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in the center**

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A Graceful Summer

During the summer months here at Grace we shift gears a bit in terms of programming, but the parish is active and alive in worship, outreach, education and the ongoing care we do for one another and the larger community. Here's what we're up to these months:

Grace Young Families which includes families of kids up through 5th grade are just back from a wonderful weekend camping trip at Muskegon State Park. Many families camped Friday through Sunday while others simply visited for a day at the beach on Saturday. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and an absolutely beautiful experience of God's creation.

Vacation Bible School is underway as this newsletter comes to print. VBS is a joint effort this year shared among Peace Lutheran, First Presbyterian and Grace Churches and is being held in the evenings. Peace Lutheran is hosting and lots of Grace kids are involved as they explore the themes of hunger and Jesus' gathering people around meals and opportunities to feast together.

We'll be welcoming a new family to the Community Housing Partnership house, having welcomed one family this Spring into our other CHP home. These families are transitioning out of homelessness and will stay with us for eighteen months to two years as they work with Grace, Community Action House, and Good Samaritans Ministries to begin again.

Our Parish House is completing repairs. We're scraping and painting the garage, re-caulking and painting window frames, repairing masonry, and replacing the roof over the back porch. Thank you to all the Grace members who have given time to getting all three of these houses ready for next steps. The Parish House will be home to short-term tenants as we do the planning we need to do to be able to integrate this home into our parish ministries.

Four Grace parishioners, Prescott and Michele Slee and Gary and Donna Bogle, are participating in the Diocesan Mission Trip to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. They are traveling with sixteen folks from other parishes in the diocese and will be doing work projects on the reservation while also worshipping regularly with and learning from the residents of that community.

Grace Youth will be canoeing with the Tri-Youth groups from Hope Church and First Presbyterian, St. Mary's Guild will be celebrating "Christmas in July", the Choir Room is being renewed, Stephens Ministers will hold special gatherings in a summer sort of spirit, Stewardship Commission will be making plans for Fall, new acolytes will be welcomed and trained, fifteen thousand pounds of food will be distributed through our Feeding America Program, children and youth of Grace will attend Diocesan Camp and other ministries carry on too as the summer invites us to a warm weather encompassed renewal.

Wishing you all a Grace-full summer,

Jen



NEWS FROM CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Let's Turn Tradition on It's Head. Will you be one of the TEN?

When I first began my work in Children's and Youth Ministries, the conventional wisdom was that for a program to be successful, it needed to have a ratio of one adult leader for every ten children in the program. However, a recent study by the Fuller Youth Institute suggests quite the opposite is true. The study found that instead of a ratio of one adult for every ten children, it is actually a ratio of TEN adults for every one child that builds successful youth ministry.

That's not to say that we should have ten leaders for every child at every event. What Dr. Kara Powell suggests in the book "Sticky Faith", is that those children and youth who tend to remain connected to their faith are those who have ten adults in their lives that they know care about them, support them, and are there for them. It is a simple task really – get to know and care about our children and youth. Be present to them.

Many of you are already one of the TEN for one of our kids. Maybe you don't even realize it yet. There is a variety of ways to be one of the TEN. You can connect with children and youth through any of our Fellowship events at Grace. You can help them connect to the life of the church through assisting with or leading any number of Children's and Youth Ministries (CYM) activities such as Sunday School, Youth Group activities, Growing into Worship, or special one-time events such as the mid-winter beach party for our little ones and even Marketplaats. Another way to connect with our young people is to send cards and letters to our recent high school graduates who have moved out of the area. The point is – making connections builds a community.

Currently, we are planning for our upcoming program year (2013-2014) which will "kick off" with the annual picnic on September 8th. Please consider becoming one of the TEN by volunteering to lead one of our CYM programs:

Sunday School (Preschool through High School)

Youth Groups (Middle School and High School)

Growing into Worship (Preschool through 1st grade)

Marketplaats fundraiser **Youth Mission Trip** **Vacation Bible School**

Contact Debbie at the church office 616-396-7459, or debcoyle@gmail.com to sign up and be part of the team.

