

Alpha & Omega News Letter
Grace Episcopal Church
Three Hundred Six Northwest Third Street
Madison, South Dakota 57042
605-256-2325

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Lois J. Moose
Editor

Richard D. Moose
Founder

ALPHA 8 OMEGA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF
GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

REV. KAREN E. HALL
Priest in Charge
519 8th Street
Brookings, South Dakota 57006
1-692-2717
1-692-2617
256-2325



Distributed on the Last Sunday of the preceeding month

BISHOP'S VISITATION

On Feb. 1 the Rt. Rev. Craig Anderson visited Grace Church. While here, he confirmed Jennifer Rethorn and performed some reaffirmations. Rev. Anderson also explained about the possibility of moving the Cathedral to All Saints. The reason given was the lack of space. This move would preserve the past and look to the future. He termed this the "Cathedral on the move!"

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A THANK YOU

Rev. Brian Gentz visited Grace Church one Sunday and thanked us on the behalf of St. John Lutheran Church for allowing them the privilege of allowing the Ordination to be held at their Church. He said that it was the "Highlight of the Year" and "We were blessed in many ways." He also reported a few comments that Episcopal's knew how to say "AMEN" with excitement and belief.

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CONGRATULATIONS

TO JENNIFER RETHORN on her Confirmation and becoming a member of Grace Episcopal Church. Feb. 1 was the very special and important day and we were very happy to share it with her.

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CANDLE

The Sunday School designed a candle to show the different symbols they are learning. To find out what each symbol means ask the members of the Sunday School. The symbols found on the candle are: Baptism, Three Kings and Gifts, the Star of Bethlehem, Scroll, Candle, Dove, and the Sermon on the Mount.

Thank you Sunday School for sharing this with us.

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For the World Day of Prayer each Church is asked to donate 5 dozen cookies and bars. If you would like to donate any of these please contact Janice Johnson. This is for March 6.

VISIONS OF A VICAR

Lent. A strange bleak season in the Church year and a strange bleak season in the midst of the bleakness of winter. We are not so bad off this year with the teasing of spring for the last number of weeks, but still, even with the warming air, the ground is brown--all is brown and bleak. And now Lent. From one Sunday to the next--from the Transfiguration of our Lord to Ash Wednesday--all in three days. I don't know about you, but I have trouble making that transition, and yet perhaps, that is part of the drama of the Christian year, and maybe that radical switch in mood is reflective of our lives. The hills and valleys of being a human being--despair and joy; war and peace; hate and love; death and resurrection.

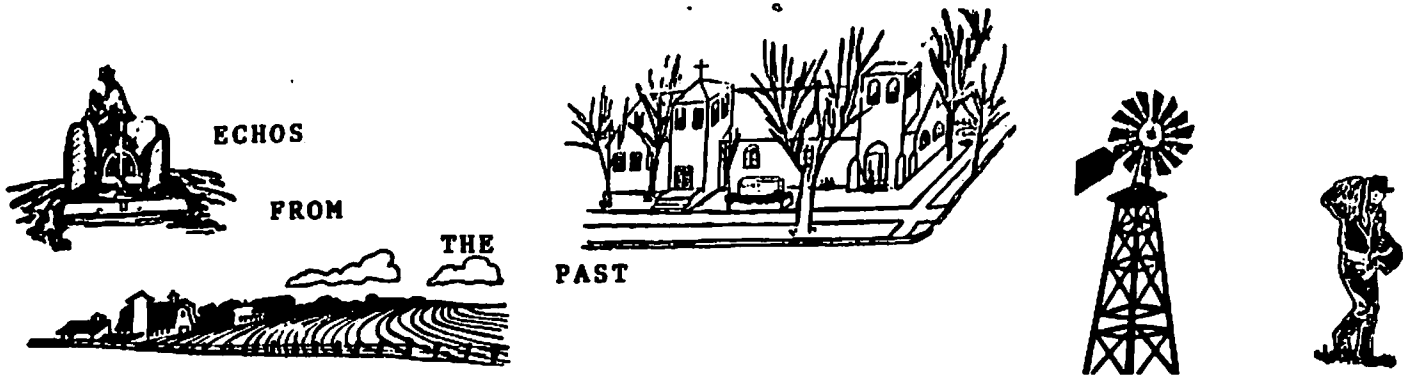
Part of our tradition is to make lists of what we will give up for Lent--smoking, overeating, no booze, and on and on. Generally those lists are filled with activities that we probably ought to give up anyway. Smoking is bad for our health and overeating leads to heart disease. It occurs to me that if what we are giving up is bad, it should be given up once and for all and not for forty days and forty nights. Perhaps there is value in giving up something which in itself is good, as an offering of love. Perhaps we need to do something positive, rather than something negative, in these wintry weeks of Lent. The horror of starvation all over the world makes a moderate diet obligatory in all seasons of the year.

