

Grace to You

October 2010
Volume 2010, Issue 9

In this issue

Center insert has calendar and Birthdays & Anniversaries

Women's Book Group,	
Advent Reflections.....	2
Noon Bible Study.....	2
Bishop's Visitation.....	3
All Commissions—One Night!.....	3
Fall Programs for Adults continue.....	4-5
<i>Adult Forums & Wednesday nights</i>	
Faces of Grace.....	6
Grace, Gratitude, Generosity.....	7
Stephen Ministry Commissioning.....	8
Holland Is Ready.....	8
Fellowship News.....	9
Taking Grace Green.....	10
Announcements.....	11

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Robert R. Gepert, Bishop
Jennifer Adams, Rector
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Gail Westerhof, Secretary
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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.

Grace Mission Statement

The theme of this year's pledge drive is "Grace, Gratitude, Generosity". As we move into the drive which will begin mid-October, specifics regarding percentage increases and budgetary challenges will be printed, posted and available to all. A mailing from me as Rector and the Chair of Stewardship Commission describing the goals of the drive, including a pledge card and offering further information on giving will arrive at your home in a couple of weeks. But before we officially begin the pledge process, I'd like to highlight the theme.

Grace: A simple way to describe Grace Church is that we are a community working to be who our mission statement says we are. Grace is growing. Grace is evolving. Grace is learning. One of the interesting and relatively unusual facts about Grace is that we have two "fastest growing groups": families with young children and recently retired folks who are making Holland their home. We have the relatively unique privilege of being a congregation that is expanding intergenerationally. We are alive and busy becoming the congregation our mission statement challenges us to be. And pledges support that becoming.

Gratitude: Our central action as community is in Eucharist which means "thanksgiving". Every Sunday as we gather, we give thanks for Creation; we give thanks for Christ's presence; we give thanks for one another and God's many, many gifts to us. And within the gratitude are prayers to be broken open again and again into a people who not only receive with open hearts but who then give out of that abundance. And pledges are both a dimension of our thanks and a sign of our willingness to give.

Generosity: As our mission statement says we are to engage in "compassionate care for one another, the community and God's world." And without this piece, we are not church. As Grace we Feed America. We serve at Community Kitchen. We just welcomed two new previously homeless families into our Grace houses through the Community Housing Partnership. We are Stephens ministers and Sunday School teachers and choir members and St Martha's Guild and so many more types of ministers that have "generosity" and care at their heart. And pledging helps all of those things happen.

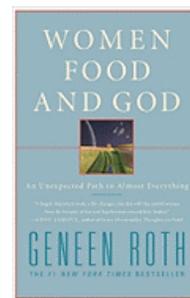
So keep your eyes open for mailings and further pledge drive information. Consider how you can help Grace be Grace and know that we are truly grateful for every gift that comes.

In peace,

Jen

Grace Church Women's Book Group Study

On Thursday evening, October 21, 2010 women of the church are invited to participate in a book discussion on **Women, Food and God** by Geneen Roth. We will meet in the Forum Room at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm! The bestselling author of "When Food Is Love" helps overeaters find the underlying reasons for using food as an emotional buffer. Roth also provides seven basic guidelines for eating and other therapeutic self-help tools. Join us for an informative event and shared interests in 'eating'! You can check out more on the author by clicking on: www.geneenroth.com



“The shape of our bodies obeys the shape of our beliefs. To change your body you must first understand what is shaping it!” - Geneen Roth

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Live in Expectation!

This Advent, experience the waiting and wonder as we await the birth of Jesus. Prepare for his coming as we listen to, ponder over and respond to the word each week of Advent. We will gather on Sunday evening, November 21 at 6 o'clock pm for an introductory session, then switch to Wednesday's, December 1 (movie/discussion/response) and then meet December 8, 15, and 22 at 7 o'clock pm.

November 21 — Live In Expectation – Looking forward to Advent

December 1 — Movie

December 8 — The Desert Blossoms

December 15 — Name the Child Emmanuel

December 22 — Christmas Texts

This time will be a quiet, reflective time to engage the texts and themes of Advent.

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

We gather every Wednesday (unless notified) from 12:00 to 1:00 pm 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. We will meet in the Forum Room across from the church offices.

