

GRACE NOTES

Number 2 Volume 8

Grace Episcopal Church 15650 Reeck Rd. Southgate MI. 48195

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*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

For Grace Church the year started off with a bang and picked up speed as it progressed. There is much to report so here we go.

➤ Worship

- During the year we incorporated 5 different forms of the Eucharistic Prayers into our worship. This included forms from Enriching our Worship and the *Iona Community*.
- Hymn Sing has become routine on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- A guitar service with healing has become routine on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
- A “children’s” service has become routine on the 4th Sunday of each month.
- Starting in November we began a Wednesday Eucharist at noon. This has been successful and will continue.
- In October we held a *Blessing of the Animals* and had 7 dogs receive blessings.
- Colleen Lough preached throughout the year and is to be complimented for her efforts.
- Rev. Diane Morgan celebrated on several occasions during the year and continues to be a blessing to the parish.
- Barb Porath led Morning Prayer on several occasions and does a great job at it.
- Bishop Gibbs paid a visit in December. A date filled with memories such as the power failure along with a wonderful presentation that the Bishop gave during coffee hour.

➤ Funerals, Baptisms, and Marriages

- There were six funerals for members or immediate family members. These included David Boyd, Charles Sims, Sharon Allen, Kimberly Ann Goddard, David Petre, and Carl Stan.
- There were five baptisms for members or immediate family. These included Hunter A.C. Schoeneman, Christopher David Pratt, Kylee Taylor, Pauly Goddard, and Zachary Thor Ianucci.
- There were no marriages at Grace during 2007.

➤ Lenten Programs and Special Offerings

- Family Systems Theory was the main subject of the Lenten program on Wednesday evenings.
- There was an observance of a Seder Meal during Lent.
- A Parish picnic was held in July.
- Two different community health fairs were held during the year
- The Vestry undertook a parish examination of who we are and what next steps for us will be by reading the book Creating Generous Congregations.

- Capital Campaign, Property Improvements, Advertising, etc. Donations for installing drainage totaled \$3,245 and \$72,974 was pledged.
 - The Capital Campaign raised funds for:
 - The Memorial Garden renovation (see committee report)
 - Resurfacing the parking lot – to be done in 2008
 - New floor tiles in Grace Hall – to be done in 2008
 - Improvements to the kitchen – after completion of the above
 - Property improvements and purchases included
 - New electrical service in office area to support increased demands of computers, etc.
 - New exit signs throughout the building to conform to building code.
 - Property survey to ensure no encroachment had occurred which could have resulted in loss of property.
 - Drainage fields installed in Memorial Garden and south side of back property line to stave of future problems.
 - The Sacristy was painted, carpeted, and new lights installed.
 - Purchased an automatic Defibrillator and new First Aid kit.
 - Advertising
 - Grace continues to use the Website to promote facility rental and activities
 - Grace participated in the Mapgate Project of Southgate – having our presence as part of the 10,000 maps printed by Southgate for distribution to businesses and newcomers.
 - Grace advertises on all the coffee mugs at Arthur's Family Restaurant.

- Financial Considerations
 - Grace shifted all banking from National City to Chase to include online bill pay services, ease of usage, etc.
 - Grace shifted monies held in non-interest bearing account to 6 month renewable CD, which has netted a tidy sum to date.
 - Grace is ready to establish E-Giving within the next year.
 - Grace is currently in process of reworking our own 501 (c) (3) account separate from Diocese.
 - Grace Vestry has approved purchase of new accounting software – to better serve the needs of the parish now and in the future. Vicki Gunnell is spearheading this effort.

As evidenced by the above, the year 2007 was a time of change, challenge, and opportunity. This coming year promises to be more of the same. As with all challenges, they represent opportunities for improvement and growth. The parish *Visioning* program will focus our energies, highlight our resources, and set us on a path toward our collective future. May it be so!

God's Peace,

George +

Sr. Warden's Report 2007 Grace Church

This has been a very busy year in my position as Senior Warden. As I worked with Rev. George, we have seen many changes. We have addressed the standing water problem that for years had threatened to float Noah's Ark. Adding additional drains has also resolved the drainage problem in the Memorial Garden and allowed us to begin the renovation plan to create beauty in the sacred space of the Memorial Garden. We have begun to lay the groundwork for the visioning process to begin in February. The changes we have seen are many and the list is long, please see the Rector's report. I have enjoyed my term as Senior Warden and am honored to serve God and this church. I look forward to the development and growth that Christ has called us to do.

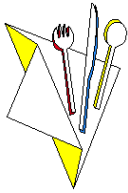
In Christ's Name,
B. Porath

Junior Warden/ Building & Grounds Annual Report 2007

It's been a relatively easy year for building and grounds. Most of the activity on our physical plant has been in the memorial garden, an area under the auspices of a totally different group. The work that they have done has been most remarkable. The lawn on the south side of the building is dry and "Lake Grace" on the north side of our building has totally disappeared. I can hardly wait for spring to see what they have in mind next. Last years projects have been: the painting of the cloak room, entryway, and sacristy as well as the carpeting of the sacristy. The rest of our time has been devoted to the ordinary repairs, maintenance, and cleaning that our building requires. This year we need to have our parking lot recoated and striped. I know that it has been only a short time since the parking area has been resurfaced but it needs periodic attention to protect our investment. We also need additional handicapped spaces. We had hoped to do this work in 2007 but decided to wait until the completion of the memorial garden to avoid heavy truck traffic on the fresh surface. We are also looking into adding a attic vent fan so as to make the conditions in our attic more bearable in the summer and to lower our air-conditioning expense. The diocese has requested that we update our parish physical inventory for insurance purposes. It seems that it has been quite some time since our last one. Grace has a large building but we have had the help of many people. Al Natale takes out our trash. Bob Orr keeps the "back 40" cut, Caroline Grant and Pam Putnam clean our restrooms, the Altar Guild maintains the sanctuary, and every time we have a cleanup day we have many volunteers. We are also blessed with the presence of George Davinich a truly "hands-on Rector".

