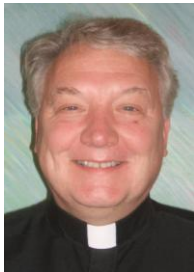


Holy Week at Grace - Page 9



MARCH ~ APRIL 2011
The Rev. Richard A. Maxwell, Rector
55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
860 233-0825 www.gracehartford.org



DEAR FRIENDS

By The Rev. RICHARD A. MAXWELL
Rector

What shall we do for Lent?

Every year I struggle with this question. Shall I closely study a book of the Bible, or devote myself to an important theological text? Should I undertake a regime of fasting (a kind of “holy diet”), or devote myself to a new practice of prayer? I definitely ought to try to discipline myself in some way . . . but how? In the hope of helping you decide how to observe a holy Lent, I’ll give you a few suggestions below.

Every Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m. we pray the Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction, during which we prayerfully accompany Jesus through the Passion and then contemplate the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. I believe that we’re one of the very few parishes in the diocese where you can find these services offered regularly during Lent. Meditating on Jesus’ last hours of earthly life and on the life-giving gift of the Eucharist is a deeply satisfying practice.

This year, following Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Fridays, we will gather in Nason Hall for a simple supper and conversation about the Lord's Prayer. Each week we will consider one of the petitions in the prayer, such as "give us this day our daily bread." Observations from ancient mystics, insights from contemporary religious people, and snippets of Scripture will be provided to spur conversation. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The contemplative prayer group, "Into the Silence," continues to meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the church, and all are welcome. The evening begins with a thirty minute meditation followed by a short reading from Joan Chittister's book on developing a life of prayer, *The Breath of Life*. Another period of meditation follows and the evening concludes with an opportunity for anyone who desires to share an insight gained from the reading. The primary focus of each gathering is to share the silence with one another in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Another wonderful Lenten practice!

Of course, a traditional way to observe Lent is to make a formal confession. The rite for this, the Reconciliation of a Penitent, can be found beginning on page 447 of the Book of Common Prayer. Many Episcopalians are unfamiliar with this rite and I encourage you to look it over. Even more, I encourage you to consider making your own confession; both the preparation for the rite and the rite itself are powerful experiences. I'd be delighted to answer any questions you might have about this, just give me a call.

Speaking of the Book of Common Prayer, in it you can find an instruction about something that everyone should do, and something which is an excellent thing to do during Lent. On page 445, at the end of the ceremony of Thanksgiving for a Child, you can find this: "The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses." What a good idea: to take practical steps to prepare for the inevitable during this season when we contemplate our own mortality.

Along the lines of “doing something practical,” some of you might take great pleasure in volunteering to work with our food pantry. Every Wednesday afternoon we pack groceries and every Thursday morning we distribute them to our neighbors in need. It’s a congenial group of people – both the volunteers and our clients – and we can always use more willing hands and strong backs to help with this ministry. Let me know if you might be willing to help.

The altar guild faces special demands during Lent and Holy Week, and volunteers would be welcome here as well. Preparing the church for mass – caring for the linens and vestments and vessels, assuring that the church is properly decorated – is a prayerful and deeply satisfying ministry. Participating in the work of the altar guild would be a tactile, pleasurable practice for Lent.

It seems that I could go on and on . . . there are, of course, many more ways to observe a holy Lent and I’d be happy to discuss them with you personally. But however you choose to observe the season; I hope that you will make a true effort to prepare for Easter . . . it’ll make your Easter experience truly joyful!

May you have a blessed Lent!

