



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1815 Hall Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 / 616-241-4631

Learn the Faith Love the Lord Live the Faith

Newsletter for June 8, 2009

WELCOME New Youth Minister: Ben Videtich! Ben is joining our staff this week as one of our two new part-time youth ministers. Ben will be a seminary student at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary this autumn. We are excited about the fact that he will be able to join the High School Wilderness Trip this week as one of our three adult leaders. Ben was able to be with us at church yesterday, on Trinity Sunday, and will be with us regularly starting in September.

We are interviewing another candidate this week for our second part-time youth minister position. It is our plan to have one of the youth ministers work primarily with the High School Youth and the other to work primarily with the Middle School Youth.

High School Wilderness Trip leaves this week!

15 High School students and 3 adult leaders will be traveling by vans to HoneyRock Camp in Three Lakes, WI to take part in a wilderness trip. These 18 people will begin this excursion with some low ropes initiatives to help them form a team and possibly discover some success factors and potential barriers that might occur on the trip. The goal is for the youth to be challenged. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday they will travel through a chain of lakes to different campsites using sea kayaks. At the campsite, the youth will have different responsibilities such as gathering firewood, cooking, filtering water or setting up tents. They will spend the evening talking about the day and enjoying the campfire. Each morning will be devoted to Bible devotion and some quiet time to reflect. Thursday they will return to HoneyRock and spend time on the high ropes course.

Please pray for these youth and the adults that they may have safety on the journey and on the wilderness trip, strength to face each challenge and that they will deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ:

Anna Baker, John Baker, Briella Cumings, Tim Curran, Philip Dodge, Ian Edgerle, Margaret Gregg, Madeline Kirkwood, Sam Kirkwood, Zach Kirkwood, Kate Olgren, Carter Redburn, Grace Schuurmans, Maddie Vaughn, Wes Vaughn, Martha Holmgren, Stephen Holmgren, Ben Videtich

Our mission: to be a church community where every member lives as a disciple of Christ.

Our vision: to be a Christian community where every member is engaged in personal spiritual growth, in the life of the church, and in service to the world around us.

Pentecost Picnic – A Wonderful Event!

On Sunday, May 31, we celebrated God's gift of (the Grace of) the Holy Spirit to the Church with another wonderful parish picnic. Many thanks to Lynne Perrin, chairperson for Fellowship, and her committee and helpers who planned and provided such a fine gathering. Assisting Lynne with planning and organization were Sandy Cairo (decorations and set-up), Gerri Eggleston (decorations and set-up), Robin Perrin (food purchase and set-up), and Tess Lundgren (cake decorator of a delicious & very thoughtful cake!).

The Men of Grace once again did our grilling, under the leadership of Brian Lennon, who was joined in set-up, grilling, and in clean-up activities by Steve Batdorf, Anthony Cairo, Bob Clark John Hoff, Kevin Norton Steve Sweetland, Larry Whipple, as well as Deng Deng Akoy, Jacob Deng and others from the Sudanese congregation.

Special thanks to John Chrisman for his assistance in recruiting volunteers, and making sure that everything was ready for the event. And thanks to everyone who brought dishes to share and/or who helped in other ways. It was a great day!

Missing: A blue ceramic serving bowl lost its way home after the Pentecost picnic; if you have seen it, please let Linda know. Thanks!

Lower Kitchen Microwave on the Blink

Our lower kitchen microwave has recently gone on the blink. Since it was a commercial grade unit I have looked into the cost to have it repaired. The news that I have received is the repair would cost about 70% of what a new microwave would cost. Taking into consideration that it is seven years old I have declined to have the repair done. In the meantime if anyone in the parish has one marked for a summer yard sale and or would like to donate one please contact me here at Grace. / John Chrisman, GEC Bldg Mngr.

Wanted, please, to borrow or to buy:

We are in need of a keyboard for a young Sudanese boy who is an aspiring musician. A music teacher from our church has already offered her time to teach him, but he needs a keyboard on which to practice. Please contact Martha Holmgren (682-0509) if you can help -thanks so much!

Community Outreach

We continue to deliver your weekly donations of clothing, food and personal items to the groups serving people who need help in their daily lives. These days, they need rice, beans, tuna fish, canned fruits and vegetables. They also can always use personal items such as shampoo, toilet paper, etc.

Spring cleaning is a great time to empty closets and pantries of items you either don't want and/or need. These items could really help those that do need them. Donations can be left at the church, in the area at top of the stairs off the parking lot.

