

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECTION

*A Publication of
Grace Episcopal Church
Galena, Illinois*

March 2010

Volume 18

Number 3

Lenten Disciplines

Whats the point?



The point of any spiritual discipline is, of course, to heighten our consciousness of God's presence in our lives. Spiritual discipline, in the words of our Lenten Book, "An Altar In The World," is to make us more "attentive" to seeing a flower in bloom, the face of a friend, a choir anthem, etc. as gifts to us from God. Lenten disciplines are attempts to refocus our routines, schedules, diet, finances, i.e. our lives, so as to more fully follow Christ NOT just during Lent but for the rest of our lives.

Most typically, they require that we give up something that is a good thing in order to embrace something better. If we're watching too much late night TV so that we are too tired to get up early for a regular time of prayer and scripture reading, then we know what has to go. Perhaps we are eating too many sweets or drinking too much beer to which our girth gives ample demonstration. Those facts might lead us to cut out sweets or alcohol entirely so that in the post-Lenten season we are enabled to more fully moderate our appetites for such things. Putting our loose change in a United Offering (UTO) box each Lenten day is a way to begin to build a life-long habit of dropping coins in the box each evening in remembrance of some blessings we have received from God that day. I gave up coffee this Lent because I knew that in our coffee-centered hospitality and meal rituals, I would have to look at my calendar each day to see how I could avoid coffee. I hope that by the end of Lent I will have given birth to a life-long habit of "planning out my day" in prayer so as to avoid situations where I know I will be tempted.

Another possibility for a Lenten Discipline is, of course, to not give up something but to try and build some new and very positive element into your daily routine. Reading a Lenten book can perhaps jump start you into a life pattern of regularly reading a devotional book a few pages or a chapter a day or week. Adding some new element to your prayer life or taking seriously your God-given body's need for regular exercise.

No one is saying that giving up chocolate, scotch, Brussels sprouts or snacks is a bad Lenten discipline because after the season you intend to simply go back to your old ways. If these are things you regularly have and the discipline of giving them up for Lent makes you more aware of God's presence in your life and your dependence on God then go for it. That sense of God's closeness may well last well past Easter Sunday.

Attending the special Lenten Services we hold each year is a very valuable Lenten discipline. They can make us aware of an underdeveloped portion of our prayer or devotional life. The Litany of Penitence read on Ash Wednesday (PB-Page 267) is a Prayer Book treasure for self-examination. The special features of our Lenten Sunday Eucharists, such as the Exhortation (PB 316), the Great Litany (PB 148) and the Penitential Orders (PB 319) remind us of how we all fall short of God's will for us. The Holy Week services are dramatic presentations of what

God has done for us in Christ Jesus. On Maundy Thursday, for example, we begin at the Parish House with a Middle Eastern feast, the Agape Meal, during which we hear Jesus' prayer for us. Later in the church we see Jesus' foot washing, hear His words of blessing over the bread and wine, and pray in our chapel, with the smells of a garden like that of Gethsemane, just as He did. It is an awesome experience!

Continued on page 6 —————>

World Day of Prayer 2010

By: Cathie Elsbree



The Women's World Day of Prayer started in the USA in 1884. When Mary Ellen James called for a day of prayer in 1887, she was not planning a great worldwide movement, destined to become the largest ecumenical movement in the world organized and led by women. She was simply reacting, as a Christian, to the society in which she lived. The wife of a Presbyterian minister in New York and the mother of seven children, Mary Ellen was aware of the problems faced by many women around her, particularly new

immigrants to America - the awful slums with their poverty, unemployment, poor housing, lack of health or educational facilities. Something had to be done. Two years later, two [Baptists](#) called together a Day of Prayer for the World Mission. The Day of Prayer initiated by these two women expanded to neighboring countries, then on to [Europe](#) and other continents. Since 1927 the day is known as Women's World Day of Prayer.

Through the World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of the other countries and cultures and no longer live in isolation. They are also encouraged take up the burdens of other people, to sympathize with the problems of other countries and cultures and pray with and for them. They are further encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society. The World Day of Prayer aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Every year, worship service focuses on a different country and a specific theme. World Day of Prayer National/Regional Committees of that country prepare the order of worship on these themes to be used on the next World Day of Prayer. On the first Friday of March, then, in services all over the world that country becomes the focus of prayer and understanding. Through preparation and participation in the worship service, women worldwide learn how their sisters of other countries, languages and cultures understand the biblical passages in their context. They learn of the concerns and needs of those women and to empathize and feel in solidarity with them.

