangeable. The local community is a church, and the universal church is a community. But in recent years we have heard more often the phrase "the community of the faithful." Implied in this phrase is the idea that being a Christian requires more than a commitment to Christ. It requires faithfulness to a community of believers who support one another and who are in communion with one another.

The Common Catechism states it this way: One can be a Christian and a believer only in community with others. That has always been the case. A person may reach his personal decision about faith in one of many different ways. But once that decision has been made, it can only be realized together with others. Even a person born into the community of the faithful, and who grows up in it as the basis of his family life and education, must later on decide for himself whether he believes, and hence whether he wants to join in the community and communal life in faith.

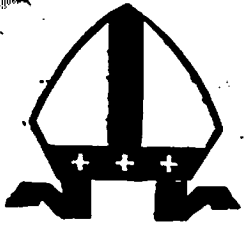
## REACH OUT AND REACH OTHERS - A PROGRAM OF MINISTRY

Here are some ideas on how we as members of the Church can help with the growth of the Church:

1. **TAKE THE POSITIVE APPROACH.** We are proud and happy to be Episcopalians. We do not need to be a bit apologetic about trying to bring unchurched people into our fold and into a closer relationship with God.
2. **BE AN INQUIRER.** Talk to every likely prospect, people you meet in business, newcomers to the neighborhood, your children's playmates' parents, people you meet at a gathering.
3. **ASK.** "Do you have a church to attend?" This is important phraseology. Most people will admit to a church, but multitudes do not attend. Remember: ninety percent of the people you talk to will not know nearly as much about the Episcopal Church as you do, even though you think that you know nothing.
4. **WHEN INTEREST IS SHOWN** make it clear from the start that you are an Episcopalian. Generally, people will start talking about religion right then. If interest is shown, don't just say "We hope you come some time." Say: " Good, can we pick up your family next Sunday? We'll help you get acquainted and assist you in following the service."



# Announcements



## **BISHOP'S VISITATION**

**February 2, 1986**

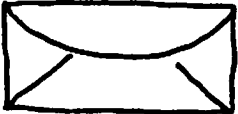
*Bishop Anderson will be here on Sunday February 2, 1986 for Holy Communion and for the Annual Meeting. There will be Pot luck Dinner following the service.*



## **PLANNING**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

*The Annual Meeting will be held on February 2, 1986 (Sunday). It will follow the service and the potluck meal.*



*Remember to pick up your offering envelopes for the 1986 year. Put your name on the envelopes so the treasurer will know whose they are.*

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**2 Merrill Hunter Holy Communion**  
**9 Kitty Brewer**  
**16 Beverly Hunter**  
**23 Rex Page**

### **ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

**2 Annie Brewer**  
**9 Ben Johnson**  
**16 Annie Brewer**  
**23 Ben Johnson**

### **LENTEN SERVICES**

**12 Merrill and Beverly Hunter**  
**19 Merrill and Beverly Hunter**  
**26 Kitty Brewer**



# FEBRUARY

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

							1
2 10:00 Sunday Sch 11:00 Holy Communion 12:00 Potluck 1:00 Annual Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9 10:00 Sunday Sch 11:00 Morning Prayer 12:00 Fellowship Coffee	10	11	12 7:00 Lenten Service Ash Wednesday Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Birthday Billy Reverts	15	
16 11:00 Morning Prayer 12:00 Coffee	17 Washington's Observed Birthday	18 Birthday Violet Witt	19 7:00 Lenten Service	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday	
23 10:00 Sunday Sch 11:00 Morning Prayer 12:00 Coffee	24 Birthday Janice Graham	25	26 7:00 Lenten Service	27	28 Birthday Richard Moose		

