

Grace to You

July/August 2010
Volume 2010, Issue 7

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Debbie Coyle, Director of Children's
& Youth Ministries, Communications
Secretary
Thom Samuelson, Sexton
Gail Westerhof, Secretary
Mary Battaglia, Financial Secretary

Summer. . .turns me upside down. --- The Cars

One of the beautiful truths about living on the Lakeshore is that there truly is a “summer mode” here. While not quite upside down, things do slow down a bit and it seems that no matter what your work happens to be, we’re given the opportunity to refocus our energies once June comes around. And there’s something very healthy about shifting gears, taking time to appreciate the sunshine, stroll Farmer’s Market, sit on the beach and allow ourselves time to catch up with ourselves. (Even healthier would be to not get so far behind ourselves that we NEED summer. But I’ll save that challenge for another article.)

Here at Grace we worship and we pray, we are God’s people gathered no matter what the season, but we also we use summer time to evaluate, to plan and to take on some projects that aren’t as possible at other times of the year. This summer at Grace our projects include a mission-focused week for youth, Diocesan summer camps, the Monday series “Praying with the Elements,” a Diocesan youth trip to the Dominican Republic, renewal of our parish Commons, roof repair and the painting of one of our Grace Church homes in preparation for welcoming a new family through the Community Housing Project. This summer will provide opportunities for projects based on service, renewal and planning.

So as you enjoy the long days of summer, know a couple of things: there will be some “upside down” moments around church as the Commons is refreshed, as we stretch ourselves in prayer and service, as we welcome new neighbors into our home and offer them our care. And upside down requires a special patience and trust so please keep these things in your mind and in your heart. And also know that even though it’s summer, we need the gifts of everyone who is Grace. Be sure to be here on the second Thursday to offer hospitality and distribute food. Sign up to help paint. Participate in “Praying the Elements.” Pray for our youth as they travel and serve. Consider serving as a mentor for the new CHP family. There is a place for everyone in the work that we do.

Enjoy these sunny days and be sure to allow some room for a little summer upside down.

Peace,

Jen

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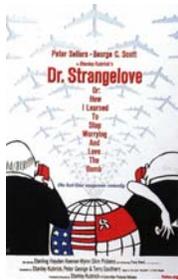
Summer Movie Series to Focus on Current Events

from Henry Idema

This summer we will be exploring a number of issues through film. July and August focus will be current events through film. The group gathers in the lower level Forum Room at 5:30 for refreshments. The movie begins at 6:00 and pizza will be served during the movie. Please bring a \$5 donation if you plan on having pizza. Hope you will join us!

The film selections for this series include:

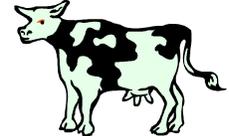
Wednesday, July 7: SEVEN DAYS IN MAY (1963), starring Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Ava Gardner and Fredric March. This movie is a classic suspense film, written for the screen by Rod Serling. The movie explores the possibility of a military takeover of our government because of the President's pacifist agenda with the Soviet Union. President Kennedy supported and actually helped with the making of this film. The military was not asked.



Wednesday, July 14: DR. STRANGELOVE, starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden, and many others. This film takes a satirical look at the potential outcomes of a never ending arms race.

Wednesday, August 4: CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY, directed by Michael Moore. This film, even if you do not agree with Moore's politics, is highly entertaining—and informative. Great fun to see our some of our politicians and capitalists hung out to dry.

Wednesday, August 11: FOOD, INC. You'll never look at dinner the same way again.



ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will meet on Monday, July 12, at 6:30 pm in the Commons at church. This is the annual *Christmas in July* get-together. Bring a salad or dessert and a \$5 gift for the gift exchange.



Water, Wind, Earth & Fire: The Christian Practice of Praying with the Elements

by Christine Valters Paintner

Join us for six Monday evening's this summer as we explore praying with the elements. Christian tradition tells us that we have received two books of divine revelation: the book of scripture and the book of nature. Creation itself is a sacred text through which the presence of God is revealed to us. There is much to explore in the water, wind, earth and fire and the summertime seems like a wonderful time to explore how we can pray with the elements of creation!

