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GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

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Tom Kelly — 616-915-6839
Brent Krueger — 786-9858
Chuck Murray— 335-3690
Carol Myers— 396-1002
Bill Rocker — 403-1862
Matt Schmidt — 772-0797
Jill Smalldon —994-9725
David Stubbs— 546-8845
Paul Trap — 396-6492
Diane Wiersma— 403-0051
Doug Zylstra— 616-953-6087
Jay Bylsma— 399-5721
Jerry Roper, Treasurer Emeritus

STAFF

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

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“The Most Miraculous Process”

This Lenten season at Grace we'll be exploring the Christian practice of “Forgiving”, what it is, what it isn't, why it's hard, why it's holy. We will watch a series that uses the stories of individuals, communities and whole nations to explore the depths to which one must go in order to forgive, considers whether or not forgiveness has limits, and names some of the barriers that present themselves sometimes when we work to forgive. We will hear guest speakers who are attempting to approach repentance and forgiveness in new and life-giving ways. We will look at our own stories and our Book of Common Prayer and talk through how prayer and forgiveness are partners in the wholeness that we seek and the Body we faithfully, liturgically become. We will look to God and look for God as we strive to accept the forgiveness we have been granted while also forgiving those whom we need to forgive.

See the announcements on the following pages which lay out in detail Grace's Lenten offerings and think on this quote from Anne Lamott. It provides a wonderful opening into our conversations and prayers this season.

I thought of a great title for a book: For Giving.

To forgive is the most miraculous process I know and boy, it is not my strong suit. St Luke famously said Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Now, on the face of it, that's pretty clear. . . . If there's a God, and most of the time I think there is, then God is love, period. That means He or She forgives us before we've even done anything for which we need to be forgiven, like the parents of children do. God is around for Giving blessings, tender mercies, discernment, companionship, light, nourishment . . . And--maybe--we are here for giving also, since giving and sharing are the only things that ever fill us up. I'm just saying.

For Giveness is on my mind. It must be that spring is coming. Today my flowering pear tree, that was barren last week, has not only buds, but a few blossoms, that look like my tree was up drinking, having popcorn and schnapps: like it needs to brush itself off.

Join us at Grace as we walk through the season of Lent. Explore with us the miraculous process that is For Giving.

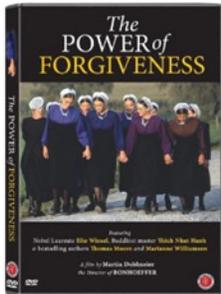
Peace,

Jen

Believing, Belonging, Becoming In Lent The Christian Practice of Forgiveness

Sunday Forums at 9:15 am

- Sunday, February 17** **“The Power of Forgiveness,”** an award winning documentary featuring spiritual leaders from many faith traditions
- Sunday, February 24** **“Reconciliation of a Penitent,”** the Episcopal Sacrament of Confession and Absolution led by Rev. Jen Adams
- Sunday, March 3** Ms. Ann Mc Knight, LMSW, ACSW, local family counselor and therapist speaks on the process that is Restorative Circles
- Sunday, March 10** Mr. Curt Tofteland, Founder and Producing Director of *Shakespeare Behind Bars* speaks on his healing work in prisons
- Sunday, March 17** **Reconciling Love: A Millennium Mandate,** by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a presentation given at UCSB in 2005
- Sunday, March 24** **Forgiveness in the Gospel Stories of Holy Week**



The Power of Forgiveness: Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh, Thomas Moore, Marianne Williamson and others speak out in this film which won the Best Documentary at the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival in 2007



Ms. Ann McKnight, LMSW, ACSW will present on “Restorative Circles” as we consider processes that lead to the possibility of forgiveness. Restorative Circles utilizes non-violent communication to help move those in conflict toward mutual connection and understanding. This process is used in institutions and communities around the world.



