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GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

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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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Kickin' Off for 2011-12

As we begin the new program year at Grace there is much to look forward to and a whole lot to celebrate. Throughout this newsletter you'll see various opportunities from Outreach, Pastoral Care, Worship, Fellowship, Stewardship, Education and Formation, Church Family and even invitations from the larger community of Holland. There is life here at Grace and wonderful ministries are happening. I'd encourage you (if you aren't already) to get involved in the life and work of our congregation. We need the gifts of everyone to be fully, wholly, Grace Church. Here are some things in particular to notice as the program year begins:

The Raising of the Undercroft: Thanks to significant work by the Space Needs Task Force, heavy lifting, painting and cleaning by various parishioners, and contributions from the Moor Fund, work on the Undercroft (phase III in our building renewal process) should be completed by Kick Off Sunday. This project includes downstairs kitchen renovation, new carpet, paint, furniture, bathroom overhauls, and other improvements to the lower level which we use for everything from Children's Sunday School classes to large parish gatherings, to youth group events, to funeral and wedding receptions. Thank you to all who have made this project possible!

The Bible's "Big Story" This Fall Grace is offering a new Sunday morning opportunity for High School youth and for adults who are interested in basic Biblical education. This is an effort both to enhance education for our older youth and to provide an option for parishioners who 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.) The format encourages discussion, discernment and "real life application," walking through the Old and New Testaments in depth. Facilitators will be David and Lynn Stubbs and Mary Matrosic and the class will meet during education hour, from 9:15-10:15 in the youth room.

For the Beauty of the Earth: This five week series on environmental stewardship will include guest speakers at our Sunday Morning Forums and a collection of essays for reading and conversation on Wednesday nights. We'll look at what it means to care for the earth, and to be cared for by the earth. We'll explore the challenges of

(continued on next page)

Kickin' Off *continued*

harnessing and implementing new energy sources, and we'll talk about the spiritual, practical changes we can make in our lives that will contribute to a healthier, kinder, more faithful approach to our world.

Sing On! Our Choirs and musicians are preparing to lead us again in the common prayer that is music and song. Children, youth and adults are all invited to bring their instrumental and/or vocal gifts and participate in the music ministries that support our weekly 10:30 service. Rehearsals happen weekly so talk to Steve Jenkins or Jennifer Wolfe if you are interested in participating in any of our music groups.

And there is so much more. So keep reading. . . and join us as we continue to grow into another program year here at Grace.

Peace,
Jen



**Don't miss the Annual "Kick-Off"
Sunday picnic and Parish Photo**

Sunday, September 11th immediately following the 10:00 service.

It's time again to begin a new program year, and we will once again be gathering at Moran Park (we'll meet in the Undercroft in the case of rain) immediately following the 10:00 service on September 11th. This year we continue the tradition of an **annual Grace Parish photo in front of the church** on our way to the park! Join us for a cook-out, a chance to connect with your Grace friends, time to sign up for fall programming, and—lest we forget....

The ANNUAL ALL-GRACE KICK BALL GAME!!!

Don't miss it! Mark your calendars **now** and don't forget to wear comfy clothes!

And remember: September 18th - Program Year Begins
 Service Times Change
 8:15 and 10:30 on Sundays
 9:15 Education hour for all ages

Grace



Children's and Youth Ministries Programs Are Geared Up and Ready to Go!

It was a very busy summer for Children's and Youth Ministries at Grace. Over the summer, we retooled some of our programming to provide a new approach to go along with our new space. Come and see our new classrooms and youth space, and get involved. There is something for everyone.

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 Elizabeth Brubaker to our team in the Middle School Sunday School class, and David and Lynn Stubbs and Mary Matrosic to the High School 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.

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

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.

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.

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

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

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

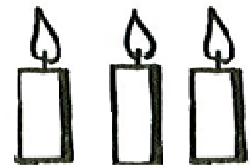
The second week of the **Kentucky Mission** has openings. The dates are **September 24th through October 1st**. A waiting list has been created for the first week, September 17th through the 24th. This mission is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. It is located in the Daniel Boone National Forest, part of the Diocese of Lexington, one of the poorest dioceses in our nation. Cost per volunteer is \$200, which covers volunteer housing and building supplies for the work week.

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.

