

### *Pastor's Pen*

March Madness is about to take over at our house. I always feel bad for the kids who have to sit on the sideline for the whole game. These dedicated bench-warmers showed up for every practice. They learned every play. Even if they do get a little play time, there's a high probability no one --except perhaps their parents, will remember that they played in the game. Still, do not mistake them for spectators

Søren Kierkegaard once drew the analogy between a theater play and worship. He said the Minister and Music Director are the directors, the musicians and the congregation are the actors, and God is the audience. I agree that worship is for the praise and glory of God, not for us.

The problem I have with his comparison is that God is not a passive audience or passive spectator. God is active and at work through our worship just as God is active in our lives, not simply watching from the sidelines. Because God is the actor, and we are the reactors, perhaps the better analogy is that worship is a lively conversation.

So let's try creating a new illustration. Let's be the basketball team. Members of Grace in Grove are the starters. Session members, plus Scott and I are the assistant coaches at practices while God is the head coach. Communities of faith are places where everyone is a player --there are no spectators and no grandstands. God needs all of us to be in the game at one time or another.

In the 4+ years that I've been a part of our community, I'm watching more and more players get onto the court to play. It's an exciting time for Grace. Our team is at its strongest when we're all watching for an open spot --a place where one of us can rush into the game to do our part. We practice our faith every day to become stronger and more spiritually mature.

Where's God? Don't look in the stands. Don't look at the concessions counter. God is the head coach. Watch him pacing up and down the court; calling the plays; looking us in the eye to do better; pointing out where we need to help each other. God is always with us, leading us in a life lived well in Christ.

In Christ's Peace,

*Pastor Teri*

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March 2014 Edition

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#### March At A Glance

2 - Communion Sunday
5 - Ash Wednesday supper & prayer service
7 - World Day of Prayer
12 - Session Meeting
16 - Think Green Potluck
17 - Presby. Women
20 - Men's Breakfast
25 - Grace Notes Deadline
26- Taste of Grace

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**FELLOWSHIP**

Judy Anderson

Thanks to those who furnished refreshments for Fellowship in February. We celebrated 1 birthday and 2 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversaries. They are always fun.

A big thank you to Edna for cleaning the stoves. I know that was a big job. Thanks also to Ginger G. for donating new dishtowels and Bonnie for donating new to go containers.

I have temporarily labeled the cabinets and have moved a few things around. I have put some dish clothes and dishrags in the back kitchen and moved things in the catchall drawer to above the stoves. I also moved the to-go containers to the top cabinet.

There is a magic marker on the fridge, so please date things you put in the fridge. Thanks ahead of time for doing that. Hope I didn't miss thanking anyone.

We also need people to furnish for Fellowship for 3 more Sundays in March. I panic if I don't get them filled ahead of time. If you have a special date you want for Fellowship, let me know and I will have Jo Ann put your name down before the list comes out so you will be sure to get that date.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Lowell Crowl

Dr. Tom Riggs will be our guest at the next Men's Breakfast on Thursday March 20 at 8 am. Bring your appetites and a friend.

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**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of GRACE**

**Kay Gray**

The women of Grace Presbyterian met at their regular PWG meeting on February 17th. After dessert, prayer, and devotions, we studied Exodus 15-18, and how Moses handled God's people when they became restless in the Wilderness. We learned how God provided faithfully for his people's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

We accepted with regret Betsy Schwegman's resignation as co-moderator due to her impending move to Neosho. She will be sorely missed not only by her PW group but by all the church members.

Next month we will begin planning for the PW Birthday Dinner which the whole church looks forward to each year. Watch for more information then.

**World Day of Prayer is March 7th**

Each year we are involved with World Day of Prayer which is an ecumenical event around the globe. This year it will be on March 7 at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, and the country theme will be on Egypt.

Please plan to join us at our next PWG meeting. Monday, March 17 at 1 pm

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**MISSIONS**

**Marcy Livesay**

**Taste of Grace**

The second *Taste of Grace* soup dinner was served on February 26. Thanks to Chef Bonnie and to Ruth, Judy, Trish, Sharon, Edna, Cathy, David, Marcy, Dan, Pastor Teri and newcomer, Lee Williams for working to make this a success.

Next month the Missions Team will be evaluating the *Taste of Grace* program and frequency. If you are willing to volunteer to prepare soup in the church kitchen three or four times a year, please tell Bonnie. It can be your own recipe or one provided.

In order to offer *Taste of Grace* more often, we also need people willing to host and/or clean-up several times per year. Let David or Marcy know if you can do this. Dates can be scheduled to fit your schedule.

The next *Taste of Grace* will be Wed., March 26 from 4:30-6:00pm. Pastor Teri will be the chef!

**Indian Taco Sale, Friday, May 2**

Sunday, March 23, an organizational meeting will be held after worship for about 15 minutes. There will be sign-up lists for requesting donations, taking around flyers, prep work on May 1 (no cooking skills needed!), cooking, assembling and selling tacos on May 2, delivery of orders, and clean-up. Please be thinking about ways you can help! Thanks to Cathy for coordinating this effort!

**Angel Card Ministry**

The next Missions project the team will undertake is the Angel Card ministry. Angel medallions will be affixed on a card with an encouraging message and distributed in places throughout the community. If this is something that sounds of interest to you, please let Marcy know.

Please keep the Missions Team in your prayers as we work to help people and help Grace in Grove to be more visible as a church that cares!

**MARKETING  
Ford Griggs**

Many thanks to Hank for building the banner stand for our outdoor banners. We have order Easter banners.

We've been talking to a webpage designer. In the course of that conversation, it's become clear that we need 1-2 more people to help keep our pages fresh and current. If you can give 15-20 minutes per week for this, contact Ford.

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**EMAILED GRACE NOTES**

Starting next month, if we have your email address, we will email your copy of Grace Notes. This has the potential of saving the church \$350 per year.

If we have your email address, and you'd like a hard copy every month, please tell Jo Ann, 918-786-6191.

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**Supper & Worship  
March 5**

**A Community Gathering for  
Ash Wednesday**

**5 pm - Join us for a light supper  
5:30 pm - Contemplative worship**

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**Updating the Church Directory**

Jo Ann is continuing the arduous process of updating the Church Directory. We need any new or corrected information you have. We'd also like to have an emergency contact other than spouse.

Be watching in the bulletin for dates when we'll be taking pictures for the directory.

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**Here's the answer to Catechism Question #27:**  
How did Jesus Christ prove to be our Savior?  
He sacrificed his life for us by dying on the cross.



**St. Patrick's Day Potluck  
March 16 after worship.**

The theme is "Think Green."  
Sign up with your  
favorite green dish.

As always,  
if you don't want to cook,  
you can help clean up.



**WORSHIP & MUSIC  
Scott Crow, Director of Music Ministry  
with Ruth Nandico**

**What's with those ashes?**

The first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday for the ritual of imposing ashes in the form of a cross on the foreheads of the faithful while a minister pronounces the words, "From dust you came, and to dust you shall return."

Ashes have been used as a token of penance and sorrow from early Old Testament times. The Church accepted the custom from Jewish tradition and kept its original meaning. By the end of the eleventh century, most devout people received ashes on the first day of Lent, and it has become a general practice worldwide.

If you have suggestions for special musical guests during the summer, please contact Ruth.



