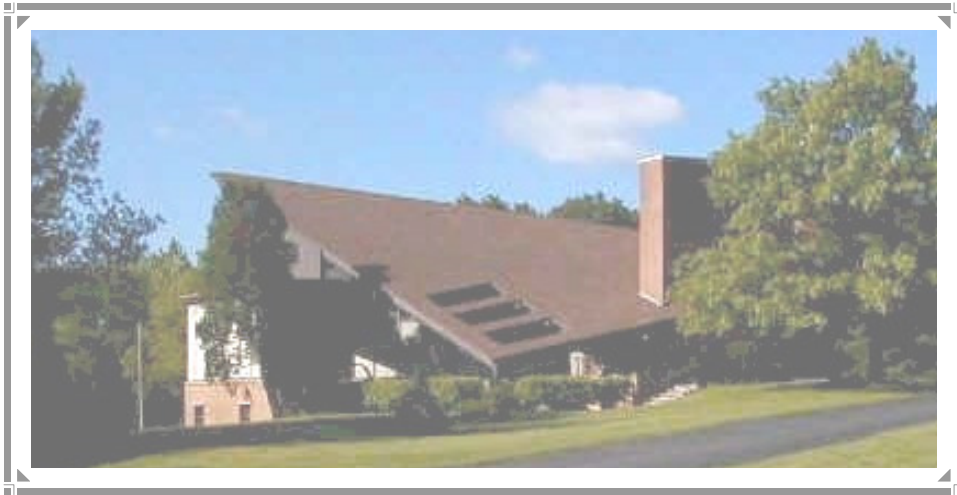


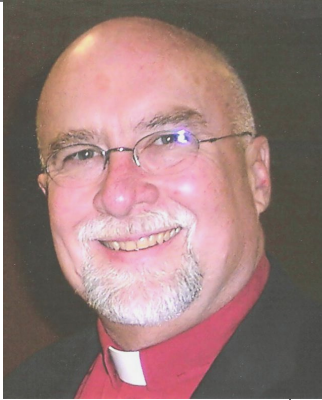
Grace Happenings

***March 2011
Newsletter***



Grace Happenings

Pastor's column – March 2011



This is all about an ounce of stewardship when you go on the internet.

At our February Council meeting, I proposed and the Council agreed to have Grace Lutheran Church become listed on Good Search? On Friday, February 18th, Good Search confirmed that Grace is included on their list of non-profits. So what is Good Search?

GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered internet search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. So if you go onto the Good Search site, designate Grace as who you Good Search for, and set up your internet program (e.g. Internet Explorer) to use Good Search as your default search program, Grace will receive a penny or two every time you do a web search. It can add up! Good Search was started in 2005 by Ken Ramberg (the former founder of JOB-TRAK, now a division of Monster.com) and JJ Ramberg (an MSNBC anchor and the former Director of Marketing at Cooking.com) when they realized what a fraction of the \$8 billion generated annually by search engine advertisers could do if it were directed towards organizations trying to make the world a better place. In 2007 they also launched Good Shop, an online shopping mall of major merchants (e.g. Amazon, Target) dedicated to helping fund worthy causes across the country. Each purchase made via the GoodShop mall results in a donation to the user's designated charity or school – averaging approximately 3% of the sale, but going up to 20% or even more.

I've placed a Good Search button on our web site and Facebook page. In the meantime, here are handy instructions for you to get started right away.

Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/>.

You'll see a box near the top of the page headlined "SEARCH THE WEB... SUPPORT YOUR CAUSE"

In that box you'll see the question "WHO DO YOU GOODSEARCH FOR?"

There should be a blank space just below that to type us in.

In that blank, type Grace Lutheran Church - Niskayuna and then click where it says "Verify."

If all goes well, "Grace Lutheran Church - Niskayuna (Niskayuna, NY)" should appear in black. Now your browser recognizes Grace as your Good Search non-profit of choice. By the way, if you use more than one internet browser (as your



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.

web servant, I do), you need to go the process again.

