

In this issue

Rector's message	1
Grace on the Rise!	2
Forums & Formation	3-6
Worship & Formation & Fellowship..	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries	7
Prayer List	7
Outreach and Building & Grounds ..	8
Calendar	9
Taking Grace Green	10
Spiritual Formation	10
Vestry Nominations Open	11

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

John Davis — 616-613-6737
Jeff Erickson — 616-403-9432
Alex Foster — 283-7081
Tom Kelly — 616-915-6839
Brent Krueger — 786-9858
Carol Myers— 396-1002
Bill Rocker — 403-1862
Matt Schmidt — 772-0797
Jill Smalldon—994-9725
Lynn Stubbs— 546-8845
Paul Trap — 396-6492
Barb Vincensi — 616-392-3842
Jay Bylsma — 399-5721—Treasurer
Sue Bullinger—616-283-3238—Clerk

STAFF

Wayne Hougland, Bishop
Jennifer Adams, Rector
Christian Baron, Curate
Jodi Baron, Curate
Valerie Ambrose, Pastoral Support
Steve Jenkins, Director of Music
Thom Samuelson, Sexton
Gail Westerhof, Secretary
Melynda Storm-Rushlau,
Financial Secretary

Grace On The Rise

Last year, the Stewardship Commission and Vestry of Grace Church challenged our congregation to “Rise up!” as the theme of our annual pledge drive. Based on the parish’s mission and the desire to firm up the foundation for a vision forward, we put together a three-year vision for the budget and the pledge response from the parish was inspiring!

We have much to celebrate. The Curates are here. Episcopal campus ministry has launched at Hope. Children, youth and family ministries are growing and changing. We are distributing over eight thousand pounds of food while also serving a warm meal to over two hundred and fifty guests each month. The building and grounds are being cared for. We’re meeting our diocesan apportionment and congregational care is expanding. People are welcomed here. God is praised! The Spirit is here!

And so as we plan for 2015, we are now “Grace on the Rise!”

It’s time to celebrate how far we have come while we also take the next steps on the path we laid out last Fall. (See the financial detail on the next page of this newsletter.) We need to continue to challenge ourselves in terms of giving - of our time, our talent, and our treasure - all in support of the ministries that make Grace a vibrant, caring and growing congregation.

Over the next few weeks via a parish mailing, social media, and on Sunday mornings you’ll be hearing about Grace On The Rise as we hold up Grace’s mission and ministries and the ways in which the Spirit is working among us.

Thank you for being the vibrant, generous, hopeful congregation that you are. It’s a joy to be on the rise with you.

Peace,

Jen

Grace Episcopal Church
(616) 396-7459 FAX (616) 396-7430
www.graceepiscopalholland.org
email: gechurch@sbcglobal.net

Grace on the Rise!

PROPOSED EXPENSES	2014	2015	2016	2017
Clergy (Rector & Assistant Rector)	\$ 156,856	\$ 193,575	\$ 205,140	\$ 206,806
Other Staff	\$ 88,359	\$ 82,329	\$ 84,912	\$ 87,523
Church Building & Property	\$ 78,880	\$ 86,000	\$ 92,500	\$ 99,000
Other Properties	\$ 33,275	\$ 16,150	\$ 16,250	\$ 16,350
Ministry Expenses	\$ 90,010	\$ 94,572	\$ 92,585	\$ 96,754
Total Expenses	\$ 447,380	\$ 472,626	\$ 491,388	\$ 506,433

Annual Increases 5.6% 4.0% 3.1%

PROPOSED REVENUE	2014	2015	2016	2017
Endowment + Gifts + Grants	\$ 30,500	\$ 45,300	\$ 42,000	\$ 30,000
Rental Income	\$ 25,024	\$ 19,024	\$ 19,024	\$ 19,024
Non-pledge Giving	\$ 50,991	\$ 40,425	\$ 40,425	\$ 40,425
Pledge Goal	\$ 334,884	\$ 368,000	\$ 390,000	\$ 417,000

Annual Increases 9.9% 6.0% 6.9%

Annual Salary	Desired Giving or Increase in Giving		
	5%	1%	0.5%
\$ 10,000	\$ 500	\$ 100	\$ 50
\$ 20,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 200	\$ 100
\$ 30,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 300	\$ 150
\$ 50,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$ 250
\$ 75,000	\$ 3,750	\$ 750	\$ 375
\$ 100,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500

