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GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Jim Barry– 283-3026
Suzanne Cloutier– 396-3034
Bruce Fries– 393-0153
David Hawley-Lowry– 616-915-6188
Dave Masselink– 546-2662
David Meier– 335-5184
Chuck Murray– 335-3690
Mary Remenschneider– 283-7725
David Stubbs– 546-8845
Diane Wiersma– 403-0051
Doug Zylstra– 773-551-8166
Jay Bylsma– 399-5721
Jerry Roper, Treasurer Emeritus
Robbie Schorle– 269-543-4400

STAFF

Robert R. Gepert, Bishop
Jennifer Adams, Rector
Henry Idema, Pastoral Support
Steve Jenkins, Director of Music
Jennifer Wolfe, Children's Choir
Director
Debbie Coyle, Director of Children's & Youth Ministries, Communications
Secretary
Thom Samuelson, Sexton
Gail Westerhof, Secretary
Mary Battaglia, Financial Secretary

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Grace Abounds!

Grace is a dynamic community of faith grounded in Episcopal tradition, welcoming all, and serving Christ through worship, spiritual growth, and compassionate care for one another, the community and God's world. – Grace Church Mission Statement

Almost two years into our strategic plan as developed by the congregation for 2010-2014, we celebrate the learnings, growth and challenges that come from being and becoming the parish Grace is called to be as articulated in the mission statement above. The vision we established is a faithful, living one that we knew would stretch us and grow us in lots of ways and it has. In recognition of this “becoming” and the grace that surrounds it, Stewardship Commission has chosen the theme “Grace Abounds!” for our annual pledge drive that will launch in October. As we embrace this drive, our work as a congregation is to continue to recognize, encourage, and support the abundant Grace of which we are part.

As we walk through the months of October and November, you will hear about the pledge drive through mailings, Sunday speakers, and other conversations and opportunities. Ambitious goals have been set, because (based on current experience!) Vestry believes that our parish is up to it. We are in a phase of growth, having matched and surpassed the financial goals set for 2011; we welcome visitors and new members almost every Sunday; we have vital ongoing outreach ministries; this coming year we will fully meet our required contribution to the Diocese; and we are near completion of another major building renovation. Our situation is a challenging one but a very good one – Grace needs to continue to be the dynamic, generous, participatory parish in which grace abounds at nearly every turn.

Everything we do here – from educational programs to Feeding America to turning on the lights – is possible because of the support of the people who are Grace and God's presence working through us. And so these next many weeks we'll be seeking and celebrating the gifts of time, talent and treasure that allow Grace to abound in the ways we have been called to abound. Keep your eyes and hearts open for pledge information as it comes. And know that we are extremely grateful for the abundant giving that happens at Grace in so many ways.

Peace,

Jen



Children's and Youth Ministries Programs

Programming for children and youth has kicked off and kicked into high gear. It was great to see everyone this weekend. It should be an amazing year!

We welcome back to our program leadership team Kristie Phillips, who will work with our Elementary Sunday School program and Matt and Cherie Schmidt who will again lead the Youth Groups this year. We welcome Radha Deitenbeck to the Elementary team and Elizabeth Brubaker and Sarah Swart to our team in the Middle School Sunday School class. David and Lynn Stubbs and Mary Matrosic round out the team in the Crossways class.

Our High School Education Hour class will focus on Biblical Literacy and will use the Crossways curriculum which encourages participants to come to know the "Big Story" of the Bible. This class is also open to adults in the parish who would like to engage in a long-term Sunday morning Bible study.

Education Hour (Sunday School) for all ages will be from 9:15-10:15. Don't forget that Nursery service is available on the Main Level from 9:00am -12:00pm during the program year for all children ages infant through 3 years old.

The Elementary Class (for those 4 years old – 5th Grade) will be following the "One Room Sunday School" which utilizes a variety of activities and lesson styles to explore the stories of the Bible.

Our Middle School group will utilize the Episcopal Curriculum for Youth and the Nooma video series as well as thematic Bible study.