Next, you'll want to make sure your search engine is using Good Search. Scroll down the Good Search page to a box headlined "NEVER MISS A DONATION."

Click the "Download Toolbar" button.

In a box on the left, Headlined CHOOSE THE OPTION THAT WORKS BEST FOR YOU, make sure the option you want is highlighted (if you use Internet Explorer, that would be "IE and Firefox Toolbar").

In the main box, click the "Download Toolbar" button. The computer does the rest.

From then on do your searches from the toolbar – and also your on-line shopping!

I thank you. Grace thanks you. Oh, and if getting Good Search onto your web browser is a pain in your neck. Give me a call. I'll be happy to drop by and set you up!



***Sunday School Sponsored
Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, March 6
9:00 a.m.***

The Sunday School will be hosting a Pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 6th. We will be serving pancakes, regular sausage, and turkey sausage beginning at 9:00. There will be a free-will offering to cover the cost of food. Set-up will begin at 8:15. Please contact Rachel DeTeso-Mathis if you are available to help. We hope everyone will come and bring their appetites!

Grace Happenings

Published ten times per year

By

Grace Lutheran Church

1930 Hillside Ave.,
Schenectady, NY 12309

Pastor Dan Hahn

Paul Motto

Organist & Choir Director

Judith A. Peck

Administrative Assistant

Email: office@graceniska.org

visit us at: www.graceniska.org

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2011 Congregational Council

Members:

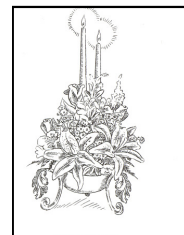
Council Members: Cynthia Nimmer, President; Glenn Gerber, Vice President; Chris Powell, Secretary; Cathy Joynson, Mary Gray, Shelley Hebert, Mike Perry, Christian Hogrefe, Rachel DeTeso-Mathis, Ellen Cash, Sue White and Ron Nimmer

Congregation Officers: Robert Powell, Treasurer, Bob Couchman, Asst. Treasurer, and Bill Hebert, Financial Secretary

Altar Flowers March 2011

3/20—Given by Marion Elliott in honor of family birthdays

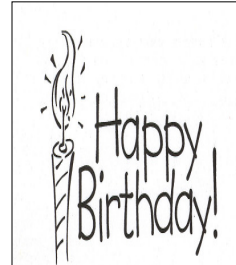
3/27—Given by Glenn Gerber in memory of Charles Miller



If you wish to sign up to provide flowers for the Altar in honor of a special event or in memory of a loved one, there is a sign up board to the right as you go out into the Narthex. You will be billed directly by the florist. The altar flowers are generally taken to the sick or shut-ins after the service. Thank you.

March 2011 Birthdays

- 3/1—Heather Grimm
- 3/4—Catherine Joynson
- 3/7—Virginia Kelley
- 3/10—Lembit Salasoo
- 3/11—Robert Duell
- 3/12—Marion Elliott
- 3/16—David Jesse DeTeso
- 3/17—Avus Gerlach
- 3/17—Robert Couchman
- 3/31—Mary Gray



Prayer Request

One of our own has been deployed and should be remembered in our prayers. On February 2, 2011, **Lieutenant Junior Grade Kevin Koenig**, U.S. Navy, was deployed to the Persian Gulf on the USS Reagan Aircraft carrier as a helicopter pilot.

Kevin is the son of JoAnn Koenig-Hagymas and the late Edgar Koenig, and brother of Kellee Koenig. He is a lifelong member of Grace and the first son of the congregation to be deployed in many years. He is shown with his wife Lindsay, and a helicopter similar to the one he will be piloting on this mission.

The USS Reagan left San Diego and will be on assignment for approximately eight months. There are 6000 Navy personnel onboard. Please keep Kevin and his shipmates in your prayers.