Mr. Curt Tofteland, Founder and Producing Director of Shakespeare Behind Bars will draw from his experience teaching in prisons to explore questions such as, “What does it mean to forgive and why do we do it?” “What do forgiveness, redemption, and restoration look like among those whom society considers “lost”?” and “Can art play a healing role in our own understanding of what it means to forgive?”

Believing, Belonging, Becoming In Lent The Christian Practice of Forgiveness

Wednesday Evenings

Ash Wednesday, February 13th

6:00 Soup Supper in the Undercroft

7:00 Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes in the Sanctuary

Wednesdays, February 20th – March 20th

5:45 Supper in the Undercroft

6:30 Holy Eucharist in the Undercroft

7:00 Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate

Viewing and Discussion of this Series in the Forum Room

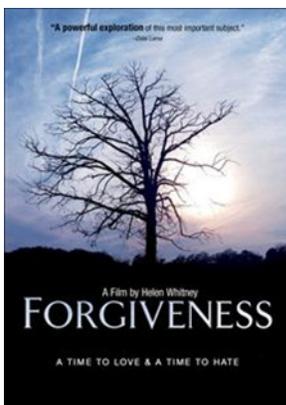
7:00 Program on Forgiveness geared for Young Children in the Undercroft

7:00 Kids Choir in the Choir Room or Sanctuary

7:45 Chamber Choir in the Choir Room or Sanctuary

The PBS series discussion will be facilitated by Rev. Jen Adams.

The Children's Program will be led by Debbie Coyle



Helen Whitney's FORGIVENESS explores the act of forgiveness through a wide range of stories, from personal betrayals to the post-genocidal reconciliation of nations. "Giving voice to the stories of nations and individuals who have suffered and struggled to forgive, FORGIVENESS provides a moving and much-needed chronicle of reconciliation."

Education & Formation

Grace



The new year started off great with our 5th annual Epiphany Youth Retreat. This year's theme was "dreams" and we were happy to incorporate the TRI-YOUTH group into this event.

Moving into February, the youth had a wonderful ski day with youth groups from Hope Church and Frist Presbyterian.

As we move into Lent, the youth will turn their focus toward service. Once again, they will be participating in the Grace-Youth-Move-A-Thon in support of the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. The youth will be collecting pledges, completing a series of activities, and then presenting the pledges at the Hope College Dance Marathon. The second half of our program year has begun with the lesson topics focused on New Testament with all of the classes will be looking at the life and teachings of Jesus.

We are currently in the planning stages for Vacation Bible School which is tentatively set for mid June. An evening program is planned this year with the theme: "Lucky 13 in 2013: Becoming the 13th Disciple". VBS will run Monday through Thursday, June 17-21 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. The evenings will include Bible stories, lessons, games, activities, songs, as well as dinner and is open to all children who will be in grades K-5 during the 2013-2014 school year. Parents, watch your mail for more information.

Help is needed for Marketplaats this May. As you know, this is our one major fundraiser for Youth Mission, Pilgrimage and Special Events at Grace. This one event has helped us to raise an average of \$5,000 each year. Please mark your calendars for the week of May 6th to the 11th and consider helping to prepare and serve traditional Dutch food at the 2013 Tulip Time Dutch Marketplaats (at the Holland Civic Center). No costume is required, but your presence is appreciated. Look for sign-up sheets in the commons beginning January 27th!

Would you like to volunteer as a part of the Grace Children's and Youth Ministries Team? Please contact Debbie at debcoble@gmail.com or contact the church office for information on how you can support this very important ministry.

Submitted by Debbie Coyle, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

Education & Formation / Church Family

CHILDREN'S BEACH PARTY!

Mark your calendars—Sunday, March 10th, immediately after the second service! All children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to a Grace “Beach” Party! Lunch will be provided, and games and activities will all have a beach theme. Wear your shorts, grass skirts, and short sleeved shirts — a great “warm” break from the cold winter! Look for more information to come soon!

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" meets every other Monday, 5:30 to 6:45, for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. We are currently reading through the book of Hebrews. B-Y-O-Both. Upcoming dates are **February 11th, February 25th and March 11th** .

