

November 2009

# GraceNotes

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH STERLING, IL

NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 707 1ST AVENUE • STERLING, IL 61081 • (815)625-0442

## In the news...

A number of people have approached me this week concerning the Pope's effort to attract disgruntled Anglicans. Some seem to think this is an all-time low in the art of proselytizing. But this is not really so because the Roman Church is always open to newcomers. To be sure, the Vatican has tailored this offer for Anglicans in particular by allowing congregations to continue the use of the Book of Common Prayer and allow their clergy to be married as long as they are not Bishops. But this too, is nothing new in that there are 6 Roman congregations in the U.S. today that operate on that basis. As for allowing Priests to be married, that has been policy for many years. In the 70's when we began ordaining woman as Priests, quite a few congregations left as well as about 130 Episcopal Priests most of whom joined the Roman church. The last published figures I saw was that there are still 110 married Episcopal Priests functioning in the Roman church. Inasmuch as the announcement was made in England it is merely making the American processes available to England and other countries.

I like to believe that in this matter the Pope is acting from a pastoral concern and that this would be a good offer for Anglicans to consider for it is a far more honorable, moral and Christian step than what many of them are trying to do at the moment.

But the fact is that the leaders of the dissidents have publicly rejected the offer. The leaders would no longer be leaders. Those who have styled themselves 'Archbishops' would no longer be so. Those who claim to be Bishops in the dissident movement could no longer be Bishops unless they ejected their wives. The fact is that they do not want to embrace the Roman Faith, they want to find some way in which they can stay Anglican preferably by founding a parallel Anglican See in this country but that is not likely to happen for the concept is inherently un-Anglican. If there is an unspoken agenda it is to eject the Episcopal Church and the Church of Canada so that they can take its place. In the interim they are trying to preserve some sense of legitimacy by 'aligning' themselves with the

Church of the Southern Cone (Southern South America). But even that is just smoke and mirrors because they can only have honorary seats in that Church.

The problem they face is that it is a dear thing to Anglican's to be Catholic. You just can't denominate. The Pope's offer is the surest way to remain Catholic.

The dissident movement comprises about 2% of the Episcopal Church in the US and has its roots in the Abolition of Slavery. These folks were further offended by the Ordination of Women in the 70's and finally the ordination of Gay folks in this decade. But the dissidents won't find much succor in the Roman Church for they have always ordained gay people and welcomed them into their midst and are doing so in ever-increasing numbers. There is great pressure in the Roman Church to ordain women as well. Who knows if that will happen any time soon but the fact is that the Roman church is in huge trouble because of the immense shortage of clergy. I just attended our annual Clergy Conference at the Roman Seminary in Mundelein. The place was built to train well over a thousand priests at a time. They are now lucky to have 50 seminarians in residence. The shortage is going to force some kind of change and one option is to ordain woman. As long as the Roman Church is so restrictive in who they allow into the ranks of the power structure the pressure to ordain women will continue.

So if anyone 'tweaks' you about the 'Papal Package' be thankful that he has offered an honorable way out of the current mess facing our unhappy brethren. Remember also, that it works both ways. There has always been a steady stream of folks who cherish freedom of thought coming our way too.