Chris Powell

Women's Study Group

LOVE and JOY & PEACE will be the focus of our next several sessions
in our *Workbook on Virtues & the Fruit of the Spirit*.

*Within my earthly temple there's a crowd;
There's one of us that's humble, one that's proud,
There's one that's broken-hearted for his sins,
There's one that unrepentant sits and grins;
There's one that loves his neighbor as himself
And one that cares for naught but fame and self.
For much corroding care I should be free
If I could once determine which is me.*

by Edward Sanford Martin

Interesting isn't it? This is just one of the many tidbits we will be discussing in the next few weeks. We meet at 1 pm on Fridays at the home of Cynthia Nimmer. In March we **WILL NOT** meet on the 11th.

It's never too late to join in!



Mark Your Calendars: Special Appeal on March 20 to Support the Community Crisis Network's Emergency Fund

The Community Crisis Network (CCN) was formed in 1999 as a collaborative effort of Bethesda House of Schenectady, Catholic Charities of Schenectady County, City Mission of Schenectady, the Jewish Community, Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc., and Schenectady Inner City Mission (SICM). Its mission is to provide the citizens of Schenectady County with immediate crisis intervention, comprehensive assessment, assistance in accessing appropriate community resources and other information as well as referrals to other needed services.

The CCN Emergency Fund is used to provide direct support to people in need when there is a gap in services and when no other resource exists. The Emergency Fund is supported by area congregations through donations that are sent to Catholic Charities and designated as being for the CCN. ALL of the funds donated are used to provide direct assistance to people in need. Grace Lutheran Church has supported the CCN Emergency Fund through special donations for the past decade. At the Annual Meeting on January 23, the congregation voted to pledge \$500 in support of the CCN Emergency Fund during 2011, to be raised through special quarterly appeals for donations. The first special appeal will take place on March 20 during Sunday morning worship.

Help Make Little Dresses for Africa

Chris Powell will hold a workshop in her home during March on a Saturday morning or Sunday afternoon (or both, if there is enough interest), to make LITTLE DRESSES FOR AFRICA. As Mary Rainey, our guest speaker on Sunday, February 13, explained, these dresses not only give the little girls something other than rags to wear, but in the cities, they "identify" the girls as having someone that looks after them (they have on a nice dress) and they are therefore passed over from being snatched up from the street and sold into sex trafficking operations. One little dress could save a child from a lifetime of slavery. So, every dress counts.

If you are interested in helping to make these dresses (there will be some non-sewing tasks, too), please contact Chris as soon as possible. Please indicate your preferred dates.

Ellis
MEDICINE

ELLIS HEALTH
CENTER

LIFELINE DEPARTMENT 600 McClellan Street, Schenectady, NY 12304
382-2224

February 14, 2011

Dear Neighbor,

During the month of March Ellis Medicine is offering a FREE Lifeline installation (\$50.00 value). We are concerned about our senior population and we know that our seniors want to remain independent and in their own homes. We understand this and we want to help them so they can remain independent and be able to stay in their own homes.

May I please ask for your assistance?

Would you please include the following announcement in an upcoming bulletin or pass it on to any community groups; this way seniors and their family members will learn of this special opportunity!

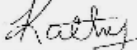
The Lifeline Program at Ellis Medicine would like to offer a free Lifeline installation for the entire month of March. Lifeline is a personal emergency response system that provides immediate access to help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This is essential for people living alone or recovering from a recent hospital stay. Please call the Lifeline Office for additional information or to sign up for Lifeline: 382-2224. Please remember: there is no substitute for safety!

If your church has a senior group, I would love to visit with them and discuss the many benefits of Lifeline. Would you be so kind to pass along this letter to the appropriate person once you are finished with it? Hopefully, I can join them over the next few months.

Please feel free to contact me at 382-2224 or haddonk@ellismedicine.org.

Thank you very much for your help!