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

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's Guild will meet for the annual Christmas in July celebration on Monday, July 8 at 6 PM. We will be gathering at the Community House in the Brook Village Condominium Complex (thank you, Ruth Brown) which is located on 32nd Street just West of Ottawa Avenue. Please bring an appetizer, a salad or a dessert to share. Ruth says that parking may be limited so let's gather at church about 5:40 PM and share the journey!!

We will once again be supporting Women in Transition and/or the Humane Society with our gifts. Please bring wrapped donations so we can have fun opening them!! Also, we will collect laundry detergent and TP for Feeding America if you would like to contribute.

Please be thinking of possible ideas for our next program year. Bring these ideas with you on Monday, July the 8th.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!!

ATTENTION ACOLYTES AND THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ACOLYTE (3rd grade and up)

Put **August 25th** in your calendars from **11:30 - 2 p.m.** for our upcoming training date. We will review all acolyte positions, and also have a fun activity planned. You won't want to miss it! Lunch provided. Attendance is strongly encouraged for not only the activity we have planned, but also so we have consistency in carrying out the acolyte positions.

Thank you for all you do, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by Jill Smalldon



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 **July 1st, July 15th, July 29th, August 12th, August 26th and September 9th.**

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. This program is for Christians seeking to earnestly explore how God may be calling them to a ministry of Christian leadership within or beyond the parish. If this program is of interest to you, contact Mary Huisman at maryh@westernsem.edu or Thom Daubenspeck at tmdaubenspeck@gmail.com.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Pam Brown | 19 Connor Stubbs |
| Katie Polik | 20 Eleanor Ervine |
| 5 Fred McConkey | Brad Gamby |
| 8 John Adams | Peg Keegin |
| Chuck Huttar | Scott Remenschneider |
| 9 Sarah Swart | Michele Slee |
| 10 Jan De Fouw | 22 Paul Trap |
| 11 Suzanne Cloutier | 23 Susan Bentley |
| Mel Van Oosterhout | 24 Patricia Shinabarger |
| 12 Eileen Jenkins | 25 Ben Bier |
| 13 Renee Krueger | Dustin Hopkins |
| 15 Barbara Hettinga | 26 Laura Sligh |
| Joy Huttar | 28 Bob Frey |
| 16 Ruth Brown | Philip Muzzy |
| 17 Duanne Masselink | 29 Terry Bardelmeier |
| 18 Ken Helder | Sean Goodman |
| | Jack Sligh |
| | 30 Chris Bennett |

Birthdays & Anniversaries in July



- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 Nichole & Bill Bier | 17 Yvonne & Joe Logan |
| Elizabeth Brubaker & Tom Kelley | Jennifer & Kyle Shinabarger |
| 9 Eve & Stephen Shetterly | 18 Gemmy & Ken Helder |
| 11 Clara & David Brower | 20 Connie & George Moeke |
| 13 Duanne & Dave Masselink | 22 Cherie & Matt Schmidt |
| 16 LeeAnne & Scott Jachim | 26 Sally & Morley Byxbe |
| | 27 Nance & Jeff Clark |



Birthdays & Anniversaries in August

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| | 1 Tammy Kelly | |
| | 2 Griffin Veldheer-Carlson | 17 Nanette Covington |
| | 3 Rob Hodson | 18 Dolores Barkel |
| | 4 John Parker | Quinn Vander Kamp |
| | 5 Arkie Pierson | 19 Logan Schmidt |
| | 6 Robbie Schorle | 20 Geri Guyer |
| | 7 John Shea | 22 Jennifer Bennett |
| | 8 Brian Wennersten | Roger Gamache |
| | 9 Genevieve Manderfield | 24 Lora Lee Murray |
| | 12 Mel Porter | Bill Rhodes |
| | Grace Church of Holland | 25 Nichole Bier |
| | 15 Sonia Collins | Michelle Fries |
| | Connie Moeke | 27 Sophie Adams |
| | | 28 Sharie Phillips |
| 4 Chris & Jim Wennersten | | |
| Ashley & Carlos Fossati | | |
| 8 Anne & Roger Gamache | 17 Renee & Brent Krueger | |
| Ketzi & Doug Zylstra | Terry & Richard Swaney | |
| 9 Krista & Guy Packard | 18 Megan & Andrew Linn | |
| 13 Erma & Don Bruggink | 23 Joy & Chuck Huttar | |
| 14 Ruth & David Hawley-Lowry | 26 Kim & John Shea | |
| 16 Ann & John Parker | Chris St. John & Bill Rhodes | |

Outreach

FEEDING AMERICA

In 3 1/2 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.



Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Feeding America dates and note that July is **Wednesday instead of Thursday: July 10th, August 8th and September 12th**. 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.

Remember the ongoing need for *laundry detergent (70oz or less) and toilet paper!* Bring these items at any time and deposit them in the labeled drawers in the Commons.

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

DIOCESAN MISSIONS:

The following mission trips have been organized through the diocese:

Minot, ND, July 19 through July 28

Kentucky Rebuild, September 21 through September 28

New Orleans, November 15 through November 24

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

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

To volunteer or for more information contact Rev. Cindy Nawrocki at rocki@att.net.

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.

Volunteers are needed at the to help serve and clean up from **11:15am to 1:30pm** every Monday through Friday. Grace Church is committed to providing **three or four helpers each Wednesday**. Join our "regulars" who help on Wednesdays. See the sign-up sheet in the Commons. For more information contact Jim at 566-6785.

THANK YOU TO JUNE COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Lynn & Dave Stubbs
Jen Wolfe & family
Jay & Karen Bylsma
Linda & Bob Elder
Doug & Ketzi Zylstra



*From Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

SPRING CAMPING EVENT A SUCCESS!

Grace Young Families had a wonderful time camping and playing at the beach. There were a total of 14 children and 15 adults. Some of the things we learned during the weekend: tacos can be made in a pie iron, the girls have a mean arm when throwing the football, if you dig a huge hole in the sand at the beach it will provide hours of entertainment, while you may be worn out after climbing a dune the kids still have enough energy to do numerous laps on their bikes and most importantly....bacon maple donuts rock.

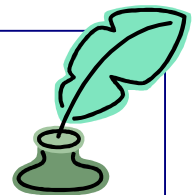
We are in the process of planning our fall camping trip to either Hoffmaster or Muskegon State Park in late September. Please let us know if you are interested in camping with us so we can plan for sites. As always, we will have an activity option for Saturday so that families can come out for the day.

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD SUMMER GET-TOGETHER

Joan & David Austin will host the summer salad supper at their home on Tuesday, July 16, at 6:30 pm. St. Martha's callers, guests and clergy will gather for appetizers, salads and desserts and a brief meeting.

Please join us if you are interested in making calls on the shut-in members and friends of Grace Church. Find out more about this Pastoral Care ministry by calling Peg Keegin, 335-9342.

Have something you want 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.



KICK-OFF (September) NEWLETTER DEADLINE: Friday, August 16th, 2013
Times New Roman, 12pt requested. Send to gechurch@sbcglobal.net

Circles and Lines, by Rev. Peter Sawtell

Executive Director, Eco-Justice Ministries

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There are many reasons why Earth is in such widespread ecological crisis. One of them -- and a significant one -- is that modern human societies have developed a mistaken understanding of how the world really works.

At the most basic levels, Earth depends on the cycling and recycling of nutrients and energy. Within natural systems, there really is no such thing as "waste". What is cast off or left behind in one setting is taken up by another as life-giving nourishment. For billions of years, this planet has recycled and reused all things.

Complex human societies, though, have lost touch with those renewing cycles. We look at what is around us from a perspective of lines that start and end, instead of circles that go around and around. Perhaps because humans have the ability to create long-lasting things that break the cycles (pottery and glass and refined metals would be early examples), we look at the world in ways that are inherently un-natural.

Recovering a sense of cycles is an essential part of living more gently and more sustainably within the Earth community.

