

# Grace to You

December 2012-January

2013

Volume 2012, Issue 10

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Jennifer Wolfe, Children's Choir  
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& Youth Ministries, Communications  
Secretary  
Thom Samuelson, Sexton  
Gail Westerhof, Secretary  
Mary Battaglia, Financial Secretary

*Purify our conscience, Almighty God,  
by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming,  
may find in us a mansion prepared for himself.*

*- Collect for Fourth Advent from The Book of Common Prayer*

I resonate with this particular Advent collect because it speaks to me about “making room” and so much of what I and others seem to be working on these days relates to that kind of discipline. We work to “make room” for our families, to take time for rest, to create space for creativity, to open ourselves to forgiveness and other things that require us to discover capacity in ourselves in order to receive them well.

Advent is about this kind of work. This is an active season of faith, one marked by opening ourselves so that there is room at the inn when Christ arrives. We watch and we wait during Advent, but this is not meant to be a passive sort of anticipation. Advent invites us to make inner space, creating that mansion in us spoken about in the collect. So often our busy lives preclude making room for good faithful reception whether it be of surprises, or strangers, or new opportunities, or even daily prayer. Advent is an opportunity to open up again and allow space for God to (re)settle in however it is that God chooses to come. The good news is that God wants to be here and will help us do the work we need to do to facilitate that presence.

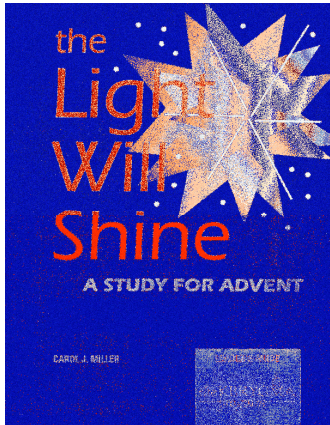
So how will you make room this season? What do you need to change or let go of in order to receive what it is that God longs to give you? The collect suggests the purifying of conscience but so many other approaches are valuable too such as the occasional clearing of schedules, opening space for conversation, creating time for reflection and prayer, opening hearts to needed healing and so many other possibilities that have to do with God's presence in our lives.

May we make room this season for the gifts which God longs to give. In doing so may we discover blessedness of this Advent season.

Peace to you,

*Jen*

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**An Advent Sunday Forum Series  
December 2, 9 & 16 at 9:15am  
Led by Jen Adams and Mary Huisman**

**Outside our nights are longer, are days are shorter but as an Advent people of faith we are watching and waiting for the coming of Christ. How do we wait? How do we watch? How do the Bible stories of the season guide us in our prayerful approach to the season?**

**Join us for a three week Bible study on  
the coming of the Light of the World, Emmanuel.**

**Wednesday Nights:**

**Believing, Belonging, Becoming!** Join us Wednesday nights at Grace as we explore Christian practices, eating together, praying together, being Grace together. The practice we're exploring in November is "Singing." In December we'll be "Waiting" and in January we will be "Praying." The evenings are intergenerational with a shared meal and program for all ages. The basic schedule for Wednesday nights looks like this:

5:45 Supper

6:30 Evening Prayers

6:45 Christian Practice Stations and Kids' Choir

7:45 Chamber Choir (Youth and Adults)

On the first Wednesday of the month we have a movie in the place of Stations. The December movie for adults is *Babette's Feast* (see page 5 for details) and the kids will have a selection from *Veggie Tales*.

# *A Calendar of Worship for the Seasons*

December 23 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Holy Eucharist at 8:15 am

Intergenerational Education Hour at 9:15 am

Holy Eucharist with Lessons and Carols at 10:30 am

December 24 *Christmas Eve*

**Music by Grace Children and Youth 5:30 pm**

**Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 6:00 pm** This is a service especially geared to children. The liturgy will be spoken to young ears with a children's homily, special prayers, and celebration of the Eucharist. (The nursery space will be open and available for parents' use.)

**Choral Service of Christmas Carols at 10:00 pm\***

**Traditional Midnight Service of Holy Eucharist at 10:30 pm\***

(Childcare will be provided in the nursery. You may want to bring your child's night time toy and/or blanket and pillow.)