Youth groups will meet at 12:00 in the Undercroft on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Any youth interested in participating in the Youth Choir and music opportunities are strongly encouraged to join those rehearsals and jump into Youth Group at 12:15 for lunch. The youth will participate in several service opportunities including organizing registration of teams for CROP Walk, and what has become our annual Grace Youth Move-A-Thon to benefit DeVos Children's Hospital in conjunction with the Hope College Dance-A-Thon. Youth Group fellowship Events this year will include our annual Epiphany retreat (this year with a youth-lead Eucharist), ski trip, and a really exciting end of the year day-trip to Chicago!

In the summer of 2012, the High School Youth will travel once again to England to visit Historic sites, learn more about their faith, and learn more about themselves as they walk a portion of the Canterbury trail. Contact the church office for more information about how you can be involved in this incredible opportunity.

There are still volunteer opportunities at every level of participation available. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities please contact Debbie Coyle at the church office or at debcoyle@gmail.com.

Debbie Coyle, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

GRACE YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir will begin its regular program year with weekly Sunday rehearsals after church. Take time to grab a snack and visit with friends, then join us (sometimes upstairs, sometimes in the sanctuary) for a rehearsal until 12:30. Singers from second grade through early high school are encouraged to participate, with no prior experience needed.

The Youth Choir will sing in church on October 16, November 6 (combined choir for All Saints'), November 20 (contributing a simple descant or hymn verse), and on December 11. We'll also sing for the Blessing of the Animals at 5PM on October 2 (choir call time TBA), and at the Christmas Eve children's service at 6PM (choir call time 5PM).

Please call or write with any questions: Jen Wolfe, wolfe@hope.edu, 395-8387. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!



FALL WEDNESDAY MOVIE NIGHTS

October 4th ***“A Civic Action”* starring John Travolta (as part of the For the Beauty of the Earth Forum series)**

November 2nd ***“A Man for All Seasons”* starring Paul Scofield as Sir Thomas More (as part of the series on The Reformation)**

Refreshments start at 5:30 (bring something to pass), pizza and movie at 6. Please bring a \$5 donation for the pizza. See you there! We meet in the Forum Room across from the parish offices.



Blessing of the Animals on October 2nd

Be with us for this St. Francis Day tradition in the side yard of the Church on Sunday, October 2nd at 5:00 pm. All animals are welcome regardless of denomination. Water will be provided out of common bowls for all who thirst.

From Taking Grace Green

We challenge YOU! Let us know what YOU do to help our fragile Earth. Each month this year TGG has provided a “challenge”, including an associated green info sheet (located in narthex, forum room, and TGG bulletin board). If you haven’t picked up the info sheets, make sure to pick some up to get some help in ‘greening’ your home. Let us know what you do! There are a few repurposed tissue boxes around labeled with the “Taking Grace Green Challenge”; fill out the slip of paper letting us know what you do. List anything, not just what goes with the month’s challenge. At the end of the year we’ll tally up what Grace’s net effect on the environment is.

The Diocese of Western Michigan - update on Mission Trips for 2011.

The Diocese of Western Michigan still has openings available for the following mission opportunity for 2011. For this mission, our diocese will pay for all gas directly to and from the destination and the cost of meals while at a mission.

The **New Orleans mission** is scheduled for **November 11th through November 20th**. There is still much work to be done in the aftermath of Katrina. The Diocese of Louisiana now concentrates on returning displaced families to their homes and replanting trees, shrubs, and gardens lost during the hurricanes. The cost per volunteer is \$200, which covers housing, work supplies, and meals.

You do not need particular skills, although skilled volunteers are valuable for mission work. Home repair and landscaping are the principal activity on missions. Volunteers work with crew leaders. What you do need is the willingness to spend a week in service to people in need.

To volunteer or for more information regarding Diocesan missions contact Terry Dorcy, Diocesan Coordinator, at tjdorcy@aol.com or call Terry at 269-349-3625.



Restorative Circles are one alternative when conflict arises.

A Restorative Circle is a structure designed so that those involved in a conflict are heard, hear others, and are able to come to a decision together about the best way to move forward.

