

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
 25 East 2nd Street
 Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

FEBRUARY 2012

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Important Dates at a Glance

Sunday, February 5th

Worship and
 Holy Communion
 11:00 a.m.



Sunday, February 12th

Evolution Weekend Event
 Guest Preachers from the Christian,
 Jewish, and Muslim faiths followed by a
 light luncheon and panel discussion
(see page 6 for details)

Sunday, February 19th

Guest Preacher: Rev. John Deckenback
(see page 4 for details)

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday
 Brief Lunchtime Prayer
 Services with
 Imposition of Ashes
(see page 13 for details)



FROM THE PASTOR

What Are They Doing?

I hear that question a lot in churches that are waiting for a search committee to complete its work. It just doesn't seem like it should take that much time to review applicants' profiles, have some interviews, and select a candidate. Why is the Search Committee taking so long? Why are we being kept in the dark?

Even when a search committee gives frequent updates to the congregation about its progress, it just seems like it's taking a lot longer than it needs to! But, the bad news is that it does take a long time. The good news is that, if done right, it takes a long time. How long? Customarily, anywhere from nine months to a year from where we are right now. Why does it take so long? It usually boils down to scheduling interactions with candidates of interest to the Search Committee. By the time the typical Search Committee recommends a candidate, it will have reviewed scores of profiles and conducted dozens of interviews, most by phone, but several in person. Each of these phases can take at least a few weeks to schedule. Multiply that by the number of people considered by the Search Committee and I think it becomes clear why a careful, prayerful, deliberative process can take so long.

But why don't we see or hear what they're doing? As with all personnel matters, the work of the Committee with each applicant must be conducted within the bounds of the strictest confidence. The Search Committee will endeavor to keep the congregation informed about its progress as it can. But patience and trust are the key words for the congregation as it awaits the work of the Search Committee. Grace Church's Search Committee has covenanted to meet weekly following worship each Sunday. In addition, during the week the members are in continual interaction through a Yahoo (internet) Group set-up just for them. So,

we can be assured that they are working on our behalf even though we are not sure exactly what they are doing.

However, this month is one key moment when the congregation will have direct input into the work of the Search Committee. The Committee intends to have a first Draft of the Local Church Profile completed sometime in February. Once that is done it will be made available for members of the congregation to review and offer suggestions. See more details later in this issue of Grace Vine.

What are they doing? They are working together diligently and prayerfully, and meeting together frequently to consider all duly authorized ministers of the United Church of Christ who apply. They are working together carefully and prayerfully to discern who might effectively match the ministry opportunities and challenges awaiting Grace Church.

But there's a more important question: What are we doing? What are we doing to support the Search Committee? They need our prayers, our patient encouragement, and our expression of confidence in their wisdom, so that when the time comes to receive the Search Committee's recommendation for election, we will be inclined more to accept the recommendation than to second-guess it.

Peace,

Doug

Want to get in touch with Rev. Doug Griffin?

Routine schedule: in the church and vicinity Sunday-Thursday.

Emergencies and after hours: 301-938-4860.

To check availability during the week, call the church office between 9:00am and 3:00pm, and either Tara Plyler or Pastor Doug will help you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE INTERIM TIME?

Local Church Profile Soon Ready for Review

The Search Committee is nearing completion of its first DRAFT of the Local Church Profile. The Committee intends to have the draft ready before the end of February and to make it available for the congregation's review and suggestions. It will be available in both paper and electronic formats. Please stay tuned for announcements in the church bulletins and email notifications.



Rev. Deckenback to preach on February 19th

The Rev. Dr. John Deckenback, Conference Minister, is the Conference liaison to the Grace Church Search Committee. His role is to consult with and guide the work of the Search Committee. He will be with us in worship to preach on Sunday, February 19th, Transfiguration of Christ Sunday. His sermon will guide our vision beyond the horizon of our local church to glimpse our belonging to the wider United Church of Christ with a rich tradition of mission and service to others. Then, immediately following worship, John will briefly outline the pastoral search process and address questions that the congregation might have.

