

Grace United Church of Christ

"Serving Justice, Loving Kindness"

A United Church of Christ Congregation in Flemington, NJ



Worship Celebrations: Every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

All are Welcome

We meet at the Flemington Woman's Club: 43 Park Ave., Flemington, NJ

Mailing and Office Address: 18 Court Street, Flemington, NJ 08822

Phone: 908-237-2025

April 2008

Volume 1, Number 2

In This Issue:

What's New(s):

- Trenton Rescue Mission
- Walking a Labyrinth
- Potlucks

Meeting Our Moderator- Duncan Taylor

What's Upcoming:

- Community Dinners
- Habitat for Humanity
- Mission Projects

What's Ongoing:

- Circle of Grace
- Living the Questions
- Movie Night
- Men's Breakfast

What's New(s): Office Space!



We now have office space. It is located at 18 Court Street- "across the park" from where we meet on Sundays at the Flemington Woman's Club.



New mailing address:

Grace UCC, 18 Court St., Flemington, NJ 08822

New phone number:

908-237-2025



Here is a YouTube link "walking" you from the Woman's Club to the new offices:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0vs-IS6sl0>

Pennies and Nickels

Congratulations

Dates to Remember

Links:

Grace UCC Web site:

<http://www.graceuccnj.org/>

UCC Web site:

<http://www.ucc.org>

In the Next Issue:

Meeting more council members.

Contact Us:

Grace UCC
18 Court Street
Flemington, NJ 08822

Phone: 908-237-2025

E-mail:

info@graceuccnj.org

Grace UCC Web site:

<http://www.graceuccnj.org/>

Trenton Rescue Mission

Thanks to all who helped gather clothing for the Trenton Rescue Mission. Clinton Newton helped Sue and Sam Goodwin deliver approximately 40 bags of gently used clothes. The Mission was glad to receive them and grateful for our “delivery services”. Thanks!

Why a Labyrinth?

On Good Friday, as part of our worship service, we had an opportunity to walk an indoor labyrinth. Such a walk is an act of embodied prayer. The labyrinth is not a maze or a puzzle. It’s not intended to trick or trip up its occupant. Rather, it affords a time of introspection and contemplation.

Some people get a great deal out of labyrinths. If you find yourself longing to relive the experience, there is an outdoor labyrinth in Warren, New Jersey that you might want to visit. See Sue for more details.

Two Potlucks, No Shortage of Food or Appetites

We continue to be amazed at the quality of the cooking at our potlucks and the number of dishes that appear as if out of nowhere. Thanks to all our great cooks for making the March 2nd and Easter Sunday feasts so special. As for the “clean up staff”, those who volunteer to literally do the dirty work, we are truly grateful!

Jesus called his followers to the table. His sense of table fellowship required that all were always welcome. It’s a model we can follow.

Meet Our Moderator: Duncan Taylor



I was raised as a Methodist and, during college, took a vacation from regular, formal participation until after our son was born and we decided to have him baptized. That led me (actually all of us) back to the Methodist denomination, and that extended for the seven years we lived in Indiana. When we moved to Connecticut, we transferred to a wonderful UCC church in Middletown, and were members there for 10 years. After moving to Kalamazoo, Michigan, we joined a Reformed Church and were members there for 8 years before moving to New Jersey.

We joined Grace in the Spring of 2005. We thought when we joined that maybe the “dust would have settled” from the church’s start-up. Instead, there has been a lot of ongoing work to set up things, and that has been a lot of fun to be part of. It makes coming to Grace interesting. Of course, the biggest draw for Jeanne and I has always been the welcome we received that first day and have felt ever since. This is our Family.

What is on the web site?

- Science & Religion.
- YouTubes.
- Progressive Bible.
- Pennies and Nickels.
- Thula Sizwe.
- Music.
- Directions to Grace.
- Christian Ed.
- Marcus Borg.
- Living the Questions.
- Mission Projects.
- Announcements.
- Jim Wallis.
- The Daily Show.
- Etc...

<http://www.graceuccnj.org/>

In the adult years of my church-going, I've participated in Missions (Outreach), Stewardship, Evangelism, Music, and been a Deacon, an Elder, a Trustee, and now, a Moderator. I've also led a men's retreat (the Walk to Emmaus) and belonged to a Tres Dias community (originally a Cursillo community; this has a number of other names depending on the denomination sponsoring it; it has been called "The Journey" in the UCC tradition).

My role as Moderator is exactly that, to "moderate" the discussions held by the Church Council; to set an agenda, call the questions, and help to chair the meeting. Our goal is to have Council meetings last no more than two hours, and sometimes we even keep them that short!