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will meet on **Monday, February 11, at 7:15 PM** in the Forum Room. The presenter will be our own Carol Myers, resident expert on St. Nicholas. Check out her website at www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/carol-myers. This will be an open meeting so bring anyone you think would enjoy learning more about St. Nicholas.

Hostesses for the evening are Cherie DeCook and Brenda Millett.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE

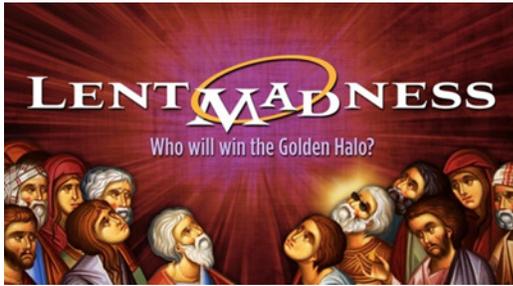
The latest news from Lifetouch is that our directories are scheduled to be shipped on February 12! We are hopeful that we will be able to begin distributing directories on **Sunday, February 17**.

In order to be “green”, we are planning **to re-use the binders from the previous pictorial directory**. Our new directory pages will arrive three-hole punched with a new cover page. If you received a directory in 2008, please assist us by locating your directory and making sure that your binder is able to be re-used. The new directory pages will be able to be placed on top in the previous binder and the new cover page slid right into the front cover. You do not need to bring your binder to church; you will simply be able to pick up a packet of the new directory pages and place them into your existing binder. For those who may not have a received a 2008 directory or may need a new binder, we will be purchasing several new binders to have on hand. Please help us re-use as many as possible. Thank you!

Stay tuned and watch for the table after church on Sundays (hopefully beginning late February) and stop by to pick up your copy of the new directory! Thanks to all who have helped with this project and for all who came out to be photographed.

Submitted by Church Family

**Don't Miss Lent Madness!
Go to lentmadness.org and get in the game!**



Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women comprising the Church's Calendar of Saints, Tim came up with this unique Lenten devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born.

The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

For (almost) 40 days and 40 nights you can cast your vote every day at lentmadness.org. And be sure to check out the Commons bulletin board for the 2013 Brackets and the seasonal motion toward the Final Four and the ultimate awarding of the Golden Halo!

(Believe it or not, Lent Madness is an offering of Forward Movement, widely known as the publishers of Forward Day by Day and other resources to support spiritual growth and vitality.)

Holland is Ready will host Dr. James Brownson, Professor of New Testament at Western Theological Seminary who will speak on his newly published book, *Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same-Sex Relationships* on Monday, March 4th at 7:00pm, at Grace Episcopal Church.



Prayer List as of February 3, 2013

†††††

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Viv Cook & family, the McConkey family, Brian, Arkie Pierson, Robbie Schorle, George Jackson, Amanda, Chris, Dan Heiberg, Lori, Nancy, Julie & Kelly and family, Harriet (sister of Ginny Wilson), the Baker family, Netashia Shields, Sharon Henderson (mother of Sharie Phillips), Sharie, Scott Caughey, Dale Labbe, Sr., Pam Redgrave, Peter Homan, Bob, Kevin, Vivian Weston, Ann Brown, Janice, Gisela Strand, Bill Ketchum, Kaleb, David, Rob Elhart, Colin DeVries & family, Judy, Danielle Woldring & family, for the people of Northern Africa, the Middle East and other places of war and unrest; for the unemployed or under-employed, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially Pierre Warner, Chuck, Warwick, Zachary, Carrie, Sam, and other loved ones of our parish family, pray for an end to the conflict in Congo, for all victims of disasters worldwide, natural and manmade; for those in our time who face persecution for their faith and for their persecutors. Janet & John, Ken & Sarah Swart, Stephanie Ray & Family, Patricia Arnold, Mary Schimmel (sister of Cathy deVelder), Bette Comport, Chuck Matrosic, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Devin, Robert McConkey, Bob Borgman, Gerald, Eric Heiberg, Ray Ybarra, Jim & Jane, Sarah, Chris, Tom, Caroline, John, Andrew, Bob Hampson, Ralph Suchor, Irene Bartlett, Steve, Jenny, Dale Labbe Sr., Allie Verburg & family, Ben Broersma, Michael Borst, the Drew family, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Bernice Viher (grandmother of Alex Foster), Shannon, Gail Davison, 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, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, Mary Rieckmann, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP AT GRACE:

