

THE BELL TOWER

March - 2011

Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. (Mt 5: 39-41)

In his Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5: 1 – 7:29*), Jesus presents many counter-intuitive ideas such as those in the above passage. As part of my study for understanding how to apply these gospel readings in our lives today, I was struck by how similar many of Mahatma Gandhi's writings from the early 1900's were to Jesus' sermon. While I shared some those findings in a Sunday sermon, there is much more that is still applicable to the 21st century. Gandhi hoped very much that India could become a united and independent country, in which all religions and cultures would live together in peace and mutual respect. But he realized that was not necessarily the natural way that society ordered itself. So he identified society's "seven sins" that keep it from including all people and fostering a culture of equality.

Mahatma Gandhi's Seven Social Sins

Wealth Without Work
Pleasure Without Conscience
Knowledge Without Character
Commerce (Business) Without Morality (Ethics)
Science Without Humanity
Religion Without Sacrifice
Politics Without Principle

Jim Wallis, a well known evangelical Christian writer and spokesperson, recently wrote a book titled *Rediscovering Values: On Wall Street, Main Street, and Your Street -- A Moral Compass for the New Economy*. He uses Gandhi's seven social sins as part of his proposal for a more compassionate and ethical American culture. Wallis says, "The book suggests we have been asking the wrong question: 'When will the economic crisis end?' It seeks to replace that with the right question: 'How will this crisis change us?' The book is about the moral recovery which must accompany the economic recovery, and suggests that we must not go back to business as usual; rather, we need a new normal. My new book is about the values questions that are at the heart of how we got into this crisis, and are critical to getting us out of it."

I invite us all to pray and contemplate ways in which our church can help bring Christian values back into the American culture of the 21st century.

May God bless us and keep us always,
Paul+

FROM OUR NEW SENIOR WARDEN

I just want to say how honored I am that Father Paul has asked me to serve as Senior Warden. I feel privileged, blessed and humbled to be entrusted with this important position. But mix in there an element of surprise. Serving as Senior Warden was not something that had even crossed my mind when I got a phone call from Father Paul asking me to serve. To say I was caught off guard would be an understatement. I must admit that the first reaction was “Say What?”. After much prayerful consideration I was led to accept.

The Senior Warden is selected by the Rector from the Vestry members, and is known as the “Rector’s Warden.” Some of the most important Senior Warden responsibilities are to support and assist the Rector; to pray daily for the Rector; to meet regularly with the Rector to review the life and work of the congregation, plan ahead, anticipate and resolve problems; to be available to discuss any and all concerns with Rector; and to identify the vision, mission and goals of the congregation, make and implement plans, assess progress and celebrate achievements.

I have been a member of Grace Church for more than 30 years, but there have been huge gaps in my involvement with Grace and there are huge variations in the amount I have given to Grace over the years. In the past I have been Junior Warden, Senior Warden, and Director of Religious Education. I have also served on the Worship Committee, Stewardship Committee, Capital Campaign Committee and as an officer for ECW. But like I said there have been many gaps in there – some as long as 5 years when I had no involvement with Grace or any other church.

This leads me to what I feel will be the most important goal for me as Senior Warden. How are we going to go about rebuilding our congregation? How are we going to get someone like me back through the doors of Grace Church? Once attending church is no longer a priority what can we do to get someone back? And then what are we going to do to get new people through our red door and ultimately to become new members of Grace? How are we going to make Grace the center of our church community? I am looking forward to the opportunity to discuss ways we can accomplish these goals.

Some of my responsibilities as Senior Warden include meeting with congregational leaders and members and to pray daily for the concerns of the congregation. I ask that you recognize that one of the gifts we can give each other as a church family is our prayers for one another and that prayer can touch us as nothing else can. Please continue to pray for our Rector, and for your Senior Warden, and for each other.

Yours in Christ,
JUDY WEBB



Christian Ed: We will be studying the life of Jesus as he prepares for his ministry. Since Easter is late this year, we have the time to continue with the Old Testament and the Ten Commandments as an example of how to treat others in our daily lives. Hopefully, we will begin our older student class this month. Thank you so much for all the gifts we are receiving from the Silk Purse.



Community of Hope

Community of Hope International (COHI) lay chaplain training begins March 22, from 5:30 to 8:30 in Jinkins Hall, Grace Episcopal Church, 1115 36th St., Galveston.

