

In this issue

**Birthdays/Anniversaries and
Calendar in the center**

Rector's message.....	1
Education	2-4
Pastoral Care.....	6
Outreach.....	7-9
Fellowship.....	10
Bishop Slate.....	10
Bishop Search Information.....	11

Walking About

I write this article a few days before the diocesan “Walkabout” and many things fill my mind and heart. During this Walkabout weekend, the people of our Diocese will meet the four candidates for Bishop in either Kalamazoo, Traverse City or Grand Rapids (you can find details later in this newsletter) and we candidates will interact with a breadth of the people who make up Western Michigan. These experiences lead up to the election convention on Saturday, May 18. We are all approaching the final steps in this long discernment process.

Discernment can't happen in solitude, so whether you have known it or not, you have accompanied me on this journey. The input you've given, the questions you've asked, the prayers you've prayed and the patience and caring you've shown to me and to each other—I appreciate all of these. You have aided me this year as I have had the privilege to learn a great deal about myself, the church, leadership and calling. You have supported my learning curve simply by being Grace. Know that I am grateful for it.

Now, odds are good that this discernment will simply lead to us developing together new and improved ways for me to be your Rector. We'll call it “Rector 2.0.” But no matter what happens with the election, I will celebrate and emerge from this process grateful and incredibly blessed. I am now “walking about” with a genuine trust in the Spirit to do what the Spirit will do and to care for us all as She moves. I can't imagine a greater gift than that.

Peace and many thanks,

Jen

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Alex Foster — 283-7081
Tom Kelly — 616-915-6839
Brent Krueger — 786-9858
Chuck Murray— 335-3690
Carol Myers— 396-1002
Bill Rocker — 403-1862
Matt Schmidt — 772-0797
Jill Smalldon —994-9725
David Stubbs— 546-8845
Paul Trap — 396-6492
Diane Wiersma— 403-0051
Doug Zylstra— 616-953-6087
Jay Bylsma— 399-5721
Jerry Roper, Treasurer Emeritus

STAFF

Robert R. Gepert, Bishop
Jennifer Adams, Rector
Dennis Remenschneider,
Pastoral Support
Steve Jenkins, Director of Music
Debbie Coyle, Director of
Children's & Youth Ministries
Thom Samuelson, Sexton
Gail Westerhof, Secretary
Mary Battaglia, Financial Secretary

Grace Episcopal Church
(616) 396-7459 FAX (616) 396-7430
www.graceepiscopalholland.org
email: gechurch@sbcglobal.net

Education & Formation

Grace



News from Children and Youth

April showers bring May flowers. And what do May flowers bring?
MARKETPLAATS!!!

As many of you know, Grace helps to organize and serve traditional Dutch food at the Holland Civic Center during Tulip Time. This is our one major fundraiser to support the youth Mission and Pilgrimage trips as well as a variety of other youth-specific events throughout the year. We still have times available for you to volunteer, so please consider volunteering for a shift by contacting Debbie at the church office 616-396-7549, or debcoyle@gmail.com.

Our High School Youth leaders, Matt and Cherie Schmidt, are organizing an opportunity for our youth to attend the Bishop Candidates' Walk About on Sunday, May 5th. We will gather the youth and take them to St. Mark's for this very important experience in the life of the church.

Later in May, the Youth will close out the program year with a cook-out party at Tunnel Park with the Tri-Youth (youth groups from Hope Church and First Presbyterian Church) 5:30-7:30pm.

Don't forget to sign up your 3rd through 12th grader for the EDWM Episcopal Youth Camp. You can find information in the Grace Commons, look for the link on the Grace website, or visit www.edwm.org.

Grace will participate in a Vacation Bible School with Peace Lutheran and First Presbyterian June 23rd through 27th from 6 till 8pm. Pack your dinner and join the group at 5:30 if you'd like. The program this year is called "Taking Root", and focuses on feeding the hungry. Sign up in the Grace Commons by June 1st! Please consider becoming a VBS leader for the week.

As we close out this program year, I would like to say a special "Thank You" to all of our CYM leaders: David and Lynn Stubbs, Mary Matrosic, Elizabeth Brubaker, Chris Wennersten, Ketzi Zylstra, Radha Deitenbeck, Kristie Philips, Michele Paterson-Brown, Suzy Bullinger, Carlos and Ashley Fosatti, Matt and Cherie Schmidt, Katie Colburn, and Howard Huyser. Their leadership over the year has proven once again that Grace Abounds. Please plan to attend the 10:30 service on Sunday, May 12th to recognize those who lead and support our CYM. We will also be honoring our graduating seniors at this service.