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Round and round and round. That's the way God made the world. That wisdom is at the core of our planet's long history of evolution and creation. It is how our world has been a thriving, life-sustaining place for billions and billions of years. Water, nutrients and energy go around and around in never-ending cycles.

In this marvelous world, the cycling of life is not accidental or incidental. It is built into the operating system of the planet. It is how things are -- how they must be if our world is to be healthy and vital.

Most of us know the basics of those cycles. Water falls as rain, flows into streams and lakes, or is taken up by plants. Then it evaporates, and falls again as precipitation. Around and around, the same water molecules spread across the planet.

A tree grows in the forest. When it dies, it falls over and the decaying wood renews the soil so that other plants can thrive. Round and round is not just nice, it is essential to life and health. The soil needs the trees just as much as the trees need the soil.

Humans, though, have come up with a different way of living with the things of this world. Rather than cycles, we have created lines. We have created stuff that is permanent, or deadly. We have created things that don't go back to feed and nourish life. And we have taken things which could be life-giving, and sealed it away as "garbage". (Continued next month....)

Instead of creating opportunities for the cycles of life to continue, we have viewed the world as grounded in linear processes. As Annie Leonard describes it in [*The Story of Stuff*](#),

"our stuff simply moves along these stages: extraction to production to distribution to consumption to disposal. All together, it's called the materials economy. ... The truth is it's a system in crisis. And the reason it is in crisis is that it is a linear system and we live on a finite planet and you can not run a linear system on a finite planet indefinitely."

Continued on next page

But much of how we live *is* tied to that linear system. Think about a trip to the grocery store, and buying muffins or a salad. That's likely to come in some kind of plastic box, which was made out petroleum products. The store sends you home with that hard-to-recycle packaging, which goes in the trash, and off to the landfill, where it is entombed for thousands of years. It is a product that is specifically designed to be thrown away after one use.

This linear worldview creates waste -- lots of it. The Worldwatch Institute recently reported, "Every year we dig up and process more than half a trillion tons of raw materials -- and six months later more than 99 percent of it is waste."

It is clear that our worldview is distorted when we see even life-giving substances as garbage. A major educational campaign on "[GrassCycling](#)" seeks to convince homeowners that the grass clippings from their lawn are not "waste" to be bagged and sent to the dump. We need to teach people that simple truth only because we have such a seriously distorted understanding of how the world works.

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How does it help if we think in cycles instead of lines?

If we understand that all things will be part of those natural cycles -- immediately or eventually -- we'll be less inclined to create compounds that can't be absorbed and reused. We'll understand that nuclear waste and toxic chemicals are un-natural. We'll realize that releasing unprecedented quantities of carbon dioxide can break the cycles of renewal.

When we think of cycles instead of lines, we'll see new possibilities. Today's popular hybrid vehicles are efficient because they see the kinetic energy of a moving car as a resource to be reclaimed in charging batteries, rather than as waste to be dissipated through the brakes.

At most electrical generating plants, huge cooling towers are used to get rid of "waste" heat. New [co-generation](#) facilities take that excess heat and pass it along as valuable energy for other purposes -- such as manufacturing, or heating buildings. Similarly, businesses are rethinking ways in which the waste products of one process can become valuable resources for other businesses. For example, vegetable matter left after distilling ethanol (for fuel or beer) can, in limited quantities, be used for animal feed. What had been considered "waste" is a new resource.

The entire notion of recycling is a recovery of the eternal truth in natural cycles. Newspapers, bottles and aluminum cans can be reprocessed and given new life, instead of being garbage destined for a dump. The "new" efforts to recycle instead of creating garbage are not new at all. They are ways to mimic one of the most basic processes of nature.

A linear view of the world which sees only resources and waste separates us from the life-giving cycles that are essential to our planet's health. Technological societies have damaged Earth's systems because we have forgotten how this world really works.

When we recover an appreciation for the complex cycles of nature -- when we affirm the circles of life that are inherent in God's creation -- then we will be able to live more gently and sustainably on this good Earth.

That shift in worldview and in practice -- abandoning lines and reclaiming circles -- is one that must happen soon.

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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.