Max+

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

55 New Park Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

www.gracehartford.org

The Rev. Richard Anderson Maxwell, *Rector*

The Rev. Gary Mongillo, *Deacon*

The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Senior Associate Priest*

The Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Pokorny, *Associate Priest*

Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry

Thomas Phillips, *Senior Warden*

James Shafer, *Junior Warden*

Doug Bowman, *Clerk*

Elaine Phillips, *Treasurer*

Eunice Lyman, *Assistant Treasurer*

Paul Bisailon, Jane Lacedonia, Carol Larco-Murzyn,

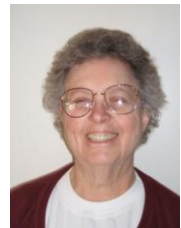
Sandra Morgan, Charles Morse, John Pryor

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FINANCIAL CORNER



By ELAINE PHILLIPS
Treasurer

Finances #1

Of Deficits and Memorials

Of course, my greatest concern right now is the near-, mid-, and long-term financial health of the parish. This subject was a major topic at the recent Annual Meeting, and the Vestry will be addressing the issue again when it next meets (I am writing this before the February Vestry meeting). However, Mark Lacedonia has written on this subject in this Newsletter, so I will not say anything further on it here, except to say that I hope that everyone will take what Mark says to heart.

I have been asked by Charles Morse to remind everyone about the Flower Fund. Charles makes nearly all of the beautiful arrangements that we see behind the altar most Sundays, and elsewhere on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. However, none of these flowers are paid for from the Operating Fund. Instead, we have a Flower Fund; parishioners make donations, usually as a memorial or thanksgiving. Many of us do so at Christmas and Easter, and we publish a long list of those memorialized on these great feast days.

On all of the other Sundays (except those in Advent and Lent when we do not use flowers), we rely on individual contributions. There are Flower Fund envelopes in your envelope box — use one of those, or write “Flower Fund” on the check. Add the date and the memorial (or other occasion) on the outside of the envelope. Since the flowers for an ordinary Sunday cost about \$50, we ask for a donation of that amount. There is a flower calendar on the back of the door from the Parish Hall into the hallway to the sacristy and church. This calendar will show you which Sundays are still open.

Since flowers are fairly expensive, there is an alternative. On any Sunday (including Advent and Lent) a donation of \$10 can be made with a request that the Sanctuary light for that week be a memorial.

All memorials of flowers and Sanctuary lights are included in the list of the faithful departed that is read on Sunday morning and at the weekday masses.

Finances #2

Report of 2011 Stewardship Campaign

By MARK LACEDONIA
Chairperson, 2011 Stewardship Campaign

Back in the fall, when I wrote to most of you to kick-off the 2011 Stewardship Campaign at Grace, I took the liberty of quoting (with apologies) Daniel Webster when he said, “It is a small church, but there are those who love it.” Apparently, there are a lot of you who feel the same way I do. I am pleased to report that the campaign has been quite successful - - - pledging is up and the total is approximately \$129,000 - - - rather amazing given the economy!

Unfortunately, as I reported to you in the Annual Meeting, that still leaves us with a significant budget deficit. So, if you haven't yet pledged, or if you are now able to increase your pledge, it is not too late!

And last, I want to remind you of an exciting new development for the Stewardship Campaign. At the Annual Meeting, we announced a generous gift of \$10,000 from Charles and Eleanor Morse to be matched by the congregation. We have placed a "Matching Gift Thermometer" in Nason Hall to track our progress. We have already received a substantial sum of money, but more is needed. Please prayerfully consider making a gift, and if you do, could you write "Matching Gift" on your check. Let's do our best to make the "Thermometer" pop out the top! Thanks.

Editor's Note: Since this article was written, the goal of fully matching the \$10,000 gift has been met. However, that total still leaves us with a deficit of \$26,000. So, more contributions are still definitely needed.

Finances #3

\$10,000 Challenge Met in Just 16 Days!

Facing the dismal prospect of a massive \$46,000 budget deficit, a challenge was proposed to bite deeply into the church red and ease the pain and stress, let alone debt, of the 2011 church year.

The challenge, initiated by the Morses, put it simply to the Parish: "We will give \$10,000 if you match the sum, for a total of \$20,000". The challenge was revealed at the Parish Meeting on January 30, 2011. It had been accepted immediately by the Vestry a week earlier. Amazingly, by February 16, the \$10,000 was raised by 11 parishioners. It took 16 days!

So many thanks. So many gifts. So many reasons to believe in Grace. So many angels. Now, there's only \$26,000 to go.