The resources of the Conference made available to Grace Church throughout the search process, including the consultation and direction of Rev. Deckenback, are made possible by our financial commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM). Please, consider making a special gift to OCWM above that covered in the church's annual budget. You can make a check payable to Grace Church with "OCWM" on the memo line, or contribute directly to OCWM on the church's website www.grucc.com Simply click "Give Now" at the top of the home page.

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY COMMISSION

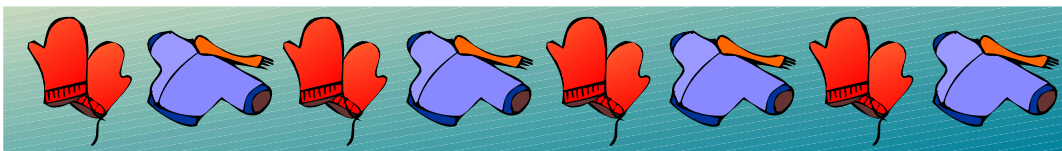
Responsibilities of the Commission include oversight of the Church & Ministry (C&M) committee, personnel issues and coordination of policies for several areas of church responsibilities.

Last fall the Council directed the Commission to develop a procedure for implementing the pastor's supervision of church staff. The January 2nd Administrative Commission meeting was canceled, however a meeting was held January 12th with the pastor and the Commission Chairs, who currently supervise church staff, to address this issue. Job descriptions will be adjusted and the pastor and the appropriate Commission Chair will meet with the staff member to discuss the transition. The evaluation procedure will be modified to reflect the pastor's role in coordinating the review of the employee. It was emphasized that the evaluation process be completed prior to beginning preparation of the budget.

The Records Management Policy (formerly titled the Document Retention and Archives Policy) will be further discussed at the next meeting and forwarded to Council for approval in early 2012.

A review of Church Policy Chart indicates that of the 16 policies listed on the chart, 9 have been approved by Council, 6 are in draft form and 1 has yet to be developed. The revisions to the church Constitution were approved by the Congregation on November 20th.

The next meeting of the Administrative Commission is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2012 in the Golden Ray Classroom. Anyone considering joining the Commission or who has questions should contact Bob Failor, Commission Chair, at rfailorpsu@comcast.net or (301) 698-9425. Meeting minutes and the policies chart are available from the church office upon request.



OUTREACH MINISTRY COMMISSION



In January we collected **88** Grace Grocery items!

For February, the Food Bank has requested that we concentrate on the following items: peanut butter, canned fruit, and hygiene items.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION MINISTRY COMMISSION

Evolution Sunday at Grace UCC

Be sure to join us on Sunday, February 12, as Grace UCC hosts our second program to recognize Evolution Week-End. This year our focus has been expanded to include representative from other faiths. We will again look at some of the questions being addressed by scientists and theologians as we continue to explore the topic of evolution.

Returning to the pulpit will be Lee Barrett, the Mary B. and Henry P. Stager Chair in Theology and Professor of Systematic Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Following worship a light lunch will be served before the panel presentation, moderated by Rev. Dr. Doug Griffin, Interim Pastor. Joining us for the panel, in addition to Dr. Barrett, will be Dr. Syed Haque, Frederick physician and a member of the Muslim faith; Rabbi Dan Sikkowitz from the Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick; and Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar. As before, audience participation is very desirable, so come with your questions and comments about how you reconcile your religious beliefs with hard scientific data.

Please RSVP to the church office by Thursday, February 9 so that we may plan adequately for the lunch.

Anna Winegar

Considering Science, Religion, and Evolution: Cooperative Adult Education

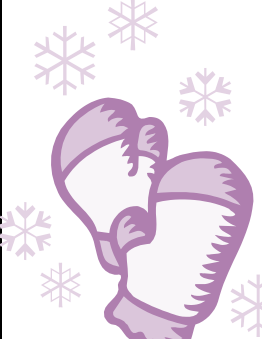

Grace UCC and ERUCC are cooperating together to offer adult education focusing on the issue of scientific evolution and Christian faith. On Evolution Sunday, February 12th, Grace Church hosts a seminar after worship featuring Christian, Jewish, and Muslim perspectives (see previous feature article on page 6).


