

# Grace Notes

Number 2 Volume 7

Grace Episcopal Church 15650 Reeck Rd. Southgate MI. 48195

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*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the Greatest of these is*

*Love ♥*

The mission of Grace Episcopal Church  
Is to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world  
Through prayer, education, and action.  
All God's children are welcome here!

Grace Episcopal Church

## 2007 Vestry

**The Rev. George L. Davinich** (734) 285-0380

**Sr. Warden:**

**B Porath**

J. Molnar

A. Jones

**Jr. Warden:**

**J Pesci**

B. Meredith

V. Gunnell

**Treasurer:**

C. Grant

S. Natale

R. Orr

email rector@gracesouthgate.org

P. Wagner

It is with great pleasure that I find myself as your Rector here at Grace Southgate. It was one short year ago that I was contemplating finding a "right fit" for my next ministry assignment. From the first time I spoke with the Search Committee last February on the phone to the day Mary and I came here to meet with the Vestry and Search Committees – I knew Grace was special.

Once I came onboard there was much for me to learn and understand. The parish was the same way – learning and watching how I would fit in, make some changes, and conduct myself in all matters of parish life. I want to thank everyone for not comparing me with previous pastors – which is a statement to the work that Grace did in preparing for receiving a new pastor.

Since arriving in August there has been four baptisms, one marriage, and two deaths within the parish family. Without the tireless work of Caroline Grant I wouldn't have been able to come up to speed on the pastoral issues here at Grace along with gaining a comprehensive understanding of our finances.

The Vestry at Grace is outstanding. From the time I began working with then Senior Warden Karen White last spring, it was clear that Grace was poised to make needed changes and start working towards the future. Having served on three other parish vestries I know how difficult the tasks can be in a parish without a full-time priest.

Significant changes have occurred in the Vestry in the last year –Betsy Meredith is completing a two-year term for Jenni Wilson who left the area, Pam Wagner came on board as Recording Secretary, Doug Pryor has resigned, and Barb Porath became Senior Warden when Karen White stepped down after my arrival.

As a long serving Senior Warden, Karen did an outstanding job of keeping the parish viable and functioning during her tenure. I am grateful to Rev. Diane Morgan in supplying long term on Sunday's and her pastoral coverage – which provided continuity to the parish.

In addition to Vestry, the Worship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Budget & Finance, and Memorial Garden Committees, along with the Altar Guild, Lectors and LEM's, Food Pantry, Choir & Musicians, Sunday School and Little Lambs all do great work.

Jerry Pesci works and cleans the building weekly; Al Natale collects and removes all the garbage; Caroline Grant and Pam Putnam rotate cleaning classrooms, bathrooms, and the sanctuary weekly.

Some of the projects we undertook very rapidly were to rebuild the front entranceway; which includes a new cement pad and decorative retaining wall, installing an awning, repairing the plumbing in the yard, replacing all the windows in the building except those in the sanctuary, installing high speed internet and phone services, replacing all the gutters on the building, and contracting for new snow & lawn services.

I am indebted to the vestry, and in particular to our Junior Warden Jerry Pesci and Art Jones for working closely to get these projects accomplished.

Other projects that have taken on a life of their own are Grace Notes and the Grace website. Member Pat Sova single handedly produces and mails the Grace Notes every month, while Judy Stouffer, my sister in Wisconsin, produced and now maintains our website.

I know that I've missed many people to thank and recognize and for that I apologize. Your tireless work and diligence to detail makes Grace a viable and joyful faith experience for all those that attend.

As with all endeavors in Christ's Church, the work of Grace will never be complete. Look for many changes to the ministries of Grace in addition to the building and grounds in the months and years to come. As stewards of God's creation let us look to the future with great optimism. Thank God for you all!

Respectfully submitted,

George Davinich +  
Rector, Grace Episcopal

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Our Annual Parish Meeting was held Sunday, January 28th. As is usual at that meeting, we elected our new Vestry members, delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention. We gave year-end reports from our various ministry groups and committees, as well as the report from our Vestry regarding financial situation, which includes our budget. All this constitutes "the work of the Church" -- the time, the talents, and the treasure we offer to God.

