

February 9, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of special devotion when we are invited to recommit ourselves to a better life, following in the way of Jesus and focusing on our relationship with God.

During this holy season, we will have many ways to help you deepen your faith:

Dinner Church, an intergenerational, contemplative worship service will take place in the undercroft on Sunday evenings at 5:30. Following the practices of the earliest Christians, we will gather around tables, share a sacred meal, read from scripture and pray together. Dinner Church will be a great way to get to know other people at Grace, and best of all, there is no need to bring anything. If you want, you can arrive between 5:00 and 5:30 pm to help cook and set-up, and we will conclude by 6:30 pm.

As part of the Year of the Bible, we will be reading the Gospels during Lent. Would you like to know more about Jesus? What he said and did? Join us as we explore the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each week, there will be some reading, and on Sunday mornings, we will have a discussion group from 9:30-10:15 a.m. in the Adult Forum room of the Parish Hall building.

Or, maybe you would like to learn more about the Episcopal Church. Starting this Sunday, and continuing through Sunday, March 13, I will be teaching an introductory class on the Episcopal Church, focusing on its history, worship, spirituality and theology. Classes will take place immediately after the 10:30 service in Grace House, which is the church office building.

Finally, you might want to learn to pray, or try praying on a more regular basis. As part of my Doctor of Ministry program, I am doing a research project on the prayer life of parishioners, and specifically, studying the efficacy of online spiritual resources. There is a great website we will use to help you pray – it's almost like listening to a podcast. It is easy-to-use, engaging, and in only 10 minutes a day, should help you connect more closely with God.

If you would like more information about any of these programs, or if you would like to sign-up for one of the classes or to participate in my prayer project, just reply to this email.

Wishing you a holy and life-giving Lent,  
*Andrew*