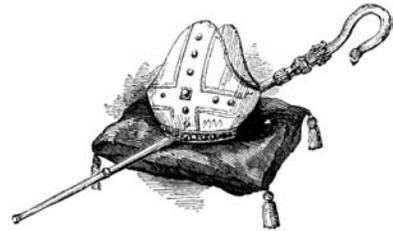
Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Hope to see you there.

Henry Idema

Bishop Gepert's Visitation

Sunday, October 17th

About every two years our Bishop comes for a Sunday visit to our parish and October 17th is his next visit to Grace. The visitation is an opportunity for us to connect with Bishop Gepert, to have him preside and preach at the 10:30 service, to enter into conversation with him in the Forum and Coffee hours, and for our vestry to meet with him briefly following.



This is also an opportunity for the Bishop to experience Grace Church, to see who we are and what we've got going on here in our parish. It's a chance to listen to what the Bishop has to say and our opportunity to reflect back to the Diocese a healthy, vital and growing congregation. So, don't miss this important day in the life of our parish! Come to listen and to share in the larger experience of life in the Episcopal Church.



Blessing of the Animals on October 3rd

Be with us for this St. Francis Day tradition in the side yard of the Church on Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00 pm. All animals are welcome regardless of denomination. Water will be provided out of common bowls for all who thirst.

Commission Nights at Grace – Join us!

October 4, November 1, 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 October 4th, 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

7:35-8:00 Dessert and Announcements

Our Study of Liberation Theology Continues in October

Liberation Theology is an attempt to think clearly about the meaning of religious faith in the context of oppression, war, poverty, inequality and environmental destruction, along with an effort to live a compassionate, courageous and life-sustaining response to those conditions. Liberation theology varies greatly according to the culture in which it arises, but its underlying themes are immediately recognizable across the world: the transformation of everyday life through a new awakening of compassion, truthfulness and justice. (adapted from the website: www.liberationtheology.org/#intro)

This series will explore liberation theology through presentations, writings, movies and discussions.

Sunday Forums, 9:15am

Sunday, September 19,
Sunday, September 26,

Rev. Eric Williams ~ Liberation Theology – Introduction
Rev. Eric Williams ~ Liberation Theology –
Intro Continued & Race

Sunday, October 3,
Sunday, October 10,

Rev. Eric Williams ~ Liberation Theology – Race
Dr. Lynn Japinga ~ Liberation Theology –
Gender/Feminist Theology

Sunday, October 17,

[Episcopal Bishop Robert Gepert’s Parish Visit –
not a part of this series]

Sunday, October 24,

Rev. Jennifer Adams & Rev. Henry Idema ~ Liberation Theology
– Sexual Orientation

Sunday, October 31,

Revs. Jennifer Adams ~ Liberation Theology –
Summary Discussion

Our Presenters:



Rev. Eric Williams is a faculty fellow in Theology and Homiletics at Western Theological Seminary. *Working as a Christian theologian with a view towards homiletics and cultural criticism, I see the sermon and other cultural productions (art, literature, poetry, film and music) as critical sites for theological engagement. Helping students listen with discernment to the Scriptures as the source and norm of Christian preaching as well as reading with students what one scholar has referred to as the often “hidden but powerfully present footprints of God in the affairs of humankind and nations” is for me the greatest joy of teaching.*



Dr. Lynn Japinga is Associate Professor Religion at Hope College. She has published *Feminism and Christianity: An Essential Guide*, (Abington Press) a feminist critique of tradition and an instruction to new ways of looking as these issues.

Liberation Theology Wednesday Sessions, 7:00pm

**These sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Jen Adams and Rev. Henry Idema
Class will be in the Forum Room in the Undercroft on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00pm.
(Class readers are available)**

September 29	Essay and a discussion on Black Liberation Theology
October 6	Movie: The Color Purple
October 13	Essay and discussion on Feminist Liberation Theology
October 20	Movie: Whale Rider
October 27	Essay and discussion on GLBT Liberation Theology
November 3	Movie: Seven Passages

As we engage in discussion around a variety of themes on ‘Liberation Theology’, we will strive to:

- Listen empathetically to each other and those who “live on the margins” of the church and the world
 - Have the freedom to ask questions and explore our beliefs, agree and disagree
 - Explore “new” thinking about ancient things
 - Develop an awareness of our own contexts of privilege and marginalization
 - Seek understanding



Spiral design for stained glass window from J. & R. Lamb studios,
suggesting the dynamic and transformative workings of the Holy Spirit;
now in U.S. Library of Congress. [20th Century. Date unknown.]