The program is usually on Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks, and the final class will be May 31st.

The training helps to awaken God's call on your life. It enables you to discover your spiritual gifts and teaches you to be a "compassionate listener."

Men and women of all denominations and faiths are invited to request an application for the training class. You will need the recommendation of your pastor or priest, so please discuss this with him or her before applying.

COHI lay chaplains have been trained in Galveston County since 1997, and this is the first class offered since Ike. The 14 modules are taught by experienced, trained persons. The training equips you to serve in congregations, hospitals, hospice, nursing homes or wherever there is a crisis or need in the community.

Contact: The Rev. Paul Wehner – 409-762-9676
or The Rev. Helen Appelberg – 409-789-1070.

From Ella Anderson

Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you - more than, I can say for the beautiful Robert Mihovil photograph of our precious church. There is nothing I could've wanted to take away with me more to commemorate what all of you have meant to me all these years- unless I could've taken all of you away with me!

Please know that I love all of you and you have touched my life in a way that time and distance will never affect. You will live in my heart and in my prayers always.

With much love,
Ella A.

Lenten Prayer Services at St. Vincent's House

Please join us for Morning Prayer in the Chapel at St. Vincent's House, 2817 Alfreda Houston Pl (Postoffice St.), every Monday - Friday beginning at 8 AM, March 14. Prayer leaders will be:

- Monday- The Rev. Paul Wehner, Grace Episcopal Church
- Tuesday- Pastor Derrell Smith, Galilee UMC
- Wednesday- Michael Jackson, St. Vincent's
- Thursday- The Rev. David Green, 1st Presbyterian Church
- Friday- The Rev. John Riley UTMB Chaplain

There will also be a Quiet Time Out (QTO) on Saturday's from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. QTO is a time of silent meditation and prayer. The Rite of Reconciliation will be offered as well. For more details or to volunteer to lead Morning Prayer please contact Michael Jackson at 409 763-8521. Wishing you a blessed Lent, *Michael*



Women of Grace

You're Invited!

Saturday, March 26, 2011
10:30 a.m.
1805 Bayou Shore Drive
(Home of Nancy Mafrige)

Join your Grace friends at our first (this year) ECW meeting. This is an opportunity for us to share food, fellowship and program ideas for the coming months. It will be a morning of fun - surprises and door prizes!

A Few Hymns for those who Speed on the Highway

45 mph	God Will Take Care of You
65 mph	Nearer My God to Thee
85 mph	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	Precious Memories

2011 LENTEN SERIES
GRACE CHURCH AND ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 16 – APRIL 13

GRACE CHURCH – hosting Wednesdays', March 16, March 30, April 13
 ST. AUGUSTINE'S hosting: Wednesdays' March 23, April 6

EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 PM– STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND HOLY COMMUNION (IN THE CHURCH)

6:45 - 7:30 PM– FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP (IN PARISH HALL),

7:30 - 8:30– TEACHING AND DISCUSSION

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is a time for self examination and spiritual growth and as such can be a powerful agent for change in our lives. Many of us want to change, but we struggle to let go of our thoughts and feelings of anger and hurt and despair.

Although it has been more than two years since Hurricane Ike devastated our island home, some of us still have lingering side effects of that trauma. Lack of concentration, memory problems, feeling emotionally numb, weight gain, lack of energy, sleeplessness and irritability are all symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. This Lent we are going to utilize our recovery from Hurricane Ike as the background for developing spiritually healthy responses to grief and trauma. Even if you feel that you are past the "Ike trauma," it should be very helpful to reflect on your emotional path since September of 2008, and to learn more about how our faith in God and our participation in a faith community can be such important factors in recovery from tragedy.

Come join together to support each other as we enter the desert journey Lent. We have a gifted group of speakers scheduled to share their knowledge and experiences with us.

Wednesday, March 16 – **Reality: What Happened?**

Presenter: Rev. Clay Thomas, Sr. Pastor, Galveston Bible Church. Clay is also a Captain in the Army Reserves and Brigade Chaplain.

Wednesday, March 23 – **Response: What Did You Do?**

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg, UTMB Fellow and Associate Priest at Grace Church.

Wednesday, March 30 – **Relationship: Finding God and Community**

Presenter: Rev. Gena Davis, Associate Rector of Holy Trinity in Baytown. Gena is also a Spiritual Director and a Benedictine Oblate with the World Community for Christian Meditation.

