

Grace Notes

Community of Grace Presbyterian Church

March 2008

March Highlights

[Holy Week and Easter at Community of Grace.](#) Here is a listing of the special services and activities that will be conducted during Holy Week to recall the suffering and celebrate the subsequent resurrection of our Lord.

From the Pastor's Desk:

[Procession of the Cross](#) Community of Grace will join in a community-wide procession on Good Friday to publicly proclaim the reason for this season.

[Vitamin Collection a Huge Success!](#) Tens of thousands of children's vitamins have now been collected at COG and will be delivered to children in Viet Nam in March.

Our Church Community

[Sermons Now Available On Line.](#) Pastor Marty's sermons are now recorded live and available on line for those who missed, who are too ill to attend, or who would like to share the message with someone.

[Session Notes.](#) Here you will find a synopsis of the February Session meeting.

[March Calendar.](#) The March church calendar is available at this link.

[Presbyterian Links.](#) Here is a helpful link for those who are interested in our denomination's work at the national level.

['Open Forum' Highlights Worship.](#) Members shared many positive and constructive reflections about worship at our February 20 "Open Forum."

[Website Use Growing Quickly.](#) In the first 12 months our new website has been operational, visits to the site have grown by over 300%. See what's now available.

Children & Youth

Sunday School classes are...

[Making a Difference!](#) Elementary Sunday School classes have not only met their initial goals for the Heifer Project, they have doubled the collections from last year!

Youth Ministry:

[Confirmation Teams Continue.](#) The confirmation process continues for ten youth and ten adult mentors, and prayers for both are requested.

Youth Ministry:

Youth Foundations Study A new 3-month study begins March 2 to develop a foundation for faith, including the basic beliefs of Presbyterians.

Youth Ministry:

Sheer Fun. The rock-climbing wall at Momentum has been reserved for all junior & senior high youth and their friends on March 8.

Youth Ministry:

Spotlight on Leaders. Max Roth is highlighted as the leader of our youth worship experience, "The Message."

ACTS Kids:

Reflections on Serving at 'The Road Home'. Our ACTS kids share their own reflections on their experience at the homeless shelter.

ACTS Kids:

Thanks for a Super Souper Bowl Sunday. Thanks given for a very successful Souper Bowl Sunday.

Adult & Family

20/20 Service Project with a Heart. On February 23 colorful boxes of food were delivered for the Utah Food Bank to those in need, along with a caring smile and a friendly conversation.

Palm Sunday Event. Al Staggs will be at COG on March 15-16. Tickets are still available, including student discounts.

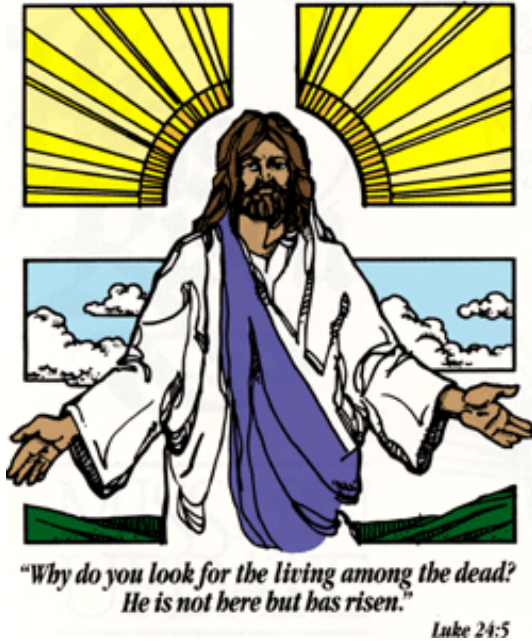
The Best Gift You Can Give Yourself. This article is meant to provide some insight into the service of Stephen Ministry....which is often referred to our members by the Deacons in times of need.

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Identity Theft Presentation. All are invited to this important presentation by the Sandy Police Department on March 3.