Faces of Grace — Gordon Young

By Christi Broersma

An article in the Grand Rapids Press by religion columnist, Charles Honey on Taizé worship and what area churches offered the services was what first drew Gordon Young to Grace in 2006. He was raised in the Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids but found his way to Grace Church after moving to Holland because of that simplicity, meditative prayer, music and silence of those Taizé services.

He grew up and attended school in the Ottawa Hills neighborhood of Grand Rapids where he also continued his education at Grand Rapids Junior College for two years and then on to Texas Christian University where he received his bachelors degree. Later he received a master's degree in Secondary Education in the Social Sciences from Michigan State University. After graduation, his work life centered around the Transnation Title Insurance Company in Holland. He and his wife Barb raised their two daughters here until his retirement in 2007. But family and faith have been only one of the many aspects of his life over the years.



Gordon and friends

Here at Grace Gordon has been a lay reader for the Taizé services, and also has continued as a reader in the Sunday worship services. Recently he has also been an active part of the Evangelism and Communications Commission and is also serving on the Church Family Commission.

Gordon loves to keep active at Harbor Humane Society by volunteering his time to help the animals there. His dedication and love for all animals, especially dogs, truly goes well beyond his home life.

Today his two dogs Goldie and Gracie keep him exercised and busy around the house and walking all through his surrounding neighborhoods daily. His love for animals also has branched out to his life at Grace through his encouragement of a service for the *blessing of the animals*. This liturgy is celebrated near October fourth yearly and was established to honor the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

Between his two furry friends at home, his commitment to his two daughters, and church Gordon has really continued through the years to be a vital part of Grace Church and out in the community as well.

Grace, Gratitude, Generosity

Do you think of the Stewardship Season as merely being that time of year when the church invites you to complete and return a pledge card? I am quite sure there are many in the church who think this way. I invite you to think of The Stewardship Season as being a year-round season. Since stewardship is what we do with all that has been entrusted to us by our loving God, we make stewardship decisions—consciously or unconsciously – every day of our lives.

We make stewardship decisions as we decide how to use our time. We make stewardship decisions as we decide how to use the God-given gifts entrusted to us. And we also make stewardship decisions with our money. But not merely the decisions about how much of the money God provides us that we will return to God through our offerings. We make stewardship decisions with every spending decision we make.

Stewardship is what we do with all we have, all the time, so The Stewardship Season is all year. Stewardship is an acknowledgment that all that we are and all that we have is a gift from a loving God. And God invites us not only to make sacrificial offerings to God, but also to use the gifts with which we have been entrusted as wisely as we can.

As we enter this season of stewardship, I'm reminded how important it is to promise our generous hearts again and again. Revisiting what we value and what we can share is at the core of discipleship and spiritual growth. I'm a big fan of this habit and here are five reasons you can be, too:

1. **Taking the Time.** Reflecting about and discussing your gifts as a household or congregation is an important way to witness the way your life changes over time. It happens in a more stoic way when you fill out tax forms: you watch your education, income, investments and liabilities change with each passing year. Taking time to consider these responsibilities from a spiritual perspective can change the way you experience writing checks, paying bills and sharing your gifts.

2. **Sharing, not Losing.** Whenever I sit in the pews and see the offering plate coming, I fumble through my wallet. It's an awkward moment while I hope for a bill that is "enough", but "not too much". I'll admit that tossing that crumpled bill into the plate feels more like losing than sharing. Giving sporadically and last minute doesn't usually feel generous and that's because it comes from a moment of pressure that does not make time for the reflection I mentioned above. Planning to give connects us to the ritual in a thoughtful and joyful way that can transform our stewardship theology.

3. **Worthy gifts.** Many people don't pledge because they don't think the amount they share is worthy of being proclaimed and promised ahead of time. Yikes! Whether you commit to sharing \$1 or \$1,000 a week, it matters and it makes a difference. Whatever you have to give is worthy of being shared.

4. **Word and deed.** Making a promise and acting on it again and again is a physical lesson about God's love for us. Every time God forgives us and renews us through our baptism, God is keeping that big promise made through Jesus Christ. With each grace-filled act in relationship with us, God recalls the promise and it becomes new again. Pledging is a bold and simple way to respond to God's promise and action in our lives.

5. **Body of Christ.** Have you ever watched pledge cards pile up in a basket or offering plate? Those promises add up to do miraculous things in the name of God. Committing to share your gifts means standing together with your Christian brothers and sisters in ministry and mission for a purpose beyond yourself. It means trusting that together our gifts are divine abundance, more than enough to change the world.