- Detailed proposed budgets are available.
- Cost increases for each year are modest. In fact, the 2015 budget is significantly lower than we had projected a year ago, mainly due to the successful Parish House Matching Opportunity—Thank You!
- As indicated last year, we must meet a significant pledge increase for 2015. Therefore, we ask everyone to continue **On the Rise!** to meet this challenge. Please consider at least:
 - Increasing pledge by 10%
 - Increasing pledge 0.5% of annual salary
 - Increasing pledge by \$250 (on average)

Sunday Forums

11:30am-12:30pm

Lower Level Forum Room

November

2 - Special All Saints' Day Coffee Hour – No Forum Today

9 & 16 - The Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church (a.k.a. TREC)

Rev. Jen was appointed to this task force that was charged by the 2012 General Convention to consider changes to the governance, structure, and administration of The Episcopal Church. Come hear about this adventure via Rev Jen and a recording of their webcast from the National Cathedral which took place on October 2nd. (Complete with an inspiring sermon from The Rt Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina and member of TREC.)

23 - Gratitude Trees – Bring your trees that were distributed at the intergenerational event early in October. This was a take-home project to invite individuals and families into a fun way to practice daily gratitude. So bring back the trees and let's talk about some of our thanks! If you would still like to make a tree, there is time! Pick up a kit from Rev. Jodi.

November 30-December 14

Learning to Walk in the Dark

An Advent Read with the Rector

Rev. Jen will lead this discussion series on Barbara Brown Taylor's new book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. Brown Taylor is an Episcopal priest and Professor of World Religions at Piedmont College. About this book: "New York Times bestselling author Barbara Brown Taylor writes with wisdom, grace and beauty as she seeks to redeem what so many of us have learned to fear – the darkness. Entering into it to see whether what she has been taught about it is true, she discovers that there is light in the dark. Even when that light wanes or goes out altogether, there are treasures in the dark that we cannot always see by day. What we need is a spirituality that works in the night." Join us. Books will be available in the Commons or can be purchased on your own.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Important Dates :

Nov. 9- Bowling at BAM! \$9 for 2 games and shoes. Bring money for lunch if you please. Parents can pick up youth at around 2pm.

Nov. 13- Feeding America- Grace Youth lend a hand to feed those who are hungry. Give it a whirl if you haven't.

Nov. 16- Star Tree Project- Set up Christmas Tree and get crafty with stars.

Nov. 23- Gratitude Trees and the collection of the stars.

Nov. 30- Split group- Advent 1 conversation- Middle school will walk to Simpatico

Dec. 6- Diocesan Event in Kalamazoo. Service Project with other youth.

Dec. 7- Split groups- Advent 2 conversation- High School will walk to Simpatico

Education & Formation

COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

You are invited to share a common meal each Thursday evening at 7pm and then spend time praying (Taizé and Compline). We meet weekly with Hope Church and share space. Every other week Grace hosts in the sanctuary. If you are interested, please contact Christian Baron. christianjohnbaron@gmail.com

October 30- Hope Church
November 6 – Grace
November 13- Hope Church
November 20- Grace
November 27- Off – Thanksgiving

BOOK DISCUSSION ON THE SACRED JOURNEY

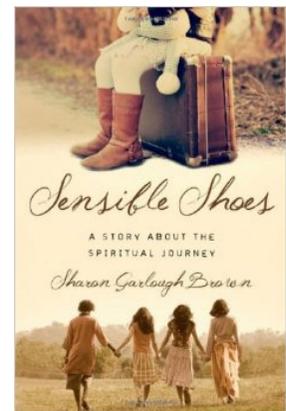
Due to the overwhelming positive response we are receiving for this book discussion we have decided to add a second date for those who cannot, for whatever reason, meet with us on the first. We'll be gathering together to discuss the book "Sensible Shoes" by Sharon Garlough Brown. It is available in Kindle and paperback through Amazon. You can also find it at the library or Barnes and Noble. If it is helpful, Rev. Jodi can order you a copy, just email her at baronjodi@gmail.com.

We'll meet in either the Commons or Forum Room to have light snacks and enjoy, what is sure to be, a rich conversation about the Sacred Journey. Come join us!

The two dates are:

November 10 from 7-8p m

November 19 from 2:30pm-3:30pm



Gathering of the Males—Men's BBQ on Friday, November 7.

Please join us from 6pm-9pm, for a night of meat eating (vegetarian options available). \$15 includes BBQ, various samples of craft beer, and the wisdom of a local beer expert to describe the genres and the art that goes into beer making (non-alcoholic drinks available). Please RSVP to Christian Baron by Sunday November 2 so we can prepare accordingly.