Thank you for your continued support, Mike Redman

A need you can help with: Several families within our Sudanese congregation have identified some needs they have in this time of increased financial pressure. If you have, or would like to obtain, some packages of disposable diapers they would be very welcome. We can use sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5. Please bring them to the church and give them to Linda, or to Fr. Zachariah.

Upcoming Grace Church Birthdays – Some fellow parishioners to remember in your prayers:

June 7 – Lindel Hoff, Anne White, Vicki Nolan, Lidija Habekovic

June 8 – Lu Warnshuis, Lynda Stephenson, Mary Hunt, Greg Fisher, Peter Griswold, Ingrid Baker

June 9 – Douglas Kubiak, Grace Bunker

June 10 – Beth Shimko

June 12 – Barb Braendle, Dora Kilmer, Tyler Carll, Elizabeth Beusse, Patrick deVoest

June 13 – Steve Fisk

June 15 – Alfred Hibbert, Claire Woodruff

June 16 – Derek Camp, Jodi Kivinen, Ed Gray, Emma Wert

June 17 – Alexandra Chism, Madeline Kirkwood, Sam Kirkwood, Zachary Kirkwood

June 18 – Tom Campau, Rochelle V'Soske, Catherine Tuori

June 19 – Jay Carll, Dylan Kivinen

June 20 – Gloria Hoffman

A Opportunity to Make a Difference:

Please join the Rector and members of the Vestry in making a special gift to support our plan to have Bruce Rockwell come to Grace Church on the weekend of September 18-20. Bruce will lead an event we are calling, Living Our Thanks to God: a Weekend Journey Into Stewardship Awareness. There will be a program on Friday evening and Saturday morning (following the Walk for Sudan). Bruce will also speak on Sunday morning at both Eucharists, and will lead an adult formation gathering at 11:30am. Everyone is invited to any or all of the events over the weekend.



Bruce Rockwell has just retired from serving as the Financial Officer and Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. He serves as President of the Board of Directors of TENS (The Episcopal Network for Stewardship) and is the author of TENS' newest resource, *Spirituality and Money: 7 Questions that Saved my Spiritual Life*. A banker for over twenty years, Bruce was Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in the Diocese of Rochester before accepting the call to his current position. A layperson and the son of a priest, he is married to a priest, the Rev. Cristine Rockwell. Since moving to New England six years ago, Bruce has become a dedicated fan of the Boston Red Sox and rejoiced over their 2007 World Series victory. He is also a runner who competes in several races in Western Massachusetts each year.

We have raised \$450.00 so far toward our goal of \$2,000.00 for this event. Please make your gift to Grace Church, and write "September 09 Stewardship Event" on the 'memo' portion!

Fourth Annual Walk for Sudan: Save the Date!

September 19, 2009 will mark the day of the fourth Walk for Sudan, which will start at 8:00am. The route will be the same as last year, 5K starting at Grace Church.

Plan to join the walk yourself, bring friends and also get sponsorships.

Questions: Contact Margaret Burrows-Getz or David Mayon, Sudan Mission Committee co-chairs

Mite Box Collection Double Last Year!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mite Box collection during Lent. Almost \$1,400 was collected. The money will go to school supplies in S. Sudan

Crocodile Dock - Vacation Bible School 2009!

Sunday, June 21 – Thursday, June 25

Sun. –Wed., 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.



Plan ahead! Sunday check-in is from 5:30-5:50 p.m.
Register early . . . space is limited!

Registration open to children age 5 by June 1, 2009 through rising 6th graders.
A toddler/preschool program will be available for volunteers whose children are not yet 5 by June 1.

Register online, view details, learn more about the program, and sign up to volunteer at:

<http://www.groupvbs.com/webtoybox/myvbs/gracechurchgr>

Call the church for more information: 241-4631



No cost to attend, but donations are accepted!

VBS: HELP ROCK THIS DOCK

Please consider whether you will donate or lend any of the following item to this year's VBS program. Contact Susan Lennon (452-4850; shlennon@comcast.net) or visit the VBS signup board to let us know what you'd like to offer. Please deliver promised supplies to church by Sunday, June 14. Your help is most appreciated. Our thanks to those who already signed up and promised supplies. Cash donations are also accepted.