Lord, blessings abound in you. Teach us to trust that what you provide is more than enough. Open our hands and satisfy our hearts. Amen.

— Guy Packard for
Stewardship Commission

Stephen Minister Commissioning Sunday, October 31, 2010

As a Christian congregation, our primary work is caring, for one another, ourselves, our community, our relationship with God and our world. One critical dimension of this work at Grace is done by Stephen Ministers, parishioners who have been specifically trained as companions. Stephen Ministers “companion” people through times of sickness, grief or significant life change. Prior to being commissioned into this ministry they participate in over fifty hours of training on topics from “reflective listening” to “spiritual care giving” to “stages of grief”. Stephen Ministers become the presence of Christ in situations where a confidential, caring companion can help with the struggles and healings of life’s journey.



Please join us for the commissioning of our two new Stephen Ministers, Ann Mayers and Diane Marshall-Morgan and the re-commissioning of our current Stephen Ministers and leaders during the 10:30 service on Sunday, October 31st. These committed members of Grace Church are some of the behind the scenes ministers who help our congregation live the caring we have been called to do. This day is our opportunity to welcome them and pray with them, expressing our support and thanks.

Rev. Jen



Holland is Ready will kick off its free 2010-11 film series with a documentary that was a Sundance Film Festival grand jury prize nominee. **“For the Bible Tells Me So” will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Park Theatre, 64 E. 8th St. in downtown Holland.** The documentary, which also won the audience award for best documentary at the Seattle International Film Festival, explores how five very normal, very Christian families handle the realization of having a gay child.

Among the families featured are those of former U.S. House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson and Mary Lou Wallner. Robinson, who was consecrated as the first openly gay Episcopal bishop in 2003, was a key figure in making and promoting the film. “It talks about the power of families and the power of love. In a very odd, ironic sense, it’s about family values and how love trumps long-held beliefs, when you’re confronted by a real person.”

Other films in the free series are “Big Eden” on Friday, Nov. 5; “8: the Mormon Proposition” on Friday, Dec. 3; “Transamerica” on Friday, Feb. 4; “Seven Passages” on Friday, March 4; and “the Bird Cage” on Friday, April 1. All films start at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Theatre.

Holland is Ready is a group of community leaders working for the safety, rights and inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the Lakeshore area.

Notes From Fellowship:

A delightful time was had by all at the Fenn Valley wagon wine tour & picnic: wonderful food, great wine & by the time we were finished, all good friends. Congratulations to Gemmy Helder who won the raffle and took home a beautiful wine rack. We had a few last minute cancellations, so next year if you don't get on the sign up sheet, please don't hesitate to sign up for the waiting list.

It was wonderful to see about 110 of you enjoying the Kick-Off Sunday Picnic at Moran Park. What a great start for the new program year. Thank you to Prescott Slee for coordinating the meal & to all of our wonderful volunteers: Jean Adams, Gerry Cawthra, Steve & Sue Cloutier, Cathy deVelder, Jeff Erickson, Alex Foster, David Hawley-Lowry, Ashley Hopkins, Lora Lee Murray, Thom Samuelson, Robbie & Mick Schorle and Eve Shetterly.

Upcoming Events:

Teusink's Hayride & Chili Cook-off –
Come join us for our annual jaunt to Teusink's Pony Farm on West 32nd Street on Friday, October 8, beginning at 5 pm until 9 pm. The "Famous Chili Cook-off" is back, so dig into those recipes and stir up a winner!!! As in the past there will be pumpkin painting, a hayride, and other fun farm activities. Cost will be \$ 4 per person. Dinner service will start at approximately 6:15 pm and first Hayride around 5:45 pm in hopes we can fit in more than one trip! Fellowship will provide plates, cups etc. and the salad, hot dogs & the marshmallows for toasting. Please bring a dessert to share or a pot of chili for the Chili Cook-off.



The sign up sheet is in the Commons.

The next meeting of Fellowship Commission will be on Commission Night, Monday, October 4, at 6 pm – 8 pm. Please join us!

From Sue Cloutier, Fellowship Commission

Big Tracks in the Snow

From Bill Mendenhall of the Taking Grace Green Committee

I went trout fishing in Colorado again in March. I skied one day then fished the next and repeated the sequence again. The fifth day Jill went up the canyon with me in a snow storm and walked around, took pictures with her phone camera, then sat in the car and read a book while I fished.