Spring Gathering. Mark your calendar for April 18-19 in Brigham City.

Ruth Circle. A new study is beginning: "Above and Beyond". Meetings held on the 3rd Monday of every month.



Holy Week and Easter at Community of Grace!

Holy week culminates in a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day: Easter Sunday. But Holy Week also reminds us of the Christ who suffered for and suffers with us. This year we can be reminded not only of the celebration and the holiday, but the reality of His sacrifice and the grace of His outreach...to each of us.

Palm Sunday Weekend

Saturday, March 15	7-9:00 pm	Dinner & Evening with Al Staggs
Sunday, March 16		Special Guest Preacher at both services, Rev. Al Staggs
Sunday, March 16		One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Promotion in Worship
Sunday, March 16		Special Sunday School Class with Rev. Al Staggs
Sunday, March 16	7:30PM	"A View From The Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer" --one man performance by Al Staggs.

Easter Weekend

Good Friday, March 21	5:45-8:00 pm	"Procession of The Cross" Join with members to worship in downtown Salt Lake City. (See Pastor's article.)
Saturday, March 22		All Church Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 23		Easter Sunday Worship at Regular Times

Sat. March 22: Annual Easter Egg Hunt Rain, snow, sleet or sun – Nothing stops the Easter Bunny from wanting to celebrate God's love with you! Hunt starts promptly at **10:00 am**. Please note that the hunt will be held at Community of Grace this year in case the weather requires us to be indoors. Bring a camera, a basket, and friend and enjoy a time of fellowship. The hunt is for toddlers through 4th grade. All are

welcome...bring your friends! For more information, contact Lorrie Gaffney (lorrie@cogpc.org).

Don't have young kids? Consider helping out with the hunt and receive the joy of children's excitement! Contact Lorrie Gaffney to help set up, provide food, etc.

March 23: Easter Sunday! The COG Puppet Team has a special Easter message for our children in Circle of Friends at the 11:00 service. All elementary ages are welcome. Invite a family to join you in worship!

From the Pastor's Desk:

Procession of the Cross

by Pastor Marty

It has been said over and over again. One of the best ways of getting exercise is to walk. Walking is not only good for the body; it can be great for the soul as well. Many times I have heard people say, that walking in the Wasatch Mountains puts them in touch with God.

This year on Good Friday, March 21 our church will come together to walk. This walk will not be in the mountains, but instead, will take place in the city; right in downtown Salt Lake City. We will exercise our bodies while walking with others in the annual *Procession of the Cross*. Each year Christian churches and the whole community are invited to reflect on the power and meaning of Christ's death by gathering downtown to walk, sing, listen to scripture, and pray. It is amazing how this way of processional prayer can work on your heart and open you to the work of the Holy Spirit.

In lieu of holding services in our church, all our members and friends are invited to meet at our church at 5:45pm on Good Friday. Together we will carpool downtown where the Procession will begin on the Steps of the Cathedral of the Madeleine at 6:30pm. The procession will take about 90 minutes walking to First Presbyterian, Crossroads Urban Center, Central Christian, First Methodist, and end at St. Mark's Cathedral. At each stop we will sing, listen to the scripture as it pertains to Christ's passion and death, and pray. As we walk from place to place you will have a chance to carry a real cross for a short period of time.



I hope you will take the time to join us on Good Friday. This event is a wonderful event for whole families. Make sure if you come to dress appropriately for whatever Mother Nature provides. If you don't join with us, I hope and pray you will find the time to interact with God that day to remember the meaning of Christ's death.

Blessings, Marty

Make a Healthy Difference with Vitamins

Vitamin Collection a Huge Success!

by Dede Carpenter
Adult and Family Director

Five years ago Dorothy Fluetsch introduced us to Binh Rybacki and the needs of abandoned children in Vietnam. Our support through annual vitamin collections has continued to grow and this years' COPI vitamin collection was a "hands on" success! We brought in over 86,500 vitamins for needy children in Vietnam and our count & bag volunteers spent two Sundays assembling 960 baggies with 90 vitamins in each bag. These vitamins and additional cash donations will be delivered in March to needy children in Vietnam through the Children of Peace organization.