On Friday, March 5, 2010, at noon at the Methodist church in Galena join the women of Cameroon. Any woman attending is asked to bring 11/2 dozen ½ sandwiches and three dozen cookies to add to the treats for luncheon which will follow. **Let's turn our prayers into action.**

Snippets from Seminary

By: Marsha Vollkommer

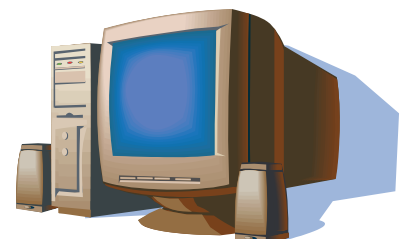
The semester is in full swing across the river at Wartburg. In a nutshell this means the reading list is already functioning in back-logged mode and the first paper is due this week. I had hoped to take two Anglican courses at Seabury in January but that did not come to pass. Instead I took a wonderful class on keeping the Sabbath. Two things I would share: Sabbath-keeping is not optional – it's a commandment; and, how one spends Sabbath time can (and should be) filled with delight! This semester's courses include delving into the Pauline Letters in Greek, the 'second millennium' of church history, and systematic theology (I will share more about that one when I figure out exactly what it is!).

I am taking several ministry courses – Text to Sermon, Loss and Grief, Rural Ministry, Youth Ministry, and the Emerging Church. I had my turn on the Chapel rota in February and thoroughly enjoyed participating on a daily basis in the planning of liturgy, music and message. The seminary experience remains a true joy for me. I am still getting used to living with the time pressures (including the time sacrificed with Rob and with friends), and still learning to deal with the awareness of how much I don't know. Yet every day the presence of God is palpable in the learning, the sharing, the people, and the very space I am so blessed to inhabit.

My heart is full of thanksgiving for all those in my life who are supporting me on this journey – pushing from behind, walking alongside, and lifting me up in prayer.

Be Sure To Visit Us

www.gracegalena.org



Getting To Know: Venoncia Bate & Carol Schieren

By: Cathie Elsbree



“How do you arrive in Galena via Sawyer, Michigan?” I asked Carol Schieren and Venoncia Bates. No, they don’t live in Michigan; Carol lives in Deerfield and Venoncia lives in Brookfield. No, actually they bought a weekend

getaway to Sawyer at a charity auction. They loved the lake and the woods and the peace and quiet. They decided it would be lovely to own a “get away home.” That started their search. They looked in Michigan, but didn’t find anything that suited them. Venoncia has in-laws who have a gentlemen farm in Elizabeth, so she was familiar with the area. She had even visited Grace 13 years ago. She became a research maven and began sending Carol ads for properties available in the Galena area. Besides being in a beautiful natural area, one of Carol’s criteria was that their home be within walking distance. And they found their home here. The lake they were seeking has been replaced by the Mississippi River.

Their interest in antiques and decorating their 100 year old home here led them to Gustafson and Grey in search of the perfect rocking chair. They not only found the chair, they found Joe Maffit. It was a weekday and the store was not busy, so Joe had time to welcome them. He was the first person they met in town. They were excited about how welcoming he was, how friendly. That was a beginning. When they joined the church, Joe and Alice were their godparents.

When they are not here, enjoying their second home, Carol works out of her home in Deerfield as a representative of Armstrong Flooring. She

works with decorators and architects choosing the correct flooring for commercial projects. She has a degree in business from NIU. Carol has 2 sons, Matt who is 20 and Dan, 18. Matt is a student at Columbia in Chicago, and Dan is at student at Southern Illinois in Carbondale. Carol also has a cat named Blu. When I asked what Blu looked like, Venoncia quipped, “She looks like Carol.” Carol’s house is for sale, and she has to give Blu away. Venoncia has asthma and is allergic to cats, so this is an ad for Blu. Blu is a small Siamese mix indoor kitty. She is friendly and loving and has the personality of a dog. If she is the cat for you, let Carol know!

