



Grace Happenings

is published 10 times @ year
by
Grace Lutheran Church
1930 Hillside Ave.
Niskayuna NY 12309
518-372-0244

Grace Lutheran Church is an inclusive community grounded in the love of God and committed to welcoming all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age or physical ability. We encourage all people to share in thoughtful worship, relevant education, and service through faith in action.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/5 Karen Hosmer
- 1/7 JoAnn Koenig-Hagymas
- 1/8 Don Faulkner
- 1/10 Ellen Cash
- 1/17 Chris Tobiessen
- 1/19 Joanne Augstein-Collins
- 1/20 Dennis Perham
- 1/24 Cynthy Nimmer



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New Church Directories are in the Narthex.

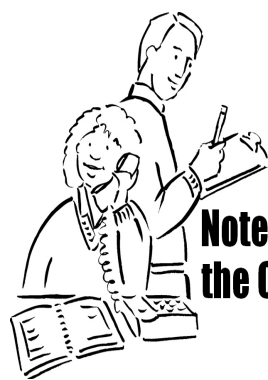
Please check YOUR entry and make sure it is correct. Dave Halverson checked his.....and there are a couple of corrections needed.

Please make these corrections in your copy:

HALVERSON, David (last name spelling)

Email address: thalverson@nycap.rr.com

Thank you!



Notes from the Office



JANUARY 2012

HAPPENINGS

FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor:

REV. DANIEL B. HAHN

Organist and Choir Dir

PAUL MOTTO

Admin. Asst. and Newsletter Editor:

KAYE WERGEDAL

Email:

office@graceniska.org

Web site:

www.graceniska.org

As I was thinking of New Year's resolutions this week I remembered one of Herb Gardner's most famous "Nebbish" cartoons from the 1950's: As the photo shows, Gardner's cartoon was made into a mini-poster. As a kid, I used to see it hanging in a lot of places, from neighbors' dens to walls behind cash registers. Well, next week is next year as I write, and I do resolve to get organized.



I do so resolve because from time to time – especially toward the end of busy seasons such as Advent and Lent – my desk looks up at me through all the clutter and mutters "Hey, man, what have you done to me?" So I organize. And it is a cleansing feeling when I'm done.

Through my years of purging disorder from my surroundings, so to speak, I've discovered two voices of motivation. One is the inner parent. The other is the inner artist. The inner parent is a scold, and says "What's the matter with you? Pick up this mess! Now! Are you listening?" The inner artist is an enticer, and says "Ooh. Imagine how pleasant this place would be if you moved this here and put that there!"

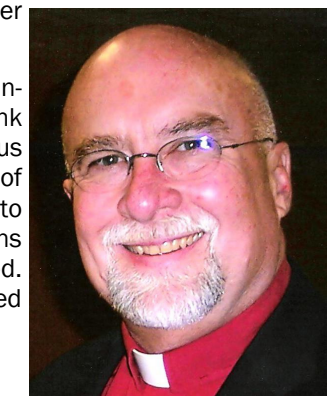
Guess which voice I'd rather listen to.

Now if two inner voices try to motivate me, I suppose both might come out from time to time. I prefer to bring out my inner artist, especially when it comes to getting spiritually organized. The essence of getting spiritually organized really is "Ooh. Imagine how pleasant this would be" – even if the task may seem arduous.

The traditional term for getting internally spiritually organized is "discipline," and to the word "discipline" most people say "ugh!" Yet the fruits of daily prayer, Bible reading, and meditation are inner peace and resilience. Imagine how pleasant this inner space could be.

I propose that a good term for getting externally spiritually organized is "hospitality." It begins with our worship, and I'd like to think of worship as a party in honor of God's love in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we all know, setting up an impeccable party is a lot of work – but isn't it worth it? Everyone is happy and the joy wants to burst out the doors. And a party it is – we may not have balloons but we have candles, and singing, and cake! Everyone's invited. And everyone's invited to carry the joy to every corner where need or hurt exists.