December 30 *First Sunday after Christmas*

Holy Eucharist at 10:30 am\*

(NOTE: one service only)

January 6, 2013 *The Epiphany*

Holy Eucharist at 8:15 and 10:30 am\*

Intergenerational Education Hour at 9:15 am \*

\* child care provided at these services

# Education & Formation

## Grace



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Grace has Talent event sponsored by the Youth, it was a fun evening filled with a great variety of talents and added a special touch to the Stewardship Commission's Oktoberfest. If you didn't get to participate, we'll look forward to seeing you there next year.

Thanks, also, to all of you who were a part of the "All the Company of Heaven" Intergenerational lessons and All Souls service at Grace. Ketzi Zylstra gave a beautiful presentation on the tradition of Dia De Los Muertos and the ofrendas were a great addition to our All Souls service of remembrance.

Finally, thanks to Kristie Philips, David Masselink, and David Hawley-Lowry as well as the children and youth of Grace who made the CYM presentation for the Stewardship drive possible. The video was fun, informative, and really gave us all a sense of what Grace means to the children and youth here.

As we move into Advent and Christmas season, there are a variety of Children's and Youth Ministries activities and events planned. The youth will be participating (with the Tri-Youth group) in two service projects; the "rake and run" for Middle School and the "Make a meal" (for the Community Kitchen) for the High School youth. Both service projects help others in our local community. During Advent, the youth are helping to organize the "Star Tree". As you may know, this program works in conjunction with Good Sam Ministries and benefits our Community Housing Partnership families by providing Christmas gifts and other needs of the families. The "Star Tree" will be located in the Commons by the couch. It is easy to do, just pick a star off the tree, purchase the item listed on the star, then return it unwrapped with the star attached to the church. We will all wrap gifts together on Sunday, December 23 at 9:15 in the Undercroft. The gifts will be delivered to the families on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve, children and youth are invited to present the prelude music prior to the early service at 6:00pm. Please contact our Music Director, Steve Jenkins or the church office if you would like to sign up. There will be a chance for everyone to rehearse in the sanctuary prior to Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> as part of our Wednesday evening program.

On January 5, the youth will hold their annual "Epiphany Youth Retreat". This will be our FOURTH year for this retreat, and we're looking forward to a great event. It is not too late to become a part of what's happening at Grace. Come and see..... !

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

### **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" 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 **December 3rd, December 17th, December 31st, January 14th and January 28th** .



### **BELIEVING, BELONGING, BECOMING...**

**Wednesday, December 5th**

**Pizza Supper at 5:45, Evening Prayers at 6:30, and movie at 6:45**

### **Babette's Feast (1987)**

In 19th century Denmark, two adult sisters live in an isolated village with their father, who is the honored pastor of a small Protestant church that is almost a sect unto itself. Although they each are presented with a real opportunity to leave the village, the sisters choose to stay with their father, to serve to him and their **church**. After some years, a French woman refugee, Babette, arrives at their door, begs them to take her in, and commits herself to work for them as maid/housekeeper/cook. Sometime after their father dies, the sisters decide to hold a dinner to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth. Babette experiences unexpected good fortune and implores the sisters to allow her to take charge of the preparation of the meal. Although they are secretly concerned about what Babette, a Catholic and a foreigner, might do, the sisters allow her to go ahead. Babette then prepares the feast of a lifetime for the members of the tiny church and an important gentleman related to one of them. *Written by Ed Cannon*

### **ST. MARY'S GUILD**

St. Mary's will meet on **Monday, December 10, at 7:15 PM** in the Forum Room. We will be making gifts for St. Martha's Guild to deliver to members of our Grace family who are not regularly able to attend Sunday services.

No talent needed!!! Come and enjoy the fun. Peg Keegin and Mel Porter are hostesses.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Charlie Broersma   | 14 Jill Smalldon      |
| 2 Andrew Schafer     | Karlyn March          |
| Molly McVay-Walters  | Andrew Macy           |
| 4 Sophia Steele      | 17 Grayson Visco      |
| Barb Vincensi        | 18 Alivia De Cook     |
| 6 Danielle Biolette  | 19 Eleanor Nyhof      |
| Lindsay Goodman      | 20 David Meier        |
| Gloria Hignite       | Andrew Scharlow       |
| Jeremy Stauffer      | 22 Derek Foster       |
| 7 Cesar Edgell       | 23 Matthew Guyer      |
| 8 Katie Gamby        | Kim Ford              |
| 9 Sandy Hansen       | 25 Carol Homan        |
| Jesse Klug           | Kathryn Verspoor      |
| Jorie Sligh          | 26 David Hawley-Lowry |
| Patricia Essenburg   | Jersey Masselink      |
| Libby Thomas         | 27 Rob Linn           |
| 10 Chris St. John    | Alice Gillam          |
| 11 Steve Shinabarger | 28 Holly Nyland       |
| 12 Owen Foster       | Brad Richmond         |
| Isabel Hodson        | 30 Pam Nienhuis       |
|                      | Will Polik            |
|                      | 31 Jennifer Balisi    |

