

January 19, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

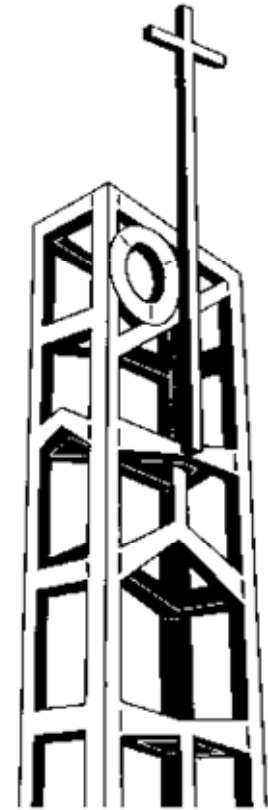
Please consider with me for a moment your plans to ensure that Lent 2010 will be especially meaningful for you. A Trinity Grace Group (small group Bible Study) just might be the answer. It will:

- Be short-term (weekly for just five weeks)
- Be based on Sunday scripture (lectionary)
- Have a study booklet provided for each participant
- Have a variety of groups and meeting times available
- Begin the week of February 21st

Grace Groups have become a tradition at Trinity – for many years now, we have gathered together weekly in small groups at church or in each other's homes during Lent to deepen our relationship with God and to form meaningful relationships with each other. In fact, many of Trinity's existing year-round small groups choose to take a 5-week break from their studies in order to meet as Grace Groups – that's how significant these groups are to participants! It's exciting to see how the Holy Spirit works in each of us and through each other!

I have spoken to you many times over the years about the importance of "adding something" to your daily lives as opposed to "giving something up" to help make the Lenten season more meaningful on a personal level. I can think of no better way than to intentionally increase time spent in God's Word. Let's see...what's a more meaningful way to observe Lent - giving up chocolate or attending a Bible Study?!

Sarah Stobie is preparing our Lenten Grace Group study again this year and it is based on the lectionary. "Weaving the Old Testament through Lent" is the theme for the 2010 Lenten Grace Groups. Interesting narrative and thought-provoking questions will be provided in order to facilitate lively and exciting group discussions.



Signups for Grace Groups begin this Sunday, January 24th at our Trinity Annual Meeting. After that, the large Grace Group signup poster will be located outside the church office. Rest assured that if you don't see a Grace Group that works for your schedule, there may be one soon. Groups are still forming and getting the details worked out as to time and place that they will meet. So if you don't see the right Grace Group for you on the signup poster board or if you have questions, please call Sylvia Stouten, Partner in Ministry for Discipleship, at 949-2492 x 21 or email her at sylvia.stouten@tlcgr.org. Let Sylvia know, too, if you would consider leading a Grace Group yourself!

I hope that you will prayerfully consider this exciting and truly significant opportunity afforded to us on our spiritual journeys of faith during Lent. Take care, and may God continue to bless you and all your loved ones.

In Christ's name,

Pastor Paul

P.S. Here's another great learning opportunity and you don't have to wait until Lent to begin. Trinity's Sunday Morning Adult Ed classes meet every Sunday morning at 10:00 am in the Church Parlor. These classes are easy to fit into your schedule – just arrive a little early before worship or stay a little while after worship. The classes focus on "Faith Practices" – a wide variety of actions taken by Christians to grow in faith, serve God, and follow Jesus. There is no need to sign up for Sunday Morning Adult Education classes - just stop in when you can – you will be glad you did!