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in the center**

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Kick Off 2013!

This month we begin a whole new program year at Grace Church! Lots of wonderful things are happening here so be sure to read through the newsletter, visit the website, and peruse the Sunday bulletins to become aware of new and renewed opportunities being offered in areas of worship, education, fellowship, children and youth ministries, outreach, and the ongoing stewardship of God's many gifts.

As you read and listen, know that it is the Spirit along with the people of Grace who bring these programs and prayers to life. We are first and foremost a people of faith who come together to offer our thanks and praise, to grow in understanding, to reach beyond ourselves, and to join with others on the journey.

If you haven't been around for awhile now's a good time to jump back in! If you're here every Sunday, know that we are grateful. If you've never walked through one of our doors know that the doors are open to all and we look forward to welcoming you to Grace.

Looking forward to seeing you as we kick off another program year at Grace Church!

Peace,

Jen

GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

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Carol Myers — 396-1002
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Matt Schmidt — 772-0797
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“Kick-Off” Sunday—September 8th! Steppin’ Up, Blessing of the Backpacks Parish Photo and Picnic

During the 10:00 service of Holy Eucharist we will celebrate Steppin’ Up (the rite of passage for youth beginning high school) and we’ll invite all children and youth forward for a Blessing of the Backpacks! After the 10:00 service we’ll gather in front of the Church for the Annual Parish Photo and then move on over to Moran Park for the picnic. (We’ll meet in the Undercroft in the case of rain.) Join us for a cook-out, a chance to connect with your Grace friends, time to sign up for fall programming, and—lest we forget....

The ANNUAL ALL-GRACE KICK BALL GAME!!!

Don’t miss it! Mark your calendars **now** and don’t forget to wear comfy clothes!

And remember too: September 15th - Sunday Service Times Change
8:15 and 10:30 Holy Eucharist
9:15 Education hour for all ages

Sunday Forum

9:15-10:15am in the Forum Room

What I Did Over Summer “Vacation” Grace Members Tell Their Stories

September 15: Mission Trip to Pine Ridge

As participants in a diocesan mission trip, Prescott and Michele Slee and Gary and Donna Bogle spent June 21-29 at The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The population of Pine Ridge suffers health conditions commonly found in Third World countries, including high mortality rates, depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, malnutrition and diabetes, among others. This trip was an opportunity to learn about the Lakota culture, meet and worship with the Episcopalian congregation on the Reservation and offer help in improving living conditions there.

September 22: “Real Talk, Real Me”

Grace member, Cheri Smith, worked for six weeks with Mac Media and nine Holland High School students to develop a “virtual art gallery” which had its debut at Herrick District Library. In developing the gallery, the students learned about famous photographer’s approach to capturing identity, engaged in self portraits, talked about perception, self-awareness and future visualization and explored the ways in which language defines as well as changes our experience of a portrait. The questions they asked themselves in their portraits were “Who am I now?” and “Who do I want to be five years from now?”

September 29: The Sacred and Profane Through a Musical Tour of Great Britain

Hope College Music Professors, Brad Richmond and Brian Coyle, taught a June course that explored two of the vibrant musical traditions of Great Britain, Sacred and Folk. They took a group of Hope students to English Cathedrals and Chapels in London, Canterbury, Cambridge and York to learn about the Anglican choral tradition, the history and tradition of the Church of England and to pray in services of choral Evensong. In each of the cities they also took part in lecture presentations and demonstrations on the history of English folk culture. Come hear about their summer travels into our Anglican tradition.



Grace Flicks

Second Wednesdays at 5:30 in the Forum Room

(a.k.a. "The Return of Movie Night" or "Movie Night: The Sequel")

Join us on second Wednesday nights beginning September 11 for drinks and snacks at 5:30, movie and pizza at 6:00 and conversation to follow. Bring a snack and a drink to share. Participants will help in the choosing of movies and we'll start with *The Way* starring Martin Sheen. Martin Sheen plays Tom, who comes to St. Jean Pied de Port, France to collect the remains of his adult son, killed in the Pyrenees in a storm while walking the Camino de Santiago. Rather than return home, Tom decides to embark on the historical pilgrimage to honor his son's desire to finish the journey. From the unexpected and, oftentimes, amusing experiences along "The Way," Tom begins to learn what it means to be a citizen of the world again. See you on the 11th!

ST. MARY'S GUILD

St. Mary's first meeting of the program year will be on Monday, September 9, at 7:15 pm in the Forum Room. The speaker will be Rev. Bob North, who spent several years in the 1980s as rector at Grace. He will be speaking to us about the two years he recently spent in Sudan doing missionary work. This is an open meeting and anyone from the parish is welcome. It promises to be an interesting evening!!

FREE BOOKS!

There are books in the office that are either duplicates or just no longer needed in the parish library. Some books have been used in Grace classes others were donated over the years. We'd like to see them put to good use, so visit the tables in the undercroft and take what you'd like!

