



LENT 2010

## RECTOR'S LETTER

*Good People:*

There it sits in a hidden few pages of the Book of Common Prayer, as if some embarrassment: the Rite of Reconciliation (pages 446-452). It is Confession in the classic sense, placed strategically between two little-used parts of the Book, the Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child and Ministrations to the Sick. Unless you drifted there during a boring sermon, I wonder if most knew about it? We do have a confession we say at Eucharist every Sunday, in fact, it's an integral part of the Holy Eucharist, but that is communal, not individual - a common mistake. At Eucharist we are confessing that as a community of Faith we collectively have not fully lived up to our commitments to Christ. Private or Individual confession is left to these few dusty pages I mentioned. Coupled with a culture that advertises having it all and guilt-free at that, confession seems like a caricature from the exaggerations of Hollywood. Unlike other churches in our tradition, The Episcopal Church does not race to emphasize individual confession and there are only a handful of Episcopal Churches which have the old confessional box so humorously portrayed in the media.

So what about the lines from the Ash Wednesday invitation which call us all to get on the confessional bandwagon? Is the whole reconciliation piece just between God and me or is there more to this? How about the part of the service of Baptism where we call upon the Holy Spirit to wash away the sins of what appears to be an infant whose most grievous sin might be waking up a parent at 2:00 am?

It might come as a surprise that all the major faith communities have a confessional piece to them. The Vinaya of Buddhism calls upon its followers to a biweekly confession. In Islam, confession is one of the seven pillars of Faith. Hebrews have ritual baths (note well) and those of us in the communities which follow Jesus do the same. It seems that this might be a part of the human community. The goal of all faith communities is reconciliation, personal and corporate. Unity with one another and God is what faith is about. Presumably one cannot function well as a person or as a good community member without the healing of confession and reconciliation. In our particular case, we are about to tuck into the great three days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Vigil where there is the theme of Jesus dying out of love for sinners and the estranged, and resurrection being the ultimate act of reconciliation. If the gift of life is also the gift of freedom to choose, then the wrong choice is not just a possibility but a probability. Or as a friend of mine once said, "Actually the only people we take into the church are sinners."

So what is the Rite of Reconciliation all about? It is a sacramental action of the church intended to heighten one's awareness and experience of reunion with God, with our true selves (the self that God knows we truly are) the communities in which we live, and with our common mother, the earth. What Confession is not is acquiring the forgiveness of God by feeling miserable or guilty so we get 'rewarded.' God gives what is needed, not deserved. So reconciliation is living with a community that embraces faith in the grace of God, unearned, undeserved and unexpected. The process is something like this: One names that which is sinful, i.e. that which keeps one from one's true self, one's neighbor, or one's trust in God. Then is there resolve not to commit the sin again. [We have seen enough stories where the "Bless me father for I have sinned" is a cover up to keep doing the same behavior.] Present is enough humility in the resolve not to sin again. The third step is restitution, that is, to the extent all that is *humanly* possible, to make good on the damage to self, others and community? And here is the clincher: is one ready to accept absolution, that is, is one willing to both accept the forgiveness necessary to empower new life **and** to forgive those who have sinned against us? It goes **both** ways! It is then and only then that the Rite of Reconciliation makes sense. In short, the homework has to get done even though one knows the test results are in one's favor.

Is there anyone living a sin free life? Well look at the sanctuary of this parish and look at the six cardinal virtues there (the seventh - grace - is the one we are supposed to be living as a faith community). Opposite those virtues in Christian lore are seven "deadly sins." There is pride, or putting one's ego in the place of God, or fashioning God in one's own image. There is envy where a person wants to be someone else or tries to be someone others want one to be. A favorite is anger, which is nursing resentments and or burying the feelings that are honest. Overlooked often is sloth which is not caring about the ecology of the body, the soul and the whole ecological world. Avarice is turning things into gods, and gluttony is acting unjustly in consuming more than is one's share. The hands-down racy one is lust, which is turning another into an object or letting one's own God-given self be turned into an object. Any resonance here? All of these seven deadly sins are soul sickness and reconciliation is healing and restoration and ultimately a foretaste of the Resurrection.