## Birthdays & Anniversaries In December

- 1 Debbie & Mihai Craioveanu
- 9 Dianne & Curtis Glupker
- 18 Lynne & Bob Frey
- 19 Monny & Bryce Cobb  
Sharon & John Barlow
- 20 Pat & Warren Parker
- 27 Mary Mims &  
Brent VanderBie
- 28 Jane & Dennis Joles
- 30 Mary & Kevin Matrosic
- 31 Ruth Fischer & Bill Paterson



- |                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Richard Swaney      | 12 David Wright        |
| Phillip Reinink       | Joan Breitmeyer        |
| 2 Jennifer Wolfe      | 14 Liza Barry          |
| 3 Kristie Phillips    | Ron Brown              |
| 4 Devin Shea          | 15 Tom Kelley          |
| Lourdes Manderfield   | 17 Roger De Cook       |
| Christoph Manderfield | Mike Erickson          |
| Sam Klug              | Griselda Edgell        |
| 5 Brian Coyle         | 18 David Raffenaud     |
| 6 Rob Sligh           | 19 Lauren Ray          |
| Brian Essenburg       | 21 Christopher Packard |
| 7 Krista Raffenaud    | 22 Sydne Klinge        |
| Stafford Keegin       | 23 Heather Klant       |
| Emily Wright          | Clay Stauffer          |
| 8 Samantha Brown      | 24 Lucy Hopkins        |
| 10 Gladys Woodward    | 25 Ronan Kelley        |
| Grafton Ervine        | 27 Anne Gamache        |
| Simon Hodson          | Dennis Joles           |
| 11 John Barlow        | 31 Sally Corneliussen  |

## Birthdays & Anniversaries in January

- 4 Lynn & Blane Kamp
- 7 Debbie & Brian Coyle
- 16 Betty & Gerald Sova
- 17 Cherie & Roger De Cook
- 19 Pam & Ron Brown  
Karen & Jay Bylsma



***Prayer List as of November 18, 2012***

†††††

**PRAYER REQUESTED FOR:** Lori, Nancy, Julie & Kelly and family, Garrett, Harriet (sister of Ginny Wilson), the Baker family, victims of Hurricane Sandy, Netashia Shields, Nancy Chamness, Sharon Henderson (mother of Sharie Phillips), Sharie, Scott Caughey, Viv Cook & family, Fr. Tracy Wilder, Janet & John, the Barkel family, Dale Labbe, Sr., Pam Redgrave, Peter Homan, Ken & Sarah Swart, Bob, Kevin, Stephanie Ray & family, Vivian Weston, Ann Brown, Gisela Strand, Joyce Barber (sister of Nancy Hensley), Bill Ketchum, Kaleb, David, Rob Elhart, Colin DeVries & family, Judy, Danielle Woldring & family, 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, Warwick, 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. Patricia Arnold, Mary Schimmel (sister of Cathy deVelder), Bette Comport, Chuck Matrosic, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Devin, Robert McConkey, Bob Borgman, Gerald, Dan Heiberg, Eric Heiberg, Ray Ybarra, Jim & Jane, Sarah, Chris, Tom, Caroline, John, Andrew, Bob Hampson, Ralph Suchor, Irene Bartlett, Steve, Jenny, Dale Labbe Sr., Ray Viele, Allie Verburg & family, Ben Broersma, Michael Borst, the Drew family, 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, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, Mary Rieckmann, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP AT GRACE:**

If you are living with Parkinson's disease (or know someone who is) consider the Grace Parkinson's Support Group as a place to find companionship, encouragement and support on the journey. The group meets on the ***third Thursday of the month***. Next meeting is **December 20th and January 17th** beginning at 7pm in the Forum Room.