Joy to the world! Enjoy!



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ANNUAL MEETING – JAN. 22, 2012

IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO ATTEND!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 22, 2012. It is an *important event* in the life of Grace Lutheran Church, and we hope everyone in our congregation will be there!

A Potluck Lunch will follow. Please bring your own place-settings, so we have a minimum of set-up and clean-up and can give our full attention to the business at hand.

THE GLC READING GROUP

The **GLC Reading Group** will meet at church on Monday, January 16, at 7 PM. We will discuss Christopher Moore’s *Lamb, The Gospel According to Biff, Christ’s Childhood Pal*. Most people will find this a very funny version of the “missing years” of Jesus’ life—from birth to 33 years old! Biff, Jesus, and Maggie (of Magdala) grow up together and have one (mis)adventure after another, each designed to help prepare Jesus for his ministry and beyond. As teens, the boys set out to find those three “visitors” his mother kept telling him about, who showed up when he was born. Some of the antics are just laugh-out-loud funny. Some of the boy-talk, a little raw.

In addition to the chosen book, we will also read page 167 in **God: stories, PARKER’S BACK**, by Flannery O’Conner. Cynthy Nimmer has 2 copies of this book and Chris will have copies of the story available.

All members and friends of Grace are welcome to join the group for this discussion. It promises to be a lively one!



WOMEN’S STUDY GROUP

WOMEN’S STUDY GROUP will conclude our Advent study, *Living the Questions of Advent*, with the final chapter: *Sharing the Light: Where is the One?*, dealing with Epiphany.

Our next subject for study will be chosen from several options. If you want to weigh-in on that, be sure to attend on Monday, January 9th, at 1 PM at Cynthy Nimmer’s.

Watch for update in the Sunday Worship Bulletin.



Sunday School
WILL BE BACK IN SESSION ON Jan 8, 2012, (during worship), IN THE YOUTH ROOM.

JOIN US FOR OUR WINTER SESSION, Jan 8—Feb 19, 2012.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Financial Report

Submitted by Glenn Gerber

Grace 2011 income and expenses against goals:

<u>Overall Budget</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Projections</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>Differences</u>
Income	\$ 12,083	\$ 109,160.	\$ 93,0921.	\$ 86,424.	-\$ 6,667
Expenses	\$ 10,407	\$ 148,543.	\$ 131,764.	\$ 126,245.	- \$ 5,519.
Difference	-\$ 1,676.	-\$ 39,383.	-\$37,177.	-\$ 39,821.	-\$ 1,148.

Envelope Giving (Included in above Total Income amount)

	\$ 10,911	\$ 98,000.	\$ 74,748.	\$ 77,263	-\$ 6,311.
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During November Grace’s overall income was \$ 20,126, with an operating budget income of \$12,093. Envelope receipts for the month were \$ 10,911. The year-to-date envelope income of \$ 77,263 is \$ 6,311 less than the projected value of \$ 83,574.

A notable source of additional income in November was the transfer of \$8,034 from the sale of securities in the Endowment Fund to offset earlier withdrawals from the Mission Bond Fund to pay for 2011 major renovation and repairs – front and rear entrance masonry work, boiler heating system repairs, and exterior wall panel work.

The operating budget expenses for the month were \$ 10,407. All operating budget expenses were as expected.

Year-to-date operating budget income totals \$ 86,424, while the operating budget expenses are \$ 126,245. Leaving a current deficit for 2011 of \$39,820.

The Financial Team works diligently to manage expenses against income. By the time you read this report it will be close to the end of 2011. Grace members will have basically completed all pledges and non-pledge giving for the year. Hopefully all of us meet our 2011 pledge/non-pledge giving goals to keep Grace’s shortfall as small as possible. Actual 2011 results along with the proposed 2012 budget will be reported and presented at the annual congregational meeting in Late January 2012 .