

Grace to You

June 2013
Volume 2013, Issue 5

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Calendar in the center**

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Here We Go, Grace!

On May 18, our Diocesan Convention elected The Rev. Wayne Hougland, Rector of St. Luke's in Salisbury, North Carolina to be the next Bishop of Western Michigan. I congratulate Wayne and offer my support and prayers as he and his wife, Dana, prepare to leave Salisbury and begin the transition to our Diocese. I also thank you Grace, Holland for the prayers and support you gave me as a candidate throughout the entire discernment and election process.

One of the most important things I learned in this election is that Grace Church, Holland is the kind of church that is hard for people to believe exists. No kidding. I've come to understand how un-normal our take-it-to-be-normal is. You should be aware of this too.

From interviews, to conversations with people around the diocese, to a couple of points when I and the other candidates were in the formal experiences of the Walkabout I was challenged in good ways to tell them more.

“Really?” they would ask me in the midst of talking about a shrinking church, “You have a lot of young families?” And then I'd tell them how on one Sunday I counted eight babies out there in the pews. Others wondered aloud to me, “So, your ‘older members’ have stayed through all of the changes in the Church?” “Yes,” I'd say. “In fact, some of them have led the way.” “You open your houses to homeless people? . . . Feed the hungry? . . . Work for issues of justice out there and pray together too?” “Yup.” One candidate even acknowledged to the audience at a Walkabout event how unusual it was to hear about a parish that practices open communion passionately AND values baptism and celebrates it regularly. That's Grace. And the list went on. One of the very important things I learned in all of this is that it's very hard for people to even imagine a church that is inclusive, traditional, old and young, prayerful, active, and growing especially in an area in which “Episcopal” is a word that I spell out whenever I tell people what it is that I do.

While this bishop search and election process has involved me directly, it's also been about us. And the fruits of this process are for us to share. We've been given a moment. A moment to embrace the gifts of the Spirit that are Grace Church. To see them anew, reclaim them and acknowledge them as the kind of “not-normal” that the world needs, the community needs, and the Church apparently needs to hear more about.

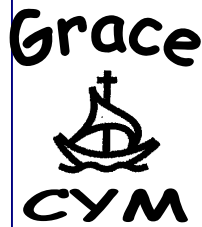
Thank you for everything. Now, here we go, Grace. It's time to enter a new phase together.

Peace,

Jen

(Be sure to read Phil Harrington's article at the end of this newsletter. It's a beautiful proclamation of the good news that is Grace!)

Education & Formation



News from Children and Youth

It is hard to believe that weekly programming for Grace children and youth has come to a close until the fall. It was a great year with an amazing leadership team. We'll look forward to kicking things off again for Sunday school and Youth group on Sunday, September 8th with our annual kick-off picnic immediately following the 10:00 service. Our Sunday School program and youth activities will begin again on Sunday September 15th.

We are currently building our leadership team for the coming year and will be asking for leaders for the following programs:

Growing into Worship:

This group meets from 10:30 – 11:00 in the GIW room of the Undercroft. The group will learn about the gospel reading for each week through a story, games, art, and other activities while also learning about the structure of the Service of Holy Eucharist. Two leaders are needed to rotate Sundays. A “2nd adult” volunteer will also be scheduled to assist with the lesson.

Middle School Sunday School:

This group meets from 9:15 – 10:15 each Sunday morning during the program year and follows the “Weaving God’s Promises for Youth” curriculum. One leader is needed approximately two Sundays each month.

Elementary Sunday School:

This group meets from 9:15 – 10:15 each Sunday morning during the program year and follows the “Weaving God’s Promises” curriculum. One leader is needed approximately two Sundays each month.

High School Sunday School:

This group meets from 9:15 – 10:15 each Sunday morning. Two to three leaders are needed to lead one to two weeks per month.

Middle School Youth Group:

Our youth groups meet once a month with the TRI-Youth group (along with Hope Church and First Presbyterian). In addition, the group meets once each month for an activity specifically designed for Grace Youth. One additional leader is needed at this time.

Please contact Debbie at the church office (616) 396-7459, sign up in the Commons, or email debcoyle@gmail.com to sign up as a Grace CYM leader.