Parish Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was held on Sunday, January 30. The following were elected:

Senior Warden – Thomas A. Phillips

Junior Warden – James Shafer

Parish Clerk – Doug Bowman

Treasurer – Elaine Phillips

Assistant Treasurer – Eunice Lyman

Delegate to Convention and the Deanery – Richard Wegener

Alternate Delegate to Convention and the Deanery – Barbara Rezner

Vestry – Class of 2014 – Jane Lacedonia

Vestry – Class of 2014 – Paul Bisailon

They join Carol Larco-Murzyn (Class of 2012), John Pryor (Class of 2012), Charles Morse (Class of 2013), and Sandra Morgan (Class of 2013) on the Vestry.

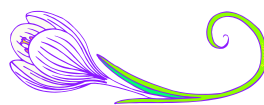
Flower Memorial Policy

By CHARLIE MORSE

The purpose of this article is to clarify the Grace Church policy on flower memorials. The flower fund at Grace is not a budgeted item, and thus it must be self-sustaining.

If you would like to remember loved ones at Easter, Christmas, or a special Sunday, please send in the name(s) with a check for \$50.00 two weeks in advance. Upon receipt of the name(s) and check, those to be remembered will be placed on the flower calendar or appropriate list.

In advance, thank you for your understanding concerning this issue.



Events in March and April

- March 4-6: Parish Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY. Once again, Grace parishioners will be joining parishioners from St. James' Church in Glastonbury, and Trinity Church in Collinsville on retreat to prepare for Lent. Meditations will be led by Br. Scott Borden from the monastic community.
- March 8 ~ Shrove Tuesday: Mass at 5:30 p.m.; Pancake Supper following at 6:00 p.m., benefiting the Russell Music Fund; and "ceremonial" burning of the palms. Everyone should bring their old palms to burn to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. We will sing the well-known ceremonial hymn, "Shall We Gather Round the Weber," as we burn the palms.
- March 9 ~ Ash Wednesday: Mass at 7:15 a.m. in the chapel with imposition of ashes, and at 7:00 p.m. in the church, also with the imposition of ashes.
- March 11 ~ 6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross begin: Every Friday in Lent we will have Stations of the Cross, followed by Benediction (Benediction is eliminated on Good Friday). In addition, following Stations on Fridays during Lent this year, we will share a simple supper provided by a different parishioner each week, and then discuss a portion of the Lord's Prayer. Background materials will be provided in advance of each gathering. *Please note this will take the place of Thursday Gatherings during Lent.* There will, of course, still be mass at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays.
- March 13 ~ the First Sunday in Lent
- March 24 ~ The Annunciation Observed: We will celebrate the Annunciation on the vigil of the feast, with a Solemn High mass at 6:00 p.m., followed by a pot luck supper.
- April 3 ~ Rose Sunday: The Fourth Sunday in Lent is "Refreshment Sunday." This is the Sunday when we take a break from the rigors of our Lenten disciplines. It's the Sunday in Lent when the vestments change to rose color.

Holy Week at Grace

- April 17 ~ Palm Sunday: We will gather in Nason Hall before the 10:30 a.m. mass and, weather permitting, process with our palms around the church before beginning mass. Again, weather permitting, we'll clean up around the outside of the church and around the block after mass as we've done since Deacon Gary Mongillo joined us. At the 10:30 a.m. Mass, music will be Missa Brevis in F Major (Healey Willan), "Vere languores nostro" (Victoria) and "Christus factus est" (Arnerio).
- April 18 ~ Monday in Holy Week: Mass at 5:30 p.m.
- April 19 ~ Tuesday in Holy Week: Mass at 5:30 p.m.
- April 20 ~ Wednesday in Holy Week: Mass at 7:15 a.m.
- April 21 ~ Maundy Thursday: Solemn High Mass at 6:00 p.m. "Ubi caritas" (Durufle) and "O Taste and See" (Vaughan Williams); followed by the stripping of the altar and night watch in the chapel. People can sign up in half-hour increments to meditate in the chapel and to "watch" with Jesus.
- April 22 ~ Good Friday: The Good Friday Liturgy will be at noon - Mass of the Pre-Sanctified with Sung Passion Gospel and Reproaches. Stations of the Cross (No Benediction) at 6:00 p.m. Confession is available by appointment between 4:00 and 6:00 in the afternoon.
- April 23 - Holy Saturday: The liturgy for Holy Saturday will be at 9:30 a.m. in the church.
Easter Eve: THE EASTER VIGIL and FIRST MASS OF EASTER - 7:00 p.m. Music: sung Exsultet and Lessons, "When the Lord Turned Again the Captivity of Zion" (Batten), and "Come My Way" (Smith). This will be followed by a traditional lamb and baked ham dinner cooked by the choir, the proceeds of which will go to the Russell Music Fund.
- April 24 ~ Easter Day: 8:00 a.m. Low Mass with hymns. Solemn High Mass at 10:30 a.m.; choir sings Missa Brevis in D Minor, K.65 and "Regina Coeli" K.321 (Mozart) and "Sing ye to the Lord" (Bainton).