**Delegates to Diocese Convention**

R. Orr  
J. Orr  
K. White  
**alternates**  
B. Porath  
V. Campey

**Vestry full term members**

V. Gunnell  
P. Wagner  
R. Orr

**Vestry 1-year term**

J. Molnar

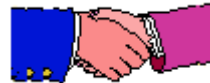
C. Lough is The **Downriver Area Deanery** representative for 2007

We need people to sign up for our weekly Treaters, Greeters and Altar Flowers. Please help.

There is a sign up sheet in the Grace Hall.



Treaters,



Greeters,



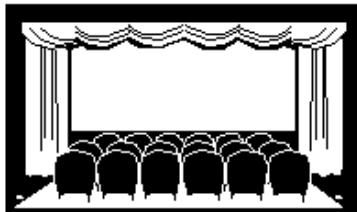
Altar Flowers

A big thanks to J.Pesci for getting **comfortable NEW chairs**, we are going to be disposing of all the old folding chairs and will be accepting *any* good will donations.

These old chairs are very special; they have been close to many famous and not so famous posteriors, they have helped to comfort others, they have held the toddler and the tired, they were here for us when we needed them, we prayed by them, we laughed with them, so many parties were held when they were in attendance, we couldn't of done much without them and now we are liberating them, can these chairs that's been with us for so long make it on their own, we hope so, we'll let them go to anyone who would like to adopt them and have as much joy using them as we have.



Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday  
February 10 at 5 pm  
here at Grace to help defray cost for C.  
Lough's  
Clinical Pastoral Education.



C. Grant Sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa is  
sponsoring a performance of "Noises Off" At  
Davidson middle school  
Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Please See C. Grant for further  
details.



**Pancake Breakfast & Chinese Auction will be  
February 18.** Everyone has items that are either new or  
unused items, but not necessarily new.



#### God's Coffee

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got talking at a reunion and decided to go visit their old university professor, now retired. During their visit conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in their work and lives.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the alumni had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "Notice that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones.

"While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups... and then you began eyeing each other's cups.

Now consider this: Life is the coffee; your job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain Life. The type of cup one has does not define, nor change the quality of Life a person lives. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything."

God brews the coffee, not the cups. . . Enjoy your coffee!

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Spend time with God over your coffee

# Grace Episcopal Church

8:00 & 10:00 am Lector and Eucharistic Minister Schedule

Date & Readings	Lector	EM I	EM II
<b>Feb. 4th</b> – Isaiah 6:1-8, [9-13] Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11	<b>Boileau</b> Meredith	Colleen will Officiate	No EM II required
<b>Feb. 11th</b> – Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26	<b>Sova</b> R. Orr	Putnam	Grant
<b>Feb. 18th</b> – Exodus 34:29-35 Psalm 99 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]	<b>Jones</b> Davinich	Lough	Pryor
<b>Feb 25th</b> - Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13	<b>Burke</b> Baxter	Gunnell	Porath

The Lector schedule has more people available than calendar weeks per month. We will rotate people each month to accommodate everyone getting an opportunity to serve. Thanks, George

From C. Grant's computer

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "grandpa, did God make me too?" Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Information for the March 2007 Grace Notes is due  
 By Monday February 26.

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
All Sundays 8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist	Fr. George on Vacation	Fr. George on Vacation	Fr. George on Vacation	<b>1</b> Fr. George on Vacation	<b>2</b> Fr. George on Vacation	<b>3</b> Fr. George on Vacation
<b>4</b> C. Lough to lead services Downriver Rainbow 6 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Choir 6:30 AA 7:30 G+ at COM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Pastoral Care Outreach G+ – Fresh Start all day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Spaghetti Dinner to benefit C. Lough Ministry Education – 5:00 pm by <b>Donation</b>
<b>11</b> Hymn Sing 10 am Miter Mtgs Belleville 3 & 4 PFLAG 4-6 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Choir 6:30 AA 7:30	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Downriver Deanery Dinner Mtg.	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Healing /Guitar Service Vestry 11:30 G+ away to retreat	<b>19</b> G+ away	<b>20</b> G+ return late afternoon Choir 6:30 AA 7:30	<b>21</b> Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes and HE at 7 pm	<b>22</b> Mandela Group Meeting 7-9	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Peter Swarr Ordination to Priesthood / St. John's Plymouth at 10:30
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Choir 6:30 AA 7:30	<b>28</b> Lenten Series begins at 6 pm with prayer – Soup & Salad, Presentation			

**2007**