



LIVING GRACE NOTES

JANUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER

THE REVEREND DAVID E. HARDY, D.D., PASTOR

Web Page: www.livinggracelutheran.org

Gathered to Celebrate, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve!

The Christmas Celebrations

What a delight it was to have a full house at the 7:30 Christmas Eve service where we celebrated with carols, lessons, and puppets the joy of Christ's birth. The children really enjoyed the presentation of "What's a Christmas?", the story of Clyde and Tony, as presented by Alice and Matt Adler. We thank them very much for all their work and effort in the presentation. The late service was also well attended and we are grateful to all who came out and who worked so diligently to make it all be so meaningful.

The Christmas Day service was also a real treat and a real surprise. When you plan something with such potential for failure, you're never quite sure what to expect. It was cold, damp, and blustery – all good reasons to stay in. It was early on Christmas Day when everyone is busy with the excitement of gift opening and dinner preparations – again good reasons to remain at home. My son Michael and I got there early to broom the water off the floors from the overnight rains. Soon Dot Beaver arrived with a carload of chairs. And then the people started arriving, bringing more chairs, until 81 people were there to celebrate in our new place. The music was led by our very own nascent praise band: keyboard, guitar, dulcimer, tambourine, a set of conga drums, and enthusiastic vocalists. Those attending represented a cross section of all ages from our congregation. We laughed, sang, received communion, rejoiced in the potential that we saw around us, and anticipated our future with excitement. We also had a varying audience from the Quik Trip as customers looked across to see what was going on. After the service, at least five of our vehicles pulled into the QT to take advantage of cheaper gas prices. How convenient. To everyone who made the day happen, our heartfelt thanks to each.

January 2006

We also take this opportunity to wish for everyone in our congregation and their families near and far all the very best for this new year. May it be a year of promises fulfilled, of hopes realized, and one of personal joy and peace.

Pastor Hardy

GENERAL NEWS AND WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January Birthdays

2	Peter Phan	
3	Roy Vreeland	Annabelle Wright
6	Nita Helmey	
7	Michael Hardy	
12	Mackenzie Lionberger	
13	Nikki Ireton	
14	David Parker	
15	Margery Kellar	
17	Johnny Levengood	
19	Jean Lemonds	Karl Ireton
	Ann-Margaret Holden	
20	Duncan Shirah	
24	Becky Frye	Dot Beaver
25	Alison Durrence	

Facilities Calendar

As many activities are being planned using Living Grace's facilities, please make sure you check the Facilities Calendar on the wall by the office before scheduling an event. If you have any questions, please call the church office. Thank you!

Announcements for Bulletins

If you have an announcement to be placed in the Sunday bulletins, please let Leanne Beutler know no later than 12 noon Thursday before the Sunday it is to be printed. You may send the announcement via email to the following address: Lbeutler@aol.com.

Newsletter Articles

To submit a newsletter article, you can either have a hard copy into the church office by

the deadline date listed or send an electronic format to Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com.

Treasurer's Report

The total offering received through November 30 was \$232,642.77. For the same period in 2004 we had only received \$214,502.50. The continuing good news is that 2005 is 8.5% ahead of 2004 for the same period. Our 2005 budgeted income should be \$294,190.38.

A complete outline of income and expenses for January through November 2005 is on the bulletin board for your review.

Thank You!

Many thanks to my family at Living Grace for the cards and prayers and concerns during my recent surgery. Prayers were answered because I'm doing just fine.

Charlette Beutler

Thank you to my Living Grace family for remembering me at Christmas by the generous gift given to me on 18 December. It gives me great pleasure to work for my church family. I pray daily for the love and spirituality that I feel in this fellowship of faith.

Leanne Beutler

Penelope Pew

Penelope would like to express to her Living Grace family a BIG THANK YOU for making visitors so welcome when they walk into our church. She also wants to remind us that when we see visitors in our "pews" and they might look confused, that we also extend our

fellowship and help them through the service. Don't forget to extend an invitation to our fellowship after the service. You never know what will make people feel so welcome and want to come back to become part of our church family.

Congratulations Leanne!

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Leanne Beutler who is being presented the Supporter Appreciation Award by the State Bar of Georgia Board of Governor's on behalf of the High School Mock Trial Committee. Leanne has been supporting the High School Mock Trial Program here in Georgia for over the last 10 plus years by volunteering her services as an office worker and scorer for the competitions that are held two weekends in February each year. She will be presented with this award on Saturday, 7 January 2006.

Guidelines for Prayer Requests

These guidelines are offered as a reminder of how the prayer list will operate each month for the newsletter.

When the church office learns that someone is ill, the staff does not assume that the ill person wishes to have his/her name listed on the prayer list. In fact, some people are very clear they do not wish to be listed. Therefore, if you wish to be remembered in prayer or have prayers for another, please call the church office at 404/634-7505 or email Leanne at Lbeutler@aol.com.