The book is organized around "The Canticle of Creation" by St. Francis of Assisi, "Water, Wind, Earth, and Fire" is the first book to consider the ways in which praying with the natural elements can enliven Christian spiritual life.

Paintner offers concrete suggestions and guided contemplative exercises; for instance, she suggests that readers take time to "watch the sunrise or sunset and breathe in the beauty of the fiery sky. Contemplate what those beginnings and endings have to say in your own life." Readers benefit from the author's extensive training in theology and Benedictine spirituality, as well as her unique work in bringing the expressive arts to spiritual direction.

Classes will meet on Monday evening's beginning June 28, 2010. We will not meet on July 5 but will continue through August 9, 2010 and we will meet from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Mary Benedict and Mary Huisman will facilitate the class. A Sign up sheet will be available later in May!

- Week 1 Introduction and exploring the creation story through various means...
- Week 2 Explore Chapter 1, Brother Wind...
- Week 3 Explore Chapter 2, Brother Fire...
- Week 4 Explore Chapter 3, Sister Water...
- Week 5 Explore Chapter 4, Sister Earth...
- Week 6 Conclusion and a wrapping up ...



If you have any questions, contact Mary Benedict or Mary Huisman!

We're Steppin' Up

By Debbie Coyle – Director of Children's and Youth Ministries



As you know, each year, several of our youth make the transition from Middle School to High School. This year is no exception. Our 2010 "Steppin' Up" group will be Daniel Hawley-Lowry, Katie Polik, Zack Smalldon, and Connor Stubbs.

They will begin the transition with a seminar retreat led by Rev. Jen which will challenge them to reflect on where they have been, how they got to where they are, and where they are going. They will be asked to participate in a variety of activities to discern, with perhaps a little more clarity, their individual responses to those questions.

Once they have had the opportunity to reflect upon their lives and consider moving forward, they will participate in the "Steppin' Up" Celebration during the 10:00 service on Sunday August 29th. There will be a reception during coffee hour that morning hosted by the current High School youth at Grace to welcome them into High School programming.

Remember that each of you brings your gifts to the Grace community and to the lives of these young people. Your support and encouragement of these youth has helped them as they have and will continue through their Christian Education and Formation. Therefore, we invite you to be a part of this important step for our youth as we celebrate them and embrace their transitioning into High School.

Faces of Grace — Joyce Elferdink

By Christi Broersma

Joyce Elferdink has been at Grace for just a year. She retired here after living and working in Detroit for many years. She grew up in Holland and attended both the Holland and West Ottawa Schools, but moved to the East side of the state after graduating from college.

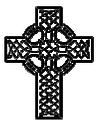
Her career life has been a constantly evolving part of her life. She began as an assistant bank manager, and moved on into the field of economics as an economic development director in the Detroit area. Before moving back to the Holland area she had lived in Corktown which is one of the neighborhoods in Detroit. Made up of row houses and Federal style homes the neighborhood is the oldest in the city.



She presently is teaching as an Adjunct Online Communications Instructor at Davenport University and has also taught as an Adjunct Instructor at Baker College in Muskegon. Don't think she is resting much since her retirement because like many here at Grace she is dedicated to stretching herself and doing much more than typical retirement activities.

Being involved in HASP (Hope Academy of Senior Professional) courses at Hope College is just the beginning of who she is these days. At present she is also involved with a partner in the creation of a training program for the corporate world. *We Train Leaders* is an online course designed to support executives and move companies of all sizes away from the hierarchical leadership approach that is so much a part of the business world today. It is being designed to be used by companies of all sizes to support the changes necessary to help businesses function in today's world-wide business market.

If that wasn't enough she is spreading her creative spirit to also include writing a science fiction based story with many interesting twists and turns that is almost done. These interests and so much more keep her rediscovering life, and she's just one small part of the body of Christ here at Grace Church in Holland.