Upcoming events for Children and Youth:

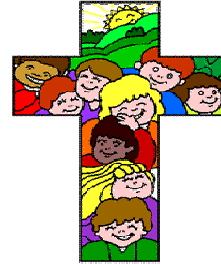
Growing into Worship goes “Co-Op” for Summer: Our GIW group will continue to run but will shift to a model of rotating leaders. Parents and Grace parishioners are encouraged to sign up to help lead a week of GIW. Lessons and materials will be provided. Two adults are needed each week for GIW to run.

Education & Formation

Continued from previous page

Grace Young Families will be going to the beach June 22nd at Muskegon State Park / Michigan Camp Ground. Please contact Lora Lee Murray at lora-murray@sbcglobal.net for more information.

VBS is coming! June 23 – 27 6-8pm (Sunday-Thursday) @ Peace Lutheran. Grace will join friends from Peace Lutheran and First Presbyterian churches for a week-long exploration of hunger issues. The program is call “Taking Root: Hunger Causes, Hunger Hopes” and includes a great variety of learning and fellowship experiences. Be sure to get your enrollment form in to the church office by June 10th. The cost for the week is \$5, but don’t let cost stop you. Contact Debbie if you would like assistance.



Episcopal Youth Camps 2013 will begin very soon! Visit the edwm.org website for more information about Episcopal Youth Camps: Junior, Middle School, and Senior camps as well as a Counselor in Training session are available.

Congratulations to our graduating High School Seniors: Claire Adams, Anna Battistello, Daniel Matrosic, Graeme Richmond, Maxine Shetterly, and Alyssa Wright. Keep them in your prayers as they transition out of high school and into new experiences.

Thank you to all of you who helped make the 2012 – 2013 program year an amazing experience. And we are very excited about the upcoming program year. It will be even better through your participation!

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

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES AT A NEW TIME:

Alternate Mondays, 4:00 to 5:15 pm (a men’s discussion group) — The men's study group "Beer and Bibles" meets every other Monday, for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. We are currently reading through the book of Hebrews. B-Y-O-Both. Upcoming dates are **June 3rd, June 17th and July 1st.**

Education for Ministry (EfM)



At Grace Episcopal Church we are fortunate to have the **Education for Ministry (EfM)** program as one of our course offerings. Here is the lead paragraph from their website:

Education for Ministry, affectionately known as EfM, is a program of theological education-at-a-distance of the School of Theology of the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. It covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars under the guidance of trained mentors. The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year's work.

The EfM group has been active at Grace for many years. Trained mentors facilitate the group and each member provides leadership in the group. Here is a summary of the program:

- There are no 'lone' Christians
- We listen for God in community
- We do theology in community, reflecting on our tradition and contemporary issues
- We discern the call to ministry in community
- We worship in community
- The EfM course is mentored, not taught. Mentor and members share learning and insights
- Our current group has members from Grace Church as well as people from other denominations. We may extend an invitation to other groups as well. Members bring different perspectives to our discussions.

EfM is a powerful way to enable lay ministry. This program is for Christians seeking to earnestly explore how God may be calling them to a ministry of Christian leadership within or beyond the parish. If this program is of interest to you, contact Mary Huisman at maryh@westernsem.edu or Thom Daubenspeck at tmdaubenspeck@gmail.com.

A display of the EfM material is on display in The Commons and members of the current group will be available on Sunday, June 9 after the 10:00 service to answer any questions you might have! The current members that will receive their Certificate of Completion from EfM on June 9 will be Sue Clotier, Radha Deitenbeck, Karen Stinson, Sarah Swart and Paul Trap. Congratulations!

Fellowship & Prayer List

THANK YOU TO MAYCOFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Laurie Van Ark & Dawn Van Ark
Chris Broersma & Joan Heneveld
Lora Lee & Chuck Murray