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

**HEALING SHAWL MINISTRY IS EXPANDING!!**

Knitted or crocheted shawls have provided a way to reach out to parishioners as well as those in our community who may be experiencing illness, grief or other difficult circumstances. With gentlemen in mind, we are now adding fleece fringed lap robes. Just as yarn is available for the knitted and crocheted shawls, fleece is available for the lap robes, along with directions. For those who would like to contribute to this ministry but don't knit or crochet, the fleece lap robes are a great alternative as no sewing is required. For more information, please call Brenda Millett, 738-0890.

## Grace Abounds! Pledge Drive 2013

As a part of Grace Abounds! the children and youth of Grace made a video in which they responded to the question, “What do you love about Grace Church?” They responded with some wonderful comments such as, “seeing friends,” “snacks,” “the music,” and “we learn about God here.” But one very unexpected answer came in too.

It turns out that for a few young members of Grace, playing with the dump truck in the nursery is one of the things that they look forward to the most at Church. And so we decided two things: First that we needed a backup dump truck in order to avoid any catastrophic Sunday meltdowns. And second, that the dump truck should actually help us count our pledges this Fall.

Because dump trucks gather. They help critical supplies get to where they are needed. They do some of the heavy lifting involved with a building process. And pledge drives do all of that too.

**Individual pledges provide the most significant portion of the income needed to support our parish ministries. Here at Grace, we’re building a growing congregation and our goals are ambitious ones:**

- Our Draft Budget for 2013 stands at about \$425,000.
- This includes a *10% increase* in expenses as we work to cover the costs of the recently purchased Parish House, maintain our vital parish ministries, and give beyond Grace to the church and world.

**The dump truck in the Commons is filling with bricks each representing \$2000 in monies pledged. As of November 19 our pledge total stood at \$117,334.**

- Our 2012 pledge total of \$313,000 must be surpassed in order to meet the 10% budget increase.
- Please turn in pledge cards soon or email a pledge amount to the church office.
- We will give updates in Church on the Sundays that follow and send follow up mailings to those from whom we get no response.

**Please, pledge what you can to help Grace abound!!!**





## FEEDING AMERICA

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates:  
**December 13th, January 10th and February 14th.** We need folks to help with set-up and to welcome our guests.

If you are working in the kitchen, come at 3:30.

If you are working registration, come at 4:00.

If you are working food distribution, come at 5:00.



Also, remember the ongoing need for *laundry detergent (see special request) and toilet paper!* You can bring these items at any time and deposit them in the labeled drawers in the Commons. With a little corporate help we have managed to regularly distribute these items to each family. Good job Grace!

**Special request:** We appreciate the many laundry detergent donations we receive, but if possible, please keep the bottles under 70oz. for ease in distribution.

**For almost 3 years Grace Church has served 2,774 families** with our Feeding America Outreach initiative. Once a month, Grace has distributed 5,000 pounds of food together with toilet paper and laundry soap. This totals 140,000 pounds of food and approximately 2,600 bottles of soap and 11,096 rolls of toilet paper!

The cost for food is covered through our Outreach budget. However, we are dependent on our member's in kind contributions of soap and toilet paper. Because the number of families served has risen significantly, we also encourage financial contributions to help us meet the need. These may be made by check to Grace Church noting in the memo section "FA soap & paper."

The families we serve through Feeding America are very appreciative as Grace continues to reach out in our community.

*Submitted by Sue Cloutier*

## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Every weekday and on Sundays too, the Community Kitchen serves lunch to about 200 hungry people out of the commons area at Western Seminary.

Grace Church is committed to providing **three or four helpers each Wednesday.** **Volunteers** are needed to help serve and clean up from **11:15am to 1:30pm** every Wednesday. Please sign up in the Commons and let us know if you are available to be "on-call".

## Nominations are open for the Vestry Class of 2016

The Vestry Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for Vestry membership (three year term to begin following the Annual Meeting on Jan 23rd.). You are encouraged to consider who might be called to serve the parish as a lay leader in this capacity. To nominate a fellow parishioner, please take the following steps: Talk with the person you wish to nominate. Obtain permission to submit his or her name to the Nominating Committee; and give a member of the Nominating Committee or the Rector the individual's name.

