

Grace Notes

VOLUME 46

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FEBRUARY 2016

Grace Church
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Pastor

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Culver City, CA 90230

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www.GraceCulver.org
(310) 559-1027



Spirit Matters

Worship Services

Sunday at 9 & 11 am

Wednesday at 6:45 pm

Adult Education

♥ Tuesday Night Bible
Study with Pastor Jim
7pm

♥ Women's Group
(GROW) Wedn at 10am.
All women are invited to
this special time to think
about Sunday's Gospel
lessons, share and pray
together. See you there!

PASTOR'S PAGE

Ash Wednesday, February 10th begins our Lenten Journey together. It is again that time of the church year for contemplation and introspection... a time to stop and take stock of our individual and corporate lives.

It's a time when we focus our attention on the life of our Lord, his mission and ministry... his suffering and death.

This opportunity to slow down and take stock is a blessing. Unfortunately, like many of God's blessings, Lent can be a blessing that's easily ignored, or not fully appreciated!

Don't let this profound opportunity slip through your "spiritual fingers"... take full advantage of the blessings that are offered to you.

I encourage you to participate in the worship and study opportunities offered this holy Lenten season at Grace church... In addition to our Sunday morning worship services at 9 & 11am, we will be offering special Wednesday night Lenten Services with dramas/and or special readings at 6:45pm preceded by our traditional Wednesday night Lenten soup suppers.

Also, each Tuesday evening at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room, join Pastor Jim as we continue our study through one of the great books of the Bible, the Gospel of Matthew...

And for all women, don't forget Pastor Ellen's GROW group that meets at 10am each Wednesday morning also in the Fireside Room.

However you are able, use this Lenten season to explore those ways that can strengthen and deepen your spirituality. I believe the more we become involved in Lent and its blessings, the greater will be our joy and blessings at Easter...

To quote Martin Luther... "This is most certainly true!"

Wishing you the many blessings of Lent...



What is "Lent"?

According to the gospels, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the desert before starting the ministry that led him to the cross. We mirror that journey during Lent in order to help us prepare for Easter. Through special readings, prayers and music the church encourages us to consider our lives, our spiritual walk, and our priorities. This is the time to spend more time with God in prayer or meditation.

Ideas for a Lenten practice:

- ♥ "Skip-it" so others don't have to! That donut, a cuppa coffee, a fast food meal — just "skip it" and donate that money saved to Grace Lutheran Church. Be sure to write what you "skipped" on your offering envelope. We'll print it in the bulletin weekly to inspire others (your identity will be kept anonymous!).
- ♥ **Write out your personal faith story** — We'd like to hear it! We're collecting original writings to publish in a special outreach booklet. Contact Marina 310-559-1027
- ♥ **Volunteer** to do a special **reading** for Wednesday nights and/or supply a hearty home-made **soup** for Lenten suppers on Wed nights. Sign up by contacting the office.
- ♥ **Help out at Grace Diner!** Contact Lisa Skelley for information.



February Highlights

Saturday Feb 6, at 6pm. CHIEFS Potluck, fellowship, cards. Contact Ginny MacInnis for information or to RSVP. All are invited to this fun event! 310-839-6015.

Feb 7—Transfiguration Sunday—commemorating Jesus' appearance on the mountain top. This is also **Shrove Sunday/Souper Bowl Sunday**. It's the perfect time to clean your house of loose change, bring it to church, and drop it in the "soup bowl" as you enter. The money will be donated 100% to feeding the kids who drop-in to Grace after school 4 days a week. For many of these kids, this is their first contact with church and with a loving Christian setting.



Ash Wednesday is Feb 10 at 12pm and at 7pm. This is the start of the Lenten season. It gets its name from blessing ashes (made from palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday), and placing them on the heads of participants. As we receive the sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads, we hear the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". **Everyone is invited to the services and for soup lunch after the noon service or soup supper at 6pm.**



Thursday, February 18 at 7pm HABITAT FOR HUMANITY meeting. The City of Culver City is moving ahead with a **10-unit housing project!** We're gathering all the representatives from all the Lutheran churches here on the west side to discuss the possibility of having one of the homes principally funded by the Lutheran churches. You are invited to join us for the first meeting. **RSVP: mhente@sbcglobal.net**



Sunday Feb 28 between services. First Communion classes. Children as young 4 yrs old are invited to attend a series of 3 short classes on what communion is all about. Contact Lisa Skelley to sign up skelleyone@gmail.com or 310-559-1027

A new type of "fun" raiser: Spring 2016 Musical Theater Camp

Disney's Alice in Wonderland, Jr.

