

GRACE NOTES

Number 4 Volume 9

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

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Rector's Report
April 2009

We are now over half way through Lent with Resurrection Sunday fast approaching. So far the planned liturgies have worked out fantastically starting with the "Great Litany" and most recently experiencing Morning Prayer led by Terry Gunnell with Eucharist following.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday (5th) with a traditional Liturgy of the Palms / Passion service at both the 8 & 10 am service times. The next observance will be a Tenebrae service at 7 pm on Wednesday (8th). On Maundy Thursday (9th) at 7 pm there will be a traditional service with stripping of the Altar followed by setting up the Altar of Repose in Grace Hall. On Good Friday we will observe the Stations of the Cross at noon. Please note that there will be only one (1) service on Good Friday this year.

Easter Sunday will begin with the Great Vigil of Easter in the Memorial Garden before sunrise (7 am) and transitioning to the sanctuary for the traditional services at 8 and 10 am.

The Lenten book review of "The Shack" has proceeded nicely. Although the Soup & Salad potluck at 6 pm has been sparsely attended our study has been lively, very well attended, and most find it enlightening.

We now have our new LEVAS II Songbooks and will be using them more as time goes on. Let us know your thoughts and suggestions.

After Easter we will be holding Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation classes on Wednesday evenings beginning on the 22nd of April. The same format for Wednesdays will be followed with a Soup & Salad Potluck at 6 pm and class starting at 6:45.

These classes will also serve as an Inquirers Class for those interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church, the Bible, history of the Anglican Communion, etc. On Ascension Day (May 21st) we are scheduled to host the Downriver Deanery Confirmation Service with Bishop Gibbs presiding. This will be a gala event and hopefully well attended by countless Grace members (please mark your calendars).

It is important to repeat that the following Vestry members are acting as liaisons for the various parish ministries. They are as follows:

- Lee Sova for Parish Communications / Grace Notes
- Anna Blasdel for Outreach
- Pat Howard and Deb Litwinski for Pastoral Care
- Pam Putnum for Worship
- Sandra Guernsey for Education
- Caroline Grant for Special Events
- Vicki Gunnell as Bookkeeper
- Barbara Porath as Treasurer

The liaisons are the people that any member can approach in order to communicate with the Vestry their concerns, suggestions, and comments in general.

Sue Natale has been serving as our "regular counter" for two months now with a different Vestry member assisting each week. We are seeking another "regular counter." This may be a monthly volunteer or quarterly. See Sue Natale for details.

George+



Envelopes will be available for your Easter Memorials



Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

"When Satan is knocking at your door, simply say, "Jesus, could you get that for me?"

Pastoral Care will be meeting at Red Robin at 6:00 on Thursday, April 2. If you can't make dinner, we'll be at Grace about 7:30 to do the cards.

Caroline

Downriver Rainbow will meet on April 5th at 4pm for a special Dinner and Movie outing.....Movie and Place to eat will be decided when everyone arrives.

Downriver Rainbow meets on the first Sunday of every Month at Grace Hall, found at 15650 Reeck Rd. Southgate, MI 48195 .

Hope to see you there. Downriver Rainbow

April Anniversaries

04 14 James & Diane
Brown

04 25 Brent & Nancy
McFarland

April Birthday

04 03 Gabrielle Meredith

04 08 Jerry Pesci

04 11 Amy Litwinski

April Birthday

04 12 James Brown

04 24 Pamela Putnam

**ALPHA DELTA KAPPA
THETA CHAPTER**

SPRING TEA

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

3:00 -5:00

**ELKS LODGE
26917 TELEGRAPH
FLAT ROCK, MI**

**DELICIOUS FOOD, ENTERTAINMENT AND
PRIZES**

**COST: \$10.00 ADULTS
\$5.00 CHILDREN
UNDER 10**

CONTACT: Caroline

Taco Dinner & Line Dancing

Saturday, April 25th

Grace Episcopal Church

15650 Reeck Rd, Southgate (between Dix & Eureka)

Dinner	5:00 - 6:00 pm
Dancing	6:30 - 8:00 pm

Ticket prices:

