

Grace to You

June 2010
Volume 2010, Issue 6

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Look for Birthdays, Anniversaries, and
Prayers in Center.

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The Episcopal Church Welcomes You From iamepiscopalian.org

As Episcopalians, we are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Episcopal Church has members in the United States, as well as in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Haiti, Honduras, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands.

We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.

The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and traces its heritage to the beginnings of Christianity.

Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions, and is celebrated in many languages.

We welcome men and women, married or celibate, to be ordained as bishops, priests, and deacons.

We believe in amendment of life, the forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting. Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our Church.

We uphold the Bible and worship with the Book of Common Prayer. We affirm that committed relationships are lifelong and monogamous. Episcopalians also recognize that there is grace after divorce and do not deny the sacraments to those who have been divorced.

We affirm that issues such as birth control are matters of personal informed conscience.

We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.

All are welcome to find a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church.

Be sure to visit the site and listen to a very large, diverse group answer the question of why they are Episcopalian. The answers provide a wonderful experience of the breadth of our Church. You can also upload your own video in response to this question!

Jen

Summer Movie Series to Focus on Current Events

from Henry Idema

This summer we will be exploring a number of issues through film. The summer begins with a series of Alfred Hitchcock films along with psychological and spiritual interpretation. In July, the focus of the series will shift to a look at current events through film.

The group gathers in the lower level Forum Room at 5:30 for refreshments. The movie begins at 6:00 and pizza will be served during the movie. Please bring a \$5 donation if you plan on having pizza.

The film selections for this series include:

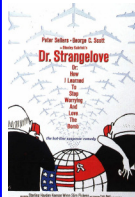


Wednesday June 2: VERTIGO, 1958, starring James Stewart and Kim Novak. Considered by many critics to be Hitchcock's greatest achievement, this film explores sexual obsessions. Set among San Francisco's renown landmarks, Stewart is brilliant as Scottie Ferguson, an acrophobic detective hired to shadow a friend's suicidal wife, Madeline (Kim Novak). Then events turn dark, and we enter into the dark night of the soul.

Wednesday, June 9: SHADOW OF A DOUBT, 1942, starring Joseph Cotton and Teresa Wright. This was Hitchcock's favorite among all his films. Joseph Cotton stars as Uncle Charlie, a calculating and charming killer who hides out in his relatives' small hometown. There he befriends his favorite niece and namesake, Young Charlie (Teresa Wright). But she begins to suspect he may be the famed Merry Widow murderer. A deadly game of cat and mouse ensues as the psychopathic killer plots the death of his young niece to protect his secret.

Wednesday, June 16: LIFEBOAT, 1944, written by John Steinbeck and starring Tallulah Bankhead and William Bendix, among others. Nominated for three Academy Awards, this gripping World War II drama is a remarkable story of human survival. After their ship is sunk in the Atlantic by Germans, eight people are stranded in a lifeboat. Their problems are further compounded when they pick up a ninth passenger—the Nazi captain from the U-boat that torpedoed them. With powerful suspense and emotion, this legendary classic reveals the strengths and frailties of individuals under extraordinary duress.

Wednesday, July 7: 7 DAYS IN MAY (1963), starring Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Ava Gardner and Fredric March. This movie is a classic suspense film, written for the screen by Rod Serling. The movie explores the possibility of a military takeover of our government because of the President's pacifist agenda with the Soviet Union. President Kennedy supported and actually helped with the making of this film. The military was not asked.

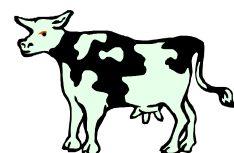


Wednesday, July 14: DR. STRANGELOVE, starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden, and many others. This film takes a satirical look at the potential outcomes of a never ending arms race.

Wednesday, August 4: CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY, directed by Michael Moore. This film, even if you do not agree with Moore's politics, is highly entertaining—and informative. Great fun to see some of our politicians and capitalists hung out to dry.

Wednesday, August 11: FOOD, INC. You'll never look at dinner the same way again.

Hope you will join us!



