

Grace to You

November 2010
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*I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true ...
and one was a doctor and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess
on the green ...*

—Hymn 293, *Hymnal 1982*

Recently published, *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*, the new book of commemorations on the Episcopal Church calendar, includes doctors and queens, as well as deacons, nuns, priests, bishops, writers, kings, apostles, missionaries, hymn-makers, soldiers, monks, artists, composers, mystics, jurists, liberators, prophets and even an Olympic champion (and missionary to China)!

About 10 years ago, Frank T. Griswold, then-presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, asked the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music “to undertake a review and revision of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*.” *Holy Women, Holy Men* is the result of that request and is the first complete revision of the text devoted to Episcopal Church saints in more than 40 years.

“More than 100 new commemorations were approved at the 2009 General Convention... Nine years in the making, the new volume offers a fuller representation of the diversity of the Episcopal Church as well as a broader ecumenical and international mix of commemorations,” says the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. While a significant number of these saints are from the most recent centuries, the additions include saints from every period of church history. It’s an amazing, diverse collection of holy people.

The 2009 General Convention called for trial use of these commemorations, giving opportunity to pray with this new material before a final decision about whether to add each commemoration to the calendar of *The Book of Common Prayer*. They invited us all to pray through this new calendar and share our feedback of the experience.

Ruth Meyers, professor of liturgics at Church Divinity School of the Pacific and chair of SCLM (and formerly a Rector in the Diocese of Western Michigan!) says, “It’s important that everyone have an opportunity to review and provide input on this major work. That includes individuals as well as congregations and dioceses.” This is a uniquely Episcopalian invitation to give our individual input to the larger consideration of the holy women and men of the faith.

So, as we celebrate the Saints and welcome newcomers here at Grace on Sunday, November 7th know that we’ve also been invited into an extended experience of prayer and thoughtfulness offered throughout the Church. Visit <http://liturgyandmusic.wordpress.com/> to jump in.

Peace,

Jen

Sunday Forums

9:15AM in the Forum Room

- Nov 7** **NOOMA Video and Discussion**
We all get consumed with ourselves; sometimes we're not even aware of it. We learn from a young age that life is about winning and impressing. So what is it about really? As we celebrate the Saints this day, consider what it means to live a life "worthy of our calling."
- Nov 14** **Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori**
Via video interviews with Peter Wallace of Day 1, our Presiding Bishop speaks on topics including her role in the Episcopal Church, the Millennium Development Goals, the call to care for Creation, issues in the Anglican Communion, and the future of the church.
- Nov 21** **How to Tell Someone about Your Faith and Feel Comfortable Doing It**
Led by our Evangelism and Communications Commission, a group of parishioners will talk about evangelism Grace style. How are we who are Grace Church talking about our faith? What are the challenges and opportunities? How can we authentically live into the call to "commend the faith that is in us?"
- Nov 28** **Advent Intergenerational**

A Program of Advent Awareness

As we approach and experience the liturgical season of Advent, Grace will set aside time to be awake to the season and aware of its themes. Through lectionary texts, memories, song, poetry and art we will find ways to respond to our God, incarnate in Christ who engages us now and into the future. We will begin this series on two Sunday evenings and then shift to Wednesdays on December 1st.

Sunday, Nov 21, 6:00-7:30pm	Looking Toward Advent: Live in Expectation
Sunday, Nov 28, 6:00-7:30pm	A Dream of Peace
Wednesday, Dec 1, 5:30-8:00	<i>Jakob the Liar</i> (Snacks at 5:30/Movie, Pizza at 6)
Wednesday, Dec 8, 7:00-8:00	Name the Child Emmanuel
Wednesday, Dec 15 7:00-8:30	The Light Shines in the Night
Wednesday, Dec 22, 7:00-8:30	Welcoming the Child

Wednesday Noon Brown-Bag Bible Study studies Mark's gospel

We gather every Wednesday (unless notified) from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Forum Room to study the Gospel of Mark and will continue until we get through the Gospel. I will be giving both a Christian and a Jewish perspective on the text, relying upon scholars from both traditions.

You do not have to attend every class, come when you can. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Hope to see you there.

Henry Idema

All Saints' Day provides a time of welcome to our community Sunday, November 7th

It is our tradition here at Grace to welcome those who have begun worshipping with us over the last year (or two!) at a luncheon following the 10:30 service on All Saints' Sunday. Be sure to join us for this celebration. We have many newcomers in our system already, but we don't want to miss anyone! ***SO if you are new to Grace or know of someone who is new to Grace, please contact the office and make sure we've included all.*** We encourage newcomers and old-timers and everyone in-between to join us for our All Saints' Day Service of Holy Baptism and Eucharist at 10:30 am and Newcomer Welcome with brunch in the Undercroft following the service.