March



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	March Notes Parish Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery (Friday, 4 th ~ Sunday, 6 th) Shrove Tuesday (8 th) 5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by Pancake Supper and burning of palms Ash Wednesday (9 th) ~ 7:15 a.m. Mass; 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Fridays in Lent at 6 p.m.) followed by Friday Gatherings in Lent (11 th , 18 th , 25 th) <i>The Lord's Prayer</i> ~ discussion at 7 p.m. Daylight Saving Begins (Sunday, 13 th , 2 a.m.) Contemplative Prayer Group (1 st , 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th at 7 p.m.) Education Hour (Sundays, 9:45 a.m.) Healing Mass (8 th , 5:30 p.m.) Vestry Meeting (Sunday, 27 th) 12:15 p.m., Rector's Office FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD (Thursday, 24 th) 6 p.m. Mass followed by Potluck Supper					
		1	2 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	3 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	Parish Retreat 4	Parish Retreat 5
Epiphany Last 6 Parish Retreat 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	7	Shrove Tuesday 8  5:30 p.m. Healing Mass 6 p.m. Pancake Supper & Burning of Palms 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	Ash Wednesday 9 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Solemn High Mass	10 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	11 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction followed by supper and discussion of <i>Lord's Prayer</i>	12 
Lent I 13 Daylight Saving Begins 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	14  AA	15 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	16 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	17 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	18 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction followed by supper and discussion of <i>Lord's Prayer</i>	Saint Joseph 19 
Lent II 20 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	21  AA	22 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	23 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	24 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry  6 p.m. Solemn High Mass Potluck Supper	Annunciation 25 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction followed by supper and discussion of <i>Lord's Prayer</i>	26 
Lent III 27 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Procession & Solemn High Mass 12:15 p.m. Vestry Meeting	28 AA	29 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	30 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	31 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass		