Community Interfaith Service Will Commemorate 9/11 with Remembrance, Reflection, Prayer



A Community Interfaith Service of remembrance, reflection, and peacemaking will be held Sunday, September 11, at 4 p.m. at the Hope College Maas Auditorium, Columbia Ave. at 11th Street. The service will include remarks by spiritual leaders from Christian, Islamic, and Jewish faiths, readings, prayers, and music by an interfaith choir, a children's choir, and bell choirs. A free-will offering will be taken.

People interested in walking together to the service will gather at the Centennial Park gazebo, River Avenue between 10th and 11th Streets, at 3:30 p.m.

The Holland service, sponsored by a coalition of local churches and organizations, will mark the ten years since planes crashed into the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon, and rural Pennsylvania in 2001 with the loss of thousands of lives.

Sponsors are the A. J. Muste Foundation, Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony, First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Baha'i Community of Holland, Maple Avenue Ministries, Grace Episcopal, Hope Church, Interfaith Congregation, Lakeshore Women for Peace, Hope United for Justice, Third Reformed, Peace Lutheran, and St. Francis de Sales.

CALL FOR ART

Theme: the Divine Feminine

The Parish Church of Christ the King in Texas Corners invites artists to submit material for an exhibit to honor the work of Spirit through the Divine Feminine.

This exhibit will open on Sunday, Sept. 18 with an indoor reception and a walk of our outdoor labyrinth. Our hope for these events is to promote peace, justice, unity, collaboration, cooperation and mutual respect for all people, regardless of race, gender, age, orientation, income or cultural background.

Please consider participating in the art exhibit. The work can be of any medium. How you wish to convey the theme is open to your own interpretation.

Important Dates:

Thursday, Aug. 25 – Please contact one of the Coordinators listed below if you wish to submit art.

Saturday, Sept. 3 – Submit the title, size, medium and price (if it is for sale).

Thursday, Sept. 15 – Artwork is due at the Church between **5 pm & 7 pm**.

An artist's statement is especially helpful.

The exhibit will continue through **Thursday, October 13**. Donations to help cover exhibit expenses are welcomed and greatly appreciated. **However, it is not a requirement for participation.**

In November of 2011, we hope to have a Quilt Exhibit at the Parish Church. If you know someone who might be interested in joining us, please let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you. You are welcome to share this invitation with other artists.

Linda Adamcz (269) 388-2988 Lkadamcz@juno.com
Peg Albertson (269) 823-3130 zoo2u2@sbcglobal.net





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. This one-day orientation provides an overview of the philosophy and practice of Restorative Circles, with an opportunity to practice key steps in the process. 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.

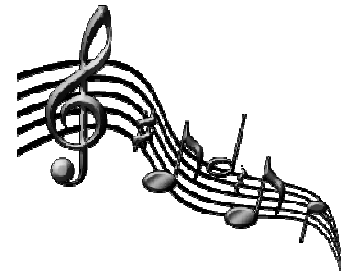
Sponsors
Holland Restorative Circles
Hope Church
Grace Episcopal Church

GRACE YOUTH CHOIR

Calling all Grace youth! Choir is going to start with a bang this year, with another "y'all-come" choir. Absolutely everyone is invited to come and sing, whether you're too young to read or have already graduated from youth choir. We'll rehearse after the service on Sunday, September 18 until 12:30, then meet on Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 AM and sing at the 10:30 service. To make things simpler, no robes & no processing. Our anthem will be something easy and fun that everyone can learn and enjoy.

Then 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.

In addition to September 25, 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!

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 in the Commons and put in the offering plate or 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

“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



FALL WEDNESDAY MOVIE NIGHTS

September 7th: “*The King’s Speech*”

After the death of his father King George V (Michael Gambon) and the scandalous abdication of King Edward VIII (Guy Pearce), Bertie (Colin Firth) who has suffered from a debilitating speech impediment all his life, is suddenly crowned King George VI of England. With his country on the brink of war and in desperate need of a leader, his wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter), the future Queen Mother, arranges for her husband to see an eccentric speech therapist, Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush). After a rough start, the two delve into an unorthodox course of treatment and eventually form an unbreakable bond. With the support of Logue, his family, his government and Winston Churchill (Timothy Spall), the King will overcome his stammer and deliver a radio-address that inspires and unites his people. Based on the true story of King George VI, “*The King’s Speech*” follows the Royal Monarch's quest to find his voice.

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

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.

Henry Idema

Bits & Pieces of Grace

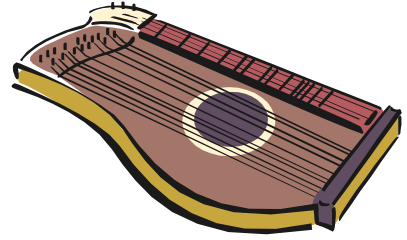
From Christie Broersma

Joe and Yvonne Logan have a new great grandchild, Ellis K. Harrington, who was born on the 27th of March this year!