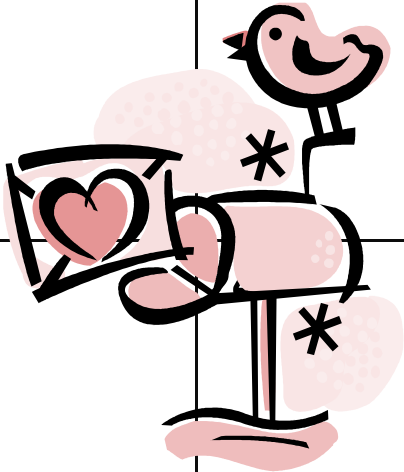
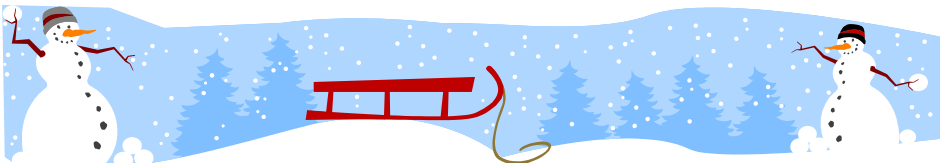
Subsequently, ERUCC will host a 4-session adult Sunday School class on February 19th, February 26th, March 4th, and March 11th. The first session, led by Rev. Doug Griffin, will summarize the discussions held on February 12th; the second session, led by Anna Winegar will focus on biological evolution; the third session, also led by Anna Winegar will include a discussion by participants on how Christians can reconcile science and religion, and the final session, led by Rev. Griffin, will summarize evolution from the perspectives of other faiths. No text is required for the class, but suggested readings include The Clergy Letter (available on line at <http://www.theclergyletterproject.org/>); "The Language of God" by Francis Collins; "Science, Evolution, and Creationism", published by the National Academy of Sciences; "And God Said: Let There be Evolution", edited by Charles Wynn and Arthur Wiggins; and "Creation and Evolution" Stanley Gundry, editors.

Reminders from the office...

The submission deadline for the March issue of the *Grace Vine* is Monday, February 20th. The newsletter will be ready for pickup on Sunday, February 26th.

Have you visited www.grucc.com lately? You can get updates about different Grace Church events, read the Sunday bulletins, and even make donations online! If you have any photos or articles that you would like posted on the website, please send them to Tara in the church office at admin@grucc.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 <h1 data-bbox="373 315 1542 462">FEBRUARY 2012</h1>		
<p>5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship with Holy Communion (S) 12:00 p.m. - Outreach Comm. (Room 3) 12:30 p.m. - Search Comm. (2nd Floor) 4:00 p.m. - Grace Super Sew-ers (GSR)</p>	<p>6 6:30 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13) 7:00 p.m. - Admin. Comm. (Room 3)</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 12:00 p.m. - Luncheon 12:30 p.m. - Evolution Weekend event 12:30 p.m. - Search Comm. (2nd Floor)</p>	<p>13 6:30 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13) 7:30 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm 3)</p>	<p>14 </p>
<p>19 Transfiguration 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 12:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Room 12) 12:30 p.m. - Search Comm. (2nd Floor) 5:00 p.m. - Soup Kitchen</p>	<p>20 President's Day Church Office closed 6:30 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13)</p>	<p>21 10:00 a.m. - Mom's Club (Nursery)</p>
<p>26 First Sunday in Lent 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 12:30 p.m. - Search Comm. (2nd Floor)</p>	<p>27 6:30 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13) 7:30 p.m. - Council Meeting (Room 3)</p>	<p>28</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7:00 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13) 7:30 p.m. - PFLAG of Central MD (GSR)	2 	3	4 9:00 a.m. - SDA Worship Service (GSR)
8 7:00 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13)	9 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Rm 12)	10	11 9:00 a.m. - SDA Worship Service (GSR) 2:00 p.m. - SDA Potluck and Fellowship (DR)
15 7:00 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13) 7:30 p.m. - Church & Ministry (Homewood)	16	17 	18 9:00 a.m. - SDA Worship Service (GSR)
22 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Services every 1/2 hour (S, GSR) 7:00 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13)	23 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal (Rm 12)	24	25 9:00 a.m. - SDA Worship Service (GSR) 2:00 p.m. - SDA Potluck and Fellowship (DR)
29 7:00 p.m. - SDA Bible Study (Room 13)			

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY COMMISSION



Congregational Life would like to say a heartfelt “thank you” to the Gavers. For years, Jim and Jean have volunteered their time to shop for the supplies that are need each week for our fellowship time in the Good Shepherd Room. We thank them for all of their efforts over years!

