

Grace to You

July/August 2012
Volume 2012, Issue 6

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*Pull-out calendar with birthdays
in the center*

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Dave Masselink— 546-2662
Ann Mayers — 269-857-3495
Chuck Murray— 335-3690
Carol Myers— 396-1002
Mary Remenschneider— 283-7725
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*Oh sometimes the road is rugged, and it's hard to travel on
But holdin' to each other, we don't have to walk alone
When everything is broken, we can mend it if we try
We can make a world of difference, if we want to we can fly . . .
I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin', I'm just travelin' thru
"Travelin Thru" lyrics by Dolly Parton*

While just back from an amazing Grace Church youth pilgrimage to Canterbury, I'm about to head off for another ten day Church experience, this time serving as deputy to the Episcopal Church's National Convention in Indianapolis. While I always miss Grace when I'm away, these experiences teach me something about the breadth and depth of the larger Church to which we belong. It contributes to my priesthood, and hopefully to my role here at Grace when I take time to look beyond our walls into the larger Episcopal and Anglican bodies of which we are part. And so this summer in the words of the song above, I'm just travelin', travelin', travelin' thru varieties of experiences of what it means to be Church.

Over the next couple of months, the twelve Grace folk who went on pilgrimage will be providing pictures and stories from our journey across southeast England. We experienced everything from rainy, cold days to the very warm hospitality of small English congregations who opened their doors and floors to us soggy pilgrims. We walked. We talked. We prayed. We struggled. We celebrated. We learned. It was a faith-filled, eye-opening time for us all as we got a chance to look a little differently at our own stories and how we fit individually and collectively into the larger history and vision of God's people.

And while it might seem to exist on the other end of the scale from an experience like walking through the English countryside, General Convention is also at its most basic a collection of God's people gathering with faithful intensity, placing a great deal of effort into discernment around our various callings as a Christian people. At Convention we will worship. We will deliberate over resolutions that come from every corner of the Episcopal Church. We will listen. We will speak. We will argue. We will love. We will hope. We will move from one place to another on many different things of faith and we will trust that any cold moments will find their balance in the warm hospitality we create as Body of Christ gathered.

It is truly a privilege to participate in these "other" kinds of church experiences and I'm thankful for the support that makes it possible. Know that I carry Grace in my heart on the various roads I travel this summer and that in-between and well after these adventures, I'll be sharing stories and prayers and hopes with this little corner of God's people whom we call home.

Peace,

Jen



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES: News from Children's and Youth Ministries

Summer is finally here and with it there are loads of opportunities for CYM at Grace – come and see!

Pilgrims Return

The **pilgrimage** group had a great trip to England. After arriving in London on June 10th, we were hosted at St. Bartholomew's (Otford) by the Vicar Richard Worssam, at The Methodist Church (Wye) and St. Mary's Church (Chilham) before arriving in Canterbury. The youth did an outstanding job with the variety of experiences and activities presented to them. They learned about the history of the Anglican church in England as well as more about themselves, and their own history. The pilgrims walked more than 50 miles of the Canterbury trail taking turns setting the route, leading, and even planning and preparing our meals. Congratulations to all of them on an amazing experience and thank you to the people of Grace for your incredible support, encouragement, and prayers!

Youth to Travel to General Convention

The first week of July, one of the Grace Youth (Connor Stubbs) will travel with a group of youth from our diocese to the **General Convention** in Indianapolis. We will be there learning more about our church in America and how the work of it gets done.

VBS July 23-26, 2012

The end of July brings **Vacation Bible School** lead by Robbie Schorle and Kim Shea. All children ages 4-12 are invited to participate in this 4-day series of lessons and activities centered around a theme of "God's Gold Medal Gifts" just in time to kick off the Olympics 2012! If you haven't received information about this and would like to know more or would like to register someone for this, please contact Debbie at the church office.

Special Youth Group Event in July

Youth Group will gather on July 23rd from 6-9 pm as part of an **ecumenical youth evening** with Hope Church, First Presbyterian, and Peace Lutheran. We'll start with dinner at Hope Church, then have tie dye and Frisbee golf as well as time for devotionals. Our theme for this evening as well as activities during the coming program year will be "Hospitality". There is no cost for the evening and all youth going into grades 6-12 for the 2012-2013 school year are invited to join us. Please RSVP to Debbie so that we can plan accordingly.