All Souls' Celebration of Remembrance Monday, November 8th at 7:00pm



On All Saints' Sunday, we celebrate the "heroes" of faith, or the capital "S" Saints who have throughout history, famously 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 we pray and remember and celebrate their lives together as community of faith. So join us, whether you have lost someone in the last year or in years past on November 8th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

An Active Fall for Children and Youth

By Debbie Coyle

September and October have been very active for the children and youth at Grace. Many are participating in a variety of ministries including LEM, Acolyte, Music, Growing Into Worship, Sunday School and Youth Group. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who make all of this possible.

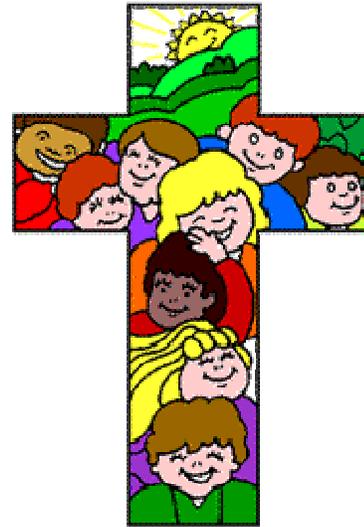
The Middle School and High School Youth are organizing a dinner and talent show to be held on Sunday, December 5th from 5-7pm. The cost for the evening is \$5.00 and all proceeds from the dinner will be used to help provide a holiday meal and Christmas gifts for the Grace Community Housing Partnership families. Join us for a fun evening of talent, great food (prepared and served by the youth), and fellowship. Be sure to sign up to share your talent! Look for sign-up sheets in the Commons, or contact Debbie at the church office for tickets or to sign up.

It has been great to see so many of our children and youth involved in Sunday morning Education Hour (meets 9:15-10:15 in the Undercroft). The combined Elementary classroom has provided the ability to have a wide range of class activities, and we are all loving the new curriculum. Middle School units for this fall are "Community Leaders" and "Christians Build Community". They will continue to utilize the Episcopal Youth Curriculum and the Nooma video series. High School has begun the second year of the Confirm not Conform program, which continues to challenge them to look inward at their faith.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28th, and with it comes our "Advent Intergenerational Lesson". You really won't want to miss this one. Remember, this is geared for children and youth of ALL AGES and it is the multi-generational aspect of it which benefits the lesson. Don't miss it!

There is so much more activity on the horizon. Be sure to look for information to come regarding Parents of Preschoolers evening, Christmas Eve Children's Service, Epiphany Youth Retreat, and the Epiphany Intergenerational.

Please continue to support programming for Children and Youth through volunteering and participation. We are looking for volunteers yet to help provide meals for youth group (first and third Sunday of each month), help chaperone and drive for youth events, and assist in the Elementary classroom on Sunday mornings. Look for sign-up sheets in the Commons or contact Debbie at the church office if you would like to volunteer.



Outreach opportunities



Feeding America (Or at least our little corner of it!)

In January Grace joined a growing number of groups who provide food to our neighbors through the Feeding America food distribution program. Since that beginning we have served 855 families totaling 1880 people.

In addition to food, we continue to collect toilet paper and detergent to distribute to our guests each month. For each distribution we need at least 100 regular size detergents and 100 four-roll packs of toilet paper. Consider what you might add to your own shopping cart to donate each month. If that is not possible, donations for purchasing tissue and soap can be made to Grace with "FA" in the memo line.

Please set aside the **second Thursday of every month** (November 11, December 9...) and be here to offer hospitality, coffee and cookies and to help unload the truck filled with 5000 pounds of food. There is a place for everyone in this work, so plan to show up as soon after 4:30 as possible.

There is plenty of food to go around. Be a part of the team and help us get that abundance into the hands that hunger for more.

Community Kitchen Helpers Needed:

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 **two helpers each Wednesday**, and occasionally an extra person is needed, often at the last minute if someone calls in sick. **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".



Star Tree

Middle School and High School Youth will hold a dinner and talent show to raise funds for their "Community Housing Partnership Family Christmas" project. Sign up to present your "talent" at the show or come for the entertainment and dinner. More information can be found in the Children & Youth article.

Warmth Drive

With the weather starting to cool down, it's that time of year again! Please bring in coats, mittens, hats, gloves, sweaters, blankets, etc., anything that can keep people warm. Collections for Community Action House can be placed in the labeled drawer in the Commons.