Prayer List as of June 21, 2010

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Bill Rhodes, Janet Klumpp, Jodi, Mel Porter, David Vos, the Cornwall family, the Wilson family, the Broersma family, Donna Molendyk, the Bentley family, Jenny, Adam, Sandy, Tom, Kathy Fritz (daughter-in-law of Barb & Scott Anderson), Bernice Viher (grandmother of Alex Foster), Jackson Van Singel and family, Gail Malkiewicz, Shannon, Beth Zirille, John, Gail Davison, Stephanie Hartford, Lynn Smith, DonnaAmy, Dana Whitelaw, Diane, Janet Huyser, Andrew, for the unemployed or under-employed, for the people of the Middle East and other areas of war and unrest, for the women and men of the Armed Forces, especially Chuck, Jeremy, David, and other loved ones of our parish family; and for Warwick and Michael as they travel, for those whose lives are affected by the oil disaster and those who work to remedy it; Stafford, Brooks and Isaac, the Whitcomb family, Erin Walker, Katherine McNamar, Judy Ching, the people of Haiti, Chile and China, relief workers, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Jon Fries, Bobbie Deitenbeck, Judy Zylstra, Ralph, Sharon King, Karla Meeks, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, Dolores & Earl, Karen Trap, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Marian Schultz, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Richard Bailey, Eric Heiberg, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Ruth Hill, Betty & Jerry, Bob & Donna, Marge Homan (mother of Carol Homan), Mary Rieckmann, Curt Keegin, Vivian Kingsley, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Patrice Mourot, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Pam Brown | | 22 Gwen Miller |
| Katie Polik | | Jim Thomas |
| 3 Jessica Cloutier | 15 Mike Canaan | Paul Trap |
| 5 Fred McConkey | Barbara Hettinga | 23 Susan Bentley |
| 6 Gerald Rinks | Joy Huttar | 24 Damien Piersma |
| 8 John Adams | 16 Ruth Brown | Patricia Shinabarger |
| Kelsey Carmichael | Mike Miller | 25 Ben Bier |
| Chuck Huttar | 17 David Cloutier | Andy Clark |
| 10 Jan De Fouw | Duanne Masselink | Dustin Hopkins |
| 11 Suzanne Cloutier | 18 Ken Helder | 26 Laura Sligh |
| Carrie Hirdes | 20 Eleanor Ervine | 28 Bob Frey |
| Karin Smith | Brad Gamby | Philip Muzzy |
| Mel Van Oosterhout | Eric Heiberg | 29 Terry Bardelmeier |
| 12 Eileen Jenkins | Peg Keegin | Sean Goodman |
| 13 Renee Krueger | Michele Slee | Jack Sligh |
| | | 31 Ross Anderson |



Birthdays & Anniversaries in July

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

- 1 Tammy Kelly
John Molendyk
- 2 Teresa Hittner
- 3 Rob Hodson
- 4 Erik Anderson
- 5 Arkie Pierson
- 6 Robbie Schorle
- 7 John Shea
- 8 Brian Wennersten
- 9 Genevieve Manderfield
- 12 Mel Porter
Grace Church of Holland
- 13 Vickie Witteveen
- 15 Connie Moeke
Heather Danby
- 17 Nanette Covington
- 18 Dolores Barkel
- 19 Logan Schmidt

- 20 Geri Guyer
- 22 Roger Gamache
- 24 Bill Rhodes
Lora Lee Murray
- 25 Nichole Bier
Michelle Fries
Lily Mendels
Michaela Van Dis
- 27 Sophie Adams
Aaron Stauffer
- 28 Bob Miller
Sharie Phillips



*Birthdays &
Anniversaries
in August*

- 4 Chris & Jim Wennersten
- 6 Megan & Ryle Kiser
- 8 Anne & Roger Gamache
- 9 Heather & Douglas Danby
Krista & Guy Packard
- 13 Erma & Don Bruggink
- 14 Ruth & David Hawley-Lowry
- 15 Carrie & Rob Hodson
- 16 Tammi & Stephen Schafer

- 17 Renee & Brent Krueger
Terry & Richard Swaney
- 21 Chris & Bob Gamble
- 23 Joy & Chuck Huttar
- 24 Laura & Mike Canaan
- 26 Kim & John Shea
Chris St. John & Bill Rhodes

Any ideas about what this newsletter might become?

About three months ago, the Evangelism and Communications Commission began talking in earnest about our vision for the parish's monthly newsletter—as a vehicle for more than just announcements and official statements: more than a bulletin board. The immediate context was the idea of adding to the staff (on a part-time basis) a professional communications person. We still hope to do this when it's possible within the budget.