Episcopal Youth Camp 2012

There is still time to sign up for the Middle School and Junior Camp weeks of our **Diocesan Youth Camps**. Middle School Camp (youth entering 6th-8th grade) is August 5-11, 2012; and Junior Camp (youth entering 3rd - 5th grade) is August 12-18, 2012. Scholarships are available through Grace. Please contact Debbie at the church office for information about the camps or to apply for a scholarship. More camp information is also available at the EDWM website: <http://edwm.org/EYC/2012/index.htm>

CYM Volunteers Needed for 2012-2013

Please help us keep these vital ministries moving forward by volunteering to lead. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available ranging from one time to weekly activities. Leaders are needed for Growing into Worship (10:30-11:00 on Sundays), Youth Group (2 leaders needed – 1st and 3rd Sundays each month), and Middle School Sunday School (Sunday mornings at 9:15). Please contact the church office for more information.

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

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. Upcoming dates are **July 2nd, July 16th, July 30th, August 13th, and August 27th.**

EfM aka Education for Ministry

Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EfM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation we ask God to "Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them." EfM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.

EfM is truly, an intensive program of life-long learning! It comprises four years; a year of Old Testament, a year of New Testament, a year of Church History and a final year that takes a look at contemporary theologies and theologians.

EfM meets from September – May, meeting each Tuesday evening from 6:30 – 9:00 pm. We begin our time in worship, transitioning to discussing our lesson of the week, take a break for refreshment and usually spend our last time segment together in a time of Theological Reflection – looking at a slice of life and basically asking 'What (happened), So What and finally, Now What – how am I to respond to this particular slice of life! We do this using a variety of models of Theological Reflection – looking reflectively at our lives in light of scripture, tradition and culture.

If you are interested in beginning EfM next fall, please feel free to speak to one of the current members! Members of Grace Church currently participating are Sue Cloutier, Ann Mayers, Radha Deitenbeck, Paul Trap and Sarah Swart. You can also contact Mary Huisman, huismanmr@aol.com who is currently serving as the mentor of the group. This study, that comes from the University of the South, Sewanee, is also available 'online' if that is a way you might enjoy – come and see, come and see!



August Movie Night Wednesday Night, August 1st

5:30 pm - Munchies and Beverages

-Bring something for the table!

6:00 pm - Order pizza and the movie begins!

Whale Rider

Synopsis: Based on the novel of the same name by Maori writer Witi Ihimaera, *Whale Rider* is a unique family drama directed Niki Caro. On the eastern coast of New Zealand, the Whangara people believe their ancestor Paikea was saved from drowning by riding home on the back of a whale. The tribal group has since granted leadership positions to the first-born males, believing them to be descendants of Paikea. This tradition is challenged when a young mother dies in childbirth along with her newborn male son. His twin sister manages to survive and the father (Cliff Curtis) runs off, overwhelmed with grief. The little girl, Pai (Keisha Castle-Hughes), is brought up by stubborn grandfather Koro (Rawiri Paratene) and gentle grandmother Nanny (Vicky Haughton). Koro, the chief of their tribe, is disappointed because Pai's twin brother was supposed to be the next leader. Trying to find the proper successor, he attempts to organize a leadership group amongst the local boys while Pai enlists the help of her has-been uncle Rawiri (Grant Roa) to teach herself the art of chiefdom. She appears to possess a natural leadership ability and adventurous spirit that draws her to the proliferation of her faltering tribe. *Whale Rider* premiered at the 2002 Toronto International Film Festival and won the World Cinema Audience Award.

Diocese - Bishop Search Update

From the Diocese of Western Michigan's Bishop Search Team: We Invite You to "Have Your Say" at Grace

Our Diocese is currently in a period of transition. Our current bishop has announced his retirement effective August 2013, and so we are seeking our 9th Bishop to succeed him. A Search Team has been named, and a Diocesan Profile is being created and the election of our next Bishop is scheduled for May of 2013. The profile will be used to inform potential candidates about the Diocese of Western Michigan.