We are beginning our planning for the coming program year. Please consider your level of participation in this vital ministry. There are long term, short term, and even one-time opportunities to be a part of Children's and Youth Ministries at Grace. Contact Debbie at the church office for more information.

Thanks for another great year!

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

Sunday Forums

9:15-10:15am—Lower Level Forum Room

- May 5 Community Housing Partnership (CHP)**
For the past several years, two of our Grace houses have served as home for families transitioning out of homelessness. This Community Housing Partnership ministry is a collaborative effort shared with Community Action House and Good Samaritan Ministries. Together we're able to offer shelter, mentoring and other forms of support for families who need a safe and stable place to live in order to get back on their feet. Come hear from the Diane Mugg and Mark Kornelis of Good Samaritan Ministries who will talk about the program and Grace's participation in it.
- May 12 Brainstorming for Next Year**
Bring us your thoughts and ideas for the program year 2013-14! We are beginning to plan for next Fall and need your input for topics, speakers, or series. Let us know what you'd like to hear presented and discussed on Sunday mornings!
- May 19 The Bishop's Election**
The 9th Bishop of our Diocese will be elected during a special Diocesan Convention on Saturday, May 18th. Come be together this morning, the 19th, to hear and discuss the results of the election.

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's will meet on Monday, May 13. We will be traveling to DeGraaf Nature Center to learn about attracting birds to our feeders. If you would like to carpool, we will be gathering in the church parking lot about 6:50 PM. If you would prefer to drive alone, please be at DeGraaf by 7:15 PM. Hostesses are Joan Heneveld and Gail Geiger.



St. Mary's will not meet in June.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES AT A NEW TIME:

Alternate Mondays, 4:00 to 5:15 pm (a men's discussion group) — The men's study group "Beer and Bibles" meets every other Monday, for conversation, reflection, and fellowship. We are currently reading through the book of Hebrews. B-Y-O-Both. Upcoming dates are **May 6th and May 20th.**

Education & Formation

TIME TO REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Grace children aged 3 years old through our current 5th graders are invited to join children from Peace Lutheran and First Presbyterian for a week-long VBS focused on living faithfully, and serving our neighbors to help fight hunger and poverty. There is no cost for the week, but registration is required. Register at sign-up table in the Commons.

Sunday, June 23rd—Thursday, June 27th, 6:00-8:00pm.

Older than 5th grade? Volunteers needed: We need 1 volunteer coordinator and 4 leaders—see sign-up sheets.

Vacation Bible School needs your help! We need 50 empty jars (spaghetti sauce, jam sized) for a project we are doing at VBS.

Education for Ministry (EfM)



At Grace Episcopal Church we are fortunate to have the **Education for Ministry (EfM)** program as one of our course offerings. Here is the lead paragraph from their website:

Education for Ministry, affectionately known as EfM, is a program of theological education-at-a-distance of the School of Theology of the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. It covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars under the guidance of trained mentors. The program grants a certificate at the completion of the four years and 18 Continuing Education Units for each year's work.

The EfM group has been active at Grace for many years. Trained mentors facilitate the group and each member provides leadership in the group. Here is a summary of the program:

- There are no 'lone' Christians
- We listen for God in community
- We do theology in community, reflecting on our tradition and contemporary issues
- We discern the call to ministry in community
- We worship in community
- The EfM course is mentored, not taught. Mentor and members share learning and insights
- Our current group has members from Grace Church as well as people from other denominations. We may extend an invitation to other groups as well. Members bring different perspectives to our discussions.

EfM is a powerful way to enable lay ministry and increase one's understanding of scripture, liturgy, history, theology and the way in which God works in our lives. If this program is of interest to you, contact Mary Huisman at maryh@westernsem.edu or Thom Daubenspeck at tmdaubenspeck@gmail.com or speak to one of the current members: Sue Cloutier, Debbie Coyle, Sarah Swart, Radha Deitenbeck, Paul Trap, or Norm Walker! A display table will be in The Commons soon so you can view upcoming materials for next year.