Faces of Grace — Gerry Cawthra

By Christi Broersma

Commitment is what drives Gerry Cawthra. From her family and many friends, to her dedication to teaching, visiting for St Martha's Guild, and as a Stephen's minister here at Grace, Gerry has centered much of her life about caring for others.

She spent her early years on the East side of Grand Rapids, but spent her high school years in Royal Oak, Michigan. When she graduated college she taught as an elementary school teacher, but really wanted to travel. She and friends decided to head off to Europe during one of her first summers off as a teacher. Instead of traveling by air she and her friends did the crossing by ship and added a cruise across the Atlantic to what turned out to be an eventful tour of Europe.

She met her future husband Jack Cawthra while taking a break from skiing. He'd grown up in Royal Oak where they'd first met. He was an Episcopalian and though she had been raised in the Congregational Church, she joined the Episcopal Church after they had their two daughters. Over the years she'd been a part of her parent's retail clothing stores and later took them over with her husband. She and Jack later owned a store here in Holland.

Today Gerry stays connected with her daughters who now live in Alpena and Colorado as well as her four granddaughters. She still loves to travel when she can, and when at home she enjoys sewing, knitting, and doing needle point. Gerry enjoys staying involved with friends, as well as her volunteer work here, and she is truly known for her quick smile and friendly approach to all who know her here at Grace.

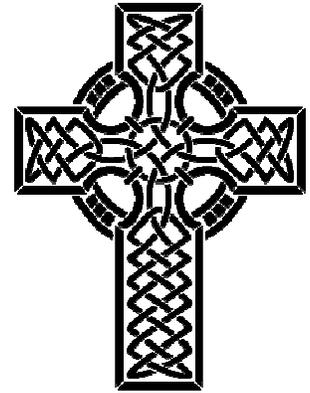


From Stewardship:

Dear Member or Friend of Grace Church,

This year at Grace Episcopal Church we:

- Helped feed hundreds of families through our work with Feeding America and our weekly presence at Community Kitchen.
- Re-launched our Sunday morning “Growing Into Worship” program and set new a record of eighteen four to six year olds.
- Completed the training of two soon-to-be-commissioned Stephens Ministers, adding to our team of pastoral care companions.
- Prepared to welcome about twenty new individuals and families on All Saints Sunday.
- Re-paved the parking lot, repaired portions of the church roof, seeded the side yard and refreshed the two Grace houses in order to welcome two new Community Housing Partnership families into them.
- Began a new instrumental program to compliment our Chamber and Youth Choirs, further celebrating and integrating the musical gifts of our parishioners.
- Explored theology from the viewpoints of the poor and marginalized welcoming participants from the community and speakers from Western Theological Seminary and Hope College.
- Increased our diocesan pledge and committed to grow into our canonically mandated full apportionment by the year 2012.
- Celebrated a renewal of the Commons and upstairs restrooms (*not* out of budgeted funds but thanks to the bequests of several former members.)



So, in our pledge appeal we combine the celebration of these wonderful things that are happening with the challenge that comes with such growth. We must grow our budget, as we grow our parish, as we grow in our understanding of what it means to be Grace Church. Our theme for this year’s drive is “Grace, Gratitude, Generosity.” In this congregation there is so much for which to be grateful and an amazingly consistent spirit of generosity that makes it all possible.

As we move forward, financial pledging is an integral, critical part of our future. It allows us to plan communally and to be disciplined in our giving individually. Episcopalians recognize the challenge of the tithe and hold that as a standard of giving towards which we are called to strive.

The goals we’ve set for this year are to increase total giving by \$20,000, to add twenty new pledging “units,” to increase EFT (electronic fund transfer) givers by ten, and to achieve the total pledged goal of \$320,000. We’ve set these goals knowing they will stretch us but also believing that they are fully within our reach as a growing Grace.

We ask that you mail your pledge cards back to Grace or bring them to Church on Ingathering Sunday, November 14th. As you pledge, know that every gift matters. Every pledge contributes to our mission of caring for one another, the community and God’s world. For every pledge, we are truly and deeply grateful.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Jennifer Adams, Rector

Mr. Guy Packard, Stewardship Commission Chair

Commission Nights at Grace – Join us!

November 1 and December 6

In an effort to encourage participation and enable more connections between working groups at Grace, commissions will be trying a new meeting model for the Fall. For the months of October, November and December, all commissions (except Worship) will meet on the first Monday of the month. We'll share supper, break out for commissions, and come back together for dessert and announcements. This is a wonderful time to jump in and join a commission! We need more people involved in the work and planning that sustain the ministries of our parish. So, come be with us on November 1st, explore what different commissions are doing and find your place in the planning! Childcare provided.

