



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 May 10, 2009

Dear People of Grace: Once again you are receiving the newsletter in a revised format: because of postal regulations, and to assist office efficiency and economy, we are now sending the newsletter out primarily via email. To those who specifically request it, we are also sending a copy via regular first class mail. However, due to the challenges and costs associated with producing a physically-mailed newsletter, our preferred mode of getting it to you will be via an email link.

If you have not yet filled out a *Newsletter Request Form*, one is attached for your convenience.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Our next week of hosting homeless families at Grace Church is Sunday, May 31- June 7. Please take a moment to consider how you can be a part of this ministry and sign-up for one or more of the following opportunities:

- * set-up/take down
- * meal preparation
- * evening host
- * overnight host
- * van/truck drivers

Sign-ups are posted by the front desk. Or please contact Anne Grobel, Sue Steketee or Liz Batdorf for more information. Thank you!

Third Annual Sudanese Grace Food Sale Fundraiser May 17

The members of Sudanese Grace Mothers Union will be cooking to offer a meal of Sudanese food for you to purchase before or after 10am service on May 17. Plan to have a Sudanese Sunday dinner and support our Parochial Mission congregation.

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 Sunday – May 31 – Recognition Sunday and Church Picnic

On Sunday, May 31, we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, and the feast day for Grace Church – the day which commemorates the gift of the Grace of the Holy Spirit. We will have a combined service at 10:00am for all of members of the Grace Church family, including our Sudanese congregation. The picnic will follow the combined 10am Eucharist, and will be on site.

An invitation from our Evangelism and New Member Ministry Team:

New to Grace?
Wonder where the undercroft is, what service opportunities exist, or exactly what small groups are?

You are invited to a
Welcome Reception
May 17th, 9 am, in the
Guild Room

Please join us for bagels, coffee, and an informal informational session.

Mite Box Collection

Thank you to all who participated in the Lenten Mite Box collection. To date, over \$1,020 has been counted and mite boxes are still being turned in. This is well over what has been collected the past two years. The funds will be put to good use helping students and schools in various regions of South Sudan.

The Sudan Mission Committee expresses its thanks. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Margaret Burrows-Getz or Rev. Zachariah Char.

Dance Fundraiser Fun on a Rainey Day

Thank you to all who attended the April Tribal Dance fundraiser at Wealthy Theatre. We had a good group of familiar and new faces. Tabitha Thon, Zachariah's wife made wonderful "Sudanese donuts" which were a big hit.

We brought in several hundred dollars which will support Sudanese educational efforts here and in Sudan. Thank you.

Adult Christian Formation, May 10 – 11:30 a.m.

NOOMA: Tomato - We all get consumed with ourselves; sometimes we're not even aware of it. We learn from a young age that life is about winning and impressing. We pick up that our worth and value come from how good, how smart, and how skilled we are. So, we twist things in our favor, making us look like we have it all together. Every day we have the choice to prop up these false ideas about ourselves or to let go of them. Jesus invites these parts of us to die, the parts of us that tell us our worth comes from the things we say and do. Maybe it's only when we let these things die, that we truly begin to live.

Middle School & High School Calendar

Sunday, May 10 *Christian Formation* 11:30-12:30 Youth Room/Tower
NO Youth Group Activities

Saturday, May 16 *Rock the Coast (Michigan Adventures)* 9:15a-11:00p, Meet at the Church
Drivers Needed: There is a sign up sheet outside the Formation Office for Volunteers & Youth.

Please sign up and pay \$25 by Sunday, May 10 if you plan to attend. The cost of this trip covers lunch on Saturday (2 hotdogs, chips and pop), a two day ticket (We will only attend Saturday, but you are welcome to go back Sunday), and a concert featuring Christian artists (begins at 6:00 p.m.).

Sunday, May 17 *Christian Formation* 11:30-12:30 Youth/Tower Room

Sunday, May 31 *Pentecost Sunday/Recognition Sunday/Church Picnic*
 We will be recognizing our graduating seniors.

Our Summer VBS Program:

	<p>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.</p>	
<p>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 5th 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</p>		

St. Mary's Guild Update

At the last St. Mary's Guild meeting, the following members were presented as candidates for the **2009-2010 Board**:

Kim Murray - Treasurer
Sue Kirkwood – Co-President
Vivian TerMaat – Co-president

Our final meeting of the season will be on **Tuesday May 12th at 7 pm** at **San Chez** Restaurant. All present will vote to approve the board candidates at that meeting. Join us as we thank current president, Keri VanderHoff, for all of her hard work.

The St. Mary's Guild will be on summer hiatus until September. Be sure to check out our new **Facebook** page at **St. Mary's Guild**, to see what's planned for our next season.

Service and Community Involvement Gathering

- Do you have a glad heart for serving others?
- Did you attend the "Discover Who You Are" series and learn that you have the social gift of Service?
- Do you find reward in helping those in need?

We would like to invite you to a gathering of the service-minded. Please join us as we celebrate Grace Church's commitment to Service and Community Involvement. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and fellowship while we discuss ideas and find ways that you can help.

Please join us May 20th from 5-7 p.m.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4

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: _____