Venoncia lives in Brookfield. She is the corporate director for Health Access with Catholic Healthcare system. She helps uninsured parents find health care. She refers to federally funded health care centers who receive federal money to treat uninsured patients. There are also some free clinics available and there are doctors who will see some patients for free. Venoncia is on the Board of Directors of the Assess to Care organization in Cook County. Venoncia’s passion for the plight of patients without insurance became very evident as we talked. She is trying to get the organization, Campaign for Better Health Care, to come to Jo Daviess County because she discovered that many uninsured people live in this county. Venoncia has a degree in cultural psychology, a

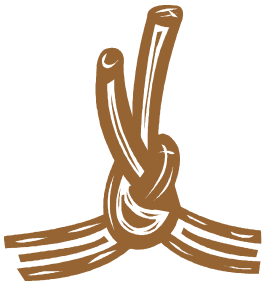
certificate in Health Care Administration, and this spring will complete her master’s degree in Organizational Leadership. Venoncia has 3 children, Christian 12, Jean Luc 17, and Nastassja, who is 19 and a student at Triton College.

The joke about how they met is that Carol showed up on Venoncia’s doorstep, and that is actually true. Carol was newly divorced and she joined a women’s group. Venoncia was the discussion leader. She joked that Carol was the teacher’s pet! Carol and Venoncia plan on getting married in Iowa, and then they will have a marriage service at Grace. The date is set for June 25, 2011. They have already booked Turner Hall for their reception.

They love Grace because they find the parish warm and open, and they love Fr. Bob. They plan on moving here full time, eventually. But first Venoncia is going to begin her doctorate in psychology in Spring of 2011, and they will wait for that.

When you see them, ask Venoncia about high heels and camping out, and ask Carol about the Bears!

Two more Grace people worth knowing!



The Tie That Binds- the Episcopal Church in the World

Welcome to the news from the Diocese of Chicago and the United States where we help you to become more "Connected" to the church in the world! Composers of this series are Kathy Shannon and John Michalski (on hiatus this month).

MINNESOTA: Priest's pop art challenges contemporary stereotypes, recalls church history **By Pat McCaughan, January 08, 2010 (submitted by Kathy Shannon)**

[Episcopal News Service] Pop art is one way the Rev. Robert Two Bulls delivers a powerful message about persistent Native American stereotypes as well as painful chapters in church history. Decades of personal encounters with non-Native people, from "the irksome offensive call-out 'Hey, Chief' to 'I really like your profile,'" became the inspiration for his brightly colored self-portrait, "Chief What-They-Want-Me-To-Be," Two Bulls said recently. The 16x20-inch acrylic on canvas is included in "Hokah!," an [exhibit](#) of self-portraits by more than 25 contemporary Native American artists, showing throughout January at a south Minneapolis gallery.

Two Bulls, the vicar of All Saints Indian Mission in Minneapolis in the [Diocese of Minnesota](#) and an Ogala Lakota Oyate, recalled his quick reply when complimented on his profile: "Like the nickel?" Self-portraiture "gives American Indian people the power to reflect back what we see in ourselves, and to put ourselves within a context that the general public is not used to seeing, thereby overcoming these stereotypes," explained guest curator Carolyn Lee Anderson in an introduction to the exhibit.

"Hokah!" is a popular greeting at powwows and other gatherings, according to Heid Erdrich, owner of the Ancient Traders Gallery, which is hosting the exhibit as part of its tenth anniversary celebration. For Two Bulls, it means: "Let's go, let's do it."

"I chose the war bonnet and red blanket images in profile because it's a well-worn,

universal image ... an image used famously by Hollywood," said Two Bulls. Although such images date back more than a century, they persist in contemporary culture "as images most folks will now conjure up when thinking of what an American Indian looks like," he added.

Another portrait by Two Bulls is exhibited in nearby St. Paul, at the Undercroft Gallery of [St. Matthew's Episcopal Church](#) incorporates church history, depicting the Rt. Rev. Henry Whipple, the first bishop of Minnesota in 1859. Whipple advocated for Native Americans against what he considered to be abusive and corrupt federal policies toward them. "He is a major figure in church history and was a huge player in Minnesota history," said Two Bulls. He is remembered for his clemency pleas for a group of 303 Dakota who fought against the United States government in the Dakota War of 1862 along the Minnesota River in southwest Minnesota. Ongoing treaty violations and unfair practices had created increasing hardship and hunger for the Dakota, a group of whom decided to drive white settlers out of the area. There is no official report of the numbers of settlers or Dakota killed during the four-month conflict. At Whipple's urging, then-President Abraham Lincoln pardoned 265 Dakota. Eventually, 38 were hanged December 26, 1862, at Mankato, Minnesota, "the largest mass [government] execution in American history," said Two Bulls. Hence the title of the acrylic on canvas, "38 Tears of Bishop Whipple". It depicts Whipple, in a

purple cassock, and 38 tears or a noose - depending on the viewer's interpretation.