6:00-6:30 Supper

6:30-7:30 Commission Meetings



Holland is Ready Movie Nights at the Park

Holland is Ready is hosting movie nights at the Park Theater along the themes of LGBT issues and inclusion. The next two movies are *Big Eden* on November 5th and *8: The Mormon Proposition* on December 3rd. Movies begin at 7:30pm. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Holland is Ready's next monthly meeting will be on Monday, November 22nd at 7pm here at Grace. Come join in the work of education, story-telling, creating safe places, raising awareness and community action.

Notes From Fellowship:

Over 50 Grace members, family and friends had a wonderful time at Teusink's Pony Farm on October 8th. Every October, Fellowship hosts our Annual Teusink's Hayride & Chili Cook-off. It was an absolutely beautiful fall evening; the weather was perfect. We enjoyed the hayride with a bucket of baby bunnies, the hay maze inside the barn, feeding and petting all the animals, pumpkin painting, a bonfire and of course the wonderful chili. Congratulations to Stephen Shetterly who won the Best Chili Award! Congratulations to Lourdes Manderfield & Brock Smalldon for the Best Pumpkin Awards! Thank you to Eve Shetterly for coordinating this event.

Upcoming Events:

Holiday Cookie Exchange and Bake Sale - Thanks to a great response last year, we will again be doing a cookie exchange on Sunday, December 5th after the second service. In an exchange, you bring in the number of cookies that you want to trade for, i.e. bring 1 dozen and choose 1 dozen to take home, bring 2 dozen and take 2 dozen home. This year we are asking those who bake to also donate an extra half dozen to one dozen cookies to the bake sale side. This way our parishioners who don't bake or have the time can purchase cookies to take home.

Fellowship will meet again on Commission Night, Monday, November 1st, 6 pm – 8 pm. Please join us!

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission



Buildings and Grounds

**We need your help for Fall clean up!
Please join us!**

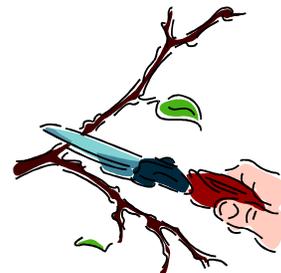
Date: Saturday November 13

Time: 8:00a.m. – 11:00p.m.

Bring your gloves and tools

(rakes, clipper etc.)

Please sign up in the Commons.



To Do Good, You Have to Actually Do Something

From Bill Mendenhall of the Taking Grace Green Committee

Yvon Choinard, founder of the Patagonia clothing company is a world class rock and ice climber, fly fisherman, surfer, kayaker, and world class environmentalist who leads by example. He is currently in an advertising campaign for American Express Partnership featuring well known "action" people. The Choinard commercial focuses on our being a part of nature and actually doing something.

While the camera shows him climbing a rock formation, he says, "We're part of nature and when we destroy nature we destroy ourselves. It's a selfish thing to want to protect nature. I never intended to be a businessman . . . (but when I became one) we made the best climbing equipment out of here (the Shed)."

While the camera shows climbing tools, he says, "We realized that the putting in and taking out of all these pitons was causing damage to the rocks (we climb). So I made these little aluminum chocks that you put in (the cracks) with your fingers."

While standing in front of an old dam, he says, "And, I'm a dam buster. We've been working for years to take this dam out. The reservoir behind it is only four feet deep . . . so the water gets real warm and kills a lot of the life on the river. When you take out a dam it's a real victory . . . a concrete victory so to speak."

While the camera shows him ice climbing, he says, "I get an idea to do something . . . and then I like to take the first step. If that feels good, I take another step, and then another. **To do good you have to actually do something.**"

In an interview with Tom Brokaw Choinard said, "Everyone can do something good for the environment. If you are a good speaker you can talk about things going on in the environment with others. If you are a good writer you can write about things going on and get your stories published so people can read them. If you are well organized you can organize people to actually do something for the environment."

"At Patagonia we try to do things that make sense. We got into using organic cotton because the when the ventilation in one of our stores was bad our people got sick from breathing the formaldehyde used on the cotton we had been selling."

"We began using less packaging on our Capilene underwear because we saw all the waste our current packaging had created."

"We began using recycled fleece and polyester because we found out the technology was available and it was the right thing to do."

"Each time we did the right thing, even though risky, we saw our sales go up, because we were doing the right thing."