Thanks go out to all the families and individuals who made donations to purchase vitamins and those who participated in the count & bag! This 20/20 service opportunity will truly make a healthy difference in the lives of children in need.

Our Church Community

Sermons Now Available On Line

by Dave Adamson
Elder

The newest feature now posted on our website is a live recording of each week's sermon. Each week we will be posting a new sermon, the date it was delivered, the sermon title, and the scripture from which it is drawn. These sermons can be found easily on our home page (www.cogpc.org).

This could make a real difference for those whose need is to reflect on God's word when they cannot attend church. Who might that be?

- People who simply cannot come to church because of age, illness, or lack of transportation.
- Those who are confined to a hospital or care center.
- Those struggling with a particular concern and who can now call up past sermons for guidance and reflection.
- Those whose distant family members might benefit from a particular sermon and who could now be called and guided to this link on our website.
- Those who might be searching for a new church home.
- Those planning an extended business trip or vacation can now download sermons on their own iPod or mp3 player.
- Those who simply want to hear it again and who now have ready access.

In short, we now have the ability to provide a new service of outreach to both our members and our community. We would invite you to check out this new service. Then consider who YOU know who might benefit from it.

Session Notes (Meeting of February 19, 2008)

by Dave Adamson
Elder

1. **PRIORITIES.** Session prioritized some of its work for this spring: preparation for a summer retreat, consideration of a 3-5 year plan, and status of mission & outreach.
2. **BUDGET.** Our monthly income and expenditures were reviewed. Our snow removal expenses have been unusually high, but otherwise we are in good financial shape.
3. **PRESBYTERY MEETING.** Session received a written report from Elaine Nordberg on the latest meeting of the Utah Presbytery.
4. **STAFF REPORTS.** A new template for monthly staff reports was discussed and accepted as a first reading of a new policy to be voted upon in the March meeting.
5. **PASTOR'S STUDY LEAVE.** Approval was given for the pastor to take study leave from March 24 through April 6 (two Sundays).
6. **MISSION REPORTING.** Session began a discussion about the way we track and report mission giving. More discussion is needed on this topic.
7. **CLERK OF SESSION.** We continue to look for someone to volunteer to serve a one-year term as Clerk of Session.
8. **20/20 CHALLENGE RESOURCE.** Session received copies of a new booklet developed by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), with Lorrie's leadership, that serves two purposes: 1) it is series of reflections on service to others, and it is a

resource of ways people can get involved in service. This will become available to all members through the website.

9. WEBSITE. Session received a report on the use of our website.

Presbyterian Links

Here are some helpful links for those who are interested in our denomination's work at the national level:

[Home Page, PCUSA](#)

[Presbyterian 101 \(Facts about Presbyterians\)](#)

[Expressing our Faith: National and International Service](#)