I've always had an interest in music, and I have been singing in a church choir since 1979; Jeanne and I have played in a number of English handbell choirs as well. One real treat in Kalamazoo was singing with the (sometimes) 80-man strong Singing Crusaders, an ecumenical men's chorus that sang every other Sunday night at worship services and put on a Spring Concert. While I was with them, we recorded 3 CDs of sacred music (and I'd be happy to sell anyone a copy; proceeds go to the chorus!). Here in Flemington I have joined the Hunterdon Choral Union, and have sung at Christmas and Spring concerts for four years. I love to sing and would love to connect with others who want to sing duets, trios, or in small groups, and my musical tastes are very broad.

Jeanne and I were married in 1972 in St Johns, Antigua, the West Indies, where we were Volunteers in the Peace Corps for two years. We have a son, Jack, who will be 31 this April (2008); he was born in Corvallis, OR, and now lives in San Francisco.

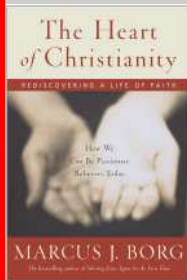
I recently joined SK Life Science, a development-stage pharmaceutical company located in Fair Lawn, NJ, in Business Development; I've been in the pharmaceutical industry since 1979 in research, management, competitive intelligence, and business development. I received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oregon State University and my B.S. in chemistry from CalTech. My mother and brother and his family live in the San Diego area.

What's Upcoming:

- **Community Dinners:** A number of dinners are scheduled for the next few months at various households. If you have not already signed up to go to one of the dinners, please contact Marianne Murray-Fimbel at emfim3@yahoo.com and she will get you on the schedule.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** We have a Habitat for Humanity Workday on Saturday, April 19. A big thanks to all who have signed up for this important mission project.
- **Mission Projects for the summer and into the fall:**
 - "Grow-a-Row" in June, July, August and September.
 - Relay for Life (cancer treatment and research) on June 13.
 - HIV/ AIDS benefit on September 26.
 - CROP walk.
 - Peace vigils.
 - Flemington Food Pantry (last Sunday of every month).

What's Ongoing:

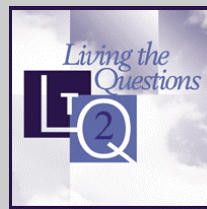
Circle of Grace



(From Pastor Sue): The Wednesday morning adult education class continues to be a time of sharing, laughing and learning. We are on our last chapter of Marcus Borg's book **The Heart of Christianity**. Borg offers insight into a passionate and progressive way of being faithful. He deconstructed the faith we thought we knew and might have grown up with, and helped us to rebuild our faith with integrity and modern day sensibilities. While I loved the book, I have cherished being part of this circle of grace even more.

We begin a new book (TBD) on April 23rd. All are welcome to join us.

Living the Questions



On Wednesday evenings there is an ongoing *Living the Questions* (LTQ) Adult Bible Study. The group meets from 7 - 8:30 p.m. This is a 21-week program but people can attend one or all 21! More info. at the Grace/ LTQ web site:

<http://graceucnj.org/home.html>

Movie Night



Once per month we show a film co-sponsored by the Hunterdon Coalition for Peace group. The next film night will be on Wednesday, April 16 at 7 p.m. and will be featuring the movie *Why We Fight*. (Film Synopsis: "Grand Jury Prize winner at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival, WHY WE FIGHT is an unflinching look at the anatomy of American war-making. Granted unparalleled Pentagon access, the film launches a nonpartisan inquiry into the forces – political, economic, and ideological – that drive America to fight.")

Men's Breakfast



Each month all the men from the church are invited to gather for breakfast. Our next gathering will be Saturday, April 12 at 8 a.m. This month we will be meeting at the Country Griddle in Flemington.

Pennies and Nickels



One of the mission projects at Grace UCC is our “Pennies and Nickels” program. Members and friends bring their loose change to church on Sunday mornings and place it in the silver “Change Bowl”. Below are the items we have been able to buy, many through Church World Service (CWS), via this simple program- one by which we are turning some of our smaller possessions into larger ones for those in need...check out the web site to see what we have been able to purchase to date:

<http://graceucc.wordpress.com/pennies-and-nickels/>

CONGRATULATIONS!

- **March and April Birthdays:**

Mary B., Mark H., Jamie H., Elizabeth O., Isabelle O., Evan O., Vassie W., Myra T., Brandon T., Bruce W.

God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God...I John 4:16b

DATES/ THINGS TO REMEMBER:

April 5- Council Meeting- 9 a.m.

April 12- Men's Breakfast- 8 a.m.

April 16- Movie Night- *Why We Fight*- 7 p.m.

April 19- Habitat for Humanity Workday

- Pennies and Nickels each Sunday for the “Change” Bowl.
- Pledges for the year.
- If you have a news item of yourself or one of your family members, and would like to include on our web site, send it to Dan and he will post it.