Restorative Circles, pioneered by Dominic Barter, are being used with long-term success in schools, justice systems, and communities in the U.S. and around the world.

Join us to learn and practice the Restorative Circles process this fall. Facilitator Training is offered October 6 to 8 for those who have had an orientation to Restorative Circles or have been a regular part of a local practice group and want to deepen their facilitation skills.

Register online at
HollandRestorativeCircles.org
or call the Hope Church office at
(616) 392 7947.

Sponsors
Holland Restorative Circles
Hope Church
Grace Episcopal Church

From Pastoral Care Commission

The Stephen Ministry Team invites parishioners to two classes given by Gloria Van Haitma RN, BS, Caregiver Support Coordinator at Evergreen Commons:

Monday, 24th October—6:30 to 8:00 pm:

“Caring for an Aging Parent” - In this class, participants will learn about the normal aging process, and what ideas for concern would be. Also, we will look at who caregivers are and the roles of the caregiver.

Monday, 28th November—6:30 to 8:00 pm:

“Caring for Myself while I care for my Aging Parent” - In this class, caregivers will learn about common emotions that caregivers experience, what causes caregiver stress and what you can do about relieving it.

Please join us in the Forum Room.



From Stewardship Commission

Grace Abounds! It abounds in us, among us, and through us. We are members of Grace Church which abounds in faith and each of us, in our own way, makes this a reality inside and outside of our church walls. How do we know Grace abounds? Here are just a few ways we have fulfilled our mission to know, proclaim and serve God this past year:

In us: In our personal commitment to our faith and to making Grace a hospitable church that strengthens and nurtures people's relationship with God. Personal prayer, participation in worship and educational formation, and our gifts of time, talents and treasure are all examples of grace within us.

Among us: With the care we show to the members of our church and to the church facility itself. Grace was at its best several times this year as we responded to personal celebrations and tragedies, as we spent time together in fellowship and welcoming of new members, and undertook projects to enhance our facility.

Through us: Through the warmth of the parish to our friends and neighbors, the welcome we extend to all members of the community, through our commitments to the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, Community Housing Partnership, Feeding America, Community Kitchen, collaboration with other faith groups in the community, and the many, many other ministries in which members participate as we care for our greater community.

Grace Abounds is the theme of our Fall Stewardship Campaign and I encourage you to consider what this means to you as you determine your financial support of Grace in 2012. The church needs your contributions to make it possible for Grace to abound in us, among us and through us. Can you enter into a full tithe? Can you continue your level of giving from last year? Can you increase your pledge to help us reach our goals? Are you struggling and need to decrease, knowing that sometimes life circumstances demand it? Every gift matters, every gift counts, and every gift allows Grace to fulfill its mission and serve our members, the Holland community, and beyond.

The stewardship drive will begin in October and run through the end of November. During this time you will hear messages about how "grace abounds" in and through the lives of our church members and you will be given the opportunity to share your story of abounding grace. You will be asked to make a pledge and to consider Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as a means to make those contributions. You will be asked as well to pledge your time and talents to ensure that Grace has the skills and member gifts needed to abound. This is a very important time in the life of our church and we need everyone's commitment!

We thank you for the generosity which has allowed us to fulfill the mission of Grace this past year. We are not Grace without you. We ask you to prayerfully consider what it means to you to be Grace what you'd like Grace to be. We thank you in advance for the commitments you will make that will allow Grace to abound in 2012.

On behalf of the Stewardship Commission,

Mary Remenschneider

Grace Episcopal Church August 2011 Strategic Plan Update

2. Engage as a congregation in responsible stewardship

Stewardship Commission

The Stewardship Commission continued efforts to work on the goals for years 2 through 4. Beginning with the creation of the Endowment Subcommittee, as authorized by Vestry and in alignment with the Strategic Plan, the Stewardship Commission spent hundreds of hours studying and planning how to best invest the significant gifts Grace was blessed with in the past few years. This significant effort continues the Year 1 goal related to the Endowment fund.