Water, Wind, Earth & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements

by Christine Valters Paintner

Join us for six Wednesday evening's this summer as we explore praying with the elements. Christian tradition tells us that we have received two books of divine revelation: the book of scripture and the book of nature. Creation itself is a sacred text through which the presence of God is revealed to us. There is much to explore in the water, wind, earth and fire and the summertime seems like a wonderful time to explore how we can pray with the elements of creation!

The book is organized around "The Canticle of Creation" by St. Francis of Assisi, "Water, Wind, Earth, and Fire" is the first book to consider the ways in which praying with the natural elements can enliven Christian spiritual life.

Paintner offers concrete suggestions and guided contemplative exercises; for instance, she suggests that readers take time to "watch the sunrise or sunset and breathe in the beauty of the fiery sky. Contemplate what those beginnings and endings have to say in your own life." Readers benefit from the author's extensive training in theology and Benedictine spirituality, as well as her unique work in bringing the expressive arts to spiritual direction.

Classes will meet on Monday evening's beginning June 28, 2010 and continue through August 2, 2010 and we will meet from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Mary Benedict and Mary Huisman will facilitate the class. A Sign up sheet will be available later in May!

- Week 1, Introduction and exploring the creation story through various means....
- Week 2, Explore Chapter 1, Brother Wind...
- Week 3, Explore Chapter 2, Brother Fire...
- Week 4, Explore Chapter 3, Sister Water...
- Week 5, Explore Chapter 4, Sister Earth...
- Week 6, Conclusion and a wrapping up ...



If you have any questions, contact Mary Benedict or Mary Huisman!

A prayer for Summer From *faithandworship.com*

Under the warmth
of the summer sun
the world awakes and blossoms
into every imaginable colour
You created a garden for us to enjoy
and within it planted
the most magical of flower and trees.
You needed no horticultural training
to plan your colour scheme
no gardening expert
to recommend variety or design.
Your garden is perfect
its colours harmonious
its scale immense
spoilt only by the clumsiness of those who tend it.
Creator God

who breathed this world into being
who is discernible within
the harmony of nature
the perfection of a butterfly's wing
the grandeur of a mountain range
the soaring eagle and humming bird
thank you for this world
which you have created
Thank you for summer sun
which reminds us
that your creative breath
is still alive and active.
Thank you for the warmth of your love
sustaining this world
your garden

Welcome to Growing Into Worship



My name is Jill Smalldon, and I'm planning to lead the Growing Into Worship program for your children, ages 3-5, beginning in the Fall of 2010.

I am a "cradle Episcopalian" having grown up in the Episcopal Church, and not only have 4 boys of my own, but a Bachelor's degree in Child Development and experience teaching preschool. I miss working with young children in a "classroom" setting so am thrilled to be able to work in this capacity again.

My husband, Bill, and I, and our 4 boys (Zack (13), Brock (11), Drew (7) and Sam (4)), live on the north side of Holland. We have lived in Holland for 15 years. I am looking forward to seeing you all this fall as we learn how to "grow into worship".

Growing Into Worship is a program for kids aged Preschool through First Grade and is provided as an alternative to the Liturgy at the late service. Jill will be working with the group during the program year, and parents are asked to lead the group on a "co-op" basis throughout the summer. For more information, check out the website or contact Debbie at the church office. 616-396-7459.

Making Grace Green with Fair Trade Coffee

By David A. Brower



The Diocesan Convention just ended in Traverse City passed a resolution encouraging churches and individuals in their own home consumption to use "fair trade coffee", especially fair trade coffee that originates in our companion Diocese, the Dominican Republic. There has been discussion in some quarters about whether we should embark on such an adventure. And given that "fair trade coffee" has been around for quite a while, it seemed that a brief synopsis of what "fair trade coffee" is all about might be helpful for many of us..

Most coffee that you drink at a restaurant or buy for your own home consumption is produced and marketed by large corporate concerns. Typically they will buy up land in a third world country, tear down existing rain forests that occupy the land and plant large groves of coffee on the now deforested land. The thin layer of top soil left from the rain forest is soon depleted, thereby demanding continuous oil-based artificial fertilizer to keep the land productive in addition to creating the increased propensity of soil erosion on the mountainous terrain that coffee growing requires. Further, the destruction of the rain forests eliminates suitable winter sites for our own migratory song birds.