Presented by the Grace Church Performing Arts Ministry (PAM). This is a major outreach to the community and in-reach to our volunteers. Since its inception in 2002, Grace Player productions have been seen by thousands of people!

The purpose of PAM is to:

1. Provide a spiritually healthy environment and outlet for performers of all ages.
2. Outreach to the community with uplifting, wholesome entertainment.

REHEARSALS: 12 Friday afternoons, February 12 to May 13 (off during spring break)
& 4 Saturday mornings: April 16, 23, 30, & May 7

PERFORMANCES: May 14 & 15 AGES: 3rd through 6th grade

COST: \$500 (materials fee included) Payable to Grace Church

Early bird special is \$450 if paid before January 15, 2016



Partial scholarships are available—contact Marina at:
Grace Church, 4427 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
310-559-1027 GraceCulver@sbcglobal.org



- Singing, acting and dancing lessons culminate in two public performances.
- Children will learn team work and stagecraft as they gain poise and confidence.
- With three Alices and three Cheshire Cats as well as a host of fun characters, every child will have a chance to shine!

PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord

Psalm 100:1

Church Budget, December 31, 2015



Budget (ytd): \$48k

Received: \$45k (Status: \$3k in the red)

A ONE TIME offering of \$20 from each church family will bring us even. Then keeping up with your regular giving will KEEP us even — allowing Grace Church to continue to do good works in the community and beyond!

Please remember Grace in your monthly budget! If you're having trouble staying on track, "automatic giving" can help you! Ask Marina about the Simply Giving program.



2 Corinthians 9:6 *"But this I say, those that sow sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and those that sow bountifully shall reap also bountifully."*



Lisa's Thank You Corner

Whoa! It's already the New Year...and there are so many folks to thank already!

- ♥ ALL the ladies and youth who helped decorate the sanctuary and narthex during the holidays. The church looked so beautiful on Christmas Eve!
- ♥ Johna Miller, for always having great ideas.
- ♥ Robert "Admiral" Tidwell, for being Usher Extraordinaire.
- ♥ The Schmicker girls, for always looking like Easter morning each Sunday. Who doesn't love looking at those cute outfits they wear?

- ♥ Margaret Zamorano for continually volunteering around the church and Grace Diner. Thank You!
- ♥ For the rockstars of maintenance--John, Terry and our Garden Angels.
- ♥ Momo & MJ, for Tuesday morning flower arranging. They're so artsy and awesome! Give them big a hug when you see them.

Special Ministries . . .



Please consider making a regular donation to GRACE DINER in addition to giving to Grace Church. Every little bit helps! The Diner touches the lives of the most needy members of the community by providing a FREE delicious hot cooked meal each week for 100 people. www.GraceDiner.org

El Salvador

Sunday, Feb 21 — Learn more about refugees, resources, and the Guardian Angel program.



Grace has two sister congregations in El Salvador. Our churches pray for each other and educate our children about each other's nations and needs. Our congregation supports an annual mission to visit El Salvador during the summer, holds fundraisers, and organizes donations of much needed items for our sister churches.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, come to church 2/21/16 or please contact Pr Ellen: ejennrich71@gmail.com
310-391-8579 310-351-0319



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

- ♥ Culver City is moving ahead with a **10-unit housing project!**

We're gathering all the representatives from all the Lutheran churches here on the west side together to discuss the possibility of having one of the homes principally funded by the Lutheran churches. You are invited to join us for the first meeting:

Thursday, February 18 at 7pm
RSVP: mhente@sbcglobal.net



I invite a friend to church

(Or call an old friend who hasn't come to church lately!)