2011

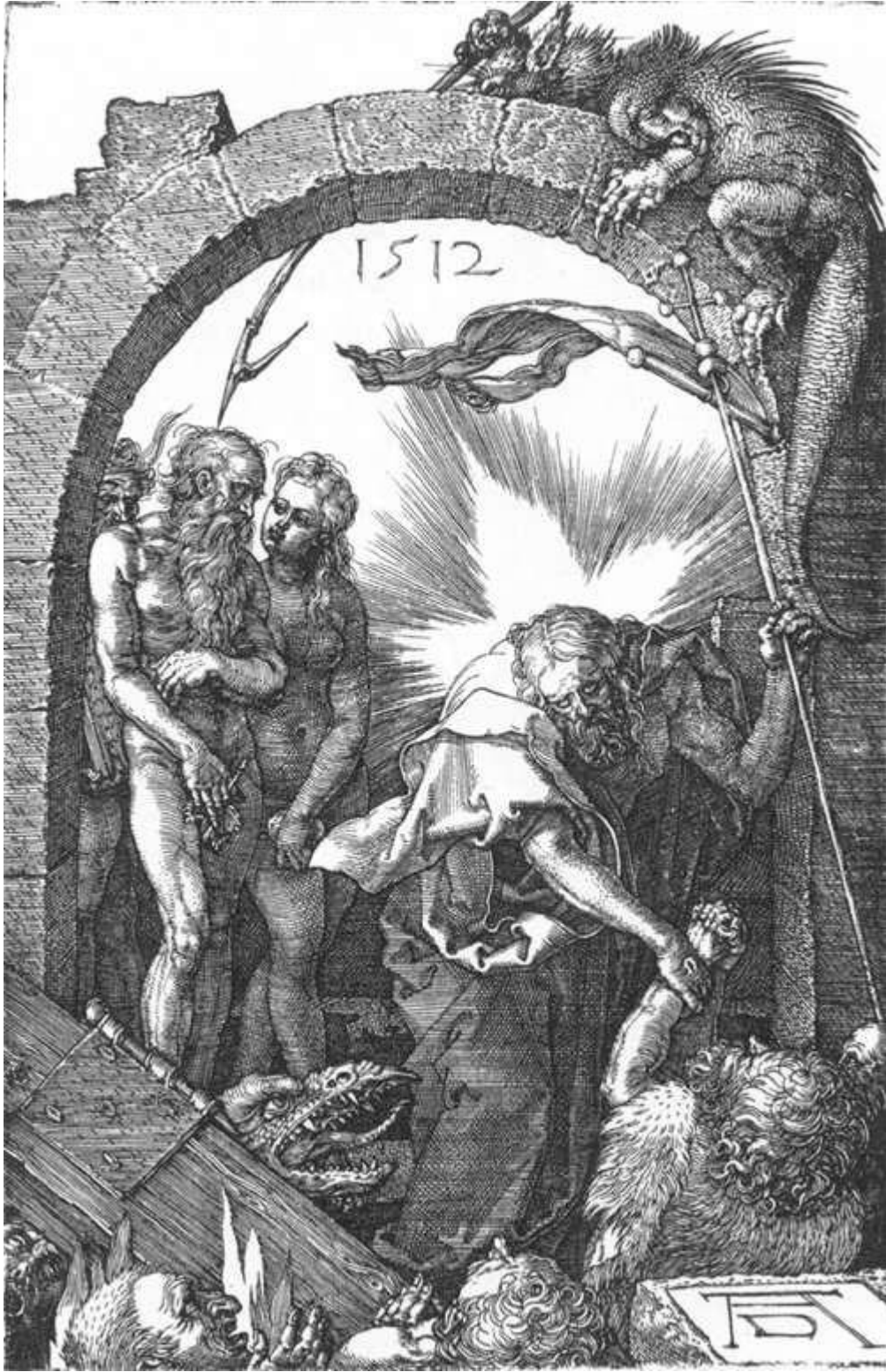


April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	April Notes Parkville Classics (2 nd , 7:30 p.m.) ~ <i>Adaskin Trio Plus Oboe</i> Healing Mass (Tuesday, 12 th , 5:30 p.m.) Contemplative Prayer Group (Tuesdays, 7 p.m.) Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (Fridays in Lent at 6 p.m.) followed by ~ Friday Gatherings in Lent (8 th , 15 th , 7 p.m.) <i>The Lord's Prayer</i> Education Hour (Sundays, 9:45 a.m.) See Holy Week Schedule Below						
Lent IV 3 Refreshment Sunday 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	4 AA	5 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	6 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	7 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	8 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction followed by supper and discussion of <i>Lord's Prayer</i>	9  9 a.m. ~ 2 p.m. Lenten Quiet Day St. John's, West Hartford 7:30 p.m. <i>Parkville Classics Adaskin Trio Plus Oboe</i>	
Lent V 10 Passion Sunday 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass	11 AA	12 5:30 p.m. Healing Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	13 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	14 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	15 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross & Benediction followed by supper and discussion of <i>Lord's Prayer</i>	16 10:00 a.m. Brass and Silver Polishing 	
Palm Sunday 17 8 a.m. Low Mass 9:45 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass Following Coffee Hour Grace CLEAN-UP	MONDAY 18 IN HOLY WEEK  5:30 p.m. Low Mass AA	TUESDAY 19 IN HOLY WEEK 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	WEDNESDAY 20 IN HOLY WEEK 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	MAUNDY 21 THURSDAY 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 6 p.m. Solemn High Mass Stripping of Altar and Night Watch	†GOODFRIDAY† 22 12 noon Good Friday Liturgy 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	HOLY 23 SATURDAY 9:30 a.m. Liturgy 7 p.m. EASTER VIGIL Lamb Dinner	
◆ EASTER ◆ 24 DAY 8 a.m. Low Mass with Hymns 10:30 a.m. Easter Eucharist 	Monday in 25 Easter We ek  AA	Tuesday in 26 Easter Week 5:30 p.m. Low Mass 7 p.m. Contemplative Prayer Group AA	Wednesday in 27 Easter Week 7:15 a.m. Low Mass and breakfast at Effie's 4:00 p.m. Pantry Food Packing	Thursday in 28 Easter Week 8:30 a.m. Food Pantry 5:30 p.m. Low Mass	Friday in 29 Easter Week	Saturday in 30 Easter Week	