JOIN US MAY 12 FOR MOTHER'S DAY

We will celebrate with sherry and cake, outside, weather permitting. **Pizza Sunday**, normally the second Sunday, will be postponed a week to May 19.

THANK YOU TO APRIL COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Prescott & Michele Slee
John & Sharon Barlow
Brian & Debbie Coyle
Renee & Brent Krueger



*From Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Cel Meerman | 9 Michele Paterson Brown | 22 John Paris |
| Rod Reinink | Daniel Hawley-Lowry | 23 Melissa Gunn |
| Dylan Tucker | 10 Barb Goodman | Ian Krueger |
| 2 Matthew Scharlow | Ione Trap | 24 Sarah Linn |
| 3 Carrie Hodson | 11 Bill Paterson | Ella Rocker |
| 4 Jackie Gamache | 13 David Wright | Kelli Shinabarger |
| 5 Pat Parker | 14 Sue Bullinger | 25 David Knoll |
| Samuel Zylstra | 15 Prescott E. Slee | 27 Val Ambrose |
| 6 Bryson Kiser | 17 Laura Canaan | 28 Dave Masselink |
| Charlie Matrosic | Ron Nienhuis | 29 Jeffrey Erickson |
| Anna Stubbs | 18 Pat Danly | George Pierson |
| Brayden Vander Kamp | Andrew Smalldon | 30 Monica Hittner-Cunningham |
| 7 Sydney Ray | 19 Valarie Methric | Louise Stauffer |
| 8 Rosemary Erickson | 20 Mae Kuna | 31 David Chamness |
| Brock Smalldon | 21 Danielle Gamache | |
| | Rob Schafer | |



Birthdays & Anniversaries in May

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 Pam & Ron Nienhuis | 20 Linde & Kyle Klinge |
| 7 Sharie & Dave Phillips | 22 Barb & Ned Goodman |
| 9 Rosemary & Jeff Erickson | 23 Marianne & Brian Manderfield |
| Gerlinde & David Knoll | Drew & Pamela Buitendorp-Drew |
| 12 Jane & Mark Servinsky | 25 Gwen & Mike Miller |
| 19 Liza & Jim Barry | 26 Connie & Bill Ketchum |
| Kelly & Kelly R. Smith | |



Prayer List as of April 30, 2013

†††††

PRAYER REQUESTED FOR: the Barkel family, Steve Jenkins, Daniel, the McConkey family, Erika, Barb Anderson & family, Todd Billings & family, Kathy, Melinda Heiberg and family, Monny & Bryce, Emily & family, Laura Ferster, Melissa Morgan (sister of Lora Lee Murray), Grace Herta, Patrick, Viv Cook & family, Brian, Arkie Pierson, Patricia, Bill, George Jackson, Amanda, Chris, Lori, Nancy, the Baker family, Sharon Henderson (mother of Sharie Phillips), Sharie, Scott Caughey, Pam Redgrave, Bob, Kevin, Vivian Weston, Ann Brown, Kaleb, David, Rob Elhart, Judy, Danielle Woldring & family, Tracy & Patricia, 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, Zachary, Carrie, Sam, and other loved ones of our parish family; for an end to the conflict in Congo, for all victims of disasters worldwide, natural and manmade; for those in our time who face persecution for their faith and for their persecutors, Bill Ketchum, Peter Homan, Gisela Strand, Ken & Sarah Swart, Patricia Arnold, Mary Schimmel (sister of Cathy deVelder), Chuck Matrosic, Debbie (sister of Mary Matrosic), Devin, Robert McConkey, Gerald, Ray Ybarra, Jim & Jane, Bob Hampson, Ralph Suchor, Irene Bartlett, Steve, Jenny, Dale Labbe Sr., Allie Verburg & family, Michael Borst, the Drew family, Jodi, Sandy, Donna, Amy, Diane, Adam, Shannon, Gail Davison, Stafford, Bruce Browning (brother of Jean Adams), George Julius, Dave Masselink, Aaron Miller, Betty Sova, Gloria Stegenga, Betty & Jerry, Mary Rieckmann, John Keegin, Jackie Van Duren, Lisa Leland, Ben Roper, Jim Roper.

Access the church calendar
under “About Us” and
click on “Calendar.”

Outreach

FEEDING AMERICA

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



Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates and note that July is **Wednesday instead of Thursday: May 9th , June 13th, July 10th, and August 8th.** 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 below) and toilet paper!* You can bring these items at any time and deposit them in the labeled drawers in the Commons. 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."