'Open Forum' Highlights Worship

by Dave Adamson

Elder

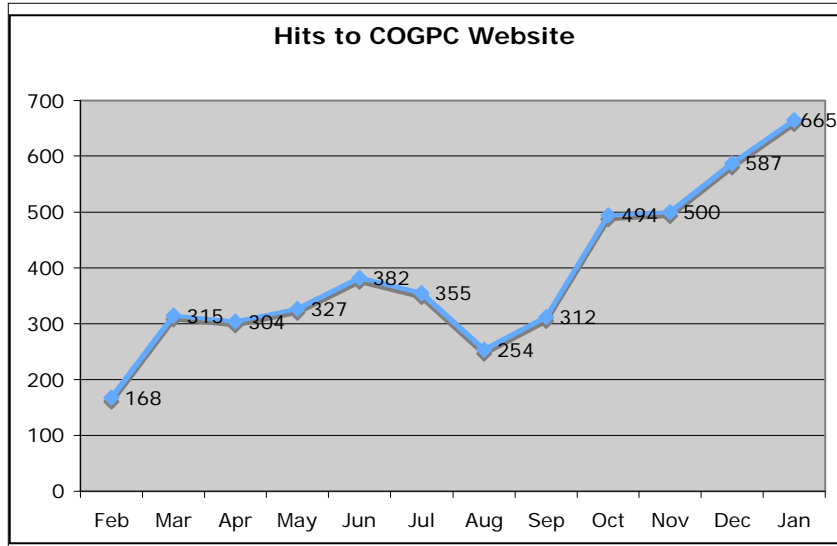
An "Open Forum" for all interested members was conducted on the evening of February 20. The focus of this one-hour forum was Worship. Members shared their perceptions about worship in our church, both regular Sunday worship and special services. A list of 23 affirmations, questions, concerns and suggestions were generated. Six specific suggestions were discussed in more depth. There were many positive comments about worship at COG. The next "Open Forum" is scheduled for Sunday, April 20, following the second service.

Website Use Growing Quickly

by Dave Adamson

Elder

Last February James Stearns launched a new website for Community of Grace at www.cogpc.org. In addition to operating the website as our webmaster, James has the capacity to track the number of visits to our website...called "hits." One year following the launch of our new website James was able to compile the number of visits to our website each month. That growth is illustrated on the chart below.



The use of our website has increased by about 300% over the past 12 months. Since last summer our website been able to grow from a simple brochure for investigators to a vital resource for our own members, and it would appear that our members are using it.

Members as well as outside “surfers” can now have ready access (24-7) to the information listed below:

- weekly news updates
- upcoming events and special services
- Grace Notes
- staff directory and contact information
- weekly bulletin announcements
- information about mission trips
- copies of our “CSI”
- Sunday worship schedule
- adult Sunday classes
- programs for children and youth
- volunteer forms & opportunities
- map & directions

Many thanks to James Stearns for his work in developing and maintaining this new resource for our community of faith!

Children & Youth

Sunday School classes are...

Making a Difference!

by Lorrie Gaffney
Adult and Family Director

Elementary Sunday School classes have all met their initial goals for purchasing animals through Heifer International. The livestock animals and training provided to families makes a true difference to people in need and continues to give through a "passing on" of the offspring to others in the village. So far our Sunday School classes have already doubled their collection amount from last year and are still trying to reach new goals. Parents can support Heifer by talking to their children about the animal being purchased, researching more info. on their website www.heifer.org, and encouraging ways to earn money for the offering so that the child is really involved. Thank you!

4/5 year olds purchased rabbits! Now they are working on more rabbits!

1st/2nd grade purchased a llama! Now they are trying for a goat!

3rd/4th grade purchased a water buffalo! Now they are hoping to purchase a pig!

5th/6th grade purchase a pig and a goat! They are considering what is next!

Nursery: Even our little ones will be discovering the joy of giving to others through an offering collection for chicks!

Circle of Friends continues to collect money for Hero Rats. If you haven't discovered this amazing organization go to www.herorat.org

Youth Ministry

by Lorrie Gaffney
Children and Youth Director

Confirmation Teams are meeting. One parent called this a Holy Time. Please pray for God to shine forth in these relationships and for new glimpses of God to be discovered by the Mentors and Confirmands.

Youth Foundations Study gathering begins Sunday March 2 at VanDerWalts. This three-month study is an important foundation to our Confirmation program as it covers the basic beliefs of the Presbyterian Church. By the way, we don't see God as a stern judge in the sky. Youth will discover a God who wants to offer joy and life. Give a lasting gift to your Jr. High or Sr. High youth by encouraging him or her to develop a strong foundation.

Sheer Fun - Hope to see you!

Leader: Heidi Carter

Who: All Jr./Sr. High - FRIENDS WELCOME!

What: **ROCK WALL CLIMBING** reserved for COG; Wear loose clothing and sneakers for ease in climbing!