Something to ponder . . . And to act upon:

"My church is absolutely welcoming. . . happy, gracious and grateful to meet new families. But a welcoming church can easily become a dying church. . . .

Yes, we need to be welcoming; but more importantly, we need to be invitational. That means taking a risk and putting ourselves out there for possible rejection when we invite people to our church. It means going out into the world, making contact with people and building relationships with them.

We can't just wait and assume people are going to show up — because they won't. We're also going to encounter more and more folks who don't know the things about our faith that we take for granted. And that's okay.

What's not okay is for us to mistake the words of Jesus to 'Go' for 'Stay and wait for people to come' — no matter how welcoming we may be."

—Pr Joseph Yoo, Santa Barbara

Prayer Ministry

**Don't forget your
Secret Prayer
Partner!**

John Andrew
Carol Auslander
Patti & Sean Baker
Biggs family
Paula Boelsems
Monique Charland
Mary Jo Collette
Carl Cox
Betty Davis
Lynn Erickson
Jana Franz
Elaine Goodyear
Margaret Gottschalk
Larry & Doris Green
Betty Gregory
Pr S Gunderson
Erna Guy
Liz Hawkes
Craig Heath
Patricia Jefferson
Bob Jennrich
Karen Johns
Lorene Jones
Marjorie Joy
Mike Keithley

Brenda Langdon
Betty, Cindi & Shawn
Lasley
Linda Lovgren
Blanche Kline
Bernice & Roy
Mathison
Pr Matias
Paul Mayberry
Kebo, Don, Jensu Mark
Gladis Moreno
Margaret Olson
Pastor Carlos Paiva
Barbara Petersen
Albert Prabhu
Nancy Reeve
Leota Thorne
Pat Trelinski
The Walden family

All In the Military,
especially:
Brenna Miller,
Freddie Wilson



February Birthdays

James Gilbert 02/01	Mary Lou Basaraba 02/18
Kimberly Garner 02/07	Patricia Baker 02/20
Sean Baker 02/13	Lawrence Green 02/21
Joshua Winston 02/13	Ray Lanthier 02/22
Beverly O'Brien 02/15	Maribel Sosa 02/22
Janice Szujewski 02/16	Brad Sick 02/23
Arthur Cruz 02/16	
John Priebe 02/17	

*Grace Notes Sponsorships are \$25 per month to help the church defray the cost of materials and postage.
Please sign up in the Narthex.*

**The February issue of Grace Notes
is sponsored by:**

*The Swenson family in celebration of
LOVE,*

*George & Cathie Seeman in memory of
Norma Jones,*

*Marilyn & Harvey Schneider to celebrate
the beautiful music of Grace*

February Roster

HELP NEEDED! Please check below.
Can you help? Please let us know!

Feb 7—TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	Ron Engen	Keeshawn Andrew
Com. Asst	M Zamorano	Alexis Andrew
Lector	M Tidwell	Sean Andrew
Cantor	Amy Liggett	Choir
Crucifer	M Zamorano	Alexis Andrew
Acolyte	Help needed!!	Ginny MacInnis
Children's Sermon	Patti Millet	Patti Millet
Altar Guild	M Tidwell	Ginny MacInnis
Greeters	Children/Youth	Erna Guy

February 10, 2016—ASH WEDNESDAY

	12pm	7pm*
Asst Minister	Ron Engen	Michelle Moreno
Com. Asst	M Zamorano	Jerry Gottschalk
Lector	Ron Engen	Michelle Moreno
Cantor	N/A	TBD
Crucifer	M Zamorano	Jerry Gottschalk
Acolyte	M Tidwell	Jessica Carroll
Children's Sermon	N/A	Pastor Jim
Altar Guild	M Tidwell	M Tidwell/B Davis
Greeters	Joan Engen	Robert Tidwell

* choir

Feb 14—1st Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	John Priebe	Katie Parks
Com. Asst	Katie Priebe	M Tidwell
Lector	Nancy Watson	Katie Parks
Cantor	Jack Skelley	Praise group
Crucifer	Katie Priebe	M Tidwell
Acolyte	M Zamorano	Help needed!
Children's Sermon	Sherri O'Daniel	Sherri O'Daniel
Altar Guild	M Zamorano	M Tidwell
Greeters	Nancy Watson	Erna Guy