J. Pesci

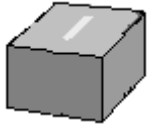
Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a Crossroads Workshop on Thursday, February 21st from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We plan to assemble 1,000 packets containing a spoon, napkin, sugar, salt, pepper & a stirrer. Refreshments provided.



Yarn & Knitting Hoops are available to anyone who would like to continue making scarves & hats through the winter, spring & summer. They will be kept on the green counter in the large teaching area or see any member of **Outreach Ministry**.



ECS-Episcopal Combined Services, the new name for CESA, collection begins at the Ash Wednesday Service. Coin Boxes & envelopes will be available for you to pick up. Please help support the good work of the **ECS** programs & help us meet our **ECS** commitment this Lenten Season. Return the filled boxes & envelopes on Palm Sunday.



Upcoming April Rummage Sale. Save those goodies! Start cleaning closets basements and your garage. We'll be having our Annual Rummage Sale, more information next issue.

Building Maintenance



There is a funny thing about cleaning and maintenance. No one notices when its done, it is only noticed when it is not done. I try to stay on top of most issues but I'm sure that there are things that I fail to notice. If you find something in need of my attention, there is a clipboard hanging on the wall of the furnace room. Please note your concerns. I will either remedy the problem, find someone who can, or explain to you why the problem is still outstanding.

Jerry

Christmas Tree

Thanks to all of you who brought in ornaments for your fellowship hall tree. We had thirty-four people bring in decorations, or I should say we had thirty-four ornaments; some of you may have brought in more than one. They told a great deal about the people of Grace. We had two U of M ornaments and one from Michigan State, several musical notes, a dog that barked, a golf shoe, disco ball, a rainbow, several bells, Santas, and snowflakes. Last but not least we had a transformer ornament. A pretty diverse collection, but then we are a pretty diverse group. Your help has made our tree truly representative of the people of Grace.



If you would like your ornament back please see Jerry. All remaining decorations will be kept for next years tree.

February Birthday

5. C. Dennison
13. M. Lamerato
19. S. Holcz
20. J. Orr
21. T. Gunnell
21. T. Wallace

February Birthday

22. E. Samu Sr.
24. S. Natale
24. P. Pryor
28. D. Pryor

February Anniversaries

1. G & M
Davinich
7. F. & J. Vellmure
13. J. & H. Foster
17. K. & M. Baxter

Next Meeting for pastoral Care February 07, 2008

Would you like to give a one year free subscription of GRACE NOTES to a friend, neighbor family member, or use it as an invitation for them to see our church or come worship with us on Sunday? A lot of things are coming up in the near future. Share this with someone. Give Fr. George the name & address, they'll be signed up for one year, or more. And remember, we don't sell our addresses.

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Date & Readings Year A

Lector

EM I

EM II

Feb. 03 Last Sun. after Epiphany	Wagner Campey	Putnam	Grant
Exodus 24:12 -18			
Psalms 2 or Psalm 99			
2 Peter 1:16-21			
Matthew 17:1-9			
Feb. 10 Lent 1	Sova Krause	Porath	Gunnell
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7			
Psalms 32			
Romans 5:12-19			
Matthew 4:1-11			
Feb. 17 Lent 2	Jones Davinich	Lough	Pryor
Genesis 12:1-4a			
Psalms 121			
Romans 4:1-5 13-17			
John 3:1-17			
Feb. 24 Lent 3	Burke Baxter	Putnam	Grant
Exodus 17:1-7			
Psalms 95			
Romans 5:1-11			
John 4:5-42			

Licensed Eucharistic Ministers

C. Grant
C. Lough
D. Pryor
P. Putnam
T. Gunnell
B. Porath

Lectors

M. Baxter
P. Wagner
K. Burke
V. Campey
M. Davinich
A. Jones
D. Litwinski
B. Krause
J. & R. Orr
P. Sova

February

<i>Sun</i>		<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
All Sundays 8 & 10 am – Holy Eucharist II. Music and Childcare at 10 am			All Wednesdays Holy Eucharist at noon – except on the 27 th .		1	2
3 Pancake Breakfast and Chinese Auction Downriver Rainbow	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday Services - Noon and 7	7	8	9 9-12 PARISH VISIONING 8:30 Continental Breakfast; Noon Soup & Salad
10 PFLAG 4-6 pm Healing at 10 am Vestry workshop, Belleville 3-5	11	12 Rector at COM 6 pm	13 Lenten Program @ 6 pm – Potluck sign up in parish hall	14	15	16 Colleen's Spaghetti Dinner – 5 pm
17 Guitar Service at 10 Red Cross at 10 to demo AED Defib. Vestry meeting	18 Rector at WSOT 8 am GRACE NOTES info due	19	20 Lenten Program @ 6 pm – Potluck sign up in parish hall	21 Rector in Israel today till 3- 2. Crossroads workshop 7-9	22	23
24 Children's Service at 10 am Colleen Lough to Officiate services	25	26	27 No Lenten Program planned	28	29	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2008 </div>