—FR. DAVID+

**Study The Book of Daniel**  
**Wednesdays at 5:30 PM**  
**With Soup, Salad & Dessert**

**BROADCASTING ON DEMAND AT [gracechurchstg.org](http://gracechurchstg.org)**



**THANKSGIVING EVE  
EUCHARIST**

**November 25, 2009—7:00 pm**

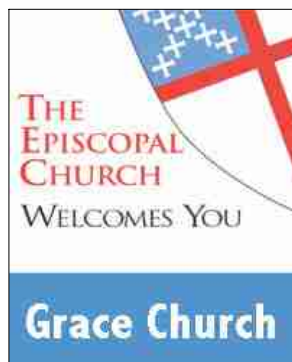


**2nd Annual  
THANKFUL DINNER**

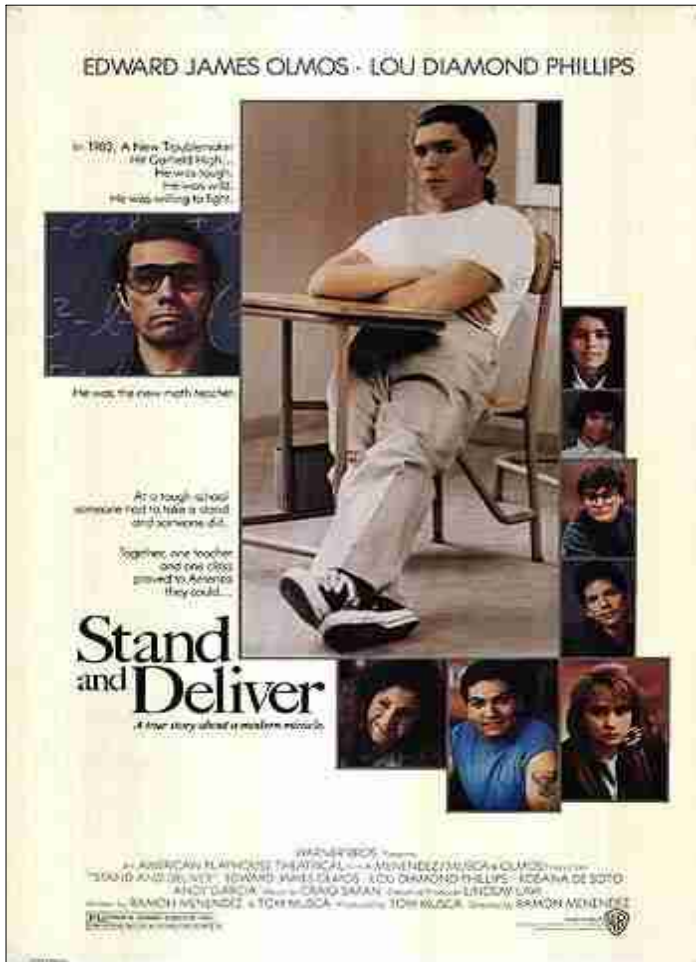
**DECEMBER 5, 2009 – 6 PM  
ROAST TURKEY WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGSG  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS**

---

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
707 1ST AVENUE  
STERLING, IL 61081**



**Parish Movie Night  
November 27, 2009  
Pot-Luck at 5:30 pm**



Stand and Deliver is a 1988 film dramatizing the work of Jaime Escalante, a dedicated high school mathematics teacher portrayed by Edward James Olmos. Based on a true story, this low budget movie opens with the background of East L.A. in 1982. In an environment that values a quick fix over education and learning. Despite concerns and skepticism of other teachers, who feel that "you can't teach logarithms to illiterates", Escalante nonetheless develops a program in which his students can eventually take AP Calculus by their senior year, which will give them credit toward college.

**Help Wanted  
—Discernment Committee**

We have a couple of people who are interested in the ordained ministry. The process begins with the work of a Parish Discernment Committee for which we need volunteers. This is a 6 month obligation and includes three 2-hour training sessions. Let Father David know if you would like to help our folks on the way to Priesthood.

**The Lord of the Dance**

Now  
There was only the morning  
And the dancing man of the broken tomb  
The story says  
he dances still  
That is why  
down to this day  
we lean over the beds of our babies  
and in the seconds before sleep  
tell the story of the undying dancing man  
So the dream of Jesus will carry them to dawn.  
—Fr. Jack Shea

**Ladies Bunco Night  
November 21st at the Church  
Call Debbie Duerst to be a part of  
this fun evening.**

**9th Annual Seeing Stars Show  
Centennial Auditorium  
Nov 13 & 14 at 7 pm  
Nov 15 at 2pm  
For Tickets call  
the box office at 815-622-3248**



(See Luke 6:39) 10-16-2009  
**USING A THIRD PARTY, THEY WERE ABLE TO FIND A LOOPHOLE IN THE BLIND LEADING THE BLIND RULE**

