

A Grace Note from the Rector  
February 8, 2024

Dear Ones,

There are many opportunities to gather in the coming weeks. Make sure to join us this **Sunday for Coffee Hour**. The Daughters of the King are preparing a "Souper Bowl" brunch, with a touch of Mardi Gras.

On **Saturday February 10**, join me at Christ Church Cathedral at 11am in a service **celebrating the life and ministry of Absalom Jones**, the first African-American ordained a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church. Bishop Jennifer will celebrate the Eucharist; the preacher will be The Rev. Daren Evans, Associate Rector at The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia. The service will also be livestreamed – check the Cathedral's website.

#### **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER**

Next Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, Grace Church Hospitality is serving a Pancake Supper, complete with sausages (meat and vegetarian options) and syrups. If you wish to bring fruit or a side dish, you may, but it is not required. We begin serving pancakes at 5:30 but come when you can. *Laissez le bon temps rouler!*

#### **YARN AND YARNS**

Needleworkers will meet on **Wednesday, February 14** from 10-noon in the Parish Library. All are welcome.

#### **LENT IS COMING**

February 14 Ash Wednesday – Noon & 7pm  
Distribution of Ashes & Holy Eucharist, Rite I

February 18 The First Sunday in Lent – 9:30  
The Great Litany & Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
Fr. Steve Giovangelo, *Presider & Preacher*

#### **Midweek Ecumenical Lenten Gatherings**

Study Book: *The Love That is God: An Invitation to Christian Faith*  
by Frederick Bauerschmidt

6:00pm light dinner

7:00pm program

February 21: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

February 28: Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church

March 6: Grace Episcopal Church

March 13: Hazelwood Christian Church

March 20: First Presbyterian Church

#### **WHAT IS LENT, AND WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?**

The season we call Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. You can read about the reasons for this particular season in the Book of Common Prayer on pages 264-265. The big picture is that Lent is a season of preparation for the annual celebration of Easter. People and churches take up that preparation in a variety of ways.

Here at Grace, we change what we see and what we hear. The colors change from green to purple. You will see the priest wearing a new purple chasuble, a gift of Harriett Maitlen Thomas in memory of her half-brother Dean. You will also see Grace's historic wooden altar back in the sanctuary for a time. There will be less organ music; we put away the "Alleluia"; the Psalm will be sung with Plainchant rather than Anglican Chant; and, we will pray in the language of Rite I for the season.

This is not because "Rite I only talks about sin" (I do not believe that to be true). Rather, it is because in seasons of solemn preparation, we dig down deep, remembering our past. Most especially, it causes us, for a season, to listen differently. I invite you to use these seasonal changes to embrace, not simply endure, this season of preparation.

### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

As part of Black History Month this year, I encourage you to read the daily columns in the Muncie Star Press. As a relative newcomer to East Central Indiana, I deeply appreciate these snapshots of our deep and diverse history. An essential part in being a Beacon of Christ in this community is continuing to be curious about all of our neighbors.

### **A BETTER WAY ~ FEBRUARY NEEDS**

New or Gently Used items needed – pillow cases, twin sheets, twin blankets, wash cloths and bath towels. Thank you for your ongoing support!

This week, I received this note from A Better Way...

*Dear Grace Episcopal Church,*

*We are now well into 2024 and moving further away from this past Christmas season, but I just wanted to say thank you one more time for your generosity and compassion. Thank you very much for sponsoring some families this previous Christmas! You helped spread so much joy!*

### **CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS**

**Food Pantry:** Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese.

**Personal Care Items:** Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Charles Mason** (February 8)

**Delila Bailey** (February 14)

*O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God bless you in these days,



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