Other Year 2 – 4 Goal activities include:

- Beginning the education of Vestry on the structure and operation of the Endowment
 - This will expand to the Parish as a whole as the Endowment plans are finalized
- Used the Time and Talent Survey results and passed information on to specific commissions and programs where those talents fit
 - This effort continues and if you have any updates to your Time and Talent responses please contact the Church Office
 - Look for an exciting off-shoot of the Time and Talent program later this fall!
- Expansion of the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program for pledges
 - The continued success of the EFT program benefits Grace. The results during the summer were outstanding and greatly eased our traditional “cash crunch” normally seen during the June through August months.
 - With the coming Pledge Drive we hope to continue this expansion of the program!

Other Year 1 and Years 2 – 4 Goals still underway include

- Conduct a formal Church Space Study
 - The Church has been conducting an extensive Space Study as evidenced by the recently begun Undercroft Renewal.
 - Additional projects are being considered for targeted research to see how Grace can be better served by our facilities and grounds.
- Implement Green Audit Recommendations
 - The Taking Grace Green Committee continues to work on options to reduce our carbon footprint. These will begin to transform into recommendations during the coming months.
- Develop Financial Education Program
 - This program will seek to educate our Parish on financial planning and giving options.
- Establish Develop a Program for and Establish a Capital Reserve Fund
 - A critical component to Grace, Vestry continues to work on the budget and expand the funding for building and facility operations. As this continues Vestry continues to work towards these goals.

Submitted by Chuck Murray

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
A Series on Environmental Stewardship
Grace Episcopal Church – Fall 2011



We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation.
-- p. 840, *Book of Common Prayer*

Sundays at 9:15am - Lower Level Forum Room

Sept 18 -25 Caring for a Creation that Cares for Us

Dr Tom Boogaart, Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary will speak on how the Bible presents a picture of humans and creation as caring for one another. This picture of mutual care is often overlooked or underplayed in Christian conversations about creation. Western Christians are inclined to see care as something they do for creation, to see themselves as managers, the ones in control. They are less inclined to see themselves as receiving something from creation, that is, being dependent on it.

October 2 Peak Oil with Kurt Cobb

Mr Kurt Cobb is a freelance writer and author of the peak oil-themed novel Prelude. He speaks and writes frequently on energy and the environment, and his work has been featured on *The Energy Bulletin*, *The Oil Drum*, *321energy*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, *Common Dreams*, *EV World*, and many other sites. Kurt is a founding member of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas-USA, and he serves on the board of the Arthur Morgan Institute for Community Solutions. He lives in Kalamazoo and is the son of Grace members, Bryce and Monty Cobb.

October 9 Wind Farm Energy: Concept, Technology and Implementation

Grace parishioner Guy Packard, Manager of Consumer Power’s Karn/Weadock Generating Complex, near Bay City, will talk about Consumer’s renewable energy efforts. A significant amount of their new renewable energy supply will come from wind-generation installations or “wind farms.”

**October 16 The Outdoor Discovery Center Macatawa Greenway,
led by Mr Travis Williams**

Thanks to the 2009 merger of the Outdoor Discovery Center and Macatawa Greenway Partnership, this organization now protects over 1,200 acres along the Macatawa River and a 130 acre nature preserve in Fillmore Township. The ODC Nature Preserve has six naturally occurring, distinct ecosystems which include: ponds, remnant dunes, wetlands, meadows, remnant prairies, and lowland hardwood forests. This unique and ecologically diverse area offers the community and schools a place to experience nature close-up. Travis Williams, Executive Director of ODCMG will present.

Wednesdays at 7:00pm (except for the Oct 5th Movie Night which begins at 5:30)

These sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Jen Adams, Bill Mendenhall and Rev. Henry Idema. The format will be presentation and conversations around the selected essays. The Movie Night will feature “A Civic Action,” a film related to environmental issues and community response. Reading packs for this series are available in the Grace Church Commons.