Small scale coffee growers, on the other hand, grow their coffee in among the trees of the rain forest. Since the rain forests are left intact, they do not require artificial fertilizer and they do not contribute to soil erosion. And the birds and animals, including the winter tourists from up north, still have their homes intact. The problem is that these small scale farmers can not compete price wise with the large scale conglomerates. The fair trade system, however, has enabled these small scale farmers to cooperate with each other to sell their coffee through nonprofit marketers so that they can make a fair living off their produce and continue to live environmentally responsible.

Now, "fair trade coffee" does cost more, especially in comparison with name brand discount offers. But this is not about cost effectiveness, it is about doing justice. If our baptismal covenant, which we so reaffirm at Easter and other occasions, has any merit, then we are compelled to "strive for justice and peace among all people" (BCP, p. 305). Many churches in the Diocese, and indeed throughout the country have not only gone the "fair trade" route for their own church functions, but also make "fair trade coffee" available for their parishioners to buy for their own home consumption. It is time for us to join with the rest of the crowd.

Lots of Fellowship Opportunities Provide Great Summer Fun!

First, A big “THANK YOU” to Kristie Phillips and her Sunday School class: Kyle Murray, David Murray, Naomi Phillips, Austin Riggs and Sophia Steele for handing out carnations following the 2nd service on Mother’s Day.

In June, Fellowship Commission takes us “Into The Woods” (this year’s choice for our *Evening at the Theater!!*) It is being produced at the DeWitt Theater on Hope’s Campus. To give you a brief resume of the production - “ The genius of Stephen Sondheim comes to our stage, in his most beloved work. Drawing from classic tales of Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding-hood, and Rapunzel, Sondheim’s great music weaves their stories together in this intricate grown-up version. While charming and funny, these familiar characters may answer your own questions about why your life doesn’t seem to be as easy as a fairy tale. Actions have consequences and wishes may not be granted as expected, but each hero learns something valuable in the end. Not recommended for children under 13.” Saturday, June 19 is the evening. Tickets this year are \$20.00, for the Balcony. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Commons. We will have a social gathering before hand in the Commons. Plan to bring your own beverage and an appetizer to share. More information will be forthcoming. Then, on June 20th, we are hoping to see everyone at our Annual “Beer & Brats” **Father’s Day** celebration during coffee hour following the 10 am service.

July brings our summer evening outing to the **Whitecaps Game** on Saturday, July 31st at 7 pm. After the game, stay and watch the fireworks. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Commons. Tickets are \$9 each. We currently have 30 tickets, if there is greater demand we’ll try to get more.

We finish off the summer with the second annual **Fenn Valley Winery wine tasting wagon tour & picnic** - Come join us on Saturday, August 21st. Last year everyone had such a good time, so we reserved 2 wagons this year. There will be 44 spaces available in the wagons and you must be at least **21 years old** to attend this event. Cost will be \$10 per person. We will have a picnic lunch at noon and the wine tasting wagon tour starts at 2 pm and lasts about 2 hours. Watch for further details & the sign-up sheet in the Commons.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 8th, 7 pm in the Commons, please join us!

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

In Honor of Alice Hertel

From Amy Piersma

A year ago this Spring, Alice Hertel presented her art work to the executive director at Holland Area Arts Council to be considered for exhibit. Her work was studied and accepted for HAAC's program in the summer, 2010. This is Alice's first art gallery exhibit. **'The Art-Full Life'** will run from **June 10 through August 31**. The exhibit is located in the Armstrong Gallery at HAAC and will include 25-30 of Alice's works, focusing on her drawings (pencil). Also included is oil on canvas and collages. Her family invites you to view the exhibit this summer, in her honor. The Exhibit Opening and Reception will be held on Thursday, June 24 from 6–8 pm.

Time to Change The Way We Are Living Our Lives on Planet Earth.

From Bill Mendenhall of the Taking Grace Green Committee

In his latest book, *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*, Bill McKibben tells us we have moved into new and dangerous territory on the damage to our climate and says we must start changing the way we live our lives on our planet . . . right now !!!