As we walk through this process, the Search Team invites you to "Have Your Say" about our diocese. We would like you to gather with other members of your parish and reflect together on who we are as a diocese and who God is calling us to become. These reflections will be incorporated into the Diocesan Profile and become part of the discernment process as we go about the search. **"Have Your Say" for Grace, Holland will take place on Thursday, July 18th at 7:00pm in the Forum Room of the parish.** Whether you are a longstanding member or a newcomer, a young person or a sage of the parish, your voice is welcome and your participation is encouraged. Clergy will not be present at the parish gatherings, but will be invited to other events intended to encourage their input into the process.

Finally, the Search Team has created a website and Facebook page to facilitate communication throughout the diocese.

- The website, <http://www.edwmsearch.org>, contains background information including the timeline for the search process and biographical information about the Search Team.
- The Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/edwmsearch>, has short, timely updates about events and progress.

If you are on Facebook, we request that you "like" the Facebook page. And please check the website, which will regularly have updated information regarding the status of the search process and how you can be involved.

Pastoral Care

MENTORS NEEDED

As most of you know, we participate in a ministry of a housing partnership with community agencies. In addition to supplying two houses and their care, we provide a mentoring team for each family. Two of the Grace volunteers befriend one family for their approximate 18-month stay.



Would you like to be a mentor? Please contact Rev. Jen Adams at the Church Office or at rev.jenadams@yahoo.com for more information, or join us the third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm to learn more.

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's next meetings will move to the **third Thursday** beginning on **Thursday, July 19th and Thursday, August 16th** 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.

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Clara Brower will host the summer salad supper at her home on **Tuesday, July 24**, at 6:30 pm. St. Martha's callers, guests and clergy will gather for appetizers, salads and desserts and a brief meeting.

Please join us if you are interested in making calls on the shut-in members and friends of Grace Church. Find out more about this Pastoral Care ministry by calling Peg Keegin, 335-9342.

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will hold their annual Christmas in July get-together on **Monday, July 9**, at 6 PM at Linda Elder's home. This will be a salad and dessert supper. We will be collecting toilet paper (Feeding America), paper towel (Humane Society) and/or detergent (Feeding America and Humane Society)--no gift wrapping necessary!! Mark your calendar and plan to join in the fun.

Fellowship / Building and Grounds

From Fellowship:

Pizza Sundays: We will continue to have pizza following the 10 am services on the 2nd Sunday of July and August.

Fenn Valley Winery wine tasting wagon tour & picnic - Plan to join us on Saturday, August 18th. We reserved 2 wagons again this year for a total of 44 spaces. You must be at least **21 years old** to attend this event. We will meet at Fenn Valley around 11:30 am and have our “potluck” lunch at noon. The wine tasting wagon tour starts promptly at 1:30 pm and lasts approx. 2 hours. Fellowship will provide plates, forks, cups etc. and the beverages. Please bring a dish to share. There will be **NO** sign-up sheet this year; instead we will be selling the tickets between the services on Sunday, July 29th & Sunday, August 5th. Tickets are \$10 per person.

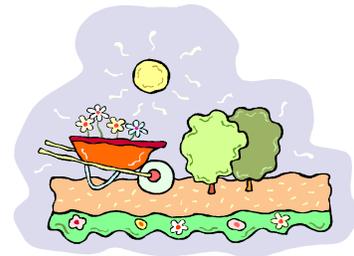
Kick-Off Sunday Picnic - Help us kick-off the new program year with a celebratory picnic at Moran Park! We'll play the traditional intergenerational Kick-Off Kickball game and take the parish photo. Kick-Off picnic will follow the 2nd service on September 9th. Food will be provided by Fellowship Commission with a donation asked of all who are able. \$5 per person or \$20 per family

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, August 7th** at 7 pm (no meeting in July) please join us!

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

Are you interested in Gardening? Building and Grounds wants you!

