

THE *Spirit* OF *Grace*

NEWSLETTER OF

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

819 MADISON STREET, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13210

THE REV. JENNIFER BASKERVILLE-BURROWS, RECTOR

315-478-0901 • WWW.GRACESYRACUSE.ORG

MARCH 2011



Harrison Burrows holds their son, Timothy Aaron Baskerville-Burrows, so he can look at all the presents they got at the baby shower which was held after church on a recent Sunday. Mother Jennifer and grandmother Brenda watch, smiling.

Welcome, Timothy!

A lot of wonderful things happen at Grace Church, but there's nothing quite so joyful as the recent baby shower to welcome Timothy, son of Harrison Burrows and the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows.

Church members brought a scrumptious pot luck brunch and dozens of presents, including handmade booties, blankets, clothes, books, diapers and formula. Several children gave Timothy treasured books and clothes that they had saved from their babyhood.

Grandmother Brenda Baskerville travelled from New York for the party.

The shower was lots of fun, and a time for happy tears. Mother Jennifer thanked everyone for their support and generosity, and summed up the importance of Grace to her and her family: "Grace is our home. God gave us Timothy here."

More baby shower photos on pgs. 4 and 5.



Sheila Newport-Jenkins and Joann Edwards watch happily as Mother Jennifer opens the baby gifts.

Observing Holy Lent

Dear Ones—

Each year the season of Lent provides us with a six-week opportunity to focus with intentionality and laser-like steadiness on our relationship with God, one another and all creation. It is time when we rightfully acknowledge our brokenness, fragility, and our ultimate desire for wholeness and restoration in God. One tradition holds that abstaining from something luxurious or pleasurable (like chocolate, desserts or meat) can help remind us of the sacrifices Christ made for all humanity.

While “giving up something” for Lent may be part of your Lenten discipline this year I’d also like to invite you to “take on something” for Lent. Adding special time for a prayer practice, devotional reading, or service project—any of these can help remind us of our dependence on God alone. The examples below are just a few suggestions.

Wishing you every good blessing for a holy Lent,

Jennifer+

- Try **20 + 1+ 1** That’s 20 minutes of prayer each day, 1 hour of worship each week, and 1 hour of service each month. What an easy way to remember to connect with God and serve others. Twenty minutes of prayer can be silent meditation, a practice of Lectio Divina, or reading the devotions for individuals and families from our Book of Common Prayer. There are plenty of opportunities for worship and service each month at Grace Church—commit to this simple formula for the season of Lent and see what God has in store for you.
- The first Sunday in Lent is Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday. Join us March 13 as we pray for those suffering in poverty around the world. A special collection to support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development will be taken or you may make a donation at another time in Lent. A booklet of Lenten meditations from ER-D can be downloaded from here: <http://www.er-d.org/Lent#Devodownload>
- The middle of Lent offers a bit of refreshment. This year, we will take a special dispensation to gather for fellowship and fun with our Spanish Soiree, Grace Church’s second annual wine and cheese fundraiser on Saturday, March 26. This is an opportunity for us to raise funds for our continued mission and ministry. Invite your friends and family and join us.



Grace Church Office Hours

Monday	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday	4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. to Noon

Rector’s Hours: The rector will keep office hours at Grace Church on Wednesdays and Fridays, though sometimes she will be out of the office on pastoral calls, for meetings, or other parish business. On Tuesdays and Thursdays she can be found in her office at Hendricks Chapel.

Staff

Rector	The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows e-mail: jlbasker@syr.edu
Priest Associate	The Rev. Katherine B.L. Day
Parish Warden	Sabrina Coleman
Parish Administrator	Tracey White e-mail: trwhite@syr.edu
Organ Scholar	John Giammatteo
Children’s Formation Teachers	Ernestine Patterson Barbara Slater
Nursery Attendant	Grace Chang

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Got stories, photos, ideas?

Please help us make the *Spirit of Grace* a great newsletter! Give stories, photos, etc. to Sue Keeter (via email at keeters@upstate.edu, phone 423-0203, or in the newsletter mailbox).

Most importantly, if we missed something, or someone...please let Sue know. We want to recognize and celebrate everyone!

Spanish Soiree

WINE TASTING & CULINARY DELIGHTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011
6:00 TO 8:30 P.M.

