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Jennifer Wolfe, Children's Choir
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Thom Samuelson, Sexton
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The Realignment that is Lent

This year I've decided that one of the best metaphors for what we are about this season might actually be the work of a chiropractor. Chiropractors help the body re-align and the treatment is generally offered for reasons of pain, or basic functioning issues, or core health needs. And in Lent, our work sounds a lot like that. This season we are called to pay particular attention to the ways in which we are out of alignment spiritually and to do what it takes to get back in faithful sync. We are called also to tend to the larger Body of Christ, offering ourselves to its hurting places, renewing our commitment to its health, and moving steadily forward together into the Paschal mystery, that which ultimately aligns us with the grace filled promise of new life.

And so this season, we listen to our bones and ask what it will take them to dance. We notice our imbalances and do what it takes to re-ground ourselves. We tend to our own pain and the suffering of the world and do something to help alleviate that which can be relieved. And we consider the Body, asking what reconciliation among God's people really involves and then do a little something (or a big something) that might help a lost one, or a disenfranchised one, or a stray one to re-home among us.

So consider doing some realigning over the course of these forty days. Our bodies, our souls and the larger Body of Christ need a season like this to name what's not quite right and to take intentional steps toward righting it, whatever that means in terms of faithful response to self, and God, and neighbor. And then ultimately, through the grace of God, we will be healed, we will be whole, and new life will come with the Alleluias we have yet to sing.

Peace,

Jen

Lenten Forums Sundays at 9:15am



Feb 26 Lenten Intergeneration in the Undercroft

(Conclusion of the PBS Series, “Three Faiths, One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam in the Forum Room”)

March 4 Take Up Your Cross

This Sunday’s reading from the gospel of Mark contains Jesus’ teaching that we must take up our own cross if we are to follow him. What does taking up your cross look like? We’ll explore this question by making simple collages that express a genuine and faithful response. (No art experience required!)

March 11 Old Friends/Bookends: Reflections on 40 Years of Ministry

Taking the title from Simon and Garfunkel, Henry will speak this final Sunday before his full retirement. We’ll have cake and celebration after the 10:30 service and will use this Forum time to hear his reflections and plans as Henry takes these next steps.

March 18 Come to the Light

This Sunday’s gospel from John says that God sent Jesus into the world to love the world and to be light for the world even in the presence of darkness. We’ll explore the play of darkness and light through the meditative making of mandalas.

March 25 New Beginnings: Welcome, Dennis Remenschneider

This Sunday we welcome The Rev. Dennis Remenschneider into the role of Pastoral Support Clergy. Come hear Dennis talk about his background, pastoral experience and why he said, “Yes!” to serving at Grace Church.

April 1 Stay Awake and Pray

Prior to his arrest and crucifixion, Jesus asks the disciples to be present and pray with him. Using a technique called “Praying in Color” we will identify the prayers we carry as we enter into Holy Week and Easter.

Grace



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES:

With the season of Lent, the CYM program turns its focus to spiritual practices. This began on the first Sunday in Lent (Feb. 26th) with an intergenerational lesson about spiritual practices and how to incorporate them into our busy schedules. The Elementary class will continue their study of the Liturgical year with particular attention paid to Lent and the meaning behind the season. The Middle School class will begin a unit called "The Gospel According to Seuss" in which they will use the Dr. Seuss books to find themes of community. In addition, the Middle School group will be learning about giving through a study of the Heifer International project. The Crossways class (High School and adult) is continuing with great conversations and study of the Bible's Big Story. The Youth Groups have begun their annual "Grace Youth Move-A-Thon" which is their Lenten community service project in which they will take pledges to help raise funds for the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Thank you to the families of Grace who very kindly shared their personal experiences at DeVos Children's Hospital. It was very helpful for the youth to have a direct understanding of the work at DeVos.

Over the coming weeks, the children and youth will continue to learn about and practice with spiritual practices as they move toward the coming Easter season.

Volunteers are still needed for Growing into Worship and Middle School Sunday School. If you would like to be a part of programming for Children and Youth, please contact the church office for more information.

Thanks!

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

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR YOUTH CAMP!