Sept 21 Lessons from Christian Tradition
Essays by Kathleen Fischer

Sept 28 Lessons from ANWR
Essays by Sarah James, Kim Heacox, and Scott Russell Sanders

Oct 5 Movie Night: showing “A Civic Action” starring John Travolta
Time 5:30 Snacks and Conversation at 5:30/Movie and Pizza at 6:00

Oct 12 Lessons from the Wolverine
Essays by Barry Lopez and Allen Smith

Oct 19 Lessons from Perryland
Essays by Barry Lopez, Carl Safina and Rick Bass



Church History 101—Sunday Forum

Sundays at 9:15am Lower Level Forum Room

Oct 23 & 30 Worship in the Early Church

Led by Dr. David Rylaarsdam, Associate Professor of Historical Theology at Calvin Theological Seminary

Some of the worship practices of early Christians were very creative and strikingly different from our worship today. Why were the sacraments such a big deal? Why did infants participate in the Lord's Supper? How did worshipers see (not just hear) the Gospel proclaimed? How did worship give believers a clear identity? Learning answers to such questions will hopefully enrich our love and worship of God today.

Nov 5 & 12 The Reformation

Led by Dr. Jeff Tyler, Associate Professor of Religion at Hope College

What were the issues? Who led the movements? What does any of this have to do with what we believe and how our churches are structured today? Join us for two weeks of Reformation history basics.

From Fellowship:

Despite the rain, a delightful time was had by all at Fenn Valley. We had wonderful food at the potluck and sampled some great wines while we enjoyed the Fenn Valley Cellar Tour. Congratulations to Cherie Schmidt who won the raffle and took home a beautiful wine rack & a bag of assorted goodies.

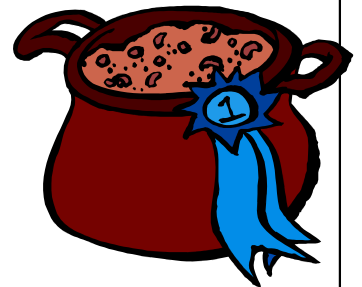
It was wonderful to see about 115 of you enjoying the Kick-Off Sunday Picnic at Moran Park. What a great start for the new program year. Thank you to all of our fabulous volunteers: Gerry Cawthra, Steve & Sue Cloutier, Cathy deVelder, Jeff Erickson, Thom Samuelson, Robbie & Mick Schorle, John Shea, and Eve, Stephen & Maxine Shetterly.

Upcoming Events:

Teusink's Hayride & Chili Cook-off – Come join us for our annual jaunt to Teusink's Pony Farm on West 32nd Street on Friday, October 7, beginning at 5 pm until 9 pm. The "Famous Chili Cook-off" is on, so dig into those recipes and stir up a winner!!! As in the past there will be pumpkin painting, a hayride, and other fun farm activities. The cost is \$5 per person, which covers Teusink's admission fee. Dinner service will start at approximately 6:15 pm and first Hayride around 5:45 pm in hopes we can fit in more than one trip! Fellowship will provide plates, cups etc. and hot dogs, drinks & the marshmallows for toasting. Please bring a dessert to share or a pot of chili for the Chili Cook-off. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Commons.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 3, at 7 pm. Please join us!

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission



Bits & Pieces of Grace

From Christie Broersma

Barb Vincensi officially graduated with her PhD from Loyola in Aug 2011. Her research was also accepted and presented as a poster presentation at the national conference for the American Holistic Nurses Association in June this year. Barb's daughter Liz worked this summer in Kalamazoo. She had two paid part-time jobs while also working at a ten-hour-per-week unpaid internship with the March of Dimes (MOD). Her internship will culminate in the MOD fundraiser this October in Kalamazoo; she has played a major part in planning and raising funds for this event (as well as in raising funds for the non-profit in general). Congratulations to both Barb and her daughter!

Laurie Van Ark was awarded the Nona Penna Award for outstanding contribution to the theatre at Holland Civic Theatre's Annual Meeting in late July. Nominees for the Nona Penna award have served the theatre for at least ten years. Congratulations to Laurie on this award.

Laurie Van Ark and Sally Gunn are appearing on the Holland Civic Theatre stage in October's "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying". Sally is a member of the chorus, and Laurie is Miss Jones.

Daniel Chamness was awarded the Eagle Scout badge on July 23. Congratulations to Daniel!