Education & Formation

Grace



GRACE CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Every Fall it is exciting to see the start of the program year. Our children and youth return to Sunday School and Youth Groups having enjoyed new experiences over the summer that in turn enrich a new year at Grace. We welcomed a number of new families to Grace this summer and we're looking forward to their participation! This year, the different offerings for children and youth at Grace will continue to provide new experiences and continued growth.

Our Education Hour programs (9:15-10:15 am) will focus on faith formation and Bible literacy, with the added dimension of Episcopalian Identity. The Primary class (Grades K-5) will begin the second year in a series called "Weaving God's Promises". This three-pronged approach to faith formation guides the children through Bible studies and activities that not only give them more understanding of scripture, but also of how to ask important questions. The Intermediate (Grades 6-8) will continue with the "Weaving God's Promises for Youth" which utilizes some of the strategies from the Primary class while integrating the how-to of applying Scripture in our lives.

Sunday morning Education for Grace High School students (and interested adults) involves a four-year cycle of classes: two years are spent reading through the entirety of the Bible using the Crossways Curriculum, "God's Big Story" and two years are spent exploring Episcopal identity using a variety of resources including the book, "My Faith, My Life: A Guide to the Episcopal Church," by Jennifer Gamber. This Fall we begin the Episcopal Identity portion of the cycle. Through the program year we will move through the topics of Spiritual Autobiographies, Baptism and Confirmation, Scripture, Prayer and Devotionals, Church History, Worship, and Faithful Living. This class also serves as preparation for those who would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

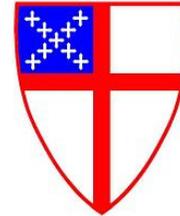
Our Youth groups will meet on the first and third Sunday of each month immediately following the 10:30 service and will include lunch and a variety of activities. The High School group will be working on a special project to learn more about Grace and telling our parish story. Both groups (Middle and High School) will again participate with the Tri-youth (First Presbyterian and Hope Church) once each month and will host the combined Tri-youth groups at the annual Epiphany Retreat in January. This coming summer, the High School youth will participate with the Diocese in a mission trip. More information will be available about the mission trip as we move into the fall.

Thank you to all of you who have supported the Children's and Youth Ministries at Grace Church in the past. If you haven't already, please consider volunteering to lead one of our vital Children's and Youth Ministries opportunities. Leaders are needed for Intermediate and Primary Education Hour classes. You can volunteer to lead anything from a one-time event to a weekly ministry. Contact Debbie at the church office to sign up. We're looking forward to a great program year and hope to see you involved!

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

Growing in Faith: This Episcopal Life

**Sunday Education for High School Students and Adults
9:15-10:15 in the Undercroft Youth Room**



Growing in Faith is a Christian Education program for Grace High School students and interested adults involving a four-year cycle of classes: two years are spent reading through the entirety of the Bible using the Crossways Curriculum called, “God’s Big Story” and two years are spent exploring Episcopal identity using a variety of resources primarily, “My Faith, My Life: A Guide to the Episcopal Church,” by Jennifer Gamber.

The group meets on Sundays from 9:15 – 10:15 in the Youth Room in the back of the Undercroft. The class is open to students grades 9-12 as well as any adult in the parish who would like to participate. Regular attendance is expected. Program years 2011-12 and 2012-13 were centered in the Crossways program. Fall of 2013 will begin the two year cycle focusing on Episcopal Identity. While Confirmation is not a requirement upon completion of the course, this curriculum is designed to serve as a preparation for those wishing to receive the sacrament.

This class is organized as a series of three to six week units, each with a variety of readings, videos, conversations, and reflections. This year’s units will be the list below. If you’d like more information on the content, look on the bulletin board in the Commons or talk to Jen Adams or Debbie Coyle. Sign up in the Commons to join the class!

This Episcopal Life: Year One

Spiritual Autobiography

Baptism and Confirmation

Holy Scripture and the Spiritual Practice of Devotionals

**Church History: Early Church, Middle Ages, Reformation,
American and World Church**

Faithful Living

Worship

Episcopal Life in Practice

Education & Formation

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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 **September 9th, 23rd, and October 7th and 21st.**

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.

PILGRIMAGE FOR ADULTS?

Would you like to see the great cathedrals of England? A group from Grace are exploring the interest in such an adventure including guided tours of Windsor Castle, Salisbury Cathedral, Bath Abby and the Roman baths, Canterbury, St. Mary's Great Church at King's College, St. Paul's, Westminster, and other places of interest. Eight days in early June of 2014 at a cost of approximately \$3,600 each (double occupancy). A group of 30 is needed to make the trip feasible. If you have an interest or would like more details, contact Jay or Karen Bylsma.

ITS TIME TO BLESS THE BACKPACKS!