*From Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

Prayer List as of May 24, 2013



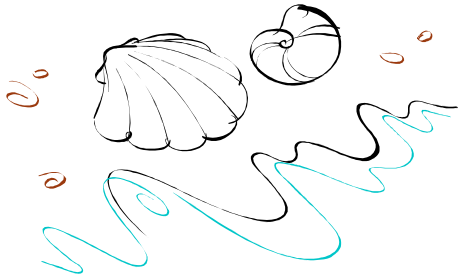
†††††

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Charlotte De Vries, Ray Ybarra & family, Carol Homan, Sam, Tommy Bullinger, Daniel, the McConkey family, Erika, Barb Anderson & family, Todd Billings & family, Kathy, Melinda Heiberg and family, Emily & family, Laura Ferster, Grace Herta, Patrick, Brian, Arkie Pierson, Amanda, Chris, Lori, Nancy, Scott Caughey, Bob, Vivian Weston, Kaleb, David, Judy, 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; 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. Sharon Henderson (mother of Sharie Phillips), Viv Cook & family, Bill Ketchum, Peter Homan, Gisela Strand, Ken & Sarah Swart, Patricia Arnold, Mary Schimmel (sister of Cathy deVelder), Chuck Matrosic, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Devin, Robert McConkey, Gerald, Ray Ybarra, Jim & Jane, Bob Hampson, Ralph Suchor, Irene Bartlett, Steve, Jenny, Dale Labbe Sr., Allie Verburg & family, Michael Borst, the Drew family, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Shannon, Gail Davison, Stafford, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Dave Masselink, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, Mary Rieckmann, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Stephanie Borgman
Sherri Cadeaux-Betz
Millie Gallaway | 19 Claire Adams |
| 2 David Cunningham | 21 Brenston Brown |
| 4 Steven Cloutier | 22 Bradley Dunn
Fred Geiger |
| 5 Stephen Shetterly | 23 Jennifer Carlson
Nicole Erickson
Jamie Gamby
Phyllis Roper
Prescott Slee
Sebastian Zylstra |
| 8 Bill Smalldon
Nicole Gamby | 24 Bill Dunn |
| 9 Frankie Bullinger | 25 Madelyn Bier
Abigail Collins
Jerry De Fouw |
| 10 Eddie Bullinger
Gerry Cawthra
Ruth Hawley-Lowry | 27 Brandis Jones
Jill Mendenhall
Doug Zylstra |
| 11 Grace Ford
Lynn Kamp
Beth Trembley | 28 Rob Macy |
| 12 Tony Reed
Deborah Schroeder | 29 Katherine Muzzy
Susan Muzzy |
| 15 Sally Gunn
Eve Shetterly
Jim Woodward | 30 Don Bruggink
Lucas Finkbiner |
| 17 Linde Klinge | |
| 18 Jerry Roper
Kaitlin Shinabarger Kiefer | |

June Birthdays

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Tammy & Tom Kelly
Pat & Jack Shinabarger |  |
| 3 Jill & Bill Smalldon | |
| 4 Pat & Dick Danly | |
| 6 Karen & Cal Boer
Cathy & Bruce Fries | |
| 9 Jennifer Wolfe &
Brad Richmond | |
| 12 Bev & Bill Dunn
Gail & Fred Geiger | |
| 13 Kelli & Steve Shinabarger | |
| 14 Eileen & Steve Jenkins | |
| 17 Nancy & David Chamness | |
| 18 Krista & David Raffenaud
Michele & Prescott Slee | |
| 19 Jill & Bill Mendenhall | |
| 20 Sandy & Dave Wright | |
| 24 Virginia & Frank Knoop | |
| 25 Linda & Bob Elder
Kathy & David Keegin | |
| 26 Geri & Todd Guyer | |
| 27 Mary & Scott Remenschneider | |



Pastoral Care and Outreach

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 **June 20th**, 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.

COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP HOUSE NEEDS

Our new family has moved in to 83 West 24th. They are getting settled and have some needs: 1 crib (with mattress), 2 dressers, 2 twin mattresses and 1 box springs, 4 pillows, a set of full size sheets and 3 sets of twin size sheets, a couch, lamps, pots & pans, bake ware, storage bins, and some basic gardening tools. If you have items you wish to donate, please contact the office or Sue Cloutier at (616)396-3034.

Submitted by Outreach commission

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION OR FOSTER CARE

Are you interested in international adoption or foster care? Do you take an interest in international affairs? Would you like to make a direct impact in the life of a young person who has been forced to flee his or her country because of political oppression, or violence? Become a Refugee Foster Parent with Bethany Christian Services! Call 224-7540 for more information!

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".