Bill Keller is spending quality time with his brother in San Diego, who was recently widowed.

Kyle Murray (a Bear Cub) and David Murray (a Tiger cub) participated in the Scout Salute on Sunday 9/11 at the Gerald R Ford Museum. They also wrote Thank You notes to soldiers as part of the activity that day.

All of the carpet from the basement renovation went to SonLife Camp and Retreat Center where Bruce Fries is on staff. There was enough to carpet seven cabins. Thanks, Bruce!

If you have a precious piece of information to share don't forget to add it to the list at *Bits n' Pieces*! Did you travel, are you doing something special, or maybe does your family have some of good news to share with your church family? Just call Chris Broersma (399-5701) or the church office to add your news to the list here - soon!



Octoberfest

Saturday, October 22

Sponsored by Stewardship Commission

Watch for details in upcoming bulletins.



Parkinson's Support Group starting at Grace:

If you are living with Parkinson's disease (or know someone who is) consider the newly founded Grace Parkinson's Support Group as a place to find companionship, encouragement and support on the journey. The group will come together for the first time on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 pm and at that meeting, decide on a regular time to meet once a month.

Contact the Church Office, Rev. Jen Adams or Tom Kelly if you are interested in joining.

Mentors Needed! A Community Housing Partnership Opportunity



Through Grace's participation in the local Community Housing Partnership program, our two residential houses (behind the south end of the parking lot) serve as homes for two families who are transitioning out of homelessness.

Besides the house itself, Grace also provides each family with a team of about three mentors who check in regularly to establish a connection with the parish and see if there are any particular needs that Grace and/or one of the other agencies involved could provide. This month we welcomed a new family of Mom with three kids and we need a team of three mentors for them. Training (a 2-3 hour long program) is provided. Let Rev. Jen Adams or Robbie Schorle, Vestry representative for Outreach Commission know if you are interested.

Thank You to September Coffee Hour Hosts!



Doug & Ketzi Zylstra
Bruce & Cathy Fries
Joanne Stewart & Will Polik

- from Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator

The Bible's "Big Story" **Sundays at 9:15am in the Youth Room**

This Fall Grace is offering a new Sunday School class for High School youth and for adults who are interested in basic Biblical education. We'll be using an ecumenical curriculum published by Crossways, the goal of which is "to help people understand the Bible's big story." This is an effort both to enhance education for our older youth and to provide an option for



parishioners who might want to engage in long-term Sunday morning Bible study. In this class, the Bible will be studied as one large narrative (composed of many mini-narratives) walking through the Old and New Testaments in depth. The format encourages discussion, discernment and "real life application" and since lessons build on each other and the group will too, we'll be asking for regular attendance.

If you are interested, please, sign up in the Commons so that we have the appropriate amount of materials when the year begins. Invite friends if you'd like! Facilitators will be David and Lynn Stubbs and Mary Matrosic and the class will meet Sundays from 9:15-10:15 in the Youth Room in the back of the Undercroft.

WEDNESDAY "SACK LUNCH" BIBLE STUDY

This fall, each Wednesday at noon we will be studying the book of Amos. Amos was the first prophet who left writings witnessing his passion for social justice. We will be going through the book verse by verse, and it may take us a while for this short book because of the depth of his thought. We apply the text to the moral issues of our own day, which will be easy in this case because Amos castigated the political leadership for their injustices and neglect of the poor.

Feel free to bring a lunch. We meet from 12:00 to 1:00 every Wednesday unless notified in the bulletin or newsletter. We meet in the Forum room across from the parish offices. Come and join us.

Henry Idema

Men's Bible Study continues:

- Alternate Mondays, 5:30 to 6:45 pm (a men's discussion group) — The men's study group "Beer and Bibles" is looking at the book of Mark. The group meets every other Monday, 5:30 to 6:45, for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. If you have been considering looking in on this event, now might be a good time to start. B-Y-O-Both.

From Taking Grace Green

Kayaking with Alewives on Lake Michigan

Our family has been spending much of our free Summer time up North at our cottage, on a quiet Lake adjacent to Lake Michigan, for more than forty years.