Each nominee then will be contacted personally by a member of the Nominating Committee, offering the nominee an opportunity to learn about current Vestry focus areas, become aware of the time commitment, and ask any questions. If the Nominee's decision is to move forward, his or her name will be placed in nomination during the Annual Meeting at which four new Vestry members will be elected.

Nominations close on Sunday, January 6, 2013, three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting as required by our by-laws. You are urged to submit your nominations as soon as possible so that we may have sufficient time to meet with each nominee.

The following parishioners make up the Nominating Committee:

Bruce Fries	616-617-7663	bfries@tds.net
Dave Masselink	218-7471	dave_masselink@hermanmiller.com
Mary Remenschneider	403-0442	remenschneider@hope.edu
Robbie Schorle	269-543-4400	artforsoul@comcast.net

## ST. MARTHA'S WINTER WARM UP

St. Martha's volunteers will be hosting their annual winter get-together on Tuesday, January 15 at the home of Judy Kirsch, 282 Roosevelt Avenue, at 6:00 pm.

Each month the men and women of St. Martha's go out to visit parishioners and friends of Grace who live in their home or care center and no longer are able to attend services.

Once or twice a month, two or three visits to our friends in the St. Martha's community are vital to keeping in touch with the family that is Grace Church.

Please consider being a part of the St. Martha's pastoral care outreach to the homebound. You will be one who continues to share your time with someone who wants to be remembered as part of our Grace Church family.

The soup supper and brief meeting begins at 6:00 pm. Come and learn how you can be a welcome visitor and a part of a special person's day.

Call or contact Peg Keegin, 335-9342.

## THANK YOU TO NOVEMBER COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Jane Beggs-Joles & Dennis Joles  
Brian & Debbie Coyle  
Jill Smalldon & Katie Verspoor



*from Laurie VanArk  
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

### **The Gifts We Have Been Given**

Jill and I have been working to see more of our national parks and monuments. We regularly visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Shoreline near our cottage, have been to the Grand Canyon, numerous National Park sites in Hawaii, Rocky Mountain National Park, the Blue Ridge Mountains, Glacier Bay and Denali National Parks in Alaska, the Badlands, Yosemite National Park, and Muir Woods, to name just a few.

Two years ago we traveled to Montana for a week of fly fishing on three classic rivers and streams. During the week we took a day and drove to Yellowstone National Park and toured the north end of this special place. We saw many of the historic sites and were stunned by the remarkable terrain, rivers, waterfalls and canyons, meadows, rock formations, hot springs and geysers, and a lot of Bisons. It was beyond the videos, PBS Ken Burns series, and National Geographic photo images. We were indeed visitors in a wild land that was preserved to accommodate wilderness and wildlife. Were humbled by its size and beauty and thankful that Ulysses S. Grant had the vision to save this place for all of us to enjoy.

This past June we again went fly fishing with friends, this time in Idaho. We planned extra time at the beginning and end of our trip to see some of the great places in the area including the Wind River Range, the Grand Teton National Park, the Caribou Targhee National Forest, and the southern part of Yellowstone National Park.

At the end of our four days of Trout fishing on the Henry's Fork and South Fork sections of the Snake River, we drove north on the Idaho-Wyoming border, on to the west entrance of Yellowstone and began another journey of discovery in the south end of the park. We again saw many of the historic sites, forests, the famous Madison River (Bison at its edge), rock formations, beautiful vistas, the Firehole River, hot springs and pools with incredible colors, the end of an Old Faithful performance, waterfalls and canyons, and a long ride around Lake Yellowstone with views of distant mountain ranges. When we finally drove out through the east entrance our senses were on overload from the wonder of the landscape and its images. And, again were grateful that this wonderful place had been saved for all of us.

This holiday season we will reflect on the gifts we all have been given . . . our families, our friends, our community, our great country and the freedom it provides. It is also a good time to look beyond ourselves and appreciate the earth we live on and the wonders around us . . . our unique Big Lake with its beaches and dunes close to our homes, our many small lakes and forests, the wild things that we can see if we look into the woods, a meadow, or up above us . . . and the special gifts like Yellowstone, and the many other places in the natural world that have been preserved for us to enjoy.

*Submitted by Bill Mendenhall*

**FEBRUARY NEWLETTER DEADLINE: Wednesday, January 16th, 2013**  
**Times New Roman, 12pt requested. Send to [gechurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gechurch@sbcglobal.net)**

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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.

