

# Grace Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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[www.gracechurch-pcusa.org](http://www.gracechurch-pcusa.org) for prayer list, sermons, and more

**March, 2011**

**A woman** and her young daughter took a litter of black Labrador puppies to a veterinarian's clinic for inoculations and worming. Because the puppies were look-alikes, the vet had to figure out a way to tell the treated dogs from the untreated ones.

He decided to turn on the water faucet, wet his fingers, and moisten each dog's head after treatment. The little girl watched intently and then asked her mom, "Shouldn't we take them to church to be baptized?"

**The Christian season of Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday**, March 9. The word "Ash" comes from the Old Testament, "sackcloth and ashes." Lent consists of the 40 days and 6 Sundays ending Saturday noon prior to Easter. The name comes from the old English "lencten," which means "lengthening" of the days of spring. The mood of Lent is discipline, perhaps doing something positive rather than doing without something. The color is violet. Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras, March 8, is the last day of feast and frolic before the Lenten season begins.

## **Schedule of Special Lenten Services:**

**March 13.** First Sunday of Lent - Communion. What are you giving up or taking on for Lent?

**March 27.** The Ministerial Alliance Lenten service at Grace will be held at 5:00.

**April 10.** Symbols of Easter at the end of the morning worship service.

**April 17.** Chancel Choir Contata, "Whispers of the Passion."

**April 21.** Maundy Thursday seder service for families and children in Fellowship Hall. Eat before you come. We will have the elements of Jesus last supper with his disciples, but it's not enough to make a meal.

## **Looking ahead to Easter:**

**April 24.** Easter, the holiest day of the Christian year! Due to declining attendance at the early service in recent years, Grace will have only one service, 10:45.

**Postings.** "Thanks, everyone, for prayers. Ed's surgery went great." -**Joan Groat.**

"Thank you for your prayers and expressions of sympathy during the loss of our beloved LaMont. LaMont, precious gift to all of us, will always be loved and cherished." **Melody Manning-**

**Williams, Lillian Manning & Family.** "Thanks for cards and prayers. Pam'la is in a rehab facility in Farmington and doing much better." **Paula Westbrook**

**Backpacks for kids.** In the past three years, the quilters of Grace have given 745 comfort quilts to foster children of Jefferson County. Grace has donated 75 quilts since August of 2010. This backpack is given to any child taken into Family Services and placed in a foster home. Some come from abusive homes, some from meth homes. All are given a backpack with a comfort quilt, basic necessities, and other items.

**March meal-a-month** donations to the Rescue Mission include canned meat, macaroni & cheese, bar/liquid soap, and paper plates. Donations will be collected Sunday, March 27.

**Recycling.** We can double our usual earnings from the Paper Bin located in our parking lot if we exceed the amount collected from last March. "Bring Your Parchment in Marchment!"

**Youth Group.** Youth are meeting at 9:30a.m. on Sundays three times a month, and then having an evening activity once/month. Call Terry O'Neill at 314-322-2449.

**Alpha Course.** The spring Alpha Course (10 weeks) began March 1, Tuesday evening, with dinner at 6:15. However, the first night was Preview Night. You can still join the group by just showing up. Call the church office, 937-3019, if you have questions.

**Children's Sunday School (GPS) will be** studying "Easter Around the World." All children welcome! Kirk Jackson is leading the children's singing!

**Adult Sunday School.** **One** class is studying "The Present Word" curriculum. **A second** class is discussing the Serendipity Study Bible. All adults welcome!

**A new Sunday School Class for young women** has formed! The leader is Laura DeClue, and presently the study is the DVD-course, "Amazing Grace."

**Was Taxation** *without* representation worse than taxation *with* representation?

**To walk with God** is to be reassured of direction, guidance, and strength for our daily journey. What do we have to fear when we're in God's presence? Nothing at all? This does not mean that we will be spared discouragement, disease, or death itself. It does mean that we will never be alone. It means we will be given strength to meet the demands of our daily lives. It means that we will receive wisdom to judge wisely the direction to take.