This year Building and Grounds would like to form a group to meet for a couple of hours throughout the summer to keep the church grounds looking great. We would meet from 9:00am to 11:00am on the following Saturdays: **July 21 and August 18.**



Please sign up in the commons if interested. Even if you cannot make all/any of these dates please sign up.

Donuts and coffee will be provided.

THANK YOU TO JUNE COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Doug & Ketzi Zylstra
Sandy Young & Chris Broersma
Jay & Karen Byslma
Eve Shetterly & Cathy DeVelder



*from Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

Outreach

FEEDING AMERICA

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates: **July 12th and August 9th**. 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 (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 the past 28 months 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".

MISSIONS for EVERYONE from the DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
GREAT NEED
GREAT OPPORTUNITIES
SPIRITUAL GROWTH
PERSONAL SATISFACTON

Kentucky Mission

Volunteers are needed in Kentucky the second and third week of September to rehab houses in one of the most impoverished areas of our country located within the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington.

South Dakota Mission

August 10 to 17 is the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Mission. Volunteers will immerse themselves in the Lakota Indian culture. Participants will travel through the Bad Lands visiting many historical sites, such as Wounded Knee. Working with tribal leaders, basic home repair will also be part of this mission. Volunteers can help with painting, insulation, building bunk beds, dry wall, or flooring.

New Orleans Mission

This will be the fourth year for this popular mission. Home repair continues to be the number one priority. This mission also offers community projects for those desiring an alternative to rehabbing homes. Volunteers can landscape refurbished homes, or plant trees or shrubs in the greater New Orleans area.

For all three missions, the Diocese covers the cost of registration, gas directly to and from the mission by car pools, motels up to \$80 per night directly to and from a mission, plus housing and meals while at the mission.

Contact Terry Dorcy at tjdorcy@aol.com, or call 269-349-3625 to register for one or more missions, or for further information.

Note from Grace's Gerry Cawthra: Pine Ridge, S.D. is FULL – with seven (7) Grace people going — including the team leaders, David Brower and Gerry Cawthra. Please consider one of these other missions. We gain as much, if not more, than we give!! Questions? Contact Gerry Cawthra at gcawthra@att.net, telephone 616-399-1221

IMPORTANT BICYCLE 'RECALL'

Community Action House (CAH) is issuing an 'IMPORTANT RECALL' for bicycles of any size and condition.



Our Bicycle Project Team will clean, adjust and refurbish bicycles received through this 'RECALL' and make them safe. They will then be given to our clients or placed for resale at our General Store. Your donated bicycle will free up space at your home, earn you a possible tax deduction, keep bicycles out of landfills and put a smile on the faces of each new bike owner.

Revenue generated from the sale of your donations helps support our programming, which is designed to empower families and individuals to break the cycle of poverty and to become self sufficient. Community Action House has been on the front line helping Holland/Zeeland area neighbors with food, clothing and shelter since 1969.

Please bring your bicycles and other donations to the CAH General Store at 694 Michigan Avenue in Holland. The General Store is open Monday - Friday, 10am to 6pm and Saturday, 10am to 2pm. Call Denny Oosterbaan at 616.738.1170 for additional information or to arrange a pick-up. Thank you!

From Taking Grace Green

WALKING AMONG THE GIANTS

We are often reminded that all living things on Earth are connected . . . and that the Earth itself is a living thing.

When I teach my Tai Chi classes I tell my students that there is energy in everything around us and we can use that energy to wake up the energy within ourselves. This can happen every day, and sometimes it can come in a spectacular way.

Two years ago we went to San Francisco for our nephew's wedding. We saw many wonderful geographical, cultural, and historical things, and stunning natural vistas . . .

Continued on next page

Stewardship / Taking Grace Green

Continued from previous page

At Yosemite, our first stop was the Mariposa Grove with the ancient Sequoia trees . . . the oldest living things on Earth. We walked among the giants, some two to three thousand years old. I was so moved that my eyes teared up, and I had to remember to keep breathing. I could feel their energy in the air as I reached out to touch their massive trunks.

Further on, at Glacier Point, we looked down into the valley and saw the giant granite mass of Half Dome and some of the giant waterfalls in the distance.