Sincerely,


Kathy Haddon
Program Manager

Grace is pleased to welcome the **Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance -- Schenectady County** to our building **7 PM to 8:30 PM Thursdays**, beginning March 3rd! For more information on DBSA - Schenectady, see <http://dbsalliance.org/schenectadycounty>

We will be making Bethesda House Sandwiches Sunday morning Mar 20 for delivery the next day Monday March 21. Plan to stay a few minutes after church Sunday Mar 20. We work really fast!

Submitted by Mary Gray.

Book Group Selects Sweet Treat

The March selection is
True Confections by Katherine Weber

In her fifth novel, after *Triangle* (2006), Weber unleashes a wacky comic sensibility. Ostracized by her high-school clique and denied admission to college after accidentally setting fire to a classmate's home, Alice Tatnall applies for a job at Zip's Candies on a whim and finds her life's calling. Immediately taken under the wing of candy magnate Sam Ziplinsky, Alice learns the ins and outs of the candy-making business, from mixing the proper proportions of the ingredients to repairing the ancient production line that churns out the company's reliable moneymakers, Little Sammies, Tigermelts, and Mumbo Jumbos. She further cements her place within the company and the family by marrying Sam's son and heir Howard "Howdy" Ziplinsky and bearing him two children. Billed as an affidavit, Alice's slyly funny, frequently self-serving, and perhaps unreliable narration leads to some unexpected surprises when Alice's old nickname, Arson Girl, comes back to haunt her in a big way. Filled with candy lore, impassioned critiques of chocolate, and Alice's one-of-a-kind takes on marriage and family, this is sweet reading for fans of the offbeat.

Join us at Cynthia Nimmer's home on **Monday, March 21 at 7 pm.**
Talk to Jackie DeTeso if you would like her to order a book for you at the 20% book group rate!

Everyone is welcome to come, as always!!



Solicitation of Ministries Endowment Fund Grant Applications

In 2004, the congregation approved the establishment of a Grace Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to provide a perpetual supply of monies for both outreach ministry and church facility improvement programs. The mission statement for outreach ministries is to support projects that “strengthen or provide innovation in areas of worship life, spiritual experience, and social action ministries of Grace Lutheran Church as well as to support ministries that address issues of health, housing, hunger and spiritual education in the local, national and world-wide community”.

Outreach ministries are being funded through a grant application process. Between 2004 and 2008, the ministries sub-team of the Vision and Ministry Team has reviewed over 20 grant applications and has recommended the funding of 17 of these applications to church council who followed the sub-teams recommendations. However, during 2009 and 2010, no funds were available for distribution because of the loss of value of the Grace Endowment Fund due to the poor economy. Therefore, no grant applications were considered during these two years.

Because of the recent increase in the value of the Grace Endowment Fund, monies will be available for distribution during 2011. Therefore, we are soliciting the submission of grant applications. If you are aware of a worthy project meeting the mission statement shown above, please encourage them to submit an application. The application form will be made available on the Grace website (www.graceniska.org) or can be requested from the church office.

Two More Chances to Get Involved

The next **Salvation Army Soup Kitchen luncheon** prepared by Grace Church folks will be on **Monday, March 14**. If you can help in any way (bake brownies, make soup, work at SASK that day), please get in touch with Chris Powell. The last lunch we will serve before the summer is on Monday, May 9. Much of this ministry is subsidized by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans which bases their gifts to us on the number of volunteers and hours it takes to prepare and serve this meal. So, please think about getting involved.

Recap of Council Minutes Tuesday, February 14, 2011

The meeting opened at 6:35 p.m. with prayer led by Pastor.

The minutes from the January Council meeting were approved.

The minutes from the Annual Meeting were approved as amended.

The officers of Grace Church were elected for 2011. They are: Cynthia Nimmer, President; Glenn Gerber, Vice-President; Chris Powell, Secretary; Bob Powell, Treasurer; and Bill Hebert, Financial Secretary.