We have seen changes in the fish populations, the water tables, the expansion and shrinking of the nearby villages, and the use and types of watercraft. And yet some things still stay pretty much the same.

Families come to the lake for shared time and growing up. They bring their dogs who bring joy, giving their love and companionship, as they follow their shorter life cycles. Adults and children swim, boat, fish, go to the outlet across the lake and spend time by the connecting stream fishing, swimming and enjoying the extended sand beaches of Lake Michigan. They swim in the waves, run and hike the waterline, dig in the sand, eat lunches, and again marvel at the wonderful views of the "big water," tall tree covered sand dunes, and sunsets.

We have found that if we slow things down we can see more of what is going on around us and better experience the natural gifts at the lake. In recent years we have moved away from using our water ski boat and are using a comfortable pontoon boat with an emission friendly, smaller outboard. And we are using two twelve foot kayaks for paddling and exploring our lake, other nearby lakes, rivers, National Park ponds and lakes, and, carefully, Lake Michigan.

One Summer afternoon, early in the first decade of the new century our daughter Heather and I took two kayaks across our lake, paddled through the stream connecting our lake and the "big lake," pushed over the dam, and went out and into Lake Michigan. The water was mirror calm. We smiled and knew this would be special.

We turned South and paddled toward the Waterville Beach area, about a half mile ahead of us. We moved quietly across the clear water, about three hundred feet out, looking at the sand bars and blue green color beneath our boats.

Because of the sunny day and calm, clear water, we decided to push on toward the great dunes further South. We paddled for a while and I began to notice the water darken ahead with schools of fish coming in from deeper waters of the "big lake." Soon there were two large dark masses ahead of us. I pointed them out to Heather. We paddled on and watched them approach our boats then move under us.

They were Alewives, in the tens of thousands. They swam close to the surface and bumped against our kayaks making a thumping sound. Heather excitedly asked if they were going to swamp our boats. I answered no, and told her to relax and enjoy this special moment when the natural world presents itself in a spectacular way.

We sat and watched the fish move and felt them bump our boats for what seemed to be a long time. Then the two schools moved away and were gone.

We talked and marveled at the size of the two schools and the special experience we just had . . . seeing this phenomenon on the water on a clear day from our small boats.

Then, smiling, we turned North paddling back to tell our family our story.

Submitted by Bill Mendenhall

It's Information Update Time!

The Church directory needs current information from everyone because we haven't done a thorough update in four years! Happily new folks have joined us and many of us have new addresses or phones or e mail. We'd like to have new information available to hand out on November 6th, so EVERYONE please:

Complete an information card, available here or in the Commons and put in the offering plate or drop off in the church office.

OR

E mail to gechurch@sbcglobal.net with "Directory information" on the "Subject" line your current info including home address, phone(s) and email address.

In Fall, 2012, we will likely make a new pictorial directory but for now, it will be helpful to have accurate contact information.

As always, new members are welcome at our commission meetings. We typically meet the first Monday evening of the month at 7pm.

Many thanks to all,
Church Family Commission

UPDATE FOR GRACE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Check if change

Telephone number _____

Cell phone number _____

Names: _____

Address: _____

e mail: _____

Thanks! Updated copy available November 6, 2011



Mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates: October 13th, November 10th, and December 8th. We need folks to arrive between 4:30 and 5:00 to help with set-up and to welcome our guests. Also, remember the ongoing need for *laundry detergent and toilet paper*! You can bring these items at any time and deposit them in the labeled drawers in the Commons. With a little corporate help we have managed to regularly distribute these items to each family. Good job Grace!

Community Kitchen Helpers Needed:

Every weekday and on Sundays too, the Community Kitchen serves lunch to about 200 hungry people out of the commons area at Western Seminary.

Grace Church is committed to providing **three or four helpers each Wednesday**. **Volunteers** are needed to help serve and clean up from **11:15am to 1:30pm** every Wednesday. Please sign up in the Commons and let us know if you are available to be "on-call".