Holy Week at Grace Palm Sunday (Apr. 17 th) ~ Distribution of Palms at both Masses ~ 8 a.m. Low Mass 10:30 a.m. ~ Gather on Grace St. Porch; Palm blessing and Procession; Solemn High Mass follows Following Coffee Hour ~ Grace CLEAN-UP Monday in Holy Week (Apr. 18 th) ~ 5:30 p.m. Mass Tuesday in Holy Week (Apr. 19 th) ~ 5:30 p.m. Mass Wednesday in Holy Week (Apr. 20 th) ~ 7:15 a.m. Low Mass (followed by breakfast at Effie's) Maundy Thursday (Apr. 21 st) ~ 6 p.m. Solemn High Mass, followed by Stripping of the Altar and Night Watch in the Chapel of Repose Good Friday (Apr. 22 nd) ~ 12 noon Good Friday Liturgy; 6 p.m. Stations of the Cross Holy Saturday (Apr. 23 rd) ~ 9:30 a.m. Liturgy for Holy Saturday; 7 p.m. EASTER VIGIL followed by lamb dinner EASTER SUNDAY (Apr. 24 th) ~ 8 a.m. Low Mass with hymns; 10:30 a.m. EASTER EUCHARIST							

2011



Harrowing of Hell; or, Christ in Limbo by Albrecht Durer, 1512

The Harrowing of Hell

By ELIZABETH MACKIERNAN MIEL

“Hell was in an uproar because it is destroyed!”

That is the wonderfully startling pronouncement you are very likely to hear if you attend the Easter Vigil mass at Grace. It is part of the Paschal Homily of St John Chrysostom (c 400) which is traditionally read at masses on Holy Saturday. It refers to Christ’s descent into Hell (Hades) where, having triumphed over death, he rescued the ancient righteous souls and opened for them the gates of heaven by his resurrection.

We say in the Apostles Creed: “He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell.” But the tradition of the descent and the harrowing of Hell is not usually elaborated on in our churches. In fact many Christians have hardly heard of it.

Eastern icons of the resurrection depict Jesus arising from the earth grasping by the wrists a couple of old people while the bronze gates of the underworld lie broken open in the form of a broken cross. The elderly couple is Adam and Eve awakened from their long captivity and sleep. Often other prophets and kings from the Hebrew scriptures are shown in these icons also.

At Christmas we hear the 15th century carol which says “Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond, four thousand winter thought he not too long.” In the Middle Ages, it was assumed that creation had happened a mere four thousand years before Christ and that all of the generations between Adam and Jesus were accounted for in the Scripture. All those ancestors were thought to be languishing either in a kind of limbo or resting on Abraham’s bosom waiting for the Messiah even in the underworld. It is these holy elders that the icons depict being rescued from death by Jesus’ descent and resurrection.

Our idea of prehistory looks to a much longer development of human civilization than the four to six thousand years traditionally counted from Biblical generations. I like to think of the ancient artists who painted mystical portraits of animals on the walls of caves in Paleolithic times, perhaps 30,000 years ago, also being included in Jesus' victory over death and rising with him like Adam and Eve.