Many of us will be either going back to school or starting school for the first time in a few short weeks, and Grace wants to help them begin their year with a special send-off. Whether you are heading to Kindergarten or have already graduated high school or college and are starting a new class, bring your "backpack" to Grace for a blessing on **Kick-off Sunday, September 8th at the 10:00 service**. Rev. Jen will do a special blessing of the backpacks to help you start the year off right.



You can also help another "student" get ready for the school year by bringing in school items for area students in need. Items to consider would be crayons, markers, spiral notebooks, notebook paper, pens, pencils, rulers, even calculators and backpacks. We'll gather the donated items and do a blessing on those as well so that the recipients will have the best wishes and prayers of the Grace community.

BAPTISMS AT GRACE

All Saints' Sunday

Are you considering being baptized or having a child of yours baptized here at Grace? Know that we look forward to what our Book of Common Prayer calls "welcoming you into the household of God!" Baptism at Grace is a joyful sacramental immersion into a life with Christ. Our next celebration of Baptism will be on All Saints' Sunday, November 3rd. If you are interested and would like to know more, learn more contact Rev Jen.

CALLING ALL SINGERS!

We begin adult choir rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept 11 at 7 PM. If you like to sing (and it sounds like a lot of you do on Sunday mornings!) and are at least in the 7th grade, committing to singing in the choir is a great next step. We learn and perform a lot of beautiful music in the Christian Choral repertoire. Not to mention, this kind of ministry has a tendency to deepen one's faith and experience of the Grace community. We rehearse Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 PM. Sundays there is a 45 minute pre-service rehearsal before Eucharist. Please consider joining us this year. Feel free to ask me or choir members if you have any questions.

Steve Jenkins, Music Director

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: September 12th and October 10th**. 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:

Kentucky Rebuild, September 21 through September 28

New Orleans, November 15 through November 24

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 JULY/AUGUST COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

Matt & Cherie Schmidt & Robbie Schorle
Chris Broersma & Berry
Joanne Stewart & Will Polik
Carol Rickey & Debbie Coyle
Laurie Van Ark & Debbie Coyle
Jim & Liza Barry
Cathy DeVelder & Eve Shetterly
Joan & David Austin



*From Laurie VanArk
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

The Fall Sign-Up List is in the Commons – PLEASE sign up if you can take a Sunday!!

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Kick-off Sunday Picnic: Please plan to join us after church on September 8th for a welcome back/kick-off Sunday picnic! This will be at Moran Park, weather permitting following the 2nd service. If it rains we will gather in the Undercroft. Look for sign-up sheets in the Commons if you are willing to help set up for the picnic.

Teusink's Hayride and Chili Cook-off: September 27, 2013. Watch for further details on the date & signup sheet in the Commons.

Holland Civic Theater: The opening show this season, directed by Laurie VanArk, is “Welcome to Mitford” based on the series of books by Episcopal author, Jan Karon. The play is all about Father Tim, the Mitford congregation, and a whole lot of Episcopal characters to fill out the show. Look for further details & signup sheet in the Commons. Coming soon!

HOLY CHOW A GREAT WAY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED!

Join the fun and fellowship by signing up in the Commons

Holy Chow is a great opportunity to meet people at Grace! Groups of four couples and/or individuals take turns hosting a meal for the group at their home — potluck style. Share a meal, share conversation, and join in the fun! Groups are together for two to three months meeting once a month and then we re-mix groups so over the course of the year you get to know a bunch of Grace folks!

Sign up soon in the Commons— new groups will be formed by October.

Stewardship

FROM STEWARDSHIP:

For the seasoned citizens among us, did you know that you can reduce your Michigan State income taxes for 2013 by making a charitable gift from your IRA to Grace Church? As part of the tax legislation enacted earlier this year, individuals who are 70 1/2 or older can make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 from their IRA to qualifying charities free from income tax. As you may know, contributions to charities are not typically deductible for State of Michigan income tax. A contribution made from an IRA distribution is an exception, at least for 2013, and may reduce your Michigan tax liability while supporting Grace. Additionally, a charitable IRA gift qualifies for your 2013 required minimum distribution, permitting you to lower your income and taxes this year while supporting your favorite charitable organizations.

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.



OCTOBER NEWLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, October 19, 2013
Times New Roman, 12pt requested. Send to gechurch@sbcglobal.net



God willing
and the People consenting

The Reverend Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.

will be ordained and consecrated a Bishop
in the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church,
and the ninth Bishop
of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan
on

**September twenty-eighth, two thousand thirteen
at one o'clock in the afternoon
at Van Noord Arena,
Calvin College,
Grand Rapids, Michigan.**

Chief Consecrator:
The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop and Primate
of The Episcopal Church

The Standing Committee requests
the honor of your presence.

A light reception follows at
The Hoogenboom Center, adjacent to the Arena

Clergy: Red Stoles *Co-Consecrators: Cope and Mitre*
Bishops: Rochet and Chimere

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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.