"I used actual cord on the canvas and then drop-painted the blue onto it," said Two Bulls, who holds a bachelor's degree in American history with a special emphasis on Ogala Lakota and Native American history. "I have always known about this tragic story in America; one that is, sadly enough, rarely told," he said. "I remember reading once that executions were presented as a public spectacle, having a circus-like atmosphere ... (as) a cheap form of entertainment. To put to death all 38 in unison is still mind-boggling. "It might shock people to know that 37 of the 38 hanged were baptized Episcopalians."

Two Bulls, the son of an Episcopal priest, hails from a family of artists and painters and combines vocations by teaching art and spirituality classes. In recent years, he has transitioned from fine art and watercolor to tribal and pop art. He considers the "simplicity of pop art ... a kind of contemporary pictograph. It resonates with me with tribal art ... where you convey a message in a few words. It's very expressive in the most simple sense."

His sums up his self-portrait "Chief What-They-Want-Me-To-Be" in seven words: "They can't put us in a box." He added: "I've met people from all different tribes. We're all different. We're pretty complex people."

-- The Rev. Pat McCaughan is Episcopal News Service correspondent for Provinces V, VI, VII and VIII and the House of Bishops. She is based in Los Angeles.

Singing to Help Children

By: Lynn Giles

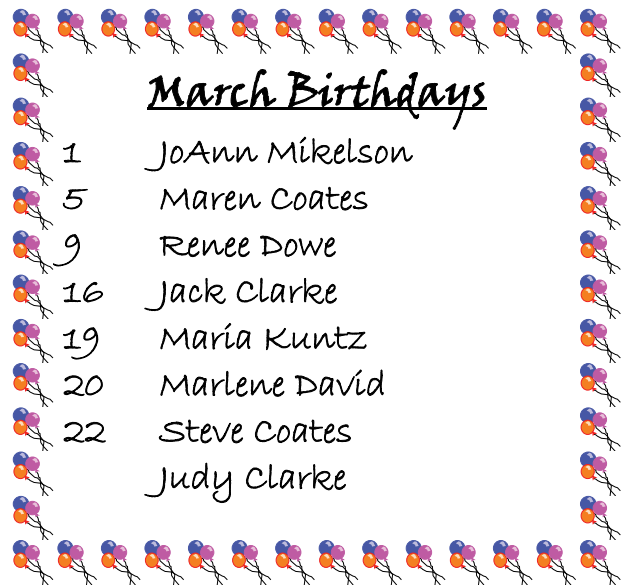
The Episcopal Arts Council will be hosting a very special choir on Friday, April 30 – the Schola Choir of Grace Episcopal Church in Oak Park, Illinois. Now celebrating its twelfth season under Artistic Director Dr. Dennis Northway and Schola Choir Administrator Randi Ravitts Woodworth, the Schola Choir and Scholars Program is open to children in grades 2-8. It is a competency-based, Kodaly-oriented choir whose members are taught sight-reading, sight-singing, and solfege.

Their repertoire includes sacred and secular music, as well as indigenous folk songs from the world repertoire. In addition to singing six Sundays per year at worship services alternating between Grace and St. Christopher's Churches of Oak Park, the Schola Choir performs annually at Symphony Center in Chicago, and at Oak Park's "Day in Our Village". The Schola has performed at the Infant Welfare Society Holiday Housewalk, Celebrations at Home at the Merchandise Mart, the Ernest Hemingway Centennial, the Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest Holiday Concert, the Light Opera Works production of "The Duchess of Chicago," and Handel Week's "Judas Maccabeus." The Schola Choir has performed Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest.