The next day we traveled into the Yosemite Valley and saw the famous El Capitan and Half Dome granite formations rising to 3,000 and 4,700 feet from the valley floor.

We walked through the meadows, over the grassy freshwater swales, and sat and ate lunch next to one of the snowmelt streams. We walked up to Bridal Veil Falls and drove along the narrow roads to look at the many other falls, granite formations, and life in the valley. We circled back, parked and watched the rock climbers on the vertical face of El Capitan. We could feel the energy of the valley everywhere we went. We took photo images and marveled at this place and its natural wonder.

Two days later we drove to Muir Woods National Park and walked the trails among the giant Redwoods, most of them four to eight hundred years old, and two hundred and fifty feet tall. We saw birds, chipmunks, squirrels, and deer in among the trees, felt the energy and were amazed at this beautiful, natural place.

Our trip was very special to us. Our experiences were many and memorable. Our chance to connect with the beauty, energy and wonder of Yosemite was priceless.

I have had my senses awakened skiing and fishing in the high country in winter in Colorado, in Yellowstone and on the rivers in Montana, on the waters and shoreline of Lake Michigan, on the beaches of Lake Superior, in Squaw Valley in California, in the north woods in Canada, among the glaciers in Alaska, in the mountains of New England, and too many other places to tell about here.

I do know the natural world is full of life . . . and we are a part of it. If we are open to it and its energy, we can wake up the energy in ourselves and connect with the wonders it offers.

Submitted by Bill Mendenhall

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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.



2 Pam Brown
Katie Polik
3 Jessica Cloutier
5 Fred McConkey
6 Gerald Rinks
8 John Adams
Chuck Huttar
10 Jan De Fouw
11 Suzanne Cloutier
Mel Van Oosterhout
12 Eileen Jenkins
13 Renee Krueger
15 Mike Canaan
Barbara Hettinga
Joy Huttar

16 Ruth Brown
17 David Cloutier
Duanne Masselink
18 Ken Helder
20 Eleanor Ervine
Brad Gamby
Eric Heiberg
Peg Keegin
Scott Remenschneider
Michele Slee
22 Paul Trap
23 Susan Bentley
24 Damien Piersma
Patricia Shinabarger

25 Ben Bier
Dustin Hopkins
26 Laura Sligh
28 Bob Frey
Philip Muzzy
29 Terry Bardelmeier
Sean Goodman
Jack Sligh

1 Tammy Kelly
3 Rob Hodson
5 Arkie Pierson
6 Robbie Schorle
7 John Shea
8 Brian Wennersten
9 Genevieve Manderfield
12 Mel Porter
Grace Church of Holland
15 Connie Moeke
17 Nanette Covington

18 Dolores Barkel
Quinn Vander Kamp
19 Logan Schmidt
20 Geri Guyer
22 Roger Gamache
24 Lora Lee Murray
Bill Rhodes
25 Nichole Bier
Michelle Fries
27 Sophie Adams
28 Sharie Phillips



Birthdays & Anniversaries in July

5 Nichole & Bill Bier
Elizabeth Brubaker & Tom Kelley
9 Eve & Stephen Shetterly
11 Clara & David Brower
12 Pat & John Paris
13 Duanne & Dave Masselink
16 LeeAnne & Scott Jachim
17 Yvonne & Joe Logan
Kyle & Jennifer Shinabarger
18 Ken & Gemmy Helder
20 Connie & George Moeke
22 Cherie & Matt Schmidt
26 Sally & Morley Byxbe
27 Nance & Jeff Clark



Birthdays & Anniversaries in August

4 Chris & Jim Wennersten
6 Megan & Ryle Kiser
8 Anne & Roger Gamache
Ketzi & Doug Zylstra
9 Heather & Doug Danby
Krista & Guy Packard
13 Erma & Don Bruggink
14 Ruth & David Hawley-Lowry
15 Carrie & Rob Hodson
17 Renee & Brent Krueger
Terry & Richard Swaney
23 Joy & Chuck Huttar
24 Laura & Mike Canaan
26 Kim & John Shea
Chris St. John & Bill Rhodes