Where: Meet at *Momentum*: 220 West 10600 South
(Located in the NW corner of the South Towne Mall parking lot, adjacent to REI).

When: Saturday, March 8, arrive at Momentum between 6:30-6:45 to pick up equipment. Be ready by 7:00 PM for a class instruction on how to use the harness and spot each other. Pick up by 10:00 PM at Momentum.

Cost: \$12.00

What to bring: You must have a signed **Momentum release** of liability form. Forms are located in the JR/SR High Youth room or they can be downloaded at www.momentumclimbing.com

If you, (or friend) have not filled out a COG release form for 2007-2008 bring that as well. (If you attended the Pie/Fox 13 event then you are up to date). COG releases can be found at church or at www.cogpc.org

Thanks to Heidi Carter and Max Roth for a fun **Pizza and Fox 13 tour!** With 41 folks cheering for Max anchoring the news, another anchor commented he had never seen so many enthusiastic Presbyterians!

Spotlight on Leaders

The following spotlight on Message Leader Max Roth comes from www.myfoxutah.com.

*To hear some **Good** news, come to the Message at 9:45 am at COG on Sundays! We are blessed by the Message that comes through Max's friendship with God – a message of God's desire for friendship with others.*

Max's Blog



Fox 13's Weekend Anchor/Reporter, Max Roth, was born and raised in Ogden, Utah and graduated from the University of Utah.

Max's path toward a career in journalism was anything but typical. He studied history in school, worked as a VISTA volunteer (domestic Peace Corps) for a couple years, and then went to divinity school.

It was only after three years studying theology at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California that Max wound up in Journalism school. Max spent two years at KMIR 6, the NBC affiliate in Palm Springs, before joining Fox 13.

Max is fascinated with politics. In fact, his first date with his wife was a trip to the State Capitol on the opening day of the state legislature in 1994!

Max's greatest thrill is a day outdoors with his wife and son. He spends his free time working with teenagers at his church and sneaks in a bike ride on mountain roads whenever he finds the time.

Children's Worship

Children from 3 years to 3rd grade enjoy puppet shows during Children's Worship three Sundays a month. Pablo the parrot goes "crackers" for Bible verses. Our puppet friends always have a special message about God and great songs to sing and dance to!



Pablo goes “crackers” for a message about God!



We love to sing along with our puppet friends.

ACTS Kids:

Reflections on Serving at The Road Home

by Sydney, Victoria, Jeff, Josh, Nicole, Sarah, Devin, Micha, and Jesse
ACTS Kids

ACTS: Accepting – Caring – Telling – Sharing God’s Love
5th and 6th Graders who know the Joy of Serving!

*“...when you give a dinner to those in need you will be blessed
since they cannot repay you.” Luke 14:12-14*

When we went to The Road Home, we served spaghetti, corn, cookies, and bread to about 80 people. I helped serving oranges. After that I helped sweep up a little.

The kids there were just normal; I think God helped me serve.

A little baby asked me what chocolate milk was! I think God thought that we were doing good for the poor and He thinks we could not do any better.

It was kind of sad – the people don't have anything except the clothes on their back. If you never went to the Road Home you never would have guessed that they were homeless. I think God helps those people through the day...

I helped by serving cookies, cleaning, and pouring milk. The kids there were shy and normal. I would feel like people were judging me if I was homeless. I think God was happy to see us help.

The kids were small and scared. I think God saw sadness.

I feel good inside for serving people with no food or shelter. You would think of a homeless person as a hobo or a mugger, but they were actually really nice and one man said "thank God for you."

I helped people by serving corn and using my manners. The kids there looked very content even though they were homeless and it made me realize how blessed we are because they have nothing and they are still happy.



ACTS KIDS SAY

THANKS for a SUPER SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!

by Melissa Venable
ACTS Program Leader

The ACTS Kids thank all of you who contributed to our soup pots on Super Bowl Sunday. With your generous donations we were able to send a check to the Utah Food Bank for \$352.58, supporting those without even a bowl of soup. Thanks for your generosity!