Left off the list, but not left out of our congratulatory wishes, was Dylan Tucker, who graduated from Holland High this spring. Yay Dylan!

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!

From the Treasurer



It's the Church Treasurer again... again not begging for money. Actually, for the summer time, Grace is in pretty good financial shape. I write to talk about the other "T"s of stewardship: time and talent.

One of the reasons we are in good financial shape is because of the tremendous amount we as parishioners give of our time and talent, as well as treasure. Countless hours donated by talented folks in worship, greeting, coffee hour, Sunday School, remodeling, yard work... and the list goes on, and on, and on.

We are approaching the beginning of a new program year and the need for time and talent, especially new time and talent, continues from "A" (is for Acolytes) to "Z" (is for zither players – okay that's a stretch).

So you will hear the call for stewardship as the program year begins. Please seriously consider what contributions of your time and talents you can make to Grace Church, especially if you play the zither.

Jay M. Bylsma, Treasurer

From Fellowship:

Pizza Sunday: Will be on the 3rd Sunday, September 18th, following the 10:30 am service, due to the Kick-Off Sunday picnic the previous week.

Upcoming Events:

Kick-Off Sunday Picnic - Please plan to join us after church on September 11th for a welcome back/kick-off Sunday picnic. This will be at Moran Park, following the 2nd service. Bring your own chairs, as seating is limited in the park. If it rains, we will gather in the Undercroft! The Fellowship Commission will provide the food with a donation asked of all who are able. \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

Teusink's Hayride & Chili Cook-off - Friday evening, October 7th will be the annual evening at Teusink's Pony Farm on West 32nd St. Eve Shetterly has graciously offered to coordinate this event. Watch for further details & the signup sheet in the Commons.

Our next commission meeting is Tuesday, September 6th, at 7 pm.

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

Race for the Cure

Saturday, September 24, 8:00 am,
Grandville Mall



If breast cancer has touched your life,
OR if you' a runner looking for a fun 5K,
OR if you'd enjoy an inspiring stroll with
family and friends, join our team!

\$25.00 gets you a nice long-sleeved shirt and post-
race snacks. For more information, contact Jen
Wolfe at 395-8387 or wolfe@hope.edu.

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. Families generally stay for about two years which gives them enough time to reach a basic level of stability. While living here, the families are also working through various programs (i.e. financial advising, career counseling. . .) through Good Samaritan Ministries and Community Action House.



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 welcome a new family of Mom with three kids who are nine, seven and two years old and we need a team of three mentors for them. Training (a 2-3 hour long program) is provided to new mentors by Good Samaritan Ministries. Let Rev. Jen Adams or Robbie Schorle, Vestry representative for Outreach Commission know if you are interested.

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 in September 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.

St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild will begin the program year on Monday, September 12 with an organizational dinner meeting. The place and time will soon be listed in the Sunday bulletin. Please set this evening aside and join us. There are many good programs in the works for this year!! New members always welcome.

Thank You to July & August Coffee Hour Hosts!



Robbie Schorle, Matt & Cherie Schmidt
Joan Heneveld and Chris Broersma
Cherie & Roger DeCook
and Gordon Young
Cathy deVelder and Carol Rickey
Brian & Debbie Coyle and family
Laurie and Dawn Van Ark
Kim & John Shea
Elizabeth Brubaker & Tom Kelley

- 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

Starting Wednesday, September 21 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.

**Taking Grace Green:
ANWR . . . Knowing it is There
By Bill Mendenhall**

We have been keenly aware of the wilderness areas of Alaska for decades. Three years ago Jill and I traveled to Alaska for the first time and saw the size and beauty of the waters, glaciers, and landscape. We went into fiords and bays, hiked alongside the Mendenhall Glacier, traveled by land, over rivers, and through wilderness to Denali National Park.

The experience was a challenge to the senses . . . much like the first time view from the top of the Rocky Mountains looking at the 360 degree panorama, or viewing the immensity of the Grand Canyon, or Yellowstone National Park, or the sights of the rock formations and the 1,800 year old Sequoias in Yosemite National Park. Alaska is big . . . and it is wild.

We enjoyed our experience and learned how very big the parks and preserves are. Many of them are tens of millions of acres that have been put aside and protected.