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to participate in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan's Youth Camp this summer. Senior Camp (grades 9-12) will run June 12-23; Middle School Camp (grades 6-8) will run August 5-11, 2012; Junior Camp (grades 3-5) will run August 12-18. Cost is \$375 for camp, with an "early bird special" price of \$325 if you register by April 9th. Also Grace has some scholarships available. Visit the EDWM website to register <http://edwm.org/EYC/2012> or contact Debbie at the Church office for details.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars! VBS is coming back to Grace this summer. We had such a great response last year to the Grace VBS that we will be hosting it again this year, in the same format on Monday, July 23 through Thursday, July 26th from 9-12. Our theme this year will be the Olympics! Look for more information to come!

Wednesdays in Lent

Eating and Praying Together Wednesdays in Lent

Ash Wednesday: February 22

Soup Supper at 6:15pm in the Undercroft

Holy Eucharist & the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00pm

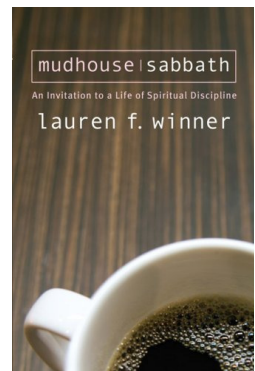
Mid-Lenten Wednesdays: February 29 - March 28

Supper at 5:45pm & Holy Eucharist at 6:30pm in Undercroft

Book Discussion at 7:00pm led by Jen Adams

**Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to Spiritual Discipline,
by Lauren Winner**

After her conversion from Orthodox Judaism to Christianity, Lauren Winner found that her life was indelibly marked by the rich traditions and spiritual practices of Judaism and so she set out to discover how she could incorporate some of these practices into her new faith. She writes, "Spiritual practices don't justify us. They don't save us. Rather, they refine our Christianity; they make the inheritance Christ gives us on the cross more fully our own. . . Practicing the spiritual disciplines does not make us Christians. Instead, the practicing teaches us what it means to *live* as Christians. . . The ancient disciples form us to respond to God, over and over always, in gratitude, in obedience, and in faith." Come explore practices such as prayer, fitting food, mourning, candle lighting, aging, fasting, wedding, door posts, and hospitality this Lent.



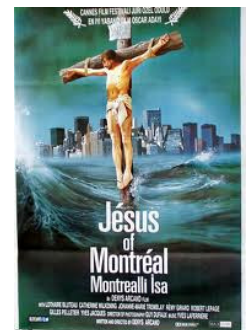
*Suggested donations for supper are \$5 per person & \$15 per family.
Cost of the book if able is \$12.00*

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 4th

Snacks and Conversation 5:30pm

Pizza and Movie at 6:00pm

Jesus of Montreal: A modern-day Passion Play becomes a reenactment of the life and death of Jesus Christ in more ways than one with this critically acclaimed drama from Quebec filmmaker Denys Arcand. Daniel Colombe, an intense young actor in Montreal is hired by church fathers to restage and update the city's annual Passion Play. Daniel hires a group of struggling young actors that become devoted to him and his creative vision as he devises an extremely avant-garde production that takes Christ's rebellious teachings literally. Real life begins imitating biblical events as the actors lives begin to mimic the roles they play and the story unfolds."



*Please join us in the Undercroft
on Wednesday nights for the
Lenten Suppers**



February 29	Pasta Bar
March 7	Baked Potato Bar
March 14	Lasagna: meat & vegetarian
March 21	Gourmet Salad Bar w/ grilled chicken
March 28	Taco Bar

***All Lenten Suppers will have a vegetarian option.**

The suppers start at 5:45 pm and will be followed by the Holy Eucharist at 6:30 pm.

Suggest donation: \$5 per person or \$15 per family

Sponsored by the Fellowship Commission

GRACE YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir will continue the regular program year with weekly Sunday rehearsals after church. Take time to grab a snack and visit with friends, then join us (sometimes upstairs, sometimes in the sanctuary) for a rehearsal until 12:30. Singers from second grade through early high school are encouraged to participate, with no prior experience needed.

Please call or write with any questions: Jen Wolfe, wolfe@hope.edu, 395-8387. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES:

Alternate Mondays, 5:30 to 6:45 pm (a men's discussion group) — The men's study group "Beer and Bibles" 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 **March 12 and 26**.

Outreach

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 Diane Morgan at 269-857-3496 or at dr.dmorgan@yahoo.com for more information, or join us the third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm to learn more.

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”.