If you are living with Parkinson's disease (or know someone who is) consider the Grace Parkinson's Support Group as a place to find companionship, encouragement and support on the journey. The group meets on the **third Thursday of the month**. Next meeting is **February 21st and March 21st** beginning at 7pm in the Forum Room.

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

HEALING SHAWL MINISTRY IS EXPANDING!!

Knitted or crocheted shawls have provided a way to reach out to parishioners as well as those in our community who may be experiencing illness, grief or other difficult circumstances. With gentlemen in mind, we are now adding fleece fringed lap robes. Just as yarn is available for the knitted and crocheted shawls, fleece is available for the lap robes, along with directions. For those who would like to contribute to this ministry but don't knit or crochet, the fleece lap robes are a great alternative as no sewing is required. For more information, please call Brenda Millett, 738-0890.

DIOCESAN MISSIONS: TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

HOME OF THE CRIMSON TIDE

NEEDS YOUR HELP

A mile wide tornado with winds of up to 190 mph devastated major areas of Tuscaloosa on April 27, 2011. This tornado started near Tuscaloosa and covered 300 miles eventually dissipating near Birmingham, Ala. Entire neighborhoods were destroyed. Apartments, shopping centers, restaurants, hospitals, and schools were affected. Forty-three people were killed and over 1000 injured with 7000 homes destroyed. This was the worst tornado in recorded history. Recovery will take years

Considering missions for 2013, the Diocesan Mission Board chose Tuscaloosa as its first mission project for this year. The dates of the mission are **May 3 to May 12**. We will car pool to the mission. The diocese will cover our costs for fuel and motels. We will be staying at a Y.M.C.A. camp near Tuscaloosa. All camp fees, accommodations, and meals are also covered by our diocese. There are no registration fees.

Habitat for Humanity is operating the recovery camp. We are now Habitat's partner on this rebuild project. To view their internet site contact habitat@tuscaloosa.org. Other Habitat partners include Nick Sabin's 14/14 Foundation. The Diocese is looking for approximately 20 volunteers. We will have experienced diocesan mission leaders and crew leaders to work with Habitat on the rebuild project.

Volunteers with experience in construction, such as dry wall, framing windows, doors, and cabinets, or flooring are needed. Less experience volunteers for painting, insulation, skill labor assistants, and transportation are also valued.

To volunteer or for more information contact **Terry Dorcy at tjdorcy@aol.com** or call **Terry at 269-349-3625**.

Other options in 2013:

Kentucky Reading Camp, June 15 through June 22

Pine Ridge, SD, June 21 through June 29

Minot, ND, July 19 through July 28

Kentucky Rebuild, September 21 through September 28

New Orleans, November 15 through November 24

There is a job for everyone, even if you have no special skills!! The experience is very worthwhile. You give, but you also gain!!

THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF

IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

FEEDING AMERICA

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates:
February 14th and March 14th. We need folks to help with set-up and to welcome our guests.

If you are working in the kitchen, come at 3:30.

If you are working registration, come at 4:00.

If you are working food distribution, come at 5:00.



Also, remember the ongoing need for *laundry detergent (see special request) 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!

Special request: We appreciate the many laundry detergent donations we receive, but if possible, please keep the bottles under 70oz. for ease in distribution.

For over 3 years Grace Church has served 2,774 families with our Feeding America Outreach initiative. Once a month, Grace has distributed 5,000 pounds of food together with toilet paper and laundry soap. This totals 140,000 pounds of food and approximately 2,600 bottles of soap and 11,096 rolls of toilet paper!