**Fr. David's Schedule Notes**

Fr. David & Elizabeth will be away on Nov 15. We will have Morning Prayer with Peg Williams preaching. They will be performing their Christmas show at the Festival of Trees on November 19th, at the Latin American Club on December 7 and at the Palmyra Greenhouse open house on December 4 from 6 to 8 pm

***Old Accountants never die,  
They just lose their balance!***

To have a balanced budget you need income that is equal or greater than the outgo. This is to say that it is time for the Vestry to prepare the budget for the Annual Meeting in January. To do that they need to have some idea of expected income which means it's time to make your pledge for the support of Grace Church. Pledge cards are available in the Parish Hall if you failed to receive one. The Church makes a difference. You can help it make that difference. Pledge now for 2010.

**At Last...**

**Church School and Child Care**

We welcome Marissa Swopes to our staff. She is available every Sunday from 9 am in the nursery to provide child care. She is also armed with Sunday School lessons and projects for the older kids. The children rejoin their parents in church during the announcement time so that they may have communion together.



**Come one, come all!  
The 2nd Annual Thankful Dinner  
December 5th 2009 at 6 pm.**

Bring your friends and bring your family. A great time to be had by all. The Church will provide main meat dish, sign up now to donate other dishes.

For the rest of the details listen for announcements or see Sue Lee. Last year was a great success and we are expecting this year to be even better. Entertainment provided.

Oh, we will have a dessert contest again this year. Only this year there will be 4 categories, pies, cakes, cookies and candies. Enter one or enter all, see Liz Rude for details. We have so much to be thankful for, please come and help us celebrate together.

**Music Report**

We have started chanting the Psalm each Sunday at the 10 am service to the delight of many. Ellen Prall will be offering a special solo on November 22nd. Fr. David will sing "My Tribute" at the Thanksgiving Eve service. Plans are underway for a special piece featuring Cello, Piano & Organ. We hope to have one Sunday this fall featuring hymns accompanied by our Parish Band. The music of the Episcopal Church is rich and varied so we have been adding new songs to our praise and worship book from other Episcopal Hymnals.

**Festival Of Praise Service**

The Sterling/Rock Falls Ministerial Association once again offers a Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 22nd at 3pm at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Rock Falls. Father David will be participating. This is but one of the opportunities available during the year for Christians to worship together.

**The Prayer Closet**

For Healing: Jon, M. Rose, Merideth, Sandi, Bea, Melinda, Chris, Chad, David, Marilyn, Irene Joe, Marvin, Sandra, Jessie, Viola, Athena, Glenn, Laurell, Roger, Brooke, Arlene, Donna, Alex, Amy

For the homebound: Helen, Char, Miriam, Kathy, and June.

For Employment: Emily, Steve, Ray, Troy, Andrew, Rommee, Josh, Paula, Melissa, Tiffany, Danny, Don and Jeremy.

For Special Needs: Self-Help Enterprises, Marge, Tom & Carol, Justin, Jen, John, Olivia and Rachael, John & Marissa, Pat & Lewie, Athena's family and Viola.

For the Departed: Jesse, Lee Parks, Leo Rock

For members of the Armed Forces: Olivia, Greg, Raymond, Matt, Tommy, Jamie, David, Rich, Robert, Larry, Chris, John, Julie, Don, Roger, Eric, Marcus, Andy, Mike, Jennifer, Todd and the 102nd MC Company.

Safe Travel for Robin, David & Elizabeth

**Happy Birthday!**

Daville Williams, Kathy Wasson, Lorraine Gould, Jennifer Lee, Elizabeth Rude, Marge Smith, Roberta Dillon Brooke Kessler, Raymond Espinoza, Jr., Gary Sinderman, Sr.



**Holy Baptism**

Jennifer Lee will be having her daughter Amelia Baptized on Saturday November 28th at 10:30 am. Feel free to join the Lee family in this joyous celebration