FEEDING AMERICA

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates: **March 8th and April 12th**. 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.

Submitted by Sue Cloutier

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA, FIRST 2012 DIOCESAN MISSION

When the tornadoes hit in April 2011, 228 residents of Alabama died. Hundreds of buildings and homes were leveled. Rescuers used pieces of debris as makeshift stretchers for survivors. Homes were without roofs. Household items were scattered all over the city. Streets were impassible, the pavement strewn with trees, houses and cars with their windows blown out. Like New Orleans, it will take years to recover from the devastation.

March 9 to March 18 are the dates for the mission to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Helping rebuild the area is the primary focus. Work besides rebuilding will also be available. Experience with dry wall, framing, flooring, installing windows, doors, cabinets and bathroom fixtures is a plus. Painting, insulating, yard work, clean up, camp maintenance, and meal preparation are also needed. Crew leaders provide on the job training for volunteers.

Additional 2012 missions are listed below. Contact Terry Dorcy to register or with questions about a mission at tjdorcy@aol.com or 269-349-3625

Joplin, Missouri	April 25 to May 5
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation	August 11 to 17
Irvine, Kentucky	
Reading Camp	June 22 to 30
Rebuild	Sept 15 to 22 and 23 to 29
New Orleans	November 10 to 17

OTHER MISSION TRIPS 2012

Consider taking part in one of the Diocesan Mission trips this year. In taking part you will gain as much as you give!

We will be returning to Pine Ridge, SD, - the Oglala Sioux Lakota Nation Indian Reservation. Rev. David Brower and Gerry Cawthra, will be the leaders for this mission trip. A few Grace parishioners have shown an interest, and we would like to have others join us. The dates are August 11 to August 17 – leaving the 10th and returning home the 18th. It can get very hot at this time of year, but others have done it and so can we!

The other trips will be to the Appalachian Mountain area of Kentucky in the fall, and probably to New Orleans and/or the Gulf Coast area. As soon as I know the dates for these trips, I will publish them.

It is not necessary to have any certain skills – jobs can be found for everyone. Please think about it.

Submitted by Gerry Cawthra

View up-to-date
events on our
Google calendar.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Vivian Cook
Julia Ford
Marilyn Glor
Mara McNamar | 12 Howard Nyhof
Spencer Kelley | 26 Jim Barry
Clara Brower
David Methric
Ted Reimer |
| 4 Erin Linn | 13 Curtis Keegin | 27 Melissa Easdon |
| 5 Katrina Essenburg
Ashley Hopkins
Karissa Ward | 14 Pamela Buitendorp-
Drew | 28 Nance Clark
Elizabeth Jenkins |
| 6 Douglas Bier
Nancy Hensley
Frank Knoop
Catherine Krueger
Mary Matrosic
Rosemary Turpin
Laurie Van Ark | 16 Sarah Reinink | 29 Joan Heneveld
Lilly Sanchez |
| 7 Dustin Jachim | 17 David Keegin
Mick Schorle | 30 Gail Geiger
Gordon Hignite
Lorie Shier |
| 9 Kyle Murray | 18 Dianne Glupker
Trecy Meier
Jim Sligh
Solomon Young Tait | 31 Barbara Griffin |
| 10 Sharon Morrill | 19 Chuck Biolette
Mark Balisi
Brad Hirdes | |
| 11 Lyndsey Reimer
Emily Servinsky
Sarah Servinsky | 20 Danny Matrosic | |
| | 21 Leslie Sligh | |
| | 22 Patricia De Pree
Mike Phillips | |
| | 23 Dave Phillips | |
| | 25 Gerlinde Knoll | |



Birthdays & Anniversaries in March

- 3 Sally & Rod Reinink
- 4 Lora Lee & Chuck Murray
- 17 Vivian & Gerard Cook
- 19 Gloria & Gordon Hignite
- 20 Mary & Andy Huisman



Grace Episcopal Church Holy Week & Easter Schedule

We Process and Shout Hosanna! - Palm Sunday (April 1) 8:15, 10:30AM

Join us for a blessing of the palms, triumphal procession into church, narration of the Passion of Our Lord, and celebration of Holy Communion. The 10:30 service will begin in the Church yard—weather permitting.