What does it mean to give up something that in itself is good? My life these days is out of control. I have a schedule that is far more demanding than I ever realized it could be. And if I am not vigilant, I could spend all my time doing all those good things that the Lord calls each of us to do--visit the sick, read the Bible, be involved in those community activities that help the poor and the destitute, share the vision, and enable the ministry of the church, be the sacramental, pastoral, liturgical and all-around spiritual coach for three congregations who seek the vision of the Lord's will in each place. All of the above are good in themselves, but what about the other "goods?" Family, recreation, contemplation, silence. How do I fit those into a good and busy schedule? And I suspect that each of you has a common litany. How do you fit into an ordinary day all those "goods" that you are called to do? How often I hear, "I'm really busy!"

I challenge you to consider that this Lent be a time for choosing between the "goods" of our lives. That requires prayer and hard decisions. For to give up a "good" is far more difficult than to give up the bad things in our lives. Those are obvious and if we are to be stewards of what has been given to us by God--that is, our life, our bodies, our talents, our abilities to work and be a productive in our world--then God will give us the grace and the power to do that. But to prioritize the "goods" is a whole other matter. I need to reorganize my schedule so that there is more time for my family and more time to study and read. Others may need to do less at work and more in the church. Others may need to spend less time at home and more time in outreach to the poor and lonely. It will be different for all of us, but the grace to do it is within our reach.

And whatever we do, whether it is to give up something or take on something else, we are called in this Lenten season to encounter God as the crucified Lord; the cross lingers always in the background. We are called inward to behold who we really are and to respond to the cry of Jesus, "Repent and believe, for the Kingdom of God is here." We begin a journey of temptation, betrayal, death. This journey leads us to the cross, where a man hangs assuming our guilt and sin. This journey leads us also to resurrection. It is a journey of darkness and wild beasts, but also a journey of hope. Let us then observe a holy Lent.

Kenn⁺



ECHOS

FROM

THE

PAST

 Echos From The Past
 is from the history of GRACE CHURCH MADISON

THE YEAR'S OF THE 1950's

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>BAPTISMS</u>	<u>CONFIRMATIONS</u>	<u>MARRIAGES</u>	<u>BISHOP</u>	<u>PRIEST</u>
1950	8	3	1	Rt. Rev. Conrad Gesner	Alex McBeth
1951	1	3	0	Blair Roberts	Gordon Rath
1952	16	16	0	Blair Roberts	Gordon Rath
1953	1	2	0	Conrad Gesner	Gordon Rath
1954	2	4	2	Conrad Gesner	Bruce Swain
1955	12	6	1	Conrad Gesner	Bruce Swain
1956	7	4	1	Conrad Gesner	Bruce Swain
1957	8	11	0	Conrad Gesner	Bruce Swain
1958	8	4	1	Conrad Gesner	Bruce Swain
1959	5	6	0	Conrad Gesner	Bruce Swain
TOTAL	68	59	6		

The year's of the 50's were very good years for the growth and well being of the Church. No new register was available for the total members - just the new confirmations added.

DID YOU KNOW
 That Madison has a religious store!



THE SHEPHERD SHOP
 CHRISTIAN BOOKS, BIBLES, CARDS
 GIFTS AND MUSIC

LOIS PALMQUIST
 (605) 256-9594

114 W. CENTER
 MADISON, S.D. 57042

Grace Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
Sun., Jan. 18, 1987

Following an 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion service, there followed a pancake breakfast and annual meeting.

Mother Karen Hall called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Lois Moose and second by Warner Boyd to reelect the existing Bishop's Committee. Motion carried.

An announcement was made by Hall that Warner Boyd has resigned from the Bishop's Committee. Hall thanked him for all his work, and the congregation responded with a round of applause.

Hall also thanked Ruby Stewart for all her work as treasurer of the church, and the congregation again responded with a round of applause.

Motion by Fred Stewart and second by Cory Wrobel to elect Richard Moose as Junior Warden from the Bishop's Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Hall recognized and thanked Lois and Richard Moose for all they do for the church, from producing and printing the Alpha and Omega to working on the church's physical plant. There followed another round of applause.

The 1987 annual Diocesan convention will be held in Rapid City on Thurs., Fri. and Sat., Oct. 8-9-10. The delegates selected -- we think we are entitled to two this year -- are also delegates to the Eastern Region. No one volunteered for the assignment, but Fred and Ruby Stewart are thinking about it.