This year, the conclusion of Lent in Holy Week we will offer an opportunity to worship in the spirit of reconciliation on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in between Palm Sunday and the dawn of Easter. The liturgies will be for common prayer and Holy Eucharist and provision will be made for private confession. The task is to prepare for the Paschal Feast of Easter and to engage the healing power of the Gospel in personal, communal and cosmic ways, renewing and restoring faith in the healing power of Resurrected Savior.

May you see many blessings. **Richard+**

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### Jonah, This is Lent

Everyone should have received the *Jonah, This is Lent* daily sticker activity book and sticker poster. This activity relates the story of Jonah being swallowed by the whale for 3 days to Jesus being swallowed by death for 3 days. As the story unfolds, kids place stickers on the colorful centerpiece while learning about God's forgiving love.

### Love-Giving for Lent

During the Lenten season in Grace Church School, instead of "giving something up" we like to "give something back". This year's "Love-Giving for Lent" project provides a positive approach to Lent by supporting the Carpenter's Kids, a partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the Episcopal Diocese of New York. "Carpenter's Kids" are Tanzanian HIV/AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children.

The aim of the program is to ensure that each child receives a school uniform, a pair of shoes, breakfast every morning, and adequate school supplies to enable them to attend primary school. Grace Church has had a partnership with a school in Mnaze for the past 3 years based on our parish commitment to support 50 kids at \$50 per year.



Here are pictures and a letter that the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class is sending to the children in Mnase.

**Hello! We hope we can help you. We love you. We want you to feel like you are our family and we all are doing our best to help you. Do you know the game: "Head, shoulders, knees and toes?" We play it here. We are sorry for your parents. We hope you are having a wonderful time and we hope you like this letter. Love, the First and Second grade church school class at Grace Church, Nyack NY**

Each church school student brought home a mite box and ideas for collecting funds. Look for Carpenter's Kids bake sales during upcoming refreshment hours. On Sunday, March 7, Lauren Salminen, the local coordinator for the Carpenter Kids Program, will speak to the kids during church school about the program.

### Way of the Savior -Saturday, March 27 & Palm Sunday, March 28

All families are invited to participate in the *Way of the Savior* program! This program enables your family to re-enact and celebrate the key events of holy week and the meaning of Christ's resurrection including Jesus' triumphant procession into Jerusalem, footwashing, the paschal meal, the trial of Jesus, the crucifixion, burial and resurrection. The Saturday evening program concludes with Jesus' arrest and Sunday morning begins with the trial and concludes with a resurrection party. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and the Junior Youth Group play very important roles in the program and will be assigned speaking or action roles. All families are invited to participate and are asked to bring a dish for the pot luck supper on Saturday evening taking place from 5:30-7:30pm.

### Easter Fair Sunday, March 28 immediately following Way of the Savior

The Senior Youth Group will be organizing this Easter Fair featuring games, crafts, bake sale and raffle to help raise funds for the service trip to Nicaragua.

### Understanding the Eucharist – SLIGHT DATE CHANGE

For children in 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades

A program designed to help younger members of our congregation appreciate the love of God we share and to aid them in better understanding the meaning of their participation in the Holy Eucharist. This 6 week take-home program is designed for an adult to read the background material and engage with their child in interactive experiences illustrating the particular theme. The first meeting will be on Friday, March 19 from 4:30-5:30pm and the second meeting will be on Saturday, May 1 at 9:30am. **Concludes at the 11:00 service on Sunday, May 2. Please sign-up in Memorial Hall on Sundays or e-mail [jenmarraccino@hotmail.com](mailto:jenmarraccino@hotmail.com).**



*As part of a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activity, the church school collected items for this Bhutanese refugee family being resettled in New Haven, Connecticut. Check out the bulletin board outside Memorial Hall for more pictures of Ghana, Bishnu, Narad, Tulshi, Ganga, Keshab and Pabitra in their new home. Thanks to all who contributed, and to Maija Kupris, who made the trip to New Haven to deliver our boxes of donated household items.*