FINANCE AND PROPERTY MINISTRY COMMISSION

***UCCe-giving* is here!**

UCCe-giving ® is the automated giving program of the United Church of Christ designed to make it easy for givers to give.

Q: How does *UCCe-giving* ® work?

A: Simply authorize a specified amount of money and the frequency for electronic transfers directly from your checking or savings account to the church account. You may also use your credit or debit card.

Q: Sounds simple – would I still pledge?

A: Sure. Electronic giving just helps you fulfill it! For those who don't pledge, you can give regularly using ***UCCe-giving*** ®.

Q: Is electronic funds transfer risky?

A: It's less risky than a check. It cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed.

Q: That's reassuring, how much does this cost?

A: It costs you nothing and it saves you time.

Q: I'm ready – how do I sign up for *UCCe-giving* ®?

A: It's easy! Complete and sign the authorization form (available in the library) or sign up on our website. Once you're signed up, you'll receive a supply of “I gave electronically” cards so that you will have something to put in the offering plate each Sunday.

Worship Assistants for February

February 5th

Greeting and Fellowship:

Trish Abell and Peter Abell

Time for Children: Pastor Doug

Scripture Reader: Richelle Schmitz

February 19th

Greeter: Mollie Snyder

Time for Children: Joan Princler

Scripture Reader: Teddi Garrison

Fellowship: Richelle Schmitz

February 12th

Greeter: Tom Dutrow

Time for Children: Teddi Garrison

Scripture Reader: Geoff Huntoon

Fellowship: Luncheon hosted by
Congregational Life

February 26th

Greeter: Kotty Houff

Time for Children: Lloyd Taylor

Scripture Reader: Earl Bartgis

Fellowship: Beth Warren

IN OUR COMMUNITY

A Note from Rev. Brian Scott:

The Religious Coalition thanks all those that have prayed for our ministry and referred people in need to our office or shelter or local food banks. As we enter 2012, we ask each church in Frederick County to partner with us by forwarding clients, volunteers and financial resources. God has done a great work through your churches and your support of our ministry. I believe the Lord intends even greater blessings in 2012.

The Religious Coalition is committed to an inclusive ministry and welcomes your participation as we serve the poor of which Christ placed so much focus on in his ministry on earth and calls us now in our ministries to focus on today. We anticipate Board of Director vacancies starting in April 2012. Those selected will be asked to serve a 3 year term. Time involvement is 3-5 hours per month. Board meetings are the 3rd Thursday of each month at 10am. If interested please contact me by February 15, 2012 at BScott@thereligiouscoalition.org or by cell phone at 301-514-2841. We also have vacancies on our Finance Committee.

For a Board Member job description, please contact the church office.

The Frederick School of Religion

The Frederick School of Religion convenes for its 29th consecutive year of classes on **February 13, 2012**. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a ***Learning for Life*** experience for both laity and clergy. The 6-week series of classes includes a broad range of religious topics and spiritual exercises - representing many faith groups.

WHEN: February 13th through March 20th
Monday and Tuesday afternoons and evenings.

WHERE: Trinity United Methodist Church
705 W. Patrick St., Frederick

COST: \$25 for twelve hours of class and 1.2 Continuing Education Units.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:

Registrar - C. Pasquerette 301-473-8246

President - H. Walter 301-644-4273

www.frederickschoolofreligion.org

Caring and Sharing

The following is a list of members of our church family who are not able to join us for worship on Sunday mornings. Please keep them in your prayers and perhaps send a note or a card. If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, please call the church office – 301-662-3312.