Hall wanted some feedback on the portable altar. The altar is on loan from St. Paul's in Brookings, and we have been trying it out for two months. The consensus of the group was that everyone likes it. Motion by Johnson and second by Bev Hunter to look into a permanent portable altar. Motion carried. Further discussion on this was tabled until after the budget discussion.

The budget as recommended by the Bishop's Committee was presented. Much discussion occurred on specific items and what use could be made of the building fund money in Sioux Falls. Specifically, we decided to eliminate some of the current expenses in the following ways. Mike Ragsdale has volunteered to mow the lawn -- Janice Johnson said that Larry Johnson would continue to be responsible for snow removal -- the Guild will organize families to take turns

at church cleaning -- and Janice Johnson will make a sign-up list of supplies for the church and Sunday school.

The Diocesan pledge is up to \$1600.00 this year, and we should consider this the Bishop's challenge to us.

On another item on the budget -- \$72.00 for ChurchNews -- it was suggested that each member pay his own \$3.00 subscription fee, thus eliminating this expense on the budget. Each member can give his money to the treasurer.

Hall stated that the diocese is giving us a lease on life for the next two years in the form of a UTO Grant. We can look at the budget as money spent or as a plan for the ministry. Hall challenges each of us to look at our own stewardship and to increase our 1987 pledge.

Hall spoke of patterns for growth in our parish. She said that Fr. Pat Generaux will be at our next Bishop's Committee meeting on Feb. 19 to talk about growth. Everyone from the parish is urged to attend.

Hall also wants us to have a "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday." She said that 85% of new Episcopalians come because they are invited.

Motion by George DeLay and second by Janice Johnson that we do our own religious survey. Motion carried.

Motion by Rex Page and second by Fred Stewart to accept the 1987 budget as amended -- minus the mowing, cleaning, printing/supplies and ChurchNews -- which would give us a projected deficit of \$3,010.00, based on no growth. Motion carried.

Motion by Hal Rethorn and second by Richard Moose to accept Grace's 1986 Financial Statement, prepared by treasurer Ruby Stewart, and ECJ's 1986 Financial Report, as prepared by Violet Witt. Motion carried.

An announcement was made by Hall about a workshop in Valley City, N. Dak. on Mar. 13, 14 and 15 on evangelism in small mission congregations. Hall would encourage anyone interested to attend.

Hall also thanked Kitty Brewer and Janice Johnson for their work in the Sunday school, as well as all of the acolytes and layreaders for their efforts throughout the year. She gave a special thank you to her own family for their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Brewer

Katherine T. Brewer
Clergy

Bishop's Committee
Thurs., Jan. 15, 1987

Senior Warden Merrill Hunter called the meeting to order at the church at 7:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Brewer, Hall, Hunter, Johnson, Moose, Rethorn, Stewart, Wrobel (8)

ABSENT: Boyd, DeLay, Page (3)

The proposed budget for 1987 was distributed, and there was much discussion on how to meet the projected deficit. Hunter said that we would probably have to use some of our rectory fund money invested in Sioux Falls at the Diocesan Office.

Hall said that we could look at more positive approaches to our deficit. Firstly, of course, is an increase in pledges by the parishioners. Secondly, we should look toward evangelism and bringing in more people. We face a challenge towards moving to parish status. Hall feels there is much potential for the three parishes in Madison, Flandreau and DeSmet, and we are at a place now where we must make decisions about the future. Are we willing to make the commitment in time, talent and money for the hard work that is necessary for growth?

Hunter said that we should look on 1987 as an investment in the future rather than as an expense. Our small but loyal band cannot meet the pledge that the diocese has set out for us in 1988 and 1989, but we are hoping that our ranks will grow in our present situation.

Moose made several comments about the church and its potential for growth. He felt we should adopt the budget and work from there.

The budget, as prepared by Rethorn and Stewart, was studied carefully, and some changes and revisions were made. There was much discussion on what items we could eliminate through parishioners giving of their time and donating specific items. Some of the budget items which fell into this category were mowing, cleaning, cleaning supplies and office supplies. It was felt that these items could be eliminated, but we shall leave them on and discuss them at the annual meeting.

Motion by Hunter and second by Rethorn to adopt the budget as amended as a plan for ministry. Motion carried.

Hall suggested that we ask for donations to pay for a babysitter at the Sunday service.

Hall announced that she will be gone the following Sundays:

Jan. 25 -- annual meeting in Flandreau
Feb. 22 -- services at Good Shepherd in Sioux Falls
Feb. 8 -- vacation Sunday

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine T. Brewer

Katherine T. Brewer
Clerk

LENTEN SERVICES AND STUDY

For our Lenten observance this year we will be viewing the video of the TV production of Jesus of Nazareth. Each Wednesday, beginning on March 11, we will begin our evenings with Evening Prayer at 7:30pm conducted by our lay readers, and then see approximately a one hour segment of this series following the service. All members of the congregation, including the children, are encouraged to attend.