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October Issue

Please help us go GREEN! Contact us at gechurch@sbcglobal.net if you are able to view the newsletter online at www.graceepiscopalholland.org/newsletter.

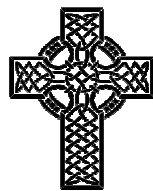
Our Mission Statement:

Grace is a dynamic community of faith grounded in Episcopal tradition, welcoming all, and serving Christ through worship, spiritual growth, and compassionate care for one another, the community and God's world.



Prayer List as of September 20, 2011

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Eric & Melinda Heiberg, John & Donna Molendyk, the Colburn & Loebel families, Chelsea Miskelly, Dennis Remenschneider, Danielle Woldring & family, Jennifer Bruggink, Daniel Hawley-Lowry, Carol Homan & family, Loretta Layton, Bob Hampson, Estelle Kameika, Karin, Arlene Griffin, the Heeren family, the Danzler family, Ray Ybarra, Sally, Ken Swart, Roger & Mary Baele, Jim & Jane, Michael Byxbe, Sarah, George Shea, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Bill Ford, Chris, Carly, David Klooster & family, Caroline Bates, Celaine, Tom, for the people of Northern Africa, the Middle East and other places of war and unrest; Ralph Suchor, Tom, Lori Smith, Caroline, John, Andrew, for the unemployed or under-employed, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially Chuck, Jeremy, and other loved ones of our parish family, for all victims of disasters worldwide, natural and manmade; for those in our time who face persecution for their faith and for their persecutors, Irene Bartlett, Jerry Van Oosterhout, Laura Frey, Lauren Kenniston, Steve, Jenny, Gail Malkiewicz, the Young-Tait family, Dale Labbe Sr., Barb Hettinga, Mark & Christen Broersma and family, Ray Viele, Allie Verburg & family, Ben Broersma, Michael Borst, Arpod Jazko, the Drew family, Dolores & Earl Barkel, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Bernice Viher (grandmother of Alex Foster), Shannon, Gail Davison, Janet Huysen, Stafford, Katherine McNamar, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Ruth Hill, Betty & Jerry, Mary Rieckmann, Curt Keegin, Vivian Kingsley, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.



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|----|------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Kim Shea | 13 | Jay Bylsma |
| 2 | Abraham DeCook | | Alex De Cook |
| | Jeff Nyland | 15 | Andrea Kamp |
| | Matt Schmidt | | Kendl Klinge |
| 4 | Alyssa Wright | 16 | David Bier |
| | Naomi Phillips | | Monny Cobb |
| 5 | Brooke Barry | | Anna De Kraker |
| 6 | Sharon Barlow | 17 | Robert Polik |
| | Karen Bylsma | 19 | Kathy McNamar |
| | Jack Methric | 20 | Dick Danly |
| | Madison Remenschneider | | Lise Wilson |
| 7 | C. V. Berry | 21 | Donna Molendyk |
| | Blane Kamp | | Mary Jane Van Oosterhout |
| | Kevin Matrosic | 23 | Zachary Essenburg |
| | Sally Reinink | 25 | Anne Packard |
| 8 | Austin Riggs | | James Foster |
| 9 | Gemmy Helder | 26 | Elizabeth Brubaker |
| | Kristine Stauffer | | Tabor Rinks |
| 10 | Scott Anderson | 29 | Ketzi Zylstra |
| | George Gallaway | 30 | Markko Foster |
| | Duncan Kelley | | Eli Shinabarber |
| 11 | Colleen Macy | 31 | Doris Honor |
| | Chelsea Phillips | | |
| | Will Remenschneider | | |
| | Chris Wennersten | | |
| 12 | Brian Manderfield | | |

Birthdays & Anniversaries in October



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|----|----------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 6 | Amy & James Piersma | 23 | Millie & George Gallaway |
| 8 | Patricia & Vernon De Pree | 26 | Donna & Robert Borgman |
| 15 | Joan & David Austin | 29 | Mary & Scott Gamby |
| 17 | Kristine & Jeremy Stauffer | | Aaron & Julie De Cook |
| 20 | Ashley & Dustin Hopkins | | |