The account of the harrowing of hell is only hinted at in the canonical scriptures.

“[Christ] being put to death in the flesh but quickened in the spirit by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison which sometime were disobedient when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah.” I Peter: 18-19.

“For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they... might live according to God in the spirit.” I Peter 4:6.

“When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. Now that he ascended what is it but that he also descended into the lower parts of the earth?” Ephesians 4:8-9.

The doctrine of the Harrowing of Hell is fully developed in *The Gospel of Nicodemus*, a non-canonical text, and this popular account became generally accepted as orthodox teaching in both the East and West. In this Gospel (of uncertain date — perhaps 4th century), there is a marvelous dynamic depiction of Jesus' descent into Hell which is described like the liberation of a prison camp. Bronze doors are flung open, iron bars broken, and the spirits of the dead, including Adam and Eve and all the Hebrew prophets, who have been languishing in a dark and dismal existence suddenly see a bright light and begin to awaken to a new life recalling ancient prophecies of renewal.

Hell (also called Death) in this text is personified as a jealous enemy of Life. He and Satan conspire and dispute together.

And as Satan the prince and Hell, spoke together, suddenly there came a voice as of thunder and a spiritual cry: “Remove O princes your gates and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors and the King of glory shall come in.”

Now when we were set together with all our fathers in the deep, in obscurity of darkness, on a sudden there came a golden heat of the sun and a purple and royal light shining upon us. And immediately the father of the whole race of men together with all the patriarchs and prophets rejoiced, saying: “This light is the beginning of everlasting light.” Isaiah cried out: “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death upon them did the light shine.” (M.R. James translation, Oxford, 1924)

There is a clear implication in this text that Hell is robbed of all the dead and all souls from the beginning of time are set free and raised to life eternal in Paradise because Jesus’ death has overcome the power of sin and death for all people. Later theological speculation of course made an effort to counter this universalism insisting that only the “righteous dead” were raised. But in the *Gospel of Nicodemus*, Hell complains to Satan that all his prisoners are now rejoicing in liberty, and no one of any nation will fear death any more.

Chrysostom in his homily goes on with this stirring language:

Let no one fear death for the Death of our Savior has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.

Christ is Risen and you O death are annihilated!

Christ is Risen and the evil ones are cast down!

Christ is Risen and the angels rejoice!

Christ is Risen and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

And that is the message we hear at the Easter vigil as darkness is replaced by the Light of Christ, and the first mass is celebrated.

The Adaskin Trio

To Perform Here on April 2, 2011



The Adaskin Trio returns to Grace on Saturday, April 2, 2011. Formed in 1994, the trio performs extensively throughout the United States and Canada, and has appeared at Merkin Concert Hall in New York, the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington DC, and in Boston, Los Angeles, Montreal, Nashville, Pittsburgh, Santa Barbara, and Chicago. In addition, the trio's concerts have been regularly recorded for broadcast by CBC Radio, Radio-Canada, and National Public Radio

Members of the trio are all originally from Canada. They met in Montreal where they each studied chamber music with founding Orford Quartet cellist Marcel Saint-Cyr. They later completed two years as ensemble-in-residence at The Hartt School under the guidance of the Emerson Quartet.

The trio is named in honor of Murray Adaskin, one of Canada's most loved and respected composers, and two of his brothers, violinist Harry Adaskin and producer and music educator John Adaskin.

Members of the trio are Emlyn Ngai (shown at the left in the above photo), Steve Larson (in the center), and Mark Fraser (at the right). They will be joined in this concert by another artist who plays the oboe. The concert is at 7:30 p.m. A reception in Nason Hall follows.

Joan Adams Retires

Paul Kline Takes Over Altar Guild

The St. Martha's Altar Guild prepares all linens and liturgical vessels used in the various services at Grace Church. It orders supplies that are needed in the sacristy and the church and makes sure that the correct vestments and altar frontals are changed according to the church calendar.