Jesus of Nazareth was filmed on location in Israel and is based principally on the Gospel According to Matthew, though the producer took some liberty in incorporating material from the other gospels. On the whole, this series is reasonably faithful to the gospel message. Starting with the Annunciation of Mary and finishing after the Resurrection, this series is probably the best media rendition of the life of Jesus that is available.

March 4: Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion at 7:30
Lay Reader: Kitty Brewer

Lessons: Joel 2:1-2,12-17
Psalm 103
2 Cor. 5:20b--6:10
Matthew 6:1-6,16-21



Officiants for Evening Prayer:

March 11: Merrill Hunter

Lessons: Psalm 49
Genesis 37:25-36
John 2:23--3:15

March 18: Beverly Hunter

Lessons: Psalm 119:73-96
Genesis 42:18-28
John 5:1-18
Collect: For St. Joseph

March 25: Kitty Brewer

Lessons: Psalm 110:1-7
Isaiah 52:7-12
John 1:9-14
Collect: The Annunciation



Items for the Calendar

March 4: Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes: 8pm

March 6: Eastern Deanery Retreat at Cathedral

March 11: Lenten service and study: 7:30pm
Officiant at Evening Prayer: Merrill Hunter

March 18: Lenten service and study: 7:30pm
Officiant at Evening Prayer: Beverly Hunter

March 19: Bishop's Committee at 7:30pm

March 25: Feast of the Annunciation: Service at 7:30pm
Officiant at Evening Prayer: Kitty Brewer
Lenten Study at 8pm

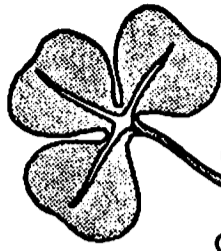
MARCH

Remember Lenten Services
this month.

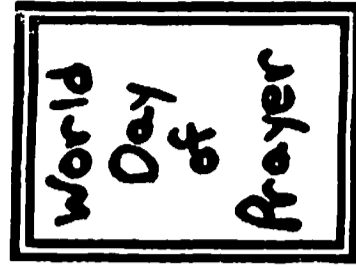
March 6 World Day of Prayer
2:00
First Baptist Church

March 20-22 Workshop on
Small Churches

March 17 ECW
Home of Myrtle Newcomb



St. Patrick's Day



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAURDAY
1:00 Sun School :00 Holy Communion :00 Coffee	2	3	4 Ash Wednesday 7:30 Holy Communion Birthday - Beverly Hunter	5	6 9:30 Bible Study 2:00 World Day of Prayer Eastern Deanery Retreat	7
3:00 Sun School :00 Holy Communion :00 Coffee	9 Birthday - Hazel Moose	10	11 7:30 Evening Prayer	12	13 9:30 Bible Study	14
5:00 Sun School :00 Holy Communion :00 Coffee	16	17 4:00 ECW	18 7:30 Evening Prayer Birthday - Dean Stillson	19 7:30 Bishop's Committee Meeting	20 9:30 Bible Study Workshop on Small Churches	21 Valley City, ND
2:00 Sun School :00 Holy Communion :00 Coffee	23	24 Birthday - Tom Campbell	25 7:30 Feast of Annunciation	26	27 9:30 Bible Study	28
7:00 Sun School :00 Holy Communion :00 Coffee	30	31				

THE DAYS OF LENT

Easter is a holy day which differs from all others because it is preceded by a preparation time of forty days. This time is known as Lent. The name is believed to have come from the word *Langten-tid*, Anglo-saxon for Springtime. *Langten-tid* meant a "lengthening time" or a time when the days were growing longer. The period of Lent does not include Sundays. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Holy Saturday.

Lent is a time of fasting, set aside by the Christian Church in memory of the forty days of fasting by Christ before His Crucifixion.

At the time of the early history of the Christian Church, the Lenten period was set aside as a time of penitence and fasting. The first day, Ash Wednesday, was held to be particularly solemn. Long years ago, at the beginning of the sixth century, Pope Gregory I set the time for the start of Lent as Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday in Protestant churches is observed in various ways, but for all church members it is a time of meditation and prayer.

Words to understand that refer to Lent :

Shrove Tuesday	(in England - Pancake Day)	
Mardi Gras	(week before Lent)	
Ash Wednesday	(ashes from palms)	
Palm Sunday		
Holy Thursday	(Maundy Thursday)	Special Foods of Easter
Good Friday		Pretzels "little arms" (5th. Century)
Easter Sunday		Hot Cross Buns (England)
		Easter Eggs (decorated)

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