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will meet on **Monday evening, November 10, at 7:15 PM** in the Forum Room. The presenter will be Alyce Doss, project manager of the public art initiative that is working to bring fifteen historically themed murals to the exteriors of the buildings in the South Shore Village neighborhood shopping district, located at the intersection of 17th Street and South Shore Drive. Eight of these murals are in place at this time.

This meeting is open to the parish so bring your family, friends and neighbors to learn about this interesting project. Hostesses are Cathy deVelder and Sandy Young.

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS AND ALL SAINTS

What is “dia de los muertos” and why are we celebrating it?

Dia de los muertos (or Day of the Dead) is a celebration of “recognizing the family and community importance of honoring the lives of those who have gone before us and by inviting everyone in the community to be part of this joyful celebration (Viva la Vida website sited below).”

All of us have been touched by the reality of the cycle of life, which culminates with death. As Christians, however, we are an Easter people, meaning we believe in resurrection. Our loved ones are now “in the nearer presence of our Lord (BCP pg 507)” but that does not mean we stop remembering them.

Our liturgy for Burial, as the BCP reads, finds its meaning in the resurrection. “Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised...therefore [it] is characterized by joy, in the certainty that ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).”

It is fitting then, that we find meaningful ways to remember and celebrate those who’ve gone before us.

Dia de los Muertos is a celebration which has its roots in this theology. It originates from Mexico pop-religious expression and has made its way into the hearts of people and communities all over the world. This is one of the many gifts people of Hispanic decent have to offer the wider Christian community that we should embrace. It’s a gift of joyful celebration of the ones we want to remember.

And, it coincides with the liturgical celebration of All Saints Day. We would like to offer that it is a particular liturgy for this day. “Ofrendas” are prayer spaces created by friends and family where they remember some of the loved-ones favorite things, share stories that bring them joy, and bring out the love they held (and continue to hold) so deeply for that person while they were on earth. In many ways, the day of their funeral was, indeed, their “saint day.” And All Saints Day will forever include that loved-one of ours in the multitude of saints now in heaven.

So, we want to encourage you all to spend some time thinking about who you want to remember this year on All Saints Day/Dia de los Muertos.

A suggestion for how to celebrate those loved ones in the privacy and intimacy of your own homes this year is as follows. On November 1 or 2, designate a space (could be a cubby, a small table, the mantle for your fire place) to construct the focal point for your celebration. Plan the meal to include some of your loved one’s favorite foods (both savory and sweet). Collect pictures of them to place in that space. Try to find some of their favorite music to play. But most importantly, be thinking about stories you want to share, with those gathered, about the loved one you are remembering. It is through the stories of their lives that we remember the person they were and what they contributed to our earthly pilgrimage. And remember, your loved one is in JOY in its most complete form, let us too, then, remember them in JOY!

In Peace,

Rev. Jodi Baron with Rev. Christian & Rev. Jen

For more ideas on ways you can celebrate visit the webpage our own Ketzi Zylstra helped to create for the Holland area. You can read that here (<http://www.vivalavidafestivalholland.com/#!about/csgz>)

Worship / Formation / Fellowship

All Faithful Departed

All Saints' Day, we celebrate the "heroes" of faith, or the capital "S" Saints who have, throughout history, touched the church and the world with God's grace. Beginning in the tenth century it also became custom to set aside another day of remembrance – as a sort of extension of All Saints' – to acknowledge the many small "s" saints in our lives. This is the day on which we remember those whom we have loved who have died, our family members and friends whom we carry with us always. At Grace we hold a simple service of Remembrance and Holy Eucharist. We light candles for those whom "we love but see no longer" and pray together in remembrance and celebration. So join us, whether you have lost someone in the last year or in years past, Monday, November 3 at 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE CHOIR!!

Choir began our regular weekly rehearsals in October, but it isn't too late to join. The fall is an excellent time to join the choir. Singing in Grace's choir is a unique opportunity to both make some good music and serve your community in a rewarding manner. We have an excellent choir and you can be part of it. Please come and join us! You can try to catch me after service, give me a call at 616-990-1252, or email me at jupiterjenkins@gmail.com.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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. B-Y-O-Both. Upcoming dates are **November 3rd, 17th, and December 1st**.

WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday Noon Bible Study meets in the Forum Room from 12:00 to 1:00. Discussion of the lectionary texts is led by Rev. Jen. Bring a lunch and join in whenever you can!

