

GRACE NOTES

Number 3 Volume 9

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 15650 REECK Rd. SOUTHGATE MI. 48195

Postmaster: Dated material
Please do not delay delivery

Non Profit US Postage Paid
Permit # 119 Wyandotte MI

*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

Page 2 Rector's Report
Page 3 What's happening
Page 4 Birthday Anniversaries
Page 5 Calendar

Rector's Report
March 2009

As I pen this letter (Feb. 16th) we are fast approaching Lent and before we know it Easter will be here. Our Worship Committee met in January and has planned the services for Lent and Easter. Different this year from previous years will be the usage of Rite I liturgy for a portion of Lent then transitioning into Rite II. On the 1st Sunday of Lent we will be using the "Great Litany" On the 3rd Sunday of Lent we will be using Morning Prayer accompanied with Communion. The service leader for the Morning Prayer portion will be Terry Gunnell and I will lead the Eucharist. During Holy Week we will have a Tenebrae service on Wednesday, traditional Maundy Thursday service with stripping of the Altar and setting up the Altar of Repose, and Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Please note that there will be only one (1) service on Good Friday at noon this year. Easter Sunday will begin with the Great Vigil of Easter in the Memorial Garden before sunrise and transitioning to the sanctuary for the traditional services at 8 and 10 am.

During Lent we will be doing a book review on "The Shack" on Wednesday evenings. The evening will begin with a Soup & Salad potluck at 6 pm and our study at 7 pm. After Easter we will be holding Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation classes on Wednesday evenings beginning on April 15th. These classes will also serve as an Inquirers Class for those interested on learning more about the Episcopal Church, Bible, history of Anglican Communion, etc. On Ascension Day (May 21st) we will be hosting the Downriver Deanery Confirmation Service with Bishop Gibbs presiding. This will be a gala event and hopefully well attended by Grace members.

Our new Vestry began work in February and looks towards another great year. Vestry members will again be acting as liaisons for the various parish ministries. They are as follows:

- Lee Sova will be liaison for Parish Communications – including Grace Notes
- Anna Blasdel will be liaison for Outreach
- Pat Howard and Deb Litwinski will be liaisons for Pastoral Care
- Pam Putnum will be liaison for Worship
- Sandra Guernsey will be liaison for Education
- Caroline Grant will be liaison for Special Events
- Vicki Gunnell will continue as Bookkeeper
- Barbara Porath is our new Treasurer

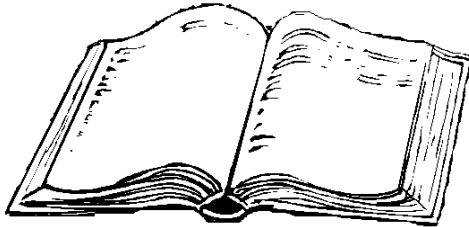
Serving as Senior Warden is Pam Wagner and Junior Warden is Caroline Grant. The liaisons are the people that any member can approach in order to communicate with the Vestry concerns, suggestions, and comments in general. The Senior Warden is considered the Rector's Warden and the Junior Warden is the members' Warden. Different for the Vestry duties is counting of the offerings on Sunday. Sue Natale is serving as our "regular counter" for the 1st quarter with a different Vestry member each week assisting. We are seeking another "regular counter" for the next quarter – see Sue Natale for details.

On May 3rd the Downriver Deanery will be holding a "Pulpit Exchange" which means I will be covering the Rector's duties at another parish and a priest from another parish will be covering mine here at Grace. This gives us all a chance to hear other voices during the liturgy and connect with other clergy and parishes. George+



Pastoral Care

Meeting March 12, 2009



Virginia Campey has put in an order for Songbooks "**Lift Every Voice and Sing II**" we have just enough to fill all the pews. If you have any questions, would like to order your own songbook or donate towards a future order of these books please contact Virginia Campey.



SCRIP order date *March 29, 09*
SCRIP order delivery Date *April 5 09*



Christian Education Corner

- by **Sandra Guernsey**

The Wednesday Night Study Group has now completed 10 months of sharing and learning...a continuation of the Lent/Confirmation program that started during Lent 2008. A new cycle starts March 4, 2009. I look back on the year with a great sense that Grace Episcopal has grown a lot in the last year because of this program. First, the 8 to 12 newcomers within this group have formed a closer connection with the Grace Church community. Second, the individual members had an opportunity to "dust off" their childhood understanding of God and explore new adult meaning to the basic truths we learned in Sunday School.

Why is Christian Education not just for kids?

For me the answer is expressed in some passages from L.A. Hoffman's book, "The Art of Public Prayer, Not for Clergy Only" (p. 56-57):

"..there are thousands of men and women who feel uncomfortable in churches because these remind them of unsatisfactory childhood experiences... The task for those who wish to facilitate religious moments is to be sure that **children in their formative years** identify positively with their religious experiences and to multiply the positive experiences that occur in religious environments.."

"...about the lost generation of **adults, not the children**... If we want religion to compete, we need emotionally satisfying experience within religious environments. Only then will religious symbols become part of people's lives...only then will people return to religious rituals...and only then will they really want to know the religious sign value of their symbols, and discover also what intellectual depth religion carries."

March Anniversary

3-01 William & Margaret Goddard

March Birthday

1 Sarah Gratopp
6. Luanne Brewer
7 Suzanne Argenta

11 Dori Washelewski
20. Kathy Burke
20 Patricia Howard

26 Jean Storace
28 Joshua Meredith
29 Earl Gratopp
29. Mary Lurain



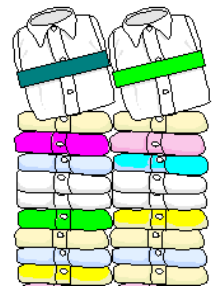
Check next month's issue of GRACE NOTES for more information about our Annual Upcoming Fabulous



TACO DINNER



Rummage Sale



Coming soon!

When doing your spring-cleaning please bring us your gently used and unwanted items for our GRACE CHURCH **Annual Rummage Sale**. We may have that one of a kind vintage item you've been wanting. More information to follow. You will have to come, see for yourself...

March

<i>Sun</i>		<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 1 st Lent Rite I Liturgy 8 & 10 Downriver Rainbow Rector Meeting noon	2	3 Rector Mtg at 6 pm Rector Mtg at 8 am	4 Noon Eucharist "The Shack" study group begins - 6 pm Potluck & study @ 7	5 Rector Mtg 9:30	6	7
8 2 nd Lent Rite I Liturgy 8 & 10 Hymn Sing Sunday PFLAG 4-6 pm Daylight svg .time Clocks forward	9	10 Rector Mtg at 8 am	11 Noon Eucharist 6 pm Potluck then study group @ 7	12	13	14
15 3 rd Lent Rite I Liturgy 8 Morning Prayer with Communion @ 10 Contemp Music & Healing @ 10 Vestry meets	16  GRACE NOTES info due	17 Rector Mtg at 8 am Rector Mtg 5 pm	18 Noon Eucharist 6 pm Potluck then study group @ 7	19 Rector Mtg 5 pm	20	21
22 4 th Lent Rite I Liturgy 8 & 10 Children's Service @ 10 am	23	24 Rector Mtg at 8 am	25 Noon Eucharist 6 pm Potluck then study group @ 7	26 Rector Mtg in 9:30	27 Becoming the Household of God Conference begins 6 pm -St. John's Royal Oak	28 Becoming the Household of God Conference continues 9 am
29 5 th Lent Rite II Liturgy 8 & 10	30	31 Rector Mtg at 8 am				

2009