Annual Fundraiser & Silent Auction

AT GRACE CHURCH

ADMISSION: \$30

For advance ticket sales, contact:

Kerri Aitken — kaitken@twcny.rr.com

or

Kate Auwaerter — kandjauw@verizon.net

or

visit Vinomania, 313 East Willow Street, Syracuse, NY 13203

Check out the Post Standard's food section on Wednesday, March 23. There may be an article on making Tapas, including information about this event!

Spanish Soiree will include wines selected by Gary Decker; imported cheeses selected by Nancy Radke, and an extensive selection of tapas created by Grace Church cooks led by Nancy Radke.



The Tapas menu will include: pulled pork with golden raisins and olives; skewers of cornichon pickles, olives, pimento, cocktail onions and baby shrimp; Chorizo, cheese, and potato tortilla bites; tuna and white beans on Belgian endive; meat balls in Romesco sauce; tomato bread with egg, escarole and Spanish anchovies; squid salad; and grilled asparagus with Romesco sauce. Cheeses will include raw milk Manchego, Valdeon blue cheese and Miti Cana de Oveja. Spanish hot chocolate will be served for dessert.



Coordinated by Grace's Nancy Radke and sponsored by Gary Decker, owner, Vinomania Wine Shop (pictured at right)

NIA* Classes

***Neuromuscular Integrative Action**

Starting in April!

Grace's Sheila Newport-Jenkins will be offering NIA exercise classes at Grace beginning this spring, tentatively scheduled for Thursday evenings.

A "Wear Your Sweats to Church" Sunday, followed by a free NIA class, will be held prior to the start of the 8-week session (date to be announced.)

Cost for the \$50/8 wks at Grace; \$60/8 wks. for classes at Grace and another location.

Sheila, who has three belts in NIA, describes it as an exercise program that focuses on the body, mind and spirit. And, she says, "You may not lose weight, but you'll lose inches!"

For more information, contact Sheila, 492-4553.



Sheila Newport-Jenkins

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Free Health Screenings for breast and colorectal cancer

March 14 to 21

Free breast and colorectal cancer screenings will be offered to those without adequate health insurance March 14 to 21, at various locations throughout Onondaga County. To make an appointment, call 435-3653.



Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Harrison Burrows and son, Timothy Aaron Baskerville-Burrows, at their baby shower.



"I'd be happy to babysit for Timothy," says Grace's Sara Tucker.

Baby Shower for Timothy!

The parish hall was packed with well-wishers. The food was delicious, the gifts were fabulous, grandmothers got to share their pride, and parishioners got to hold that beautiful baby!



After church, Myrtle London stopped to talk with new grandmother Brenda Baskerville, and to admire grandson Timothy Aaron.



Mother Jennifer opened lots and lots of wonderful presents!



What a spread! Casseroles, fresh fruit, pastries, and more — church members organized a scrumptious brunch to celebrate the newest member of our church family: Timothy Aaron Baskerville Burrows.



Longtime Grace Church member Connie Cutler made a special trip to be at the baby shower so she could congratulate Jennifer and Harrison on the arrival of their son.



Sheila Newport-Jenkins had a chance to hold Timothy. Sheila often brings her own grandson to church.

GRACE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY



At left: Grace's Mike Atkins heads the Concerned Citizens Action Program which conducts a weekly program at the Justice Center. Their focus is helping incarcerated teens.

Above: Prisoners at the Onondaga County Justice Center jail listen to a recent presentation by speakers and a church choir.

The Hardest Test: Taking King's dream into the jails

By Sean Kirst. Reprinted from the Jan. 16 Post-Standard

The official program was over, and a few dozen young prisoners at the Onondaga County Justice Center jail settled into a common area for soda and pizza. Every now and then, a teen would get up and make his way to Deborah Wright, who was among a group of volunteers visiting the jail.

The stories always began in a similar way: "Ms. Wright, what they've got me up here for, it wasn't me." She would listen, offering neither disbelief or affirmation, and she offered each young man the same response:

"It doesn't matter what you're up here for. All that matters is what you do next."

To her, that is in keeping with the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Wright was in the jail on a recent Wednesday on the request of Mike Atkins, a former Syracuse common councilor who is now executive director of the Concerned Citizens Action Program. Forty-one years ago, when Wright was 15, she was given her first job — as a tutor — by Atkins. In her 20s, she went to work for Onondaga

County's Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Center. Her skills as a counselor were on such a high level that in 2004 she would earn a county award — named in King's honor — given to an employee who exemplifies the ideals of the slain civil rights leader.