THANK YOU TO OCTOBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Barb Vincensi
Jill Smalldon & Katie Verspoor
Prescott Slee
Guy & Krista Packard



*From Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

The sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour hosts is on the clipboard in the Commons. Please sign up if you can take a Sunday. Ask Laurie if you have any questions.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Samantha Talley | 21 Brianna Jones |
| 4 Morley Byxbe | Maxine Shetterly |
| 6 Dawn Van Ark | 22 Jennifer Adams |
| 10 Andrew Linn | Deborah Craioveanu |
| Kyle Shinabarger | Katherine Slee |
| Braden Scharlow | 23 Tom Finkbiner |
| 14 Robert Borgman | 25 Chris Caughey |
| Mary Huisman | Greta Finkbiner |
| 15 Zachary Smalldon | 26 Mac Kenzie Coyle |
| Ava Clark-Adler | Hannah Schmidt |
| Owen Clark-Adler | 27 Mary Remenschneider |
| 17 Mark Servinsky | Claudia Scharlow |
| 18 Donna Rieckmann | 28 Peter Keegin |
| 20 Eskill Corneliussen | 30 Virginia Knoop |
| Alex Foster | Miki Methric |
| Steven Hansen | |



- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 11 Stephanie & Edward Soto |
| 18 Peggy & Stafford Keegin |
| 23 Sally & Eskill Corneliussen |
| 28 Phyllis & Jerry Roper |
| 30 Jean & John Adams |

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Prayer List as of October 27, 2014

†††††

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: John Parker & family, Stephanie Ray, Nick, Andrew, David DeKraker, Devon Butler, George Pierson & family, Bryce & Monny and family, Pablo Peschiera & family, Lori Smith, Fran Greene, the Sligh family, Kevin Norlander, Jerline Riley & family, John Badgerow, Linda Mourot, John Van Durren, Ann Mayers, John Meengs, Gemmy & family, the Rocker family, Marilyn, Darin, Connie & Bill and family, Marion Edwards (sister of Ron Brown), Aaron Biolette, the Moreno family, Mary Schimmel, Charlotte DeVries, the Cloutier family, Meghan Kelly & family, Elaine, Kathy, Amanda, and for people in areas of war or unrest, for the unemployed or under-employed, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially Pierre Warner, Chuck, Warwick, Carrie, Sam, 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. Karen Meeks, Erica & family, Vern, Catherine Page, Todd & Mary Lane, Emily & family, Linda Twiggs (cousin of Sharon Barlow), Shirley Swaney, Morley & Sally Byxbe, Kariann & Esperanza, Anne & family, the Butterfield family, Xenia & family, Kim & Nouri, Mar'cia & family, Carol & Woody Merriman, Karin Sisson, Pat Danly, Laura Ferster, Gladys, Ginnie Wilson, the Barkel family, Grace Herta, Judy, Dawn & family, Alex, Todd Billings & family, Peter Homan, Patricia Arnold, Devin, Robert McConkey, Gerald, Jim & Jane, Ralph Suchor, Irene Bartlett, Steve, Jenny, Michael Borst, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Shannon, Gail Davison, Stafford, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), Dave Masselink, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

Outreach / Building & Grounds

FEEDING AMERICA

Over the past few months we've seen regular increases in the number of guests whom we serve. Thank you, Grace, for coming out in large numbers in October! We need you in November too! We are now handing out 7,500 pounds of food rather than the 5,000 we have distributed in the past. Normally growth is a good thing at a church, in this case it only shows that more and more people are hungry due to job loss, underemployment, or recent cuts to government assistance.



I know that we are all busy and that our lives seem to be on the fast track, but, we need to always be aware that there are people who need our help. We need you to help us on the second Thursday of each month to distribute the food, chat with our guests, or help in the kitchen. Can you help us out? If you have any questions about this outreach, please contact Mick Schorle, Coordinator of our Feeding America ministry or Robbie Schorle at 269 543-4400. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Upcoming Dates: November 13th and December 11th

Submitted by Robbie Schorle – Chairman of Outreach

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.

Volunteers are needed at the to help serve and clean up from **11:15am to 1:30pm** every Monday through Friday. Grace Church is committed to providing **three or four helpers each Wednesday**. Join our “regulars” who help on Wednesdays. See the sign-up sheet in the Commons. For more information contact Jim at 566-6785.