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

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

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".

DIOCESAN MISSIONS:

Other options in 2013:

- Kentucky Reading Camp, June 15 through June 22
- Pine Ridge, SD, June 21 through June 29
- Minot, ND, July 19 through July 28
- Kentucky Rebuild, September 21 through September 28
- New Orleans, November 15 through November 24

There is a job for everyone, even if you have no special skills!! The experience is very worthwhile. You give, but you also gain!!

To volunteer or for more information contact **Terry Dorcy at tjdorcy@aol.com** or call **Terry at 269-349-3625**.

THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF

IS TO LOSE YOURSELF IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

DIOCESE MISSION MANAGERS NEEDED

The Diocese is seeking experienced volunteers to manage the following missions in 2013:

- Minot, North Dakota, July 19 through 28, destroyed by a flood in 2011
- Lexington, Kentucky, September 21 through 28, home remodeling and repair in Appalachia
- New Orleans, Louisiana, November 15 through 24, home reconstruction and landscaping in the aftermath of hurricanes

The Diocese is also seeking volunteers for two reading camps this summer:

- Lexington, Kentucky, June 15 through 22, teachers, aides, and camp counselors are need to work with second, third, and fourth graders
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 22 through 26, a joint effort between St. Andrew's Episcopal and Grand Rapids Public Schools to improve reading skills for elementary children

Each of the disaster relief missions will need two Mission Leaders. Experience in previous Diocesan missions and general knowledge of home repair is a plus. Leadership skills working with people in a group setting is essential.

To learn more about or to volunteer as a Mission Leader, contact Terry Dorcy, tjdorcy@aol.com, or call 269-349-3625.

To learn more about or volunteer for one or both of the Diocesan reading camps, contact Rev. Cindy Nawrocki at rocki@att.net.

Pastoral Care and In the Community

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 **May 16th**, 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.



Ready For School is designed to assist families in promoting their child's physical, emotional and educational development. Parent Mentors work with parents who want to learn how to provide learning activities, games books and songs that enhance brain development.

Get Started: Parent Mentor Training will be held on May 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. After training, you will be matched up with a family and meet once a month at your convenience.

Meetings usually occur at the family home or another mutually convenient location.

To learn more about this program, contact:

Michelle Charameda
mcharameda@readyforschool.org
616-395-7055

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION OR FOSTER CARE

Are you interested in international adoption or foster care? Do you take an interest in international affairs? Would you like to make a direct impact in the life of a young person who has been forced to flee his or her country because of political oppression, or violence? Become a Refugee Foster Parent with Bethany Christian Services! Call 224-7540 for more information!



FROM THE DIOCESE:

BISHOP SEARCH TEAM SLATE ANNOUNCEMENT:

The nominees for bishop are:

- The Rev. Jennifer Adams, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Holland, Michigan (Diocese of Western Michigan)
- The Rev. Wayne Hougland, Jr., Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Salisbury, North Carolina (Diocese of North Carolina)
- The Rev. Canon Angela Shepherd, Canon for Mission, Diocese of Maryland
- The Rev. Canon William Spaid, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Western Michigan

The election booklet can be found online at <http://edwmsearch.org/> . Please keep this process, the candidates, and our diocese in your prayers as we begin to move toward the May election.

Come to the Walkabouts: The Transition Team would like to urge as many people as possible to attend the walkabouts scheduled in May to meet and hear the candidates for the 9th Bishop of Western Michigan. The walkabout schedule is:

- St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo, Friday, May 3rd from 7 to 9 pm
- Grace Church, Traverse City, Saturday, May 4th from 2 to 4 pm
- St. Mark's Church, Grand Rapids, Sunday, May 5th from 3 to 5 pm

MAY NEWLETTER DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 22, 2013
Times New Roman, 12pt requested. Send to gechurch@sbcglobal.net

Have something to share? Want to write something about a recent or upcoming Grace event? Don't be shy, send it in! We love articles that share any aspect of Grace life.

Grace Episcopal Church
555 Michigan Ave.
Holland, MI 49423

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOLLAND, MICH. 49423
PERMIT NO. 14

Address Service Requested

Please help us go GREEN! Contact us at gechurch@sbcglobal.net if you are able to view the newsletter online at www.graceepiscopalholland.org/newsletter.

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.