For many years Joan Adams has headed this ministry. She decided to retire late last year, however, and Paul Kline stepped into the void. He is assisted by Toni Bouchard, Enid Fisher, Linda Knight, Eunice Lyman, Sally May, Barbara Galbreath, and Monica Grange. Barbara Rezner and Jane Lacedonia also provide regular help, and Ratana Leach helps to repair the vestments for the celebrant, deacon, and sub-deacon.

Part of the duties of the Guild includes cleaning of all of the church's brass and silver at least twice a year, especially at Easter and Christmas. Anyone interested in helping out should contact Paul. The group would especially appreciate your help during Lent to get ready for the Easter services.

Thursday Gatherings Take a Break

Programs to be Held Fridays in Lent

Starting the first week of Lent (the week of March 13) there will be no Thursday Gatherings. Instead, after Stations of the Cross and Benediction on the Fridays of Lent, there will be a simple supper prepared by different individuals each week followed by a discussion of a portion of the Lord's Prayer. Background information will be provided in advance. Mass will continue to be said each Thursday at 5:30 p.m.



By THOMAS A. PHILLIPS
Senior Warden

SENIOR WARDEN'S CORNER

Well, I'm tired of the snow now, I don't know about you. I've done my share of shoveling, moving and plowing the white stuff for a couple of winters, in my view. I am finally beginning to appreciate the wisdom of the animals who spend the month of February in hibernation. It seems like that's a very good use of the month, but then, the last few days have been warmer and the snow and ice are finally off the Parish House roof. Spring isn't that far away, and I'm ready.

The Pantry continues to serve families in the Parkville area. We were forced to close for one week due to the snow. The Wednesday packers couldn't park due to the snow, and so we were not able to open on Thursday; but the weather was terrible and the clients wouldn't have been able to make it had we been able to open. I think it was the first time we've had to skip a Thursday distribution.

Speaking of the pantry, in my contribution to the Annual Report, I engaged in the dangerous practice of naming names, and I missed Ann Witt! *Mia maxima culpa!* Ann helps with the packing on Wednesdays.

The state of our finances is covered elsewhere in this newsletter. I have one simple request: Please increase your pledge!



JUNIOR WARDEN'S CORNER



By JAMES SHAFER
Junior Warden

We have had a changing of the guard for the office of Junior Warden. As I take up the reigns again, I do so with many thanks to BILL PASCUCCI who decided to take a well deserved rest after three consecutive years serving as our JW. He will be a tough act to follow. Thanks, Bill!

In the first few days of my term, the main activity has been the snow, the ice and the cold. Before Bill and I had a chance to compare and exchange notes about my assuming the JW duties, Bill pitched in and helped with contacts for snow and ice removal. With additional tremendous help from the Senior Warden, we have made an effort to keep ahead of the snow and the ice. Ice-treatment material was in short supply, but the two wardens have managed to restock what we hope will be an adequate supply for the rest of the season.

This Newsletter covers March and April. Hopefully, by the time of the next newsletter, the winter weather will be long behind us. Before the hot weather begins, we want to have the central air-conditioning system serviced.

As the year moves along, we want to turn our attention to the ordinary maintenance items as well as some extra-ordinary maintenance items, as we can afford them. I'll be seeking Property Committee Members soon. Many are already in place. I hope you will stay.

With everyone's help, I'll do my best to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the Junior Warden's job.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Tori Burns, Elizabeth MacKiernan Miel, Fr. Richard Maxwell, Tom Phillips, Elaine Phillips, James Shafer, and Kyle Swann for their help and suggestions with this issue of "Grace Notes." Contributions from others are always welcome and may be sent at any time to klemonskie@aol.com.

EDWARD S. KLEMONSKI, Editor.

March ~ April 2011 Issue

GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH



55 NEW PARK AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106

www.gracehartford.org
gracehartford@sbcglobal.net

If you are receiving this newsletter in error or wish to be taken off the mailing list, please notify the Church office.

PARKVILLE CLASSICALS

All concerts are on Saturday evenings in the church. They are free and start at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis. A reception in the Parish Hall to meet the musicians follows each concert.

APRIL 2, 2011 ~ **THE ADASKIN TRIO PLUS OBOE**

JUNE 18, 2011 ~ **MUSICAL FRIENDS**