By last September, when she retired after 33 years, many young people told her they didn't want to see her go. She returned to Hillbrook in a part-time role. She also agreed to volunteer with Atkins' program, which combines the message of Pastor Phil Turner and others from Bethany Baptist Church with some job skills preparation. The idea is giving the young prisoners — the target age is 16 to 19 — some traction for staying free, once they're released.

The message from each speaker always hits the same key notes: We remember you, and we value you, words many of these prisoners have rarely heard throughout their lives.

Atkins' group will be in the jail every Wednesday, into June. Wright will use that chance to counsel many youths she remembers from Hillbrook. She is

also searching for charismatic speakers from the community, adults who might stir the imaginations of young prisoners.

Sunday, in separate interviews, Wright and Atkins — who are both African-American — said the goals match a larger theme:

"Any time you see a group that's got needs, to help them is part of Dr. King's dream," Wright said.

That dream is put to its ultimate test in American jails and prisons. The statistics are staggering for young black men, whose incarceration rate is many times higher nationally than it is for whites. To write them off means writing off an enormous swath of the population, said Atkins, who has done his volunteer jail visits for about 20 years. During the recent program, Atkins asked the teen prisoners how many grew up without fathers. Hand after hand shot up.

Please Note

This month's **Ministry Schedule** will be distributed separately.

For a Better World: Live the Global Golden Rule

Excerpted from an interview with Karen Armstrong. From Jan. 10 Talk of the Nation, National Public Radio

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.

One of the chief tasks of our time is to build a global community in which all peoples can live together in mutual respect; yet religion, which should be making a major contribution, is seen as part of the problem. All faiths insist that compassion is the true test of spirituality and that it brings us into relation with the transcendence we call God. Each has formulated its own version of the Golden Rule, “Always treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself.” Further, they all insist that you cannot confine your benevolence to your own group; you must have concern for everybody — even your enemies.

Yet sadly we hear little about compassion these days. I have lost count of the number of times that I have been informed that religion has been the cause of all the major wars in history. In fact, the causes of conflict are usually greed, envy, and ambition, but in an effort to sanitize them, these self-serving emotions have often been cloaked in religious rhetoric. There has been much flagrant abuse of religion in recent years. Terrorists have used faith to justify atrocities; bishops have turned a blind eye to sexual abuse; some religious leaders behave like secular politicians, singing the praises of their own denomination and decrying their rivals with scant regard for charity.

It’s hard to think of a time when the compassionate voice of religion has been so sorely needed. Our world is dangerously polarized. There is a worrying imbalance of power and wealth and, as a result, a growing rage, malaise, alienation, and humiliation that has erupted in atrocities that

endanger us all. We are engaged in wars that we seem unable either to end or to win.

And yet at the same time we are bound together more closely than ever before through the electronic media. Suffering and want are no longer confined to distant parts of the globe. What happens today in Gaza or Afghanistan is likely to have repercussions tomorrow in New York. In a world in which small groups increasingly have powers of mass destruction, it is imperative to apply the Golden Rule globally, ensuring that all peoples are treated as we would wish to be treated ourselves.

A Charter for Compassion has been written by leaders from a variety of faiths to restore compassion to the heart of religious and moral life and to counter the voices of extremism, intolerance, and hatred. It shows that the religious can work together for justice and peace.

Thousands of people from all over the world contributed to the draft charter; their comments were presented to the Council of Conscience, a group of leaders from six faith traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism), who composed

the final version:

Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.



It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others — even our enemies — is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion. We therefore call upon all men and women

- to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion;
- to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ;
- to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures;
- to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity;
- to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings — even those regarded as enemies.

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FOOD PANTRY SUPPORTERS



Presents for the Food Pantry

Amanda Aitken (front row, third from left) is pictured with her friends at her 5th birthday party. In lieu of presents, they all brought non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Grace Church. All together, they donated over 75 items. Amanda brought them to the food pantry on a recent Thursday and helped to put them on the pantry shelves. Some of the food she and her friends donated went out in bags that day! Amanda is proud to be able to help so many people in honor of her birthday.