NEXT WITH ACTS!

In March we look forward to helping with the Special Olympic Games in Salt Lake as well as enjoying our Friday night Connect activities and discussions. See the bulletin or contact Melissa Venable for details.

Recommended Reading for this month's activities:

RULES, by Cynthia Lord

In Jesse's Shoes, by Beverly Lewis

Adult & Family

20/20 Service Project With Heart

by Dede Carpenter

Adult and Family Director

The month of February gave us another All-Church 20/20 service opportunity to follow our hearts with a Utah Food Bank project. February 17th families and children decorated twenty-four boxes with lots of hearts and love for the Utah Food Bank grocery assistance program. These decorated boxes were then dropped off at the Food Bank and packed with food items for families and individuals in need. Saturday February 23rd COG service volunteers again **opened their hearts to share God's love** and spent the morning delivering these colorful boxes of food; sharing God's love with a smile, a warm greeting, conversation and yes, a very colorful box of food.

Palm Sunday Event

by Dede Carpenter

Adult and Family Director

March 15th & March 16th
Palm Sunday Weekend

Come experience Al Staggs in the character of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his message.

Consider this question:
What do you do in the face of evil?

Al Staggs presents
A View from the Underside-The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

QUESTION: Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer?

ANSWER: A university professor, Lutheran pastor, prolific writer and central figure in the Protestant church struggle against Nazism. Involved in the plots to assassinate Adolf Hitler and executed by the Nazis in the Flossenburg concentration camp at the age of 39. His message is alive today!

When: Sunday March 16, 2008
Doors open at 7pm – program starts 7:30pm
(One hour program - light refreshments conclude at 9pm)

Where: Community of Grace Presbyterian Church
2015 E Newcastle Drive, Sandy, Utah
(Intersection of Highland Dr & 8890 S)

Tickets: General Admission \$12.00/ \$8.00 Student group price available till 3/11.
Tickets on sale at COG contact dede@cogpc.org or call 943-4043

The Best Gift You Can Give Yourself

by Anonymous
A Stephen Minister

I'm a spiritual person. I don't pray every day, but prayer is an integral part of who I am. So, when I realized that after 27 years, my marriage was coming to end, and I found that I couldn't pray, I knew that I had to do something. My gut told me that it was time to find a *Stephen Minister*, and so I did. She meets with me once a week and prays for me regularly. She listens to my story – sometimes through a wash of tears and halted words. She is there to walk with me through this rocky time and to hold my hand or help me up when I fall.

Sometimes you know that the circumstances that life is throwing at you are bigger than you are. For me, the end of my marriage was the straw that broke the camel's back. It didn't start there. It started with my oldest children leaving for college, a long way away and leaving me wondering "what's next in my life?" Then there was my mother's diagnosis of Alzheimer's and coming to terms with that slow, gradual loss of someone I love and thrown in for good measure, the death of my favorite dog – ever. Loss, loss and more loss. I was in way over my head. I thought, "This is how people get lost

spiritually. I need someone strong to guide me through this. I won't make it on my own."

My Stephen Minister is old enough to be my mother and wise enough to mother us all, but she doesn't talk a lot – except to pray at the end of our times together. The thing I like most about her is that she's been around the block herself, and I can tell her anything without feeling judged. Another thing that I love about her is the way she is there for me. It is such a comfort when I'm having a bad day or when something unexpected comes up, to be able to call or e-mail her and know that she'll lift my situation up in prayer and that she's standing beside me through that moment. In those times she makes God very real and present for me.