Wednesday, April 6 – **Renewal: A Rule of Life for Spiritual, Physical and Mental Health**

Presenters: Fr. Peter Funk and Br. Michael Gallagher of the Holy Cross (Benedictine) Monastery in Beaumont, TX.

Wednesday, April 13 – **Redemption: The Peace that Passes All Understanding**

Presenters: The Covenant Players, a group of young people who use live drama to convey the gospel message.

Time to order flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday, April 24

We will be doing the flowers as we did last year...Along with the lilies there will be a variety of other plants (azaleas and caladiums). The cost will be the same \$15 per plant, and we will only have the exact number ordered. You may take your plant home the week after Easter. The variety will be chosen based on the number of plants ordered. You will only be able to order a plant and not designate the variety, so that we can have an even distribution for the altar. **The deadline to order is Sunday, April 17.** It is important that you get your order in by this date so we can get the count to Galveston Wreath. Thank you. Below is the order form. You may drop this form with payment in the alms basin on Sundays or mail/deliver to the church office.

I would like to order _____ plants to the Glory of God and in

Thanksgiving _____

Memory of _____

Celebration of _____

Given by _____

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY OF OUR COMMUNITY

Don't forget your non-perishable food item for St. Vincent's Food Pantry. A St. Vincent's box is located at the back of the church for food items, or you can make a monetary donation -- just place your check or cash in one of the pew envelopes, marked "Hunger Fund" and drop it into the offering plate.



The Daughters of the King met with Father Paul at last month's meeting. He let us know how important prayer is to him and his work at the church and how much he depends on the Daughters to be his Prayer Warriors. We will begin writing notes to visitors who come on Sunday service when they leave their address. We are also assuming the responsibility for planning for refreshments to be provided at funerals. We welcome new members to the

Daughters. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 6th following the church service. Judy Ricketts

PREPARATION FOR LENT

Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday, March 9, with services at 12 Noon and 6 pm. A light supper follows the evening service. This is the beginning service for the Wednesday night services held each Wednesday in Lent.

Why "ASH" Wednesday?

A good question. Traditionally the Church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination.

Lent begins with *Ash Wednesday*. Why *Ash*? It is because ashes historically have had a dual significance: self-abasement and a reminder of our mortality. In the Old Testament, sackcloth and ashes were symbols of sadness and abasement. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, moaned out his despair on the ash heap.

We need not go that far in our day, but honest people realize that they are sinners and have much about which to be humble. However, in totaling up our liabilities, let's not forget our assets. To be blind to our good qualities and abilities and blessings is to be guilty of ingratitude. As the old hymn has it, "*Account your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*"

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is that of a reminder of our mortality. Each of us is going to die physically some day. So, let us live this life on earth as unselfishly as we can, and prepare to meet our Lord in the realm of Eternal Life. It begins here and now, as we have faith in Christ. It is completed in heaven.

Donald S. Armentrout

THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. All churches that have a continuous history extending before 1500 AD observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

Why 40 Days?

...Because forty days is a traditional number of discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible. Thus Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty days (*Exodus 24:18 and 34:28*), the spies were in the land for forty days (*Numbers 13:25*), Elijah traveled forty days before he reached the cave where he had his vision (*1 Kings 19:8*), Nineveh was given forty days to repent (*Jonah 3:4*), and most importantly, prior to undertaking his ministry, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness praying and fasting (*Matthew 4:2*).

Jesus used a forty day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for his ministry, which culminated in his death and resurrection. Therefore, it is fitting for Christians to imitate him with a forty day period of prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration of his ministry's climax, Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion) and Easter Sunday (the day of the resurrection).

BELL TOWERS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE!

Follow the link on our website: gracechurchgalveston.org to go paperless.
Please contact the church office if you prefer to discontinue receiving the Bell Tower by mail.

Night Prayers

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
For it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

**Let us bless the Earth-Maker, the Pain-Bearer, the
Life-Giver,**

Let us praise and exalt God above all forever.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
Glorified and exalted above all forever.

Lord it is night. The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done; what has not been
done has not been done; let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of darkness of the world and of our own
lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to
a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

CRAB TRAP CLEANUP

A little news from Rhonda Cummins...