## CONFIRMANDS COOK UP A STORM ON SHROVE TUESDAY



*It may have been threatening weather outside, but inside our 2009-2010 class of confirmands — Kerry Ann Tauken, Kate O'Shea, Kevin Lindemann, Alanna Falcicchio, Kate Fischer, Adam Wilmot Stroud, Matthew Wilmot Stroud, and Lizzi Ginsberg — did a great job whipping up the traditional pre-Lent pancake dinner abundance of Shrove Tuesday.*

*Thanks to all the parents & mentors who helped out, and to Evelyn Lombardi for the photos.*



**CELEBRATION  
OF THE LIFE OF  
MARCO POLYCHRONIS**

A service for long-time parishioner Marco Polychronis, who died on February 17, 2010 has been scheduled on **Saturday, March 27 at 10:00am.** A reception in Memorial Hall will follow.

**BRASS POLISHING  
SATURDAY MARCH 20**

Join us on Saturday, March 20 from 1-4:00pm as we put a shine to the brass in preparation for our Easter celebrations. Come in for a little or for as long as you can, as many hands (and much elbow grease!) make light work of the project. Don't enjoying polishing? We'll be stripping palms for Palm Sunday as well, so there's something for everyone.

**HELPING HANDS**

Grace Church will host Helping Hands for the third time this season on **Sunday, March 28, Monday, March 29 and Tuesday, March 30.** We need volunteers to supervise overnight and volunteers to cook and serve dinner each night. If you want to help with this ministry, sign-up on the volunteers sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**IT'S IN YOUR HANDS.**

We are all conscious of the need to keep our hands clean, and not just for ourselves but for each other. Sharing illness isn't in the toolbox of being faithful. So please, especially during flu season, cover that sneeze, wash your hands, if you are going to dip the wafer in the chalice don't add your fingers to the wine. Thanks from all us.

**SAVE THE DATE — AND YOUR “STUFF”**

**ANNUAL YARD SALE - MAY 16, 2010**  
**SUPPORT CHURCH YOUTH SERVICE**  
**MISSION TRIP TO NICARAGUA**

Watch for more details to follow soon! Questions?  
Call Vickie Hertz at 353 9147.

**COLUMBARIUM NICHE REMINDER**

The price of niches in the Columbarium will increase as of April 1. To take of advantage of the current cost, you must have paid or begun a payment plan before April 1. Contact church office or Linda Chisholm 358-2683 or [lachisholm@verizon.net](mailto:lachisholm@verizon.net)

*Grace Music's 40th season presents*



**At Grace Church, Nyack  
Sunday, April 25, 4 p.m.**

**Celebrating Sebastian  
Bach's 325th: cantatas  
& concerti by Bach &  
his mentors performed  
by the Grace Church  
Choir & Orchestra  
conducted by  
Robert Barrows,  
including Bach cantatas,  
birthday greetings from  
Buxtehude & Vivaldi's  
sunny *Magnificat*.**

*40 Years of Great Music in a Great Space*

*Admission \$15, Seniors \$10, Students \$5*

**Child care available. Meet-the-Artists reception follows.**

## MARCH 2010

### TUESDAY, March 2

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
8:00pm Choir  
10:00pm Compline

### WEDNESDAY, March 3

12:30pm Clericus (Patterson Hall)  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
6:15-8:00pm Food for the Body: Food for the Soul  
Lenten Program

### FRIDAY, March 5

10:00am - Requiem for Homar Lydecker  
Vestry Work Days offsite — through 3/6

### SUNDAY, March 7

8:00am/9:30am 11:00am Holy Eucharist  
10:10 Church School Classes  
10:10am PARISH FORUM: Rockland Parent-Child Center-  
Family Connections Program  
3:00 AGC! Rehearsal (Memorial Hall)  
6:30pm Senior Youth Group (Fenton Room)

### TUESDAY, March 9

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
8:00pm Choir  
10:00pm Compline