But for now, we decided to press forward with considering content and policy ideas, so at our June meeting there was extensive conversation on this subject. And we now invite members of the parish to share with us their ideas. Here are some key thoughts that came up in our discussion:

- ✓ To enhance the content is a worthy goal.
- ✓ There may be members of the Grace community who would like, and who would find it fulfilling in some way, perhaps an aspect of their “lay ministry,” to present to fellow-parishioners their thoughts about our common faith and walk, using the newsletter as a vehicle. Healthy conversation and dialogue are always desirable, as is a sharing of one's Christian experiences (“faith journeys”). Perhaps, then, members should be formally encouraged to submit contributions.
- ✓ However, dialogue and sharing already occur in other situations, including (but not limited to) the Vestry, Commissions, and other parish organizations. Written statements from individual parishioners ideally should not appear in isolation from these larger conversations.
- ✓ There needs to be some editorial oversight regarding submissions from individuals. The Rector has the final authority.
- ✓ In any case, all newsletter content needs to be identified as to its source.

It's important to remember, too, that besides being a way of communicating with each other within the parish, the newsletter functions as one of the ways that Grace reaches out to others.

What are your thoughts? Please feel free to respond by email (huttar@hope.edu) or other written communication, or orally to any of the Commission members: Jim Barry, Cal Boer, Bruce Fries, Charles Huttar, Dave Masselink, Gordon Young, or Pastor Jen.

Also—a final thought—if any of you think you might be interested in working on one or more of the Commission's rather wide range of tasks, we'd be happy to fill you in on the possibilities.

Submitted by Charles Huttar, E&C Chair

Fellowship Opportunities Provide Great Summer Fun!

Whitecaps Game - Our summer night at the ball park will be on Saturday, July 31st at 7 pm. After the game, stay and watch the fireworks. Tickets are \$9 each. We currently have 30 tickets, if there is greater demand we will try to get more. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Commons.

Fenn Valley Vineyards wine tasting wagon tour & picnic - Come join us on Saturday, August 21st. Last year everyone had such a good time, so we reserved 2 wagons this year. There will be 44 spaces available in the wagons and you must be at least **21 years old** to attend this event. Cost will be \$10 per person. We will have a picnic lunch at noon and the wine tasting wagon tour starts at 2 pm and lasts about 2 hours. Fellowship will provide plates, cups etc. and the fixings for deli sandwiches. Please bring a dish to share; salads, desserts etc. The signup sheet is posted in the Commons, along with brochures that include a map to the Fenn Valley Vineyards.

Kick-Off Sunday Picnic - If we happen to miss any of you during the summer months, then we hope to see you again in September for the Kick-Off Sunday picnic following the 2nd service on **September 12th**. It's a great way to reconnect.

The next meeting of Fellowship Commission is Monday, August 2nd at 7 pm in the Commons. Please join us!

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

St. Martha's Guild holds Summer Meeting

St. Martha's Guild will hold their summer get-together on Tuesday, July 27, at 6:30 pm at Jill Mendenhall's home, 1322 Heather Drive.

Volunteers from St. Martha's make year-round calls to members or friends of Grace Church who are unable to get out very often. Visiting is a good way to stay in touch with someone who has few opportunities to be in touch with members of Grace. St. Martha's visitors make two to three calls per month which usually take about an hour. If you can provide an afternoon once or twice a month you will become acquainted with a delightful and interesting group of people.



Our July 27 meeting at Jill's is an opportunity to enjoy a salad supper and brief meeting with all of the current volunteers. Come join us. There are lots of friendly faces, some whom you already know and many who are waiting to meet you.

Please consider sharing in this pastoral care ministry. Plan to join us for the semi-annual supper and learn more about St. Martha's Guild. Call Jill at 335-2775 or Peg Keegin at 335-9342. We'd love to have you.

Into the Storm

From Bill Mendenhall of the Taking Grace Green Committee

Several years ago, up north at our cottage, I decided to take our two dogs, Maggie and Cassidy, for a boat ride after dinner. We still had daylight and even though they had a busy day of boat rides, running and swimming at the Lake Michigan beach, and other outside activities, they were anxious for some more adventure.