Pastor's Report – Pastoral activities were reviewed. New members will be received sometime in the coming months. Pastor Chuck Schwartz will conduct the Gotzmann/Paige wedding on May 21 here at Grace. Two new groups have signed leases to use Grace space: Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance meets here weekly on Thursday evenings; and the Summer Enrichment Program—an arts program for children—will be held at Grace for eight weeks during the summer. The Schenectady Congregations for Sexual Inclusiveness met at Grace during February. There will be a Council retreat on Saturday, February 26 from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Coburg Village in Clifton Park. The Outreach committee continues to meet and make recommendations to keep Grace visible in the community. A Mutual Ministry committee has been formed. A grant page and form to apply for funds from Grace is now on line. Pastor recommended that we become a GoodSearch/GoodShop charity (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). Council voted to approve this recommendation.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Bob Powell. An audit of the 2010 financial records will take place on March 13. Auditors are Paul Motto and Steve LeFevre.

Old Business –

- A sitter for the Nursery on Sunday mornings has been hired. Katie Dartt began on Sunday, February 13 taking care of a lively group of youngsters. Parents have indicated that this is a welcomed service.

We have experienced some expensive furnace/boiler problems in the last month which have been addressed and hopefully corrected.

New Business –

- Church Secretary, Judy Peck, has announced that she will retire from Grace on July 1. Rachel Mathis indicated an interest in the job and was unanimously voted by Council to be hired.

• Lent begins March 9. The Sunday School will sponsor a Pancake Breakfast on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, March 6. It will begin between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.

A discussion about recent ice issues on the driveway and walkways was held and the use of a salt spreader was suggested. Follow-up discussions will continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

MARCH 2011 MINI-NEWS
The Home Furnishings Program

Spring Warehouse Sale March 4th and 5th
Friday and Saturday, from 9am – 1 pm

at

Stanford Heights/Albany Street Methodist Church
1569 State Street
(corner of Consaul Road)

Volunteers needed!

If you can help with transport of items, set-up, days of sale or clean-up,
Call 346-2444

Please note:

*Because we are still in the midst of major warehouse reorganization
and because we are short on truck-run volunteers,*

the only donations we are accepting at this time are:
beds, dressers, and housewares.

*We are out of large pots and pans, towel sets, pot-holders dish-towels
and, as always, Queen sheets!*

Please help if you are able.

We apologize if we cannot get to you promptly.

We thank you for thinking of us and our clients who are in need.

We welcome those who can arrange to drop donations off at our warehouse.

Call 346-2444 or email homefurninc@aol.com

Program Coordinators: Jamie Doriguzzi and Michelle Miller

Website: schenectadyhomefurnishings.org

Recap of 2010 Annual Meeting – Grace Lutheran Church **Sunday, January 23, 2011**

Submitted by Chris Powell, Council Secretary

The annual gathering began with a pot luck luncheon prior to the meeting. There were 18 voting members of the Congregation present. (Sixteen were required for a quorum.)

Glenn Gerber chaired the meeting.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Hahn highlighted segments of his printed Pastor's Report, and provided an overview of an on-going outreach team that is brain-storming the future of Grace. Grace needs to make itself more visible. He outlined what's new at Grace: the revamping of the web site and uploading audio of his sermons, a presence on our own Facebook page, and more social activities, including a monthly Monday night pot luck supper. Many other ideas are under consideration.

Pastor made one change to the printed Membership Statistics Report for 2010. "Total Baptized Members" should be 122, not 109.

Glenn Gerber led a review of the written reports contained in the Annual Report *GLC Reading Group, Social Ministry, Sunday School, and Facilities*. The submitters of each report provided brief reviews and answered any questions. Christian Hogrefe volunteered to coordinate the CCN Emergency Fund appeal for 2011 and made a motion that our modified goal be \$500. This would be outside the Budget, supported by special appeals throughout the year, as in the past. The motion was approved. All written reports were approved.

Elections were held for Council members. Two candidates, Susan White and Ron Nimmer, were elected unanimously. Glenn Gerber, Mary Gray, Shelley Hebert, Christian Hogrefe, Cathy Joynson, Cynthia Nimmer, and Chris Powell were all re-elected.

