

A Grace Note from the Rector
January 25, 2024

Dear Ones,

The bitterly cold weather seems to have eased up, making getting around both easier and safer. Just in time, because there is a lot going on here at Grace.

TOM AND BEA MERTENS ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

Jeffrey Smith, organist
Sunday, January 28 – 3:00 p.m.

Sursa Performance Hall, Ball State University

Jeffrey Smith is Professor of Practice in Organ and Sacred Music at Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington. He formerly was music director at St. Paul's Parish in Washington, D.C. and earlier was canon director of music at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. All are welcome to attend this concert – free and open to the public.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On **Sunday, February 4** we will gather for Grace's Annual Parish Meeting. We will elect new Vestry members and Lay Delegates to Diocesan Convention, receive the 2024 Parish Budget, and hear reports from the various ministries of the parish. Please plan to attend. The meeting will take place in the Parish Hall immediately after the morning service. The Grace Parish Choir will provide brunch. Any funds received will benefit Grace's Music Program.

PARISH LEADERSHIP

We are still looking for Parishioners to serve as Lay Delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention. If you are interested, please speak to Connie Turner or Father Paul.

LENT IS COMING

We're not too far away from the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 14.

WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES

The 2024 benefit for the Muncie Mission will take place on Saturday, February 17. I will be out of town that weekend but have made a donation. I encourage all of you to consider donating to this important event or join in the walk! Here's a link:

<https://secure.ggiv.com/event/walkamileinmyshoes2024/donate/>

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

Some of you have already met Aron Babb, who has been attending Grace. He is asking for help in getting to church on Sunday mornings. He lives at 4800 North County Rd. 400 East, Muncie IN 47303. If you can help, even occasionally, please reach out to him at 765-717-2075, and thanks!

A BETTER WAY ~ JANUARY NEEDS

Still receiving journals and pens for clients as well as hairbrushes, combs, body lotion, men's disposable razors and men's deodorant. Thank You!

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.

YARN AND YARNS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joan Malje (January 26)

Lynn & Adam Beach (January 28)

Ron Groeber (January 31)

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.

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

Today, January 25, is the day the Church keeps the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. However often we tell or retell what happened on the road to Damascus, it remains an astonishing story. That Saul, the implacable enemy of Christianity, who came against the faith 'breathing threats and slaughter', should be chosen by God to be Christianity's greatest proponent and apostle is just the first of a series of dazzling and life-changing paradoxes that flow from Paul's writing. At the heart of these is the revelation of God's sheer grace – working everything through the very weakness of those who love him. **Malcolm Guite** celebrates some of what he glimpses in the great Apostle.

Apostle

An enemy whom God has made a friend,
A righteous man discounting righteousness,
Last to believe and first for God to send,
He found the fountain in the wilderness.
Thrown to the ground and raised at the same moment,
A prisoner who set his captors free,
A naked man with love his only garment,
A blinded man who helped the world to see,
A Jew who had been perfect in the law,
Blesses the flesh of every other race
And helps them see what the apostles saw;
The glory of the lord in Jesus' face.
Strong in his weakness, joyful in his pains,
And bound by love, he freed us from our chains.

God bless you in these days,



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