Every year I see and experience new things on the Frying Pan River . . . Elk in the high country above the canyon, Big Horn Sheep low near the road grazing on the new Spring grass, Dippers (river birds) that jump in the water and walk around the stones feeding on the aquatic insects that the trout are eating, Ravens, Mountain Jays and Eagles flying overhead, squirrels coming to the water's edge for food and water.

This year, on the first day on the river, I noticed large footprints in the snow along the water's edge where I was fishing. Curiously, they were like a large dog's, maybe a Lab, but different. I spent some time at the end of the afternoon taking a good look. Back in Snowmass Village, I went online and searched for mountain lion tracks on Yahoo. There they were . . . large like a dog, four toes, but no toenails, and a larger pad at the base of the print. Mountain lion.

The second day I looked again and saw more tracks and some scat. The prints were on the hillside and along the water's edge and I guessed the animal was fishing where I was wading when nobody was around. That evening I went on Yahoo again and checked for mountain lion scat. There it was. Just like what I was looking at. Mountain lion for sure.

The last day, when I was again getting my daily license at the Orvis Fly Shop in Basalt, mentioned the tracks to the clerk / guide who was helping me and he said, "isn't it a thrill to see them and know they are there?" I replied that it was. I told him that I knew they were up the canyon several years earlier but hadn't been that close to seeing them.

My three days on the Frying Pan were special. I saw, caught and released a lot of Rainbow and Brown Trout.

On the first day there was an aquatic insect hatch and the fish were actively feeding in the late morning. At the beginning of each afternoon the fish moved into the middle of the river and swam in a feeding lane. I fished to them and had great results. An hour or so later the fish were in the shallow water, in the sun, around my wading boots . . . holding in the current and spawning. I had to look when I moved to avoid stepping on them.

On the second day the sequence repeated itself. And then, around noon a mature Bald Eagle flew low over my head and up river.

On the third day I fished in a Spring blizzard, 27 degrees, a foot of snow on the ground, snow coming down hard. And I watched the same trout show I had seen on the first two days . . . and I caught four beautiful mountain trout. I had another wonderful day on the Frying Pan River above Basalt.

I got to see signs of mountain lion, watch a mature Bald Eagle, enjoy the usual group of critters, and feel the wildness of the canyon. I had recorded enough memorable sights and moments to last me through this year . . . and until I go back again.

(Note: The Frying Pan is considered to be one of the best "tailwater" rivers (water below a dam) in the lower 48 states. It certainly is the prettiest.)

Announcements and Notices

Thank you to our wonderful coffee hour hosts for September!

Linda & Bob Elder
Mary & Andy Huisman
Mark & Jane Servinsky

- from Laurie VanArk , Coffee Hour Coordinator



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”.

Altar Flowers

There are still Sundays available in the fall for donating Altar flowers. This is a nice way to honor or remember someone or a special event. The sign up sheet is available 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 November 2010 issue of Grace to You is October 20, 2010.
Please contact the church office at gechurch@sbcglobal.net for more details.***

Financial Stewardship Report - Total Gifts

August Budget	\$ 26,452	Year-to-Date Budget	\$ 228,104
August Received	\$ 30,757	Year-to-Date Received	\$ 216,629
August Surplus (Shortage)	\$ 4,305	Year-to-Date Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (11,475)

Birthdays & Anniversaries in October



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

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



Prayer List as of September 17, 2010

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: Mike, Rhoda Janzen Burton, Arpod Jazko, Dolores & Earl Barkel, Bob & Donna Rieckmann, Yvonne Logan, the Drew family, Michael Borst (grandson of Vern & Pat De Pree), Ann Mayers, Janet Klumpp, Mel Porter, David Vos, the Cornwall family, Jenny, Tom, 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, David, and other loved ones of our parish family; for those whose lives are affected by the oil disaster and those who work to remedy it; for victims of mudslides in China; for victims of monsoons in Pakistan; for victims of earthquakes in New Zealand, 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, Brooks and Isaac, Katherine McNamar, Judy Ching, Tom Boyd, Nancy Lathem, Judy Zylstra, Sharon King, Karla Meeks, Aaron Schillaci, Alex, 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, Marge Homan (mother of Carol Homan), Mary Rieckmann, Curt Keegin, Vivian Kingsley, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.