Feb 21—2nd Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.*
Asst Minister	Lila Swenson	Betty Davis
Com. Asst	Mark Kleinman	Patti Baker
Lector	Barbara Bilbao	MJ Petersen
Cantor	Michelle Lacy	Choir
Crucifer	Mark Kleinman	Patti Baker
Acolyte	Finn Swenson	Jessica Carroll
Children's Sermon	Brenda Langdon	Brenda Langdon
Altar Guild	M Tidwell	Pam Snodgrass
Greeters	The Engens	Marilyn Schneider

Feb 28—3rd Sunday in Lent

	9:00 a.m.*	11:00 a.m.
Asst Minister	Tom Hayes	M Zamorano
Com. Asst	Jerry Gottschalk	Mark Kleinman
Lector	David Stamford	Patti Baker
Cantor	David Stamford	Jim Snodgrass
Crucifer	Jerry Gottschalk	Mark Kleinman
Acolyte	Ginny MacInnis	Help needed!
Children's Sermon	Tom Hayes	Pastor Jim
Altar Guild	Ginny MacInnis	M Zamorano
Greeters	John Zeigler	Marilyn Schneider

BLESSINGS!




If you are unable to make your assigned time, please find a replacement and contact the office with the information.

If you would like a place on the roster, we welcome volunteers for each position, and the training is easy.

Just contact Marina at 310-559-1027.

Please check your weekly email reminder for updates to the roster!

FEBRUARY 2016 CALENDAR

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wedn	Th	Fr	Sat
	1 4:30pm Grace Diner	2 3:30pm WOW 5:30 Bell rehearsal 7pm Pastor Jim Bible Study	3 10am Bible Study 3pm Confirmation 6pm Potluck Supper 6:45 Worship Service	4 9am Office Angels 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 3pm—TAG	6 CHIEFs 6pm
7  "Now the Feast & Celebration" 9am Contemporary Service 11am	8 4:30pm Grace Diner	9 3:30pm WOW 5:30 Bell rehearsal 7pm Pastor Jim Bible Study	10 12PM—Ash Wednesday Service 1pm Soup lunch 6pm Soup Supper 7pm Ash Wed. Service	11 9am Office Angels 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 3:30pm Alice in Wonderland Rehearsal	13
14—1st Lent Happy Valentines  "Now the Feast & Celebration" 9am Contemporary Service 11am	15 4:30pm Grace Diner	16 3:30pm WOW 5:30 Bell rehearsal 7pm Pastor Jim Bible Study	17 10am Bible Study 3pm Confirmation 6pm Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Service	18 9am Office Angels <i>Habitat Meeting</i> <i>7pm Parish Hall</i> 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 3:30pm Alice in Wonderland Rehearsal	20
21—2nd Lent "Refugee Sunday" <i>Resources and information</i> "Now the Feast & Celebration" 9am Contemporary Service 11am	22 4:30pm Grace Diner	23 3:30pm WOW 5:30 Bell rehearsal 7pm Pastor Jim Bible Study	24 10am Bible Study 3pm Confirmation 6pm Soup Supper 6:45 Holden Service COUNCIL 7:30pm	25 9am Office Angels 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	26 3:30pm Alice in Wonderland Rehearsal	27
28—3rd Lent "Now the Feast & Celebration" 9am 1st Communion Class between services Contemporary Service 11am	29 4:30pm Grace Diner	<p><i>Ideas for Lent:</i></p> <p>♥ "Skip-it" — see p.2 for details!</p> <p>♥ <i>Soup makers for Lenten Wednesday Suppers starting February 10. See p 2.</i></p> 				



Services
Wednesday, February 10
12pm
& 7pm

Ash Wednesday

Create in me a clean heart,
O God,
and put a new and right
spirit within me.

Psalm 51.10

Lent is a time to:



PRAY



FAST



“Skip-it”

*So others don't have to!
(Info on p. 2)*

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Grace is the Place!