We ‘Do this in Remembrance’ - Maundy Thursday (April 5) 6PM

Join us for an Agape meal, a foot washing, and Communion as we remember the Last Supper. We close with a stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday. Please bring bread, wine, or fruit for the meal if you are able and let us know via a sign-up sheet in the Commons what you plan to bring.

We Kneel at the Foot of the Cross - Good Friday (April 6) 7PM

Join us as we mark the crucifixion of our Lord with the Story of the Passion, solemn reflections, prayers, and song.

We Proclaim His Resurrection!

Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 7) 8:45PM - Gather with us at sundown in the Church yard as we kindle a fire in the darkness and process in to listen to the Biblical story of God’s saving actions. At the news of Christ’s resurrection, we shout “Alleluia!”, ring bells, sing praises, and celebrate Holy Communion. (Bring your bells!) A celebratory dessert feast will follow this service.

Easter Service (Sunday, April 8) 10:30AM - We gather in the good news of Christ’s resurrection, celebrating Baptisms, Communion, and offering our thanks and praise to God.

Come walk with us as we walk with Christ.

Childcare is provided at all services during Holy Week.

Other Opportunities

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's Guild will meet on **Monday, March 12, at 7:15 PM** in the Forum Room. The presenter will be our own Brian Coyle. He will be speaking about his specialty....JAZZ! This meeting is open to everyone. Mark your calendars!! Hostesses are Sandy Young and Cathy deVelder.

Mark your calendar!

MARKETPLAATS

No car wash, no bake sale, no other fundraisers.... Because you help at Marketplaats! As you may know, Marketplaats is the Dutch Food Court at the Holland Civic Center during Tulip Time. The Grace Youth work with the United Methodist Women's group to serve traditional Dutch Food, and all the proceeds benefit the Grace Youth Pilgrimage trip to Canterbury this summer. Please contact the church office if you are able to help with this, our main fundraiser for pilgrimage.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY

The youth of our Diocese are collecting **names and addresses for anyone** related to members of our diocese (aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews... you get the idea) who are **servicing in the military**. This is part of a project started at last year's Youth Camp. Please get them to Debbie at the church office and she will forward them on.

Fellowship

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:

Knitting Club & Class – Fellowship invites you to come join our new knitting club. This is for beginners all the way thru expert. Clara Brower & Cathy Fries have graciously offered their talents & will be the mentors. The knitting club will meet in the Commons on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month from 7 - 8 pm.. If you have any questions about the supplies you need to bring, please contact Cathy Fries at 616-393-0153 or cfries@tds.net.

Our next Fellowship Commission meetings are **Monday March 5th** and **Monday, April 2nd** both at 7:00 pm in the Adult Forum Room.

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

THANK YOU TO FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

*Barb Vincenci & Dianne Glupker
Tom & Tammy Kelly
Diane Morgan & Ann Mayers
Ed Hansen*

*from Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*



PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP AT GRACE:

If you are living with Parkinson's disease (or know someone who is) consider the newly founded Grace Parkinson's Support Group as a place to find companionship, encouragement and support on the journey. The group's next meetings will be held on **Wednesday, March 21st** and **Wednesday, April 18th** both at 7pm in the Commons.

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

Buildings and Grounds / Pastoral Care

CHURCH GROUNDS CLEAN-UP DAY

Buildings and Grounds needs your help!!
We have some bushes to plant and some bark to spread.
Please join your fellow parishioners on **Saturday, March 31 at 8:30 am** for three hours of enjoyable work.
More hands make light work!

In case of rain/snow we will work on Saturday April 7.
The goal is to get the church grounds looking great for Easter.

A sign up sheet will be in the commons.
Bring, rakes, shovels, wheel barrows and clippers.
Thank you!



Submitted by Prescott Slee, Buildings and Grounds Commission



Prayer List as of February 21, 2012

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Devin, Bradley Comport, Nelson & Peggy Hart, Bill & Jack, Rob Elhart, the Binder family, the Sult family, Robert McConkey, Colin DeVries, Bethany, Bette Comport, Carolyn Lowry, Judy, Chris, Adel Habashy, Grace Herta, Zach & family, John & Donna