FALL CLEAN-UP

The fall clean-up for the church grounds is now scheduled for Saturday, November 15. We will be working from 8:30am until 11:00am. The coffee will be hot and the donuts fresh! A sign up list will be in the Commons. Please bring gloves, rakes and clippers.



Taking Grace Green / Spiritual Formation

TAKING GRACE GREEN – CREATION CARE – ECO-THEOLOGY – ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – EARTH CARE!



A few years ago there was a very active group in Grace Church that spent considerable amount of time and energy in 'Taking Grace Green' during the renovation of The Commons area, kitchen and the Undercroft! For their work, done well, we give a huge thank you! A thank you for the amount of time, energy and commitment in moving Grace Church toward 'greening' its buildings and

properties! Since that time, however, there has been a lull in activity around environmental awareness and what might be loosely called 'Creation Care'. There is a group of folks who would like to get more active in this ministry and are meeting monthly in various homes for discussion, ideas, suggestions and resources, and at times, physical work around Creation Care. A couple of folk have gotten involved in The Micah Center, an organization in Grand Rapids, MI that "exists to educate people about the biblical call to do justice and how they can respond to that call in their local community." They have 'working groups' that include environmental advocacy both locally and statewide. All are welcome to meet with us – for food, discussion and an ongoing exploration of environmental and creation care topics! You can contact Mary Huisman at huismanmr@aol.com for more information or David and Clara Brower at 616- 688 - 7356.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Would you like to reflect on your faith journey, explore diverse forms of prayer, and deepen your loving relationship with God? Spiritual direction, a time of confidential sacred listening which can happen one-on-one or in a small group, may be right for you! Rev. Laura Grimes, often spotted singing in the choir at Grace, offers this ministry free of charge to members of the Grace community. Laura will also lead a weekend retreat focusing on Ignatian spirituality at Transfiguration Spiritual Center (<http://www.tsecretreats.org/>), an Episcopal retreat house north of Cincinnati (carpooling possible) Nov. 14-16. For more information on all these opportunities please contact her at 937-581-7996 or laura@grimes.ws.

*The deadline for submissions to the December 2014 issue of Grace to You is Nov. 20.
Please contact the church office at gechurch@sbcglobal.net for more details.*

Rise up, leaders of Grace! From the Vestry Nominating Committee

Grace is a lively, growing parish of about four hundred and fifty active members and many vibrant ministries. We welcome several new individuals and families a year and celebrate that this growing rests on a solid foundation provided by generations of Grace Church.

We are currently inviting recommendations for leadership in our parish, specifically for Vestry. Vestry is made up of twelve elected lay members who work collaboratively with the Rector in areas of oversight, finance, planning and program. Vestry members bring different experiences and skills to the prayerful decision-making and reflection on the many dimensions of parish life. We encourage you to consider who might be called to serve in this capacity as a lay leader in our parish.

Vestry meets once a month and each member also serves on a commission of the parish, tending to one particular area of parish ministry. No single vestry member has all of the skills and qualities that sustain this body, but together, vestry members form a leadership team that:

- Maintains a Christian vision and basic understanding of how the Episcopal Church works.
- Represents the diversity in the ages, backgrounds, and perspectives present among members of our parish.
- Commits to open and honest processing of parish realities and issues.
- Discerns together, serving commissions, communicating with the parish and supporting one another.
- Is willing to grow in their understanding of the faith and what it means to be a vibrant Episcopal Church today.

In 2015, the parish will be participating in a visioning and strategic planning process as a congregation, so energy for the future mission of Grace is a must! We will be accepting recommendations (names) until Sunday, November 16. Our task as a Nominating Committee is to present a slate of four people to the parish by Sunday, December 16. Once the slate of four is announced, nominations will be open for three weeks and will close on January 4 in accordance with the by-laws of the parish. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2015.

If you have someone to recommend or would like to be considered yourself, let the Nominating Committee know! We look forward to talking with everyone who is put forward.

Nominating Committee Members:

Jeff Erickson	jerickson3006@charter.net	616-786-2668
Matt Schmidt	rmschmidt1@charter.net	616-772-0797
Chuck Murray	crm217eagle@gmail.com	616-335-3690
Robbie Schorle	artforsoul@comcast.net	269-543-4400
Rev. Jen Adams	rev.jenadams@yahoo.com	616-396-7459

Grace Episcopal Church
555 Michigan Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOLLAND, MICH. 49423
PERMIT NO. 14

Address Service Requested

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.

For current information, access the church calendar on our website:

www.graceepiscopalholland.org
Click on “About us” and then “Calendar.”

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.