The cost for food is covered through our Outreach budget. However, we are dependent on our member's in kind contributions of soap and toilet paper. Because the number of families served has risen significantly, we also encourage financial contributions to help us meet the need. These may be made by check to Grace Church noting in the memo section "FA soap & paper."

The families we serve through Feeding America are very appreciative as Grace continues to reach out in our community.

Submitted by Sue Cloutier

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

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".

COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP:

Below is a thank you note that we received from one of our CHP families in response to the Christmas gifts given them by our congregation. They requested this to be put in the bulletin for everyone to read. If you would like to read their children's thank you note, it is posted on the bulletin board in the Commons.

"To Grace Church

We thank you for everything. The kids were very happy with all the gifts. God has been good to our family and truthfully works thru His people. We pray God's blessings upon every member of Grace Church. Thanks again for everything. And a special thank you to Cathy and Sue who work on our behalf.

*With love,
Kiechea and Larry Steele"*

DIOCESE MISSION MANAGERS NEEDED

The Diocese is seeking experienced volunteers to manage the following missions in 2013:

- Tuscaloosa Alabama, May 3 through May 12, an area devastated by tornadoes in 2011
- Minot, North Dakota, July 19 through 28, destroyed by a flood in 2011
- Lexington, Kentucky, September 21 through 28, home remodeling and repair in Appalachia
- New Orleans, Louisiana, November 15 through 24, home reconstruction and landscaping in the aftermath of hurricanes

The Diocese is also seeking volunteers for two reading camps this summer:

- Lexington, Kentucky, June 15 through 22, teachers, aides, and camp counselors are need to work with second, third, and fourth graders
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 22 through 26, a joint effort between St. Andrew's Episcopal and Grand Rapids Public Schools to improve reading skills for elementary children

Each of the disaster relief missions will need two Mission Leaders. Experience in previous Diocesan missions and general knowledge of home repair is a plus. Leadership skills working with people in a group setting is essential.

To learn more about or to volunteer as a Mission Leader, contact Terry Dorcy, tjdorcy@aol.com, or call 269-349-3625.

To learn more about or volunteer for one or both of the Diocesan reading camps, contact Rev. Cindy Nawrocki at rocki@att.net.

THANK YOU TO DECEMBER & JANUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

St. Andrew's Coffee Hour "saints":

<i>Allene Boughton</i>	<i>Peggy Keegin</i>
<i>Gerry Cawthra</i>	<i>Jill Mendenhall</i>
<i>Cathy deVelder</i>	<i>Robbie Schorle</i>
<i>Gail Geiger</i>	<i>Diane Glupker</i>
<i>Kim Shea</i>	<i>Ione Trap</i>



Todd & Geri Guyer
Carol Rickey
Susan & Tom Ervine
Laurie & Dawn Van Ark
Jeff & Rosemary Erickson
Cathy deVelder & Eve Shetterly

From Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator

BRAND NEW: CREATION CARE GROUP!!!



Interested in learning and sharing about keeping God's creation a wonderful and beautiful place? This group is for you! The group is just forming (some previous members of the Taking Grace Green group are moving to this group), and we could use some fresh ideas and input. What does this group hope to accomplish?

- Organize quarterly "eat local" coffee hours after church
- Coordinate one or two Adult Forum sessions a year, focusing on practical ways that parishioners can "be green"
- Through the newsletter and the bulletin board by the Forum room, help educate the church with simple tips on keeping "green".
- Other???

Interested? The group currently meets the third Monday of the month at 4:30pm, but if that doesn't work with your schedule, we are open to changing. Contact DuAnne Masselink, Kristie Phillips, or Rev. Jen if you are interested!

MARCH NEWLETTER DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 20 2013
Times New Roman, 12pt requested. Send to gechurch@sbcglobal.net

Have something to share? Want to write something about a recent or upcoming Grace event? Don't be shy, send it in! We love articles that share any aspect of church life.

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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.