In the summary review for Amazon Best Books in April 2010, Mari Malcom says, "Since he first heralded our era of environmental collapse in 1989's *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben has raised a series of eloquent alarms. In *Eaarth*, he leads readers to the devastatingly comprehensive conclusion that we no longer inhabit the world in which we've flourished for most of human history: we've passed the tipping point for dramatic climate change, and even if we could stop emissions yesterday, our world will keep warming, triggering more extreme storms, droughts, and other erratic catastrophes, for centuries to come. This is not just our grandchildren's problem, or our children's--we're living through the effects of climate change now, and it's time for us to get creative about our survival. McKibben pulls no punches, and swaths of this book can feel bleak, but his dry wit and pragmatic optimism refuse to yield to despair. Focusing our attention on inspiring communities of "functional independence" arising around the world, he offers galvanizing possibilities for keeping our humanity intact as the world we've known breaks down."

In a copyrighted review of *Eaarth*, Publisher's Weekly says, "The world as we know it has ended forever: that's the melancholy message of this nonetheless cautiously optimistic assessment of the planet's future by McKibben, whose *The End of Nature* first warned of global warming's inevitable impact 20 years ago. Twelve books later, the committed environmentalist concedes that the earth has lost the climatic stability that marked all of human civilization. His litany of damage done by a carbon-fueled world economy is by now familiar: in some places rainfall is dramatically heavier, while Australia and the American Southwest face a permanent drought; polar ice is vanishing, glaciers everywhere are melting, typhoons and hurricanes are fiercer, and the oceans are more acidic; food yields are dropping as temperatures rise and mosquitoes in expanding tropical zones are delivering deadly disease to millions. McKibben's prescription for coping on our new earth is to adopt maintenance as our mantra, to think locally not globally, and to learn to live lightly, carefully, gracefully—a glass-half-full attitude that might strike some as Pollyannaish or merely insufficient. But for others McKibben's refusal to abandon hope may restore faith in the future."

We are witnessing an environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, the continuing severe seasonal storms coming at us, floods in the midwest and south, drought in our western states, changes in the timing of bird migration, extreme allergy seasons, important glaciers disappearing in Tibet and South America with the trailing loss of water for millions, and numerous other signs. We should now be awake . . . and ready to start making the changes we must make to live on our changing planet Earth !!! For starters we will have to cut back on our carbon fuel use, drive smaller more efficient vehicles, use less energy, support our local and regional farmers and merchants, depend more on our neighbors, learn to live with less and more simply.

The recent global financial meltdown may have forced us into some of these things. We have gone down the path, now the hard work begins.

(Note: Bill McKibben is an internationally recognized environmental author and a Scholar in Residence at Middlebury College in Vermont.)

Announcements and Notices

Thank you to our wonderful coffee hour hosts for May!

- from Laurie VanArk, Coffee Hour Coordinator



Unemployment Group To Continue Meetings

Are you someone who is unemployed or underemployed? Know that you are not alone! Several Grace parishioners came together in September and plan to continue gathering on the THIRD Thursday of each month from 9:00—10:00 for bagels, coffee, networking, and ideas sharing. Jen will meet with the group in the new Adult Formation space across from the offices on the lower level.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are still Sundays available in the summer and fall for donating Altar flowers. This is a nice way to honor or remember someone or a special event. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Commons. An Altar Guild member will contact you the week before your designated Sunday. Cost is \$50-\$75.

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will not be meeting in June. Next meeting will be on Monday, July 12. This is the annual Christmas in July get-together. More to follow. Be sure to save the date !!!

A correction from May 2010 issue:

In last month's Bits & Pieces, it was announced that Jill Smalldon had been promoted to "Lieutenant of the Park Township Fire Department". This should have been that BILL Smalldon was promoted to Lieutenant. Congratulations to Bill. Better luck next time, Jill. Please excuse the error.

The deadline for submissions to the combined July/August 2010 issue of Grace to You is June 16, 2010. Please contact the church office or Debbie Coyle at debcoyle@gmail.com for more details.