<p><i>VBS is in need of the following <u>donations</u>:</i></p> <p>95 cherry/grape tomatoes 5 12-oz tubs of Cool Whip (reg) 190 strawberries 5 cups vanilla frosting 2 large bags of skittles 48 pieces of 8.5"x 11" card board 16 cans silly string 100 ounces of poly-fil 4 13-oz bags of individually wrapped lifesaver candy 1 roll black plastic (for slip and slide) Lots and Lots of Cheese Cloth 7 sets fine line markers 7 sets of reg line markers Newspaper (lots) Brown paper grocery bags (60) 1 roll brown bulletin board paper 3 bottles washable red paint 3 boxes of matzo crackers 2 boxes of wet wipes 90 sprigs of parsley 1 roll twine large section of green netting (or several small sections) 2 rolls of low-tack painters tape 18 packs of mints 2-3 bags of individually wrapped candies 20 balloons 25 large black trash bags 1 purple tablecloth 1 bag confetti</p>	<p><i>VBS would like to <u>borrow</u> the following items (please label for return to the proper owner):</i></p> <p>Several small, battery operated lanterns 1 large electric lantern 1 leaf blower 1 power cord 1 lg sheet or towel (to cover leafblower) 1 superhero comic book 10 strands white Christmas tree lights Pom poms made of red, orange, yellow tissue butterfly nets (at least 1) metal buckets (at least 1) 1 Adult-sized rain gear set (coat, hat, boots) 1 red umbrella 2 tarps 1 bright colored tablecloth Waders Goofy hat 5 sets of jingle bells 1 flyswatter 25 clothes pins (pinch style) Several large Mylar sheets 5 old shower curtains or tarps 50 plastic fish 5 large blankets 2 large sections of black plastic sheeting 1 large blue tarp 1 spray bottle 19 ½ cup measuring cups 20 sponge balls 1 inflatable life ring 1 plastic bucket 2 full-size bed sheets 2 green twin-sized bed sheets fake greenery or short plants 10 med sized rocks (between size of large fist and bowling ball) 12 large cushions 1 large electric fan</p>
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DIOCESAN MISSION TRIPS SCHEDULED

The Diocese is planning mission opportunities in 2009. The missions will provide hurricane disaster relief along the Gulf Coast. The first mission is to Mississippi, the last week of October. The second mission is to New Orleans, the first week of December.

Episcopal Relief and Development has made a long- term commitment to rebuild the Gulf Coast. Devastation from the hurricanes is so massive whole communities have been obliterated. The Diocese of West Michigan is partnering with the Diocese of Louisiana and Mississippi in this endeavor. Accommodations are provided once volunteers arrive at the mission site. Beds, lavatories with hot showers, stoves, refrigerators, phones, snacks, and necessary amenities are at each camp. Mission sites have a director and staff to address each volunteer organization's group and individual needs.

Most of the work is reconstructing homes. On site crew leaders provide basic instruction before each workday begins. Alternatives to construction are also offered, such as meal preparation and serving, dispensing basic needs in the community, landscaping, clerical work, and camp maintenance. The work at the mission site changes weekly, sometimes on a daily basis.

Volunteers range from young adult to seniors. All work is valuable, and each mission volunteer makes a significant contribution to Gulf Coast renewal. Qualifications needed are the desire, time, patience, and flexibility to do what is needed to serve Christ. Volunteers work, eat, and sleep in a group atmosphere, and must have the ability to cooperate with each other at the work site and the relief center.

Travel will be by car pools. There will be one motel overnight to and from the Gulf Coast. All parishes will be asked by the Diocese to help defray the cost of the missions. No volunteer will be denied the opportunity of a mission trip experience because of finances.

For more information, or to volunteer for either or both missions to New Orleans and Mississippi, contact either Terry Dorcy, a member of St. Luke's in Kalamazoo, or Lynn Carson at Christ Church in Charlevoix. Terry's email is tjdorcy@aol.com. His phone number is 269-349-3625. Lynn Carson can be reached at lecarson2002@yahoo.com

Parish Church Newsletter Request Form

Because of several factors: new postal regulations concerning bulk mail; the increasingly high cost of postage; an outdated newsletter address list; and the sheer physical challenge of assembling, tabbing, addressing, and mailing several hundred paper newsletters... our new, preferred, way of getting the newsletter to you will be via our church website or via email.

The newsletter will always be available on our church website: www.gracechurchgr.org. Copies of the newsletter will also be available for pick up at the church.

We will *only* send the newsletter to those who request it:

We can send it to you in an email attachment (this is our preference, due to costs, etc).
It will be formatted in a pdf file.

Or we can send it to you as a printed copy through the US Mail.

In order to receive the newsletter, please provide the following information:

- I will pick up my newsletter at the church.
- I wish to receive the newsletter via email
- I am unable to access email or the church website – please, send me the newsletter through the U.S. Mail.

→ PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ←

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Physical address: _____

Telephone number: _____