Each of us can do the right things every day. We can give back to the special places that move us, humble us, nourish us . . . by talking about them, taking people to see them, keeping them clean, protecting them, and leading by example.

Each of us can do good by actually doing something.

Note: see more on Yvon Choinard at www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlaYJhLylzw

Thank you to our wonderful coffee hour hosts for October!

Natalie Murillo and Cherie & Roger DeCook
 Bruce, Cathy, Jonathan and Michelle Fries
 Katie Verspoor and Jill Smalldon
 Fred & Gail Geiger and Bryce & Monny Cobb
 Chuck & Lora Lee Murray



- from Laurie VanArk , Coffee Hour Coordinator

St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's will meet on Monday, November 8, at 7:15 in the Forum Room. Dr. Albert Bell, of the Hope College faculty, will be presenting a program on the role of women.

Hostesses are Jill Mendenhall, Sandy Young and Katie Verspoor. This meeting is open to all.

Mark your calendars and join us!!

Weekly Financial Stewardship Report - Total Gifts

<u>Need Weekly for Budget</u>		<u>Received Last Week</u>	
Sunday Offerings	\$4,795	Sunday Offerings	\$4,005
EFT allotment	<u>\$2,188</u>	EFT allotment	<u>\$2,188</u>
TOTAL	\$6,983	TOTAL	\$6,193

Weekly Surplus (Shortage) (\$790)

Monthly Financial Stewardship Update - Total Gifts

September Budget	\$24,865	Year-to-Date Budget	\$252,969
September Received	\$22,868	Year-to-Date Received	\$239,497
Sept Surplus (Shortage)	(\$1,997)	YTD Surplus (Shortage)	(\$13,472)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Kim Shea | 12 Brian Manderfield |
| 2 Jeff Nyland | 13 Jay Bylsma |
| Matt Schmidt | Alex De Cook |
| 4 Alyssa Wright | 15 Andrea Kamp |
| Naomi Phillips | 16 David Bier |
| 5 Brooke Barry | Monny Cobb |
| 6 Sharon Barlow | Anna De Kraker |
| Karen Bylsma | 17 Robert Polik |
| Jack Methric | 19 Kathy McNamar |
| Madison Remenschneider | 20 Dick Danly |
| 7 C. V. Berry | Lise Wilson |
| Blane Kamp | 21 Donna Molendyk |
| Kevin Matrosic | Mary Jane Van Oosterhout |
| Sally Reinink | 23 Zachary Essenburg |
| 8 Austin Riggs | 25 Anne Packard |
| 9 Gemmy Helder | James Foster |
| Kristine Stauffer | 26 Tabor Rinks |
| 10 Scott Anderson | 28 Annie Snow |
| Jean Christofferson | 30 Markko Foster |
| George Gallaway | 31 Doris Honor |
| 11 Colleen Macy | |
| Chelsea Phillips | |
| Will Remenschneider | |
| Chris Wennersten | |
| Wiley Wilson | |

Birthdays & Anniversaries in October



- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 Amy & James Piersma | 23 Millie & George Gallaway |
| 8 Patricia & Vernon De Pree | 26 Donna & Robert Borgman |
| 17 Kristine & Jeremy Stauffer | 29 Mary & Scott Gamby |
| 20 Ashley & Dustin Hopkins | Aaron & Julie De Cook |

† † † † †

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Ann Mayers, Steve, the Rieckmann family, the McConkey family, Richard Bailey, Caroline, Pam Nienhuis, Amanda, Emily, Campbell, Mike, Rhoda Janzen Burton, Arpod Jazko, Dolores & Earl Barkel, the Drew family, Janet Klumpp, David Vos, the Cornwall family, Jenny, the Van Singel family, Gail Malkiewicz, Beth Zirille, John, 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, and other loved ones of our parish family.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR: Mark Rhodes, Michael Borst (grandson of Vern & Pat De Pree), Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Kathy Fritz (daughter-in-law of Barb & Scott Anderson), Bernice Viher (grandmother of Alex Foster), Shannon, Gail Davison, Janet Huyser, Stafford, Katherine McNamar, Judy Ching, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Sharon King, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, Tim and Jordyn and family, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Marian Schultz, Gilmore Lawrence, Dave Masselink, Barb & Gordon, Eric Heiberg, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Ruth Hill, Betty & Jerry, Marge Homan (mother of Carol Homan), Mary Rieckmann, Curt Keegin, Vivian Kingsley, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

THANKSGIVING: for the baptisms of .

DEPARTED: Ron Dennett, Alise Mulder, Mary Woolcock, Lillian Van Dyke, Marie Huff.