The sky was clear and the wind was breezy, so we boarded the pontoon boat and headed out. We went west to run along the shoreline to the south of the boy's camp across from our cottage. Once there we turned and watched for deer with their young coming to the water's edge to drink and cool off, and we watched overhead for birds above the tree covered peninsula which separates our lake from Lake Michigan. It was quiet with no boats but ours on the lake.

As we moved past the opening to the outlet and on toward the historic Inn at Watervale on the south end of the lake, we continued to look for wildlife. We passed the big dune with its sliding sand and turned to the west, running around the small bay, and circled around the edge turning back east to the Watervale Resort property.

We continued along the shoreline and then turned north to run back up the middle of the lake, went about a hundred yards and watched an incredible storm cell quickly move across the peninsula from Lake Michigan and over our lake. The dogs were taken with the sudden change and so was I. We were under and inside of a low storm with the most incredible colors I have seen in my lifetime. The cell was just above tree level and was an intimidating, rotating kaleidoscope of patches and layers of black, grey, grey blue, pink, red, yellow, and orange . . . some highlighted from the sun's rays above. And we were looking at small windows of blue sky with beams of sunlight peaking through. It was a National Geographic photo moment . . . and I hadn't brought my camera. It was back at the cottage.

As the cell moved to the east, the colors were rotating, changing their shapes and positions. We had the soft top up on the boat so I wasn't concerned about getting a soaking as the rains came, but I was concerned about lightening if it came. We moved forward into the storm and sped up a bit, but weren't going to outrun it. We motored on and just watched with fixed amazement.

It didn't rain much and the lightening didn't come. The cell moved east and took the colors with it. We finally reached our dock, put the boat on the hoist and went up the lawn and into the cottage. We asked the family if they had seen the cell with its incredible color show. They had not. They had moved inside when it came and looked out through the trees worrying about us on the open water. We were the only witnesses to the inside of the unique storm cell from the middle of the lake.

The National Geographic moments in nature can happen around us at any time. A fox running down the two track road, deer coming through the woods to drink at the water's edge, the beautiful colors of a trout in your hand before you release it, an Eagle flying overhead. They don't always come on schedule . . . but if we open our senses to them, they do come to us. And, if we are open and ready, we will enjoy the rewards they bring with them.

Announcements and Notices

Thank you to our wonderful coffee hour hosts for May and June!

*Cursillo Kitchen Team
Duanne & Dave Masselink
Jennifer Wolfe & Brad Richmond
Tom & Tammy Kelly
Cherie & Roger DeCook
Sue & Steve Cloutier
Jay & Karen Bylsma
Barb Vincenci, Dianne Glupker, & Mary Benedict*



- from Laurie VanArk, Coffee Hour Coordinator

Calling All YOUTH!!!!

Hey Grace youth, don't forget to sign up for the Grace Youth local mission trip this summer. We will be serving our local and extended community the week of July 12-16th from 9-4 each day. Call the church to register. The cost for the week is \$25, to cover materials and meals. This will run as a "day" camp so that we can include as many Grace Youth as possible. Contact Debbie at the church for more information or at debcoyle@gmail.com. Plan to be there!

Do you feel called to serve in Children's and Youth Ministries?

After a successful program year, we are putting plans together for the fall! Our program depends upon volunteers to make it a success. We are currently looking for adults in the Grace community to serve as volunteers in the following areas: Sunday morning education hour, chaperones / drivers for youth events, behind the scenes "meals and materials" support, or "guest" leaders for occasional youth activities. Please contact Debbie at debcoyle@gmail.com if you can help!

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are still Sundays available in the summer and fall for donating Altar flowers. This is a nice way to honor or remember someone or a special event. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Commons. An Altar Guild member will contact you the week before your designated Sunday. Cost is \$50-\$75.

***The deadline for submissions to the September 2010 Kick-Off issue of Grace to You is August 18, 2010.
Please contact the church office at gechurch@sbcglobal.net for more details.***

Financial Stewardship Report - Total Gifts

May Budget	\$ 25,886	Year-to-Date Budget	\$ 136,384
May Received	\$ 32,010	Year-to-Date Received	\$ 140,452
May Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 6,124	Year-to-Date Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 4,068

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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.

Come and See.....

What's happening at Grace

Please note the corrected dates for
Praying with the Elements:

Monday evenings June 28 through August 9
except July 5
from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