Upon request to have your name or another's name placed on the list the name will remain on the list for three newsletters. Please call the church office or email Leanne to begin a new three newsletter cycle. If the person's name needs removal before this, please notify the church office or Leanne. The reason for this cycle is that last year names remained on the list and the information was never given to the church office or Leanne that the person overcame their illness or crisis and sometimes the person had been called to their eternal home and we did not know about it.

The prayer list does not contain specific health information. It is the church's policy to respect people's privacy and also in compliance with the Hippa Act.

When submitting a prayer request, remember to include your name so that if follow-up information is necessary, we know who to contact.

Thank You

Praying for Members, Family, and Friends

Members

David Allen; Charlie Althafer; Walter "Wally" Bartling; Bill Crawford; Tom Droege; Martin Gruber; Verna Jensen; Hilton Johnson; Julien Lange; Margie Linnartz; Cynthia Outman; Joan "Jo" Richards; Cathy Shirah; Evelyn Woosley

Family and Friends

Helen Bass

Phyllis Prunty's sister-in-law

Leslie Rotureau

Sue Benner's sister

Donald Carigan

The Gere family's friend

Carol Balsan

Jane Simmons's sister

Bill Markham

Frieda Joiner's friend

Marian Seckinger

JoAnn Durrence's sister

Bert Wege

Jeff and Patti Axel's friend

John Zurkammer

Jerry Prunty's nephew

Sharon Colten

Phyllis Prunty's sister-in-law

Connie Talbot

Vic and Lorraine Koeves's daughter

Kimberly Le

Peter Phan's friend

Melvin

Evelyn Woosley's brother

Judi Tanner

Dot Beaver's niece

Virgil Waylor

Martin Gruber's friend

Hulda Stock

Grandmother of Allison Bordnick-Stock

Dave Cunefare

Brother of Ken and Uncle of Taylor and Erin Cunefare

Joshua Gresham

Friend of Leanne Beutler

Paige Nix

Friend of Leslie Rotureau

Lorraine Dorough

Friend of Living Grace

Amy Carver

Sister of Shirley Arroyo

Brent Anderson

Friend of Connie Holley

The Reverend Harold Reitz

Father of John and Diane Reitz

Courtney

Friend of Leanne Beutler

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY

PARISH NURSE

Each Tuesday and Friday, 10-2

CARE AND PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, 17 January, at 7:30 p.m.

S.M.I.L.E. GROUP

Saturday, 7 January, at 12 noon

SEW 'N SEWS

Monday, 9 January, at 10:00 a.m., at the church

BARNABAS BREAKFAST

Wednesdays, 7 a.m.

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.

WELCA

Dorcas Circle

Tuesday, 10 January, at 10:00 a.m.

Miriam Circle

Saturday, 28 January, at 10:00 a.m.

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every Wednesday, at 7-8:30 p.m

JUNIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS

Every Sunday, at 12 noon – 12:30 p.m.–no rehearsal on 1 January 2006

GOD'S CHILDREN SING

Every Saturday, at 10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.–no session on 7 January 2006

HEALING SERVICE

Wednesday, 4 January, at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper served at 5:00 p.m.

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER, 22 JANUARY 2006

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Sunday, Name of Jesus, 1 January

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Sunday, Baptism of Our Lord, 8 January

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Sunday, 2 Epiphany, 15 January

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Sunday, 3 Epiphany, 22 January

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Sunday, 4 Epiphany, 29 January

Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30

Children's Sunday School at 9:15

Adult Sunday School at 9:30

Senior Choir Warm-Up at 10:00

Junior Choir Rehearsal at 12 noon

Health Ministry of Living Grace

January brings many opportunities to make fresh starts, and in addition we also recognize Sanctity of Life Sunday. This month I would like to share some thoughts with you about End of Life Health Care Decisions.

Why Consider End of Life Decisions?

Approximately 90% of Americans will die a “managed death” and have the opportunity (or burden) to make decisions about how long they will live and under what conditions. Patients can make such decisions through the use of Advanced Directives (a statement of your health care choices or naming someone to make decisions for you). Those who have not signed an advanced directive or living will place the burden of making decisions on loved ones.

What Principles Should Guide Health Care Decisions?

Decisions about health care, like our other life decisions should be based on Biblical truths. The following principles may be useful in guiding our health care decisions and are adapted from Christian Care at Life’s End.

- Each person is created in God’s image and deserves to be treated with the same standard of care (regardless of age or infirmity).
- As Creator, God alone knows with certainty if a condition is incurable.
- When God given body functions to sustain life are no longer effective and the doctors’ judgment is that there is no real hope for recovery, a Christian may in good conscience, let nature take its course.
- Providing pain-relieving medications, even at risk of shortening life, is permissible, since this does not involve the choice of death over life.