Financial Stewardship Report - Total Gifts

April Budget	\$24,834.00	Year-To-Date Budget	\$110,498.00
April Received	\$25,195.50	Year-To-Date Received	\$108,422.65
April Surplus	\$ 361.50	Year-To-Date Surplus (Shortage)	(\$2,055.35)

Thank You!

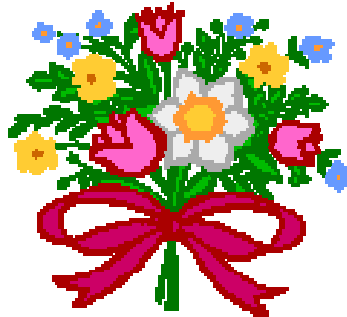


Prayer List as of May 24, 2010

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: the Bentley family, Jenny, Adam, Stafford, Sandy, Tom, Kathy Fritz (daughter-in-law of Barb & Scott Anderson), Bernice Viher (grandmother of Alex Foster), Jackson Van Singel and family, Gail Malkiewicz, Shannon, Beth Zirille, John, Gail Davison, Stephanie Hartford, Lynn Smith, Donna, John Funches, Amy, Dana Whitelaw, Diane, Janet Huyser, Andrew, for the unemployed or under-employed, for the people of the Middle East and other areas of war and unrest, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially Chuck, Jeremy, David, Matt Olney and other loved ones of our parish family; and for Warwick and Michael as they travel, Brooks and Isaac, the Whitcomb family, Erin Walker, Katherine McNamar, Judy Ching, Jean Broersma, the people of Haiti, Chile and China, relief workers, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Jon Fries, Bobbie Deitenbeck, Judy Zylstra, Ralph, Sharon King, Karla Meeks, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, Dolores & Earl, Karen Trap, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Marian Schultz, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Richard Bailey, Eric Heiberg, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Ruth Hill, Betty & Jerry, Bob & Donna, Marge Homan (mother of Carol Homan), Mary Rieckmann, Curt Keegin, Vivian Kingsley, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Patrice Mourot, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Tammy & Tom Kelly
Pat & Jack Shinabarger
- 3 Jill & Bill Smalldon
- 4 Pat & Dick Danly
- 6 Karen & Cal Boer
Cathy & Bruce Fries
- 9 Jennifer Wolfe & Brad Richmond
- 12 Bev & Bill Dunn
Gail & Fred Geiger
Carrie & Brad Hirdes
- 13 Kelli & Steve Shinabarger
- 14 Eileen & Steve Jenkins
- 15 Melinda & Eric Heiberg
- 17 Nancy & David Chamness
- 18 Krista & David Raffenaud
Michelle & Prescott Slee
- 19 Jill & Bill Mendenhall
- 20 Sandy & Dave Wright
- 25 Linda & Bob Elder
Kathy & David Keegin
- 26 Geri & Todd Guyer



- 1 Stephanie Borgman
Sherri Cadeaux-Betz
Millie Gallaway
- 2 David Cunningham
- 3 Jordyn Kiser
- 4 Steven Cloutier
Nicholas Richardson
- 5 Stephen Shetterly
- 8 Bill Smalldon
Nicole Gamby
- 9 Kyrsten Rinks
Leah Vissers
- 10 Gerry Cawthra
Ruth Hawley-Lowry
- 11 Lynn Kamp
- 12 Deborah Schroeder
- 15 Sally Gunn
Eve Shetterly
Jim Woodward
- 17 Daphne Shears
- 18 Jerry Roper
Kaitlin Shinabarger
- 19 Claire Adams
- 21 Brenston Brown
- 22 Bradley Dunn
Fred Geiger
- 23 Nicole Erickson
Jamie Gamby
John Kustron
Phyllis Roper
Prescott Slee
- 24 Bill Dunn
- 25 Madelyn Bier
Abigail Collins
Jerry De Fouw
- 27 Brandis Jones
Jill Mendenhall
- 28 Josh Canaan
Rob Macy
- 29 Katherine Muzzy
Susan Muzzy
- 30 Don Bruggink
Lucas Finkbiner