The news this month is the 2011 Crab Trap Cleanup February 19-28. For those of you in Calhoun County you might want to consider helping out from the Port O' Connor area (details below) and for other areas of the state, see the attached flyer for contact numbers

According to Norman Boyd, the Big Party will be February 19th, weather permitting. We are planning for the same sites as last year: Charlie's at the end of Lane Road where Neal and Karen Gray have graciously allowed us to use a corner of their parking lot in years past, and the TPWD docks in Port O' Connor at Maple and 16th Streets. As in past years there will also be many other sites in other bay systems. We will have gloves and bottled water donated by CCA, tarps donated by the Corpus Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and hooks left over from previous years.

This will be the 10th year for the official abandoned trap removal efforts. So far we have removed 27,562 traps coast wide. The San Antonio Bay system has accounted for 8,699 of that total.

Rhonda D. Cummins '08
Coastal & Marine Resources Agent
Calhoun County

Contemplative Prayer

Practice your new resolution to put Sabbath time in your week!

Grace Church hosts a contemplative prayer/Christian meditation group in the chapel on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm led by Bill Noble. We start with a weekly reading from the World Community Meditation, then meditate for twenty minutes, then have a brief period of questions and discussion. All baptized Christians have the capacity for contemplative prayer/meditation through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Please come to the chapel on Tuesdays for a quiet hour of prayer and meditation. If you have questions, call Bill Noble at 409-939-8099 or talk to Rev. Helen.

The Concert

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out – “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

At the moment, the great piano master made his entrance, he quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy’s ear: “Don’t quit.” “Keep playing.” Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child, and he added a running obbligato.

Together, the old master and the young novice transformed what could have been a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn’t recall what else the great master played. Only the classic “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

Perhaps that’s the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren’t always graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life’s work can truly be beautiful.

The next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You may hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, “Don’t quit.” “Keep playing.”

May you feel His arms around you and know that His hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Remember God doesn’t seem to call the equipped, rather, He equips the ‘called.’ Life is more accurately measured by the lives you touch than by the things you acquire. So touch someone by passing this little message along

May God bless you and be with you always!

Happy Birthday!

3/2	Martie Barillas Ed & Juliet Russell
3/3	Elizabeth Bridges
3/4	Mildred Cain
3/5	Beth Anderson
3/8	Gary Auzston
3/12	Nancy Provenzano
3/13	Richard Betts David Uhrbrock
3/15	Kyle Carranza
3/16	Debra Criss
3/17	Jon Carman Holden Rhymes
3/20	Hannah Willey
3/27	Mary Jones
3/31	George Gould

Happy Anniversary!

3/17	Pat & T.W. Bevil
3/18	Denise & Jeff Graham



**Move your clocks forward 1 hour!
Saturday night, March 12th**

GOOD NEST & MARCY

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week?'

Do you know her? Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.'

The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

Upcoming Events

**Friday, March 4, 7-9 PM- Graceful Gatherers @ Bob & Julie Green's,
11 Colony Park Circle, Galveston (713 851-4252)**

Wednesday, March 9—Ash Wednesday; Services at 12:00 noon and 6:00 PM.
Evening service followed by Soup & Salad meal.

Saturday, March 12- Change your clocks forward 1 hour

Wednesday, March 16 @ 6:00 PM— Lenten Teaching Series begins

Friday, April 1— Graceful Gatherers at a location to be announced.

Saturday, April 9 @ 9:00 AM— Spring Church Cleaning Day!

Thursday, April 14 @ 5:30 PM in Jinkins Hall— Making Palm Crosses.

Sunday, April 17— Palm Sunday; Holy Week begins.

Thursday, April 21 @ 6:00 PM— Maundy Thursday service, followed by all-night
prayer vigil in the Chapel.

Friday, April 22 @ noon— Good Friday service at 12:00 noon with Stations of the
Cross

Sunday, April 24— Easter Sunday! Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

2011 FOUNDATION BOARD

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Peggy Baldwin-Clayton

Kenny Wegner

Leslie Watts

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2011 VESTRY

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Vickie Robertson, Clerk- 986-1195

John McCulley, Jr. Warden- 632-0125

Dan Ricketts- 795-0460

Carol Ramirez- 740-2029

Derek Paget-Clarke- 737-2091

William Jones- 935-1148

TREASURER— Derek Paget-Clarke- 737-2091

CHANCELLOR— Jeff Kilgore— 935-5564

RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner- 766-0088



THE BELL TOWER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1115 36TH STREET
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550
409 762-9676

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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