DIOCESAN MISSIONS:

The following mission trips have been organized through the diocese:

- 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

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

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

MISSION MANAGERS NEEDED

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

- 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

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 volunteer or for more information contact Rev. Cindy Nawrocki at rocki@att.net.

FEEDING AMERICA

In just over 3 years Grace Church has served over 2,774 families with our Feeding America Outreach initiative. Once a month, Grace distributes 5,000 pounds of food together with toilet paper and laundry soap.



Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates and note that July is ***Wednesday instead of Thursday***: **June 13th, July 10th, and August 8th**. 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 below) and toilet paper!* You can bring these items at any time and deposit them in the labeled drawers in the Commons. ***Special request:*** please keep the bottles under 70oz. for ease in distribution.

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

Submitted by Sue Cloutier

HOW GOD DONE TROUBLED THE WATER

After worship on Pentecost a strong urge compelled me up to the baptismal font, where just moments before we celebrated the baptism of Ellis O'Malley and William O'Malley. I eagerly dipped my hand in the water then slowly brought my hand to my head in the sign of the cross re-invoking my baptism. I've done this many times before, but not with this same zeal. This Pentecost, something special was in that font.

The phrase, "God's gonna trouble the water," from the spiritual *Wade in the Water*, refers to the stirring up of the water of the New Testament pool of Siloam, giving it healing powers for those who would enter. Probably because one stanza also refers to the Exodus through the Red Sea, this underground railroad song has become often used in the context of baptism. In this sense, God stirs our baptismal water with the Spirit, charging it with the power to live as children of God. We invoke this stirring, or 'troubling' when we pray the prayer of Thanksgiving over the font. This is no longer simply H₂O courtesy of BPW. The water of our font now contains the water of creation's flood, the water of the Red Sea which leads to freedom, the water of the Jordan and the ministry of John the Wild, the healing water of Siloam, the water from the womb of our own birth and the water of the font of our own baptism. That's a pretty powerful prayer.

But on this particular Pentecost Sunday in this particular service, God went beyond the stirring of our prayer. God also used young William. Just before his baptism, William reached for the water with both hands and gave it a mighty good troubling. It as obvious even from the choir in back that this was not simply a child's splash. The gesture was determined, and filled with joy. I believe it was an act of the Spirit. But why this special troubling of the water on this Sunday?

I realize I'm conjecturing—you may decide for yourself what God was up to, if anything, in William's font work—but for me, the answer jumped out from the Eucharistic Prayer: "In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down on this day from heaven, lighting on the disciples... ..and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood...." The Church ordains some for special roles of ministry as priests and bishops, but each of us through our baptism are ordained as priests for the general ministry of the church. Perhaps as we reaffirmed our baptismal vows on this particular Sunday in this particular place, God wanted to call attention to the stirred water in our font, the water of our shared baptismal calling. Only one person gets elected bishop in the diocese, but all of us sitting in the pew get elected by God for the unique and powerful ministry that is Grace Episcopal, Holland.

The last few months around here have seen a lot of attention placed, naturally and rightly, on the ministry of our rector, Jen Adams. Perhaps now is a time to shift that focus. In the wake of such an event it would be easy for us as a congregation to take a collective sigh (of either relief or let down) and want to get back to normal. But normal means one thing for Jen and another for us. *Our* election still stands. In fact, if I heard the sermon correctly, the electoral process of the last several months shined a light on Grace as a congregation that takes its royal priestly ministry seriously. Some people are in awe, even. There could be new attention coming our way. "Is it really true the people of Grace do all that?" We might have eyes upon us in

Continued from previous page

upcoming days. And that notion could strike us as a bit daunting. How nice to be reminded that the God who *calls* us to our ministry sends the Spirit with the *power* to follow through in service.

I know that when I am back in Washington for several weeks this summer and friends ask me what I've been up to, my first reaction will be to tell them of the amazing church I've become part of and the breadth of its ministry. Of the number of members in active service feeding, housing, professing. Of the families who gather in education, common prayer, and table fellowship. Of the children and youth who not only engage in the congregation's worship but its stewardship. And, yes, I'll tell them of a place where even the newest members on the very day of their baptism find a special ministry all their own.

Submitted by Phil Harrington



Have something you want to share? Submit your own ideas or writings for “Letters to the People”.

MAY NEWLETTER DEADLINE: Friday, June 21st, 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 Grace 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.