- When suffering intrudes into life it provides the opportunity for Christian witness and service.
- It is good ethical practice for doctors to receive a statement signed by the patient indicating wishes to end life-sustaining treatment in case of a terminal condition.
- Death is not only a physical event, but a crucial emotional and spiritual experience for each person.
- Euthanasia in its proper sense involves suicide/murder. It is therefore contrary to God’s will.
- Any complex health care decision and related actions that later appear to be misguided, have been redeemed by Christ.

If you have any questions or concerns related to health care decision, please contact me. We have extra, copies of Advanced Care Directives in the narthex.

My wish for each of you is a blessed, healthy new year, using your God given gifts to be of service to one another.

Yours in Christ

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Jan Levengood
Parish Nurse/Health Minister

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, 4 January – Healing Service at 6:00 p.m. preceded by light supper.

Dr. Tom Droege has written a book on “Receiving Care with Grace and Gratitude.” It

sells for \$12.95 and he will have copies in January that he will autograph for anyone who wants to purchase one.

The congregation has my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for my Christmas check. You are the greatest!

Jan

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) News

Coming Events

Piece Maker's The quilting group will meet at St. James Church on Saturday January 14th - 9:00 AM to 12:00 N and Thursday January 26th - 9:00 AM to 12:00 N. You may call Agnes Nelson if you would like to participate.

The quilts are made and sent to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need.

Sew-N-Sews This group that sews layettes for indigent families at DeKalb Medical Center will meet at the church on Monday, January 9 - 10:00 AM to 12:00 N.

If you would like to help you may call Joann Durrence.

Samaritan's Purse Thanks to all who were so generous in their donations for the Children's Christmas Boxes!

Heifer Sunday Heifer International Sunday is January 15th. Thanks to all for their offerings this past year. We hope to be able to increase our offerings for this program that sustains and develops food resources to the people of developing countries. Please give generously!

Coffee Host/Hostess Coffee Hosts and Hostesses are always needed to prepare for the Coffee Hour after the 10:30 Service. You may sign up on the sheet provided in the Fellowship Hall. Your help is needed. If you are not sure of how to prepare, get in touch with either Phyllis Prunty @770.237.9807 or Sue Benner @770.493.4044 to get the details!

Outreach Committee

Toco Hill Community Alliance The Alliance continues to be in need of food for their food pantry throughout these winter months. Please remember those in need and bring your donations and put them in the box in the Narthex. Items needed are: tuna, pasta, sauce, any canned foods and fruits, peanut butter, dry milk and other non-perishable foods.

Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Coming Events

Shearith Israel Night Shelter for Homeless Women

Thanks to all who have volunteered for serving during our first week in January! We have commitments for all the nights of the week of January 8th - 14th!!

However, as of this past week we still need commitments for most of the nights for our week of February 19th–25th.

To those who have not yet made a commitment we ask that you check your calendars to see what night you have available to help staff the shelter. Remember, this year the shelter has returned to asking for two volunteers each evening, (two women or one woman and one man).

This is a service that provides a great opportunity for you to spend an evening with a friend and to introduce that friend to this unique program that focuses on settling homeless women in permanent homes!

For those interested in learning more about this program, get in touch with Sue or David Benner

@ 770.493.4044; they will be happy to describe to you the duties involved and, if you would like, they will be happy to take you to visit the facility, so that you can take a personal and first hand look at the shelter. They will also be happy to get you in touch with prior volunteers so that you can talk to them about their experiences as they served in this most worthy ministry.

This is the 23rd year our congregation has assisted Congregation Shearith Israel in helping homeless women attain their dreams of becoming independent again!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC AT LIVING GRACE

Living Out Our Baptism

Images of the Season

Epiphany of Our Lord
6 January 2006

In the East three great epiphanies are celebrated on this: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. Epiphany celebrates Christ being made known, or made "manifest," to all nations.

The sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace, in which we behold the mystery of God among us. The magi offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Having seen the light of Christ, we offer the gift of ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that others may also know the epiphany of God's mercy and love.

Baptism of Our Lord
8 January 2006

In the waters of baptism, we are joined to the Son in whom the Father is well pleased. The font is our Jordan, where the Holy Spirit comes to us, strengthening and enlightening us for service in the world. On this great baptismal day, the church prays that all who are reborn as daughters and sons of God will continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir invites anyone who wishes to sing for worship services to come to rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, you may contact any choir member or Dr. Sass, our interim church musician.

Junior Choir

The Junior Choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, 8 January, at 12 noon for a half an hour. If you have any questions, please contact Leanne Beutler, Director.

God's Children Sing

We will resume our music sessions for age 1-5 on Saturday, 14 January, at 10:30 a.m. The children for the first 3 months that have been attending are learning and having fun with music. They will be participating more in the Sunday worship services. For more information, please speak to Leanne Beutler.

Update on Church Musician Position

The Search Committee has one more interview and audition to complete and then will be ready to make a decision. We hope to have something to the congregation by the end of January.



Special Days in January

1 January

Name of Jesus

8 January

Baptism of Our Lord

18 January

Confession of St. Peter

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

25 January

Conversion of St. Paul

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends



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Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!

January 2006