Molendyk, Danielle Woldring & family, Carol Homan & family, Karin, the Heeren family, the Danzler family, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Bill Ford, Celaine, Tom, 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, 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, Dan Heiberg, Megan Kiser & family, Eric Heiberg, Ray Ybarra, Jim & Jane, Sarah, Chris, Carly, Caroline Bates, Tom, Caroline, John, Andrew, Bob Hampson, David Klooster & family, Ralph Suchor, Ken Swart, Irene Bartlett, Jerry Van Oosterhout, Steve, Jenny, Gail Malkiewicz, the Young-Tait family, Dale Labbe Sr., Mark & Christen Broersma and family, Ray Viele, Allie Verburg & family, Ben Broersma, Michael Borst, Arpod Jazko, the Drew family, Dolores & Earl Barkel, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Bernice Viher (grandmother of Alex Foster), Shannon, Gail Davison, Stafford, Katherine McNamar, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, Mary Rieckmann, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

Stewardship - Taking Grace Green

Reduce, Repair, Reuse, Recycle, Reimagine a World Where We Take Only What Nature Can Replace

I have been a big fan of the Patagonia outdoor clothing and gear company for many years. They design and market innovative, high quality products for people who love adventure and outdoor activities. They are committed to the idea that we are all responsible for the health and future well being of our planet. They strive to "make the best products and do the least harm" while doing it. In 1992 they were featured, along with eleven others, in the book "Companies With a Conscience." They give 1% of their sales each year to support environmental organizations around the world.

Over the years Patagonia has changed its manufacturing efforts to avoid using hazardous chemicals and harmful dyes. They elected to use less packaging material. They switched to using all organic cotton in their cotton products to reduce the quantities of water and chemical fertilizers required in the growing process. They began recycling their fleece products for customers and now heavily use recycled fibers in their fleece and outerwear. They use solar energy and ecologically friendly practices at their facilities. And they continue to support initiatives to eliminate obsolete dams to restore fish migrations, focus on the importance of healthy oceans and rivers, the protection of our environment, the wildlife we enjoy and the quality of our lives . . . so we will enjoy the natural world.

Their latest initiative, which is part of their "Common Threads" effort, tells us this story in a new video:

"We (the people of the earth) now use the resources of 1 1/2 planets, but we only have one planet to call home. We are exhausting the earth and the time has come to live within our means. It is now time to reimagine a world where we take nothing from the earth that it cannot replace. This is something we can do, this something we are all called to do, and if we are quiet, we will surely hear it. (We need) to do more with less, make fewer things, pursue not what we vaguely want, but what we deeply need. This, we have the power to do together, to act on behalf of the natural world that sustains us. Living, just by itself, is not fine. To be a citizen of the earth is to put one's brief life to one's clearest gift. To summon the better angels of our nature to own up to all the harm we do, then to put an end to it. Our way of doing business (in the world) has outgrown our planet and it (the planet) now merely runs on reserve. A new (type of) economy must rise in its place that better meets our fundamental purpose, provides balance, and gives nature a chance to rest and time to heal."

The story urges us to:

Reduce what we use and consume
Repair what we have and use
Reuse those things that can still be used by letting others use them
Recycle those things that are no longer usable
and
Reimagine a world where we use only those things from the earth
that it can replace.

These ideas are a challenge to our way of thinking . . . and living. But they are worth making an effort to begin doing. During the rest of 2012 we plan to offer ways we all can do these things. We plan to make it fun and interesting.

The web address for Patagonia is: <http://www.patagonia.com>
and the link to the Common Threads project is:
<http://www.patagonia.com/us/common-threads>

Visit the website . . . it is worth a serious look . . . and you will find other things to open up your awareness. It can make our planet and our lives better, and leave something good for our children and grandchildren.

Submitted by Bill Mendenhall, Taking Grace Green Committee

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY & OFFICERS

Bruce Fries–393-0153–Fellowship
Tom Kelly–915-6188–Pastoral Care
David Masselink–546-2662–Buildings and Grounds
Ann Mayers–269-857-3495–Outreach
Carol Myers–396-1002–Worship
Robbie Schorle–269-543-4400–Outreach
David Stubbs–546-8845–Christian Education & Formation
Paul Trap–396-6492 –Evangelism & Communication
Diane Wiersma–403-0051–Church Family
Doug Zylstra–773-551-8166–Stewardship

Chuck Murray–335-3690–Senior Warden
Mary Remenschneider–403-0442–Junior Warden
Jay Bylsma–399-5721–Treasurer
Colleen Macy–994-0016–Clerk
Jerry Roper, Treasurer Emeritus

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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.

