

GRACE NOTES

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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

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Dear Grace Parish,

It is fair for me to say that Grace has been a remarkable community of worship and faith and keeps getting stronger. Our Children's services grow livelier as participation climbs upward. The music is developing quite nicely under the guidance of Virginia, Jane, and Suzanne and the children are wonderful participants. We also shared in the adult baptism of Pamela Bradford – a very spirit filled experience for Pamela and all of Grace as we continue to support those seeking a closer relationship with our Lord. We have been blessed with many new members and are grateful for their presence. Our overall service attendance year to date is up almost 500 versus this time last year – a positive sign about our worship, music, and community offerings. On the business side of the equation today is Monday the 17th of November – the day after we collected this year's pledge cards and blessed them at the 10 am service. There will be several members of our vestry arriving shortly to make follow-up calls to members who have yet to turn in their cards. This year's stewardship campaign was quite different than any Grace has done previously. The work began last February with an all member meeting led by Kristine Miller followed by the vestry having serious discussions and then goal setting. The work continued and was formalized in the mailing "Giving with Grateful and Generous Hearts." Some interesting notes about this year's campaign are that 37 pledge cards were turned in by the 16th of November - representing an increase of almost 20% over previous years at this point in time. Of those cards turned in the total pledged amount is 18% over 2008 - all this in a faltering economy. Note that there are some twenty members that have yet to turn in their cards if they are going to. Kristine Miller said it best when she reported to our Vestry at our November 16th meeting that Grace Episcopal Church was at a crossroads of sorts when she came in February. The strong emphasis on stewardship and the commitment shown since then demonstrates Grace's desire not only to survive, but also to thrive.

Please note the dates on the December calendar for the special Holiday services. Different this year will be no music prior to the 11 pm Christmas Eve Celebration. Another group that continues to move forward is the Wednesday night group that meets at 6 for dinner and discussions at 7. The focus is varied while the group explores its many options for the future. I would also like to offer and encourage any one that is interested that there are many opportunities for participation at Grace such as reading the Sunday lessons, assisting with communion, joining the Altar Guild, or helping out with coffee hours, etc. Keep in your prayers our members that are in need of healing and peace during the Holiday season and if you know of someone in need of food or other needs from the larger community at this time please forward that information on to me. As always I remain committed in Christ.

George+

Christmas Eve Service 2007



Grace's Holiday Schedule

The Holiday Season is fast approaching. The tentative schedule is as follows;

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21st – services at 8 and 10 with hanging of Christmas Greens after the 10 am service.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve 5:00 pm – Paper Bag Pageant and Family Eucharist

Christmas Eve 11:00 pm – Christmas Celebration / Eucharist

Christmas Day

No services scheduled

Last Sunday of 2008

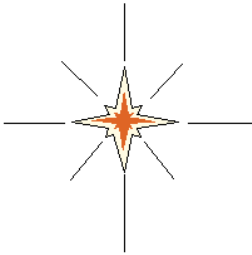
December 28th. Sunday after Christmas – one (1) Eucharistic Service at 9 am with Carols incorporated into the service.

New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve – potluck meal (all the foods you'll be making a New Year's resolution not to eat) and games for members of all ages – ends by 10 pm. Sign up sheet will be in parish hall.

New Year's Day

No service scheduled.



Our last **Scrip sales** ending November 30 to order before Christmas. It gives everyone a chance to get a head start on Christmas Shopping by having Scrip sale.

Sale of Scrip

November 30, 2008

Delivery of Scrip

December 7, 2008

Please support Grace Church by purchasing some Scrip for yourself or as a gift for someone else.

Most Gas stations and a lot of restaurants are available as well as many popular retail stores. Please stop by the Scrip table on a Sale day and look at The Master List of participating locations and give this a try.

Thank You

V. Gunnell Live, Love, Learn and Laugh Everyday



Church clean up for the holidays is scheduled for Saturday

December 13 at 9 am.

Please let Fr. George know if you can help.



Don't forget to give generously especially on the first Sunday loose donation goes toward Fr George's Discretionary fund. **FOLDING MONEY** and checks **ACCEPTED**. Use e-giving too.

Healing Prayer in the Style of Taize

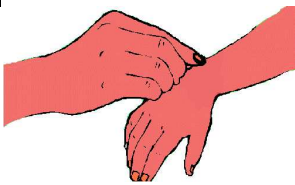
Join us on Friday, January 16, 2009 for a quiet evening of Healing Prayer in the Style of Taize at St. David's Episcopal Church, 16200 W. Twelve Mile Rd, Southfield, MI. The Taize service starts at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary.

The sanctuary will be open at 6:30 for anyone who would like quiet meditation prior to the service. During the service there will be clergy and prayer team members available for individual prayer and anointing. Anyone who would like to participate in the choir for this service should arrive at 6:00 PM for rehearsal. Also at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall there will be a short class on the healing aspects of Christ's ministry. Immediately following the healing service a prayer labyrinth will be available in the Parish Hall. This is a nondenominational service and is open to everyone. For further information call the church office 248-557-5430.

Thank you,
Patsy

Special Events Committee

Would you like a relaxing massage? Would you like to be pampered?



Saturday December 13th at 2:00 PM The Special Events Committee is Inviting you and/or a friend, (woman or man), to be pampered.

Just think "**Spa day.**" Get a relaxing massage for your hands, or back of your neck, what about the "*heat wrap*" We will have great

ideas for Christmas gifts, or even gifts to pamper yourself. Finger foods served and prizes handed out during the presentation.