A Spring Tour is undertaken each April by the Scholars. This year that tour will include a concert at Grace to benefit the St Vincent Centre for Crippled Children in Haiti. The concert will begin at 7 pm. Suggested donation will be \$20 since this is a benefit concert.



ATTENTION:
Arts Council Meeting
Saturday, March 20th
12:00 pm



March Birthdays

- 1 JoAnn Mikelson
- 5 Maren Coates
- 9 Renee Dowe
- 16 Jack Clarke
- 19 Maria Kuntz
- 20 Marlene David
- 22 Steve Coates
- Judy Clarke

Adult Spiritual Formation

By: Mother Linda Packard

All of us yearn to know the Divine who is beyond us. Some of us are already aware of some of our "altars in the world." None of us writes as well as Barbara Brown Taylor. Follow this line of reasoning and you will find yourself around the table of conversation that began February 22 as our Monday spiritual formation group began to work with that author's newest book, *An Altar in the World*. Taylor is an Episcopal priest who has served as a parish priest in the Diocese of Atlanta for many years. In 1998 she left parish ministry to teach at Piedmont College. Both in and out of parish life she has been known as one of the finest preachers in our tradition, her sermons have been published in several books and she has preached at events here in Illinois as well as many other places.

We will use Taylor's "geography of faith" (the subtitle of the book) to guide the direction of our conversations on practices that further our waking up to God. This book and our time together will enrich our Lenten journey. We will continue as well into the Easter season. Consider yourself invited. We begin each meeting at 5:30 with a potluck supper. The book is available in paperback, hardbound and Kindle formats. Going forward here are our meeting dates:

- March 22, chapters 3 – 6
- April 19, chapters 4 – 9
- May 19, chapters 10 – 12

An 1880s Sunday Afternoon

By: Diann Marsh



As part of the celebration of the anniversaries of Grace Church, the Choir and friends will present an afternoon concert that will transform you back to a sunny Sunday afternoon in the 1880s. Please join us on **March 21st at 3:00 pm** for a nostalgic and memorable program.

Pat Terry and the Grace choir will bring us a wonderful Victorian love song, a “foot-stomping” hymn, and a choral classic

from the period. The Men’s Quartet will entertain us with great harmony, a little history, and some Victorian humor. Jim Post will perform a medley of songs from his popular musical “Galena Rose.” Dave and JoAnn Mikelson will sing “Bless this House”, and “Strolling in the Park One Day.”

In addition, a wide variety of historical vignettes will be featured. Suffragette Susan B. Anthony, played by Debbie Pausz, will be interviewed by reporter John Michalski. Chris Ludescher, as Herman Melville, will read from Moby Dick. Terri Jackman will play a liberated female whose husband (Phil Jackman) can’t seem to persuade her from riding bicycles and thinking “modern thoughts.” Joe Maffit will bring us a thoughtful reading from the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Father Bob North will portray Rev. Aratus Kent, one of Galena’s earliest and courageous ministers. Steve Dowe will bring us Captain Hezekiah Gear, the first Senior Warden of Grace Church and one of Galena’s most prominent citizens. Pat Terry and Carmen Ferguson will give us a dramatic reading from the life of Emily Dickinson.

Colorful Victorian costumes and the rich historical atmosphere of Grace Church will bring the audience back in time, to days when Grace was young.

Lenten Disciplines Continued

This year, we are adding to our schedule of Easter services a very special service. It is the Easter Vigil. This service is so powerful that some of our members have credited their attendance at the service for launching their journey as Christians. It will be held this year as a kind of Sunrise/ first Festival Easter Service. It is a service in which one comes into a semi-darkened church, lit only by the modest amount of light which comes in through the stained glass windows. A festal fire is lit outside on the steps of the church, the flames flickering through the open doors. The Pascal or Easter candle is lit and carried into the church with the priest chanting “The Light Of Christ.” three times as individual candles held by parishioners are lit. This Light Of Christ is welcomed into the world by a wonderful musical chant sung by the priest. Lay readers read from several biblical narratives that speak of the coming of the Light. At the services turning point, the priest shouts out the first Alleluia of Easter morn. The lights come on in the church as the first Easter hymn is sung and as the church is transformed before parishioner’s eyes from the darkness of Good Friday to the light of Easter Day. It is an experience one never forgets. The Easter Vigil will be at 7:00 AM and be followed by an 8:30 AM Easter Brunch. A sign-up sheet for the service and brunch will be put out three weeks before Easter. The later Festival Easter Service will be at 9:30 AM rather than at 10:30 AM our normal time.