### WEDNESDAY, March 10

4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
6:30-8:00pm Food for the Body: Food for the Soul  
Lenten Program & Confirmation Class

### THURSDAY, March 11

7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Patterson Hall)  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)

### SATURDAY, March 13

9:00am Adult Spiritual Formation (Bradley Chapel)  
10:00am Midnight Run (Patterson Hall)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 14

8:00am/9:30am 11:00am Holy Eucharist  
10:10am Church School Classes  
10:10am Commission Meetings: ASF, Commission on  
Social Ministries, Youth  
10:10am – 12:30pm – New Member reception at Rectory  
3:30pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
6:30pm Senior Youth Group (Fenton Room)  
6:30pm French Creole Mass

### TUESDAY, March 16

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
7:30pm Vestry (Patterson Hall)  
8:00pm Choir  
10:00pm Compline

### WEDNESDAY, March 17

4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
6:15-8:00pm Lenten Program  
8:00pm Choir

### FRIDAY, MARCH 19

4:30pm Understanding Holy Eucharist (Patterson Hall)

### SATURDAY, March 20

1:00pm Brass Cleaning (Memorial Hall)

### SUNDAY, March 21

8:00am/9:30am 11:00am Holy Eucharist  
10:10 Church School Classes  
10:10am FORUM: Sin, Redemption, Reconciliation  
6:30pm Senior Youth Group (Fenton Room)

### TUESDAY, March 23

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
7:00pm Boy Scouts (Memorial Hall)  
8:00pm Choir  
10:00pm Compline

### WEDNESDAY, March 24

4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
6:15-8:00pm Lenten Program & Confirmation Class

### THURSDAY, March 25

7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
4:00pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)

### SATURDAY, March 27

10:00am Requiem for Marco Polychronis  
5:00pm Way of Saviour – Part I

### SUNDAY, March 28 - Palm Sunday

8:00am/9:30am/11:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:30am Way of Saviour – Part II  
10:10am Resurrection Party & Easter Fair  
3:00pm Amazing Grace Circus rehearsal (Memorial)  
6:30pm French/Creole Mass

### MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK, March 29

8:00pm Proper Liturgy & Confession

### TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, March 31

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)  
3:30pm Amazing Grace Circus (Memorial Hall)  
8:00pm Proper Liturgy & Confession

# Service Minister's Schedule

March 2010

Month / Day	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Palm Sunday Mar.28
8 AM		Daylight Savings Time		
Sub-deacon/ Chalice	J. Humeston	J. McDowell	R. Hammond	J. Tozer V. Mathews
Lector	J. Humeston	J. McDowell	R. Hammond	Passion Gospel
Acolyte	J. Martin	M. MacQueen	J. Martin	M. MacQueen
Elements	D. Doller / S. Sarvent	D. Doller / S. Sarvent	D. Doller / S. Sarvent	D. Doller / S. Sarvent
Usher Team	H. Wanamaker S. Mock	H. Wanamaker S. Mock	H. Wanamaker S. Mock	H. Wanamaker S. Mock
9:30 AM				
Sub-deacon	M. Olsen	J. McDowell	LM. Schnalzer	xxxxxxxxxxx
Lector / Acolyte	4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students	Way of the Savior
11 AM	Reflection by Kevin L.*	Reflection by Lizzi G.*	Reflection by Kate F.*	
Sub-Deacon/ Chalice	P. Gilbert J. Matthews	L. Holt C. Uccellani	K. Fulmor C. Howe	J. Matthews C. Cox
Lector OT / NT	S. Holt * K Lindemann	P. Lehrecke * L. Ginsberg	J. Marshall * K. Fischer	Passion Gospel
Verger	xxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxx	E. Lombardi
Crucifer	E. Lombardi	C. Cox	E. Lombardi	P. Cose
Torches	A. Stroud M. Stroud	A. Hahn C. Hahn	S. Marshall S. Burns	A. Jean-Gilles P. Jean- Gilles
Element	xxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxx
Usher Teams	Colgan/Mann Team	Wanamaker Team	Cross/Seaman Team	Graham Team
Greeters	C. Streichert R. Fee	B. Wanamaker S. Chalke	B. Cross S. Seiler	B. Growney volunteer

## COFFEE HOURS



Fellowship is an important part of our Sunday gathering, and most of us *really* look forward to our coffee and refreshments. Help us cover the cost of supplies (coffee, tea, sugar & paper products, dish detergent, etc) by contributing what you can – perhaps what you might pay for a cup of coffee from the local deli, or some loose change from your pocket.