One day after we had met for several months, she arrived with a big package for me. Inside was a prayer shawl. If you're having a hard time visualizing a prayer shawl, mine is purple (my favorite color) and fuzzy, and if you think of an adult blankie – you'll have it. When I'm sad or lonely, cold or afraid, I wrap myself in this shawl, and it is an immediate reminder that God is with me, that He sees my brokenness, that He hears my prayers, that He cares that I'm hurting and that somehow, He will see me through this and even make something good from this mess. I don't know how that will work. I can't see that far in the future, but when I wrap myself in my prayer shawl, I believe that. My prayer shawl is the opposite of an Invisibility Cloak (e.g., Harry Potter). It reminds me that God always has His eyes on me.

If you find yourself in a situation where life is overwhelming you with troubles, so much so that it shakes your spiritual foundations, I hope that you will give yourself the gift of a Stephen Minister.

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PW: Identity Theft Presentation

by Sandy Killion
Presbyterian Women

You don't want to miss this!

<p>Identity Theft Presentation Monday March 3rd. 7:00-8:30.</p>

Amy Bryant from the Sandy Police Department will share with us ways we can prevent identity theft.

This is a must see for everyone, men and women. All are encouraged to attend.

Child Care will be available. Call Sherry Brit 733-0083 no later than Feb 25th if you are interested in child care.

PW: Spring Gathering

by Sandy Killion

**Mark your calendar for April 18-19.
It will be held at Brigham City
Details will be posted on the bulletin board.**

PW: Ruth Circle

by Sandy Killion
Presbyterian Women

Ruth Circle is beginning a new study
"Above and Beyond". Hearing God's call in Jonah and Ruth.
All women are welcome.
We meet the third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm
Room 10 (5th and 6th grade)
Contact Karen Durant for details 561-1024

March Prayer Calendar

by Millie Nielsen
Prayer Coordinator

1. Lord, help me to love with reckless abandon.
2. May the body and blood of Christ fill us with love for you, Lord, and love for each other.
3. Fill Pastor Marty, Dede, and Lorrie with hope, joy, and peace.
4. Bless our deacons and give them great joy in serving the members of Community of Grace.
5. Heavenly Father, help me to be more faithful in the future.
6. Lord, thank you that there is nowhere I can go that is beyond your power to see and to save.
7. Bless our sister church in Kenya as they spread the "Good News" in their community and, Lord, restore peace in the country of Kenya.
8. Thank you God for the abundance I have and often take for granted.
9. Lord, through our Christian Education Program at Community of Grace, may all teachers and students draw closer to you and to each other.
10. Merciful Father, help me to live in hope.
11. May this season of lent be a time when your creative love touches me profoundly.
12. Lord, give strength to those who are fighting addictions.
13. Almighty God, move the leaders of our country to serve with humility.
14. Help me to become a person who not only experiences the joy of your forgiveness, but gives it freely to others.
15. Bless the Ulster Project which promotes peace and understanding of Catholics and Protestants through visits of Irish youth to the United States.
16. Today I remember that our king comes to us righteous and having salvation gentle and riding on a donkey. (Zech.9:9)
17. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Eph.,4:3), or as the Irish say, "May the hinges of our friendship never grow rusty.
18. Fill our session members with your Holy Spirit and guide them in making decisions for Community of Grace.
19. Give peace and stability to people who are mentally ill.
20. On this first day of spring unfold my life to a new beginning within as well as around me.
21. Lord, move me with the terrible goodness of this Friday to seek your kingdom not just for myself but also for the hungry, poor, and sick.
22. Give wisdom and strength to those struggling through divorce.
23. O God, I praise you for the joy and mercy of Easter that bids me to begin again.
24. Bless all who struggle with infirmness of old age or with pain of chronic illness.
25. I pray for those around the world who don't have enough to eat.

26. May the Holy Spirit work through me in spite of my imperfections.
27. I pray for peace, safety, and understanding and an end to hatred.
28. Merciful God, help me to pray, "Thy will be done," and mean it.
29. Thank you, God, for our many freedoms and opportunities.
30. I give thanks for the musicians who lead us in praise during worship.
31. Bless Heifer Project International where gifts of animals change the world for families who struggle for food, clothes, and shelter.