Bob Powell presented the Treasurer's Report and noted that while income from envelopes and other sources was below the budget amount during 2010, total expenses were kept within budget parameters. During the year, withdrawals from our Mission Plus Bond Fund (~\$20,000) were required in order to maintain a positive checkbook balance. The Treasurer's Report for 2010 was approved.

Glenn Gerber reviewed the Endowment Fund Report, noting that the Fund's value has now increased. The Endowment Fund Team suggested that only limited disbursements be made during 2011. The Vision and Ministry team and Council will determine if any funds should be distributed during 2011 based on grant requests. The report was approved.

Glenn Gerber presented the proposed 2011 Budget. Projected income for 2011 is \$109,000+ and projected expenses are \$148,000+, with an estimated deficit of ~\$39,000. The proposed budget deficit will be covered with withdrawals from Grace's Mission Plus Bond Fund. The budget for 2011 was approved.

Copies of the Annual Report are available on the literature table in the Narthex.

Financial Report
Submitted by Glenn Gerber

Grace 2011 income and expenses against goals:

<u>Overall Budget</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Projections</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>Differences</u>
Income	\$ 6,654.	\$ 109,160.	\$ 10,863.	\$ 6,654.	-\$ 4,209.
Expenses	\$ 11,899	\$ 148,543.	\$ 11,162.	\$ 11,899.	-\$ 737.
	Difference	-\$ 39,383.	-\$ 299.	-\$ 5,245.	
Envelope					
<u>Giving</u> (Included in above total Income amount)					
	\$ 5,807	\$ 98,000.	\$ 9,752.	\$ 5,807.	-\$ 3,945.

Overall budget income and envelope income for January was somewhat less than with an ~ \$4,000 shortfall. Based on early February results most of this shortfall is expected to be overcome in February. Budget expenses for January were as expected.

The Financial Team is working diligently to manage expenses against income. Keeping your envelope giving current will enable Grace to meet its financial commitments.

March 2011

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
				7-8:30 PM – Depression & BiPolar Group	1:00 PM Women’s Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	
6 – Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 AM <i>Pre-Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast</i> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion <i>SICM Emergency Food Donation</i>	7 6:00 PM – First Monday Pot-Luck 8 PM AA Meeting	8 6:30 – Council Meeting	9 7:00 PM – Ash Wednesday Service	10 7-8:30 PM – Depression & BiPolar Group	11 8 PM AA Meeting	12
13 – <u>1 Lent</u> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	14 6:30 PM – Adult Study 8 PM AA Meeting	15	16 7:00 PM Choir Practice	17 7-8:30 PM – Depression & BiPolar Group April Newsletter Materials Due	18 1:00 PM Women’s Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	19
20 – <u>2 Lent</u> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion <i>Bethesda House Sandwich Making</i>	21 8 PM AA Meeting	22	23 7:00 PM Choir Practice	24 7-8:30 PM – Depression & BiPolar Group	25 1:00 PM Women’s Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	26
27 – <u>3 Lent</u> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service – Holy Communion	28 6:30 – Adult Study 8 PM AA Meeting	29	30 7:00 PM Choir Practice	31 7-8:30 PM – Depression & BiPolar Group	Apr 1 1:00 PM Women’s Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	Apr 2
Apr 3 – <u>4 Lent</u> 9:15 AM Adult Forum 10:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service - Holy Communion <i>SICM Emergency Food Donation</i>	Apr 4 6:00 PM – First Monday Pot-Luck 8 M AA Meeting	Apr 5	Apr 6 7:00 PM Choir Practice	Apr 7 7-8:30 PM – Depression & BiPolar Group	Apr 8 1:00 PM Women’s Study Group 8 PM AA Meeting	Apr 9

Grace Lutheran Church
1930 Hillside Ave
Niskayuna, NY 12309