One very special Lenten Service we offer at Grace is a contemporary form of the Stations Of The Cross. The Stations consist of 14 framed woodcuts depicting what happened to Jesus on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, as recorded in scripture and as suggested by ancient tradition. These woodcuts, surrounded by candles, are placed in the chapel, in each of the windows of the church, and at various other locations ending at the altar. Those attending walk from station to station following in the footsteps that Jesus took on his fateful journey to the tomb. Time is taken to study the artists representation of what happened and then a short meditation is read by the priest. This meditation is, in effect, Jesus’ words spoken to each participant. An intimate prayer follows that gives thanksgiving for what Jesus teaches us in our own time through what happened at that station. The service is about twenty minutes long and starts at 6:30 PM. It is preceded at 5:30, for those who would like to attend, by a simple Lenten Soup Supper in the Parish Hall. Two hearty soups are served along with cut vegetables and good breads.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10a AA Meeting	2 7p AA Meeting	3 7:30a Mid Week Eucharist 8:10a Breakfast Group 10:30a Women's Bible Study 12n AA Meeting 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Stations of the Cross 7p Choir	4 10a United Churches 10:30a EFM 10:30a @ Chapel Centering Prayer	5 12p World Day of Prayer @ Methodist Church 1:15p Celebration Committee Meeting	6 10a Choir
7 Lent III 10:30a Holy Eucharist	8 10a AA Meeting	9 7p AA Meeting	10 7:30a Mid Week Eucharist 8:10a Breakfast Group 9:15a Executive Committee 10:30a Women's Bible Study 12n AA Meeting 7p Choir	11 10:30a EFM 10:30a @ Chapel Centering Prayer	12	13 10a Choir
14 Lent IV 10:30a Holy Eucharist	15 10a AA Meeting	16 7p AA Meeting	17 7:30a Mid Week Eucharist 8:10a Breakfast Group 9:15a Staff Meeting 10:30a Women's Bible Study 12n AA Meeting 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Stations of the Cross 7p Choir	18 10:30a EFM 10:30a @ Chapel Centering Prayer	19 9a Vestry	20 8:30a Contemplative Prayer 10a Choir 12n Arts Council
21 Lent V 10:30a Holy Eucharist 3p Sunday 1800's Afternoon Concert Fr. Bob @ St. Greg's	22 10a AA Meeting 5:30p Monday w/Linda	23 7p AA Meeting 7p Taize Service @ Grace Church	24 7:30a Mid Week Eucharist 8:10a Breakfast Group 10:30a Women's Bible Study 12n AA Meeting 7p Choir	25 10:30a EFM 10:30a @ Chapel Centering Prayer	26	27 9:30a Servants Through Prayer 10a Choir
28 Palm Sunday 10:30a Holy Eucharist	29 10a AA Meeting	30 7p AA Meeting	31 7:30a Mid Week Eucharist 8:10a Breakfast Group 10:30a Women's Bible Study 12n AA Meeting 7p Choir			

Color Key
Church Activity
Church Ministry

Outside Group
Special Event

Executive Meeting
Arts Council Event



Dear Winter Weary Souls,

From the Editor

As I look out my window, it is another overcast day. This winter will be painted in my memory in shades of gray. Although that seems to be the appropriate color for Lent, somber and penitent, Lent just started, but the clouds seem to have been covering the sun for months. It seems to have been cold and snowy forever. Oh, I know that the snow cover protects and waters the roots of all the plant life that is so gorgeous come May, but I wish that instead of March, this month was called Skip, as in let's just skip this part of winter, and I would walk out of the door tomorrow, and it would

be spring. Forget that; I know it won't be here tomorrow, but I am going to wish for a glorious sunny day. I know now why the ancients worshipped the sun! Well, there is a solution- one that you and I use with great regularity. We make the sun come in our lives by enjoying the company of others. With that in mind, I am going to make sure that I warm the hearts of others as often as possible.

Smile with me,
Cathie

THE CHRISTIAN CONNECT ION

Grace Episcopal Church

Hill and Prospect Streets
Galena, IL 61036

The Rev. Robert D. North, Rector