RSVP requested, not mandatory.

Contact C. Humphries or C. Pesci to reserve your place.

Grace Episcopal Church

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

Date & Readings Year B Lector EM I EM II

Dec 7, 08 Advent 2	Wagner		
Isaiah 40:1-11	M. Baxter	B. Portah	C. Grant
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13			
2 Peter 3:8-15a			
Mark 1:1-8			
Dec 14, 08 Advent 3 HYMN SING	Sova		
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11	J. Orr	P. Putnam	T. Gunnell
Psalm 126 or Canticle 3 or Canticle 15			
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24			
John 1:6-8, 19-28			
Dec 21, 08 Advent 4 HEALING SERVICE	Davinich		C. Grant
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	R. Orr	C. Lough	B. Porath
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 or Canticle 3 or 15			
Romans 16:25-27			
Luke 1:26-38			
Dec 28, 08 Christmas 1 CHILDRENS			
Isaiah 61:10--62:3	Children	P. Putnam	T. Gunnell
Psalm 147 or Psalm 147:13-21			
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7			
John 1:1-18			

1 service

December Birthdays

12-1 F. Vellmure
12-4 W. Nitzkowski
12-8 M. Baxter
12-23 M. Nitzkowski
12-25 R. Bayn

12-27 J. Baxter
12-28 P. Mahl
12-28 C. Boileau
12-29 R. Orr
12-29 N. Orr

December Anniversaries

12-27 P. Bradford &
L. Brewer



Please Sign up for "**MEMORIAL FLOWERS**" on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Grace Hall; to remember a loved one, a special anniversary, birthday, or the newest member of your family. *The Flowers on our Altar come from the Memorial Flower money donated by you during the year.*

Setting Up Your Grace E-Giving Account

* Go to www.e-giving.org.

* On the lower right hand side select the option to search by zip code. Type in 48195 and Grace will appear in the middle of the screen. Click on Grace and you'll be directed to a sign-in page.

* Click on "Not signed up? Sign up here!" then complete your personal information to establish your account..

* Make sure to record your user name and password for future use.

* After completing the personal information required you will be directed to the main menu.

* Next you'll need to view/accept authorization agreement for ACH transactions. This authorization allows Grace to electronically deduct your pledge from your checking, savings, and credit card accounts. Click on the first option at the main menu titled "View the Authorization Agreement" to begin.

* Scroll to the bottom of this page and click on the "I have read..." button, and then click "I AGREE".

* At the main menu click on "Go to my Organization's E-giving Page".

* Under Donation Options, place a dollar amount in the pledge box (remember to add the extra per transaction to cover the costs). Amounts are either .25 or .5 per transaction type.

* Under Donation Type, choose one of the 3 options for how you want to donate: one-time donation now, one-time donation at a future date, or a recurring donation.

* Confirm the donation amount and continue.

* If you chose to make a recurring donation, ("Step 3") you'll need to select the frequency of donation (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or quarterly). You also have the option to select what date you want the donation to begin.

* Verify that the amount and the frequency of your donation.

* In the next step # 4 you'll enter your bank information.

* Step 5" is final confirmation. Click "I Authorize This Transaction" and that's it!

Transactions take 3 business days to clear. Please contact me at if you have ANY questions. You can call me 734-285-0380 or e-mail at rector@gracesouthgate.org

SUGGESTIONS FOR FOOD DONATIONS

Complete Pancake Mix

Syrup

Cereal

Sugar 2#

Fruit Juice

Coffee 1#

Muffin Mix

Cocoa Mix

Soup

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Tuna

Canned Luncheon meat

Thank You from Community Service Committee



Macaroni & Cheese

Salad Dressing

Puddings

Canned Fruit

Crackers

Cookies

Spaghetti Sauce

Spaghetti

Parmesan Cheese

Hash

Stew

Canned Ham – Non-Refrigerated



Scalloped Potatoes

Complete Pizza Mix

Complete Oriental Dinners

Rice

Canned Vegetables

Jell-O

Cake Mix

Frosting Mix

Salmon

Noodle Mix

Snacks

December

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
All Sundays except December 28 th . 8 & 10 am – Holy Eucharist Rite II. Music and Childcare at 10 am	1	2 Rector Mtg s at 8 & 5 AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm	3	4 Rector 2 pm Mtg Ann Arbor	5	6 Rector @ Cathedral Wedding at 11 am
7nd Advent Christmas Caroling after Church- open to all to participate.	8	9 Rector Mtg 9 am Rector @ COM 6 pm AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm	10 Rector Ann Arbor Mtg 5 pm	11 Rector 7:45 am meeting Ann Arbor	12	13 Church cleaning starts at 9 ends by noon. Spa Day starts 2 pm
14th Advent Hymn Sing Sunday PFLAG 4-6 pm	15	16 Rector 8 am meeting AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm	17	18 Rector 8 am meeting	19	20 Rector @ Cathedral Ordination at 10 am
21st Advent Contemporary Music & Healing at 10 am Vestry Meets 11:30 Greening of the Church after 10 am	22	23 Rector 8 am meeting AA 7:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm	24 5 pm Paper Bag Pageant & Family Eucharist 11 pm Christmas Celebration & Eucharist	25 Christmas Day No Services	26 Offices Closed	27
28th 1 service at 9 am - Children's Service / Lessons & Carols and Eucharist	29 Offices Closed	30 AA 7:00 pm	31 Family Potluck & Game Night 6 – 10 pm	New Years Day No Services	2008	