These wild places are a gift for each of us to appreciate and behold. They stir our imaginations. They make us proud that we all own a stake in them. And they make us realize that we are a part of something much larger than ourselves.

One of the interesting things we came away with was the realization that we didn't have to see all of every wild place to appreciate their importance to us. Before we traveled to Alaska we had read a lot and been involved in the conversations about the future of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve in the Northeast part of the state. ANWR is in the Arctic Circle about 600 miles North and slightly East of where we were in Denali. The coastal plain there is referred to by the Gwich'in people as the "Sacred Place Where Life Begins." It had been preserved but early in this century was the focus of an epic battle in Washington between those in Congress who wanted to keep it closed for the benefit of the wildlife and the environment, and those who wanted to open it to oil exploration and drilling.

The preservationists battle line was articulated in the printing of 800 copies of "Arctic Refuge - A Circle of Testimony." The book contained 32 essays by a strong group of environmental writers, native peoples and tribal leaders, and conservationists, presenting the importance of the spiritual relationship of people, wildlife and land in ANWR. Copies of the book were presented to all members of Congress before the critical vote to preserve or drill.

The vote came down in favor of preserving ANWR.

The book was a profound collection of human perspectives on the importance of wilderness to all of us. It also presented the idea that even though we, and most members of Congress, hadn't been to and experienced ANWR in person . . . it is and continues to be a living place. It can be held in our minds and imaginations. It is a concept . . . place that is wild.

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A place that belongs to America . . . and to each of us. It is important.

And therein lies the magic. ANWR is a special wild place. We don't have to go there, or be there, to know what it is. We can visit through images and stories . . . and we can experience ANWR in our minds and imaginations.

ANWR is a gift. Its real beauty may simply be in knowing that it is there.

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.



Mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates: September 8th and October 13th. 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”.

Grace Episcopal Church
555 Michigan Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

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Annual Kick-Off 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.

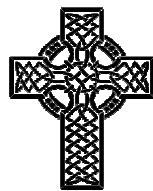
Our Mission Statement:

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 August 22, 2011

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Chelsea Miskelly, Cathy Fries, Dennis Remenschneider, Danielle Woldring & family, Irene Bartlett, Jennifer Bruggink, Daniel Hawley-Lowry, Ruth 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, Ketzi Zylstra & family, Jim & Jane, Michael Byxbe, Jerry Van Oosterhout, Sarah, George Shea, Anna Wiersma, 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, Mike, 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, 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 Huyser, Stafford, Katherine McNamar, Judy Ching, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Marian Schultz, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Eric Heiberg, 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.



- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Brett Talley | 20 Barb Anderson |
| 4 Warwick Barlow | Emily Hittner-Cunningham |
| 5 Blake Dunn | McKenna Shier |
| Scott Jachim | 21 Cathy Fries |
| 7 Zachary Steele | Amy Piersma |
| Joshua Ward | 22 Mihai Craioveanu |
| 8 Jack Easdon | 24 Beverly Dunn |
| Kristin Ward | Bob Elder |
| 10 Troy Scharlow | 25 David Brower |
| 12 Hilda Gamby | Paul Dunn |
| Dick Muzzy | 26 Jean Adams |
| 13 Jacquelyn Van Duren | Daniel Chamness |
| Debbie Coyle | Andy Huisman |
| Gerald Sova | Katherine Joles |
| Caesar Sanchez | Sandy Young |
| Ramie Sanchez | 28 Karen Boer |
| 15 Natalie Dunn | Mariel Joles |
| Steve Jenkins | Elisabeth Mims |
| Steven Ward | Nikolaas Piersma |
| Virginia Wilson | 29 Pat Paris |
| 16 Gordon Young | Sam Steele |
| 17 Vernon De Pree | Terry Swaney |
| 18 Cal Boer | 30 Tyler Jones |
| John Molendyk II | Alexander Macy |
| | Edna Nash |

Birthdays & Anniversaries in September



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Toni & Howard Nyhof | 18 Greta & Tom Finkbiner |
| 2 Arkie & George Pierson | Kristie & Mike Phillips |
| 3 Dolores & Earl Barkel | 20 Alex & Derek Foster |
| 8 Barbara Griffin & Clay Stauffer | 21 Susan & Dick Muzzy |
| 10 Michele & Bruce Brown | 23 Deborah & Ralph Schroeder |
| 11 Jennifer & Mark Balisi | 28 Jan & Jerry De Fouw |
| 17 Pamela & Rob Schafer | |