Look for the offering basket at coffee hour. We can always use help with refreshments too, so sign up for a date when you can.

## DID YOU KNOW

The coffee that we use at Coffee Hour and Grace Church functions is *Bishop's Blend*, a project of **Episcopal Relief & Development**, which receives **15% of the purchase price from the sale of each bag of coffee**. The coffee is certified Fair Trade, organic and shade-grown and it combines an important social justice issue with ER-D's mission of responding to needs around the world. Fair Trade coffee helps farmers in the developing world receive a fair living wage for their coffee, while protecting the environment. It also furthers Episcopal Relief & Development's mission of responding to issues such as poverty, hunger and disease worldwide.



**DOES YOUR HOUSE  
HAVE LIONS  
FAITH AND CITIZENSHIP  
IN A WORLD OF CHANGE?**

A one-day workshop with  
The Reverend Dr. Emilie Townes  
Presented by the Adult Spiritual  
Formation Commission  
February 20, 2010

*At left, members of the Adult Spiritual  
Formation Commission — Jeanette  
Mathews, Fr. Gressle, John Loftin, Mtr.  
Emily, Jeff McDowell, Emily Wilkins, and  
Mitch Pfenning with Dr. Townes.*

*Thanks to Verne Becker and Evelyn  
Lombardi for the photographs.*





## MARCH 2010

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Parish Office:** (845) 358-1297 Fax: (845) 358-1443  
**The Rev. Richard Gressle, Rector** – ext. 11  
**The Rev. Emily Sieracki, Assistant to the Rector** - ext. 12  
**Robert Barrows, Organist/Choirmaster** – ext. 13  
**Bonnie Parsekian, Assisting Musician**  
**Maija Kupris, Assisting Musician**  
**Jennifer Marraccino, Church School Coordinator** – ext. 14  
**Thayer Woodcock, Parish Administrator** – ext. 10  
**Kim Adele Rosner, Property Administrator** – ext. 17  
**Elaine Dempsey, Receptionist** – ext. 10  
**GraceMusic** – ext. 16 **Grace's Thrift Shop:** (845) 358-7488  
**Grace Church Website:** [www.gracechurchnyack.org](http://www.gracechurchnyack.org)  
**Grace Church E-mail:** [parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org](mailto:parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org)  
**Newsletter Submissions:** [twoodcock@gracechurchnyack.org](mailto:twoodcock@gracechurchnyack.org)

### Wardens

Katharine Fulmor  
Jeff McDowell

### Treasurer

Charles Richardson  
**Assistant Treasurer**  
Sally Ann Mock

### Vestry

Linda Chisholm  
Christine Howe  
Rudolph Knight  
Orville Mann  
Neely McCormick  
Steven Marsh  
Beth Paskowski  
Caran Pullen  
Emily Wilkins

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

### GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH NYACK

*The Rev. Richard L. Gressle, Rector*

*The Rev. Emily Sieracki, Assistant to the Rector*

#### Assisting Clergy:

*The Rev. Alan Chisholm, The Rev. Suzanne Hope Graham*

*The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mann, The Rev. A. Meigs Ross, The Rev. Nathanael Saint-Pierre*

**Office Hours** Mon-Th 9:00 – 4:00pm Friday 9:00-11:00am

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sundays** 8:00am - Holy Eucharist - Rite One  
9:30am - Holy Eucharist - Family Service  
11:00am - Choral Eucharist  
6:00pm - French Creole Mass (*1st & Last*)