Bill Failor
6601 Cherry Hill Dr.
Frederick, MD 21702

Pauline Wilcom
3810 Park Mills Rd.
Frederick, MD 21701

Connie Oden
10 East 9th St.
Frederick, MD 21701

Dick & Dottie Buxton
236 Dill Ave.
Frederick, MD 21701

Paul and Miriam Himes
9810 Masser Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Rev. Kristi Foster
Rocky Mtn. College
Billings, MT

Franklin Martz
Golden Living Center
30 North Pl., #115A
Frederick, MD 21701

Jill Brehmer
2250 Bear Den Rd.
Unit 104
Frederick, MD 21701

Steve & Karla Robeson
8396 Fordham Ct.
Union Bridge, MD 21791



Ash Wednesday Lunch Break

(Bring your own lunch)

February 22

Music for Meditation

12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 1:30

Prayer and Imposition of Ashes

12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45

The Good Shepherd Room will be open to the public, with complimentary beverages provided.

Feel free to eat your lunch here.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Zachary Malasky
Matthew Remsburg
- 2 Lucien Winegar
- 3 Dorianna Rice
- 5 Doug Crum
Richard Sharrer
- 6 Kayla Birch
Barbara Englehart
- 8 Dylan Krull
- 9 Kathleen Ridgley
- 10 Owen Slaughter



- 11 Karen Kemp-Dockstader
Donald Wachter
- 13 Barbara Neel
- 16 Stacy Rumpf
- 19 Lloyd Taylor
- 22 Andrew Brehmer
- 24 Jennifer Crisp
Sarah Crisp
Kelsey Dutrow
Lester Slick
- 27 Gordon Davy
- 28 Carolee Smith

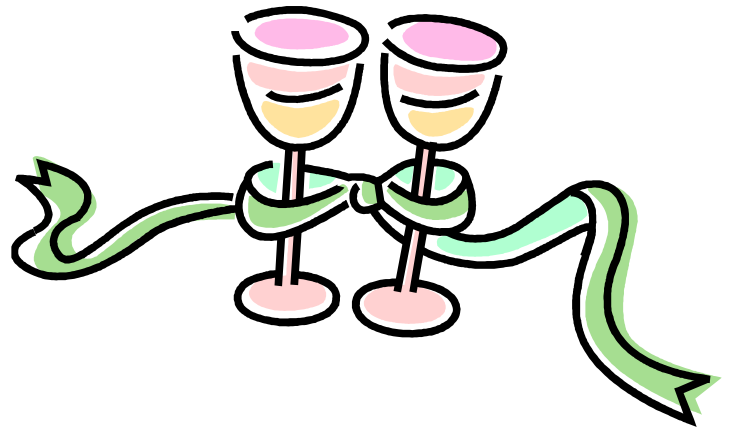
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

*Robert and Faye Zimmerman
February 8th*

*Max and Dorothy Troxell
February 13th*

*Wayne and Carol Larkin
February 21st*

*Monty and Cheryl Neel
February 25th*



Congratulations to the Taylor Family!

Miss Abigail Louise Taylor, daughter of John and Shannon Taylor and granddaughter of Lloyd and Virginia Taylor, was baptized at Grace Church on January 8th. Pam and Ron Marshall are her Godparents. Welcome to the Grace Church family, Abigail!

Grace Church Leadership Directory

COUNCIL

President	Jerry Princler	301-898-3877
Vice President	Jim Ridgley	301-662-6557
Secretary	Richelle Schmitz	301-620-1496
Treasurer	Anna Winegar	301-371-9472
At-Large	Judy Tobery	301-663-5653
At-Large	Tom Davy	678-464-8562

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Administrative Ministry	Bob Failor	301-698-9425
Altar Guild	Katharine Houff	301-662-2220
Congregational Life	Joan Princler	301-898-3877
Finance and Property	Lloyd Taylor	301-898-9259
Golden Ray Class	Lana Cross	301-898-7574
Outreach Ministry	Earl Bartgis	301-695-4695
Worship and Education	Teddi Garrison	301-533-8437

STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Douglas Griffin, Interim Pastor
Dr. Noel Lester, Director of Music and Organist
Tom Tobery, Caretaker
Tara Plyler, Administrative Associate
Telephone: 301-662-3312
Fax: 301-663-0146
Web Site: www.grucc.com

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Did You Know?

On Monday, December 26th, over *TWO THOUSAND* visitors -
2,294 to be exact! - came through the doors of Grace Church as part of
the 25th Annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship!

HOLD FOR BACK PAGE