13 - 59 advance	\$ 8.00
At the door	\$ 10.00
60 +	\$ 6.00
5 - 12	\$ 4.00
4 & under	free

Proceeds support the work of
Outreach Ministries

Christian Education Corner

- by Sandra Guernsey

COMING EVENTS

The Shack – 5 weeks - Wed March 4 through April 1

Confirmation Class – 5 weeks - Wed April 22 through May 20

Father George is leading a Wednesday Night Study Group on the book *The Shack*, which is a work of fiction that embodies lengthy conversations between the main character, a man named Mack, and three persons who represent a version of the Trinity. This is an open discussion group. You can join anytime, even if you haven't begun to read the book yet. Some reviews about the book follow.

May 20, 2008

By Tim Challies, www.callies.com

William P. Young's *The Shack*, a book that is currently well within the top-100 best-selling titles at Amazon. The book, it seems, is becoming a hit and especially so among students and among those who are part of the Emergent Church. The Amazon reader reviews for *The Shack* are remarkable. With 102 reviews already posted, it is maintaining a five-star rating with fully ninety three of the reviewers awarding five stars. A search of blogs and websites turns up near-unanimous enthusiastic (and almost unbridled) praise for the book.

"This book is a life-changer, a transformer."

"[The Shack] has become a favorite book OF ALL TIME."

"I am changed. I pray indelibly. My oh my!"

Young covers a wide variety of theological topics in this book, each of which is relevant to the theme of Mack's suffering and his inability to trust in a God who could let his daughter be treated in such a horrifying way. The author is unafraid to tackle subjects of deep theological import—a courageous thing to do in so difficult a genre as fiction. The reader will find himself diving into deep waters as he reads this book. Much of the story focuses on forgiveness. Mack has to learn to forgive first God (or at least to come to an intellectual understanding of why God was unable to intervene to save Missy) and then, at the book's culmination, to forgive the murderer.

September 17th, 2007

by William Spencer, www.internetmonk.com

The emerging church, whatever that is, is producing a body of literature of its own that reflects its particular approach to spirituality and theology. *The Shack*, an unusual novel by William P. Young, may be a significant contribution to that particular theological literature.

Or you may just want to read it for a more ordinary reason: William P. Young wants to introduce you to what it means to be loved by the Trinitarian God, and he's created a compelling story to do so in a way few sermons could ever begin to do.

Though written as a novel, *The Shack* is mostly a series of theological conversations and experiences between the main character and God, framed between a short plot, and covering a full menu of experiential and spiritual topics. ... *The Shack* is a book that can generate much conversation among anyone with thoughts of God and sure controversy among the rigidly certain.

Rummage & Bake Sale

Grace Episcopal Church

15650 Reeck Rd, Southgate
Between Eureka & Dix-Toledo
(734) 285-0380
www.gracesouthgate.org

Fri., May 1st 9 am - 3 pm
Sat., May 2nd 9 – 11 am

Saturday is “Bag Day”
\$1.00 a bag



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

PRESENTS

Ministry Fair 2009

Saturday, May 2, 2009
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Christ Church Grosse Pointe
61 Grosse Pointe Blvd.
Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

Registration \$15
Lunch \$10

Ministry Fair is a day of workshops providing new ideas, skills and knowledge for people of faith. Our day will include 4 different time blocks of workshops where you might find yourself learning how to create a website that will attract visitors, enhance your youth and young adult programs, discern a call to ministry, explore your spirituality through movement, find out about starting a church health ministry and so much more.....

Of special note this year is a track for church leaders: visioning and transformation in congregations, vestry training and a workshop specifically for Wardens with Bishop Gibbs and one for treasurers.

Choosing from over thirty (30) offerings will be a challenge, so plan to send a team in order to bring back as much information and as many ideas as possible!

Contact Beth Rowley for a copy of the workshop offerings booklet.
browley@edomi.org or 313/833-4421

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Date & Readings Year B

	Lector	EM I	EM II
April 5, 09 Palm Sunday	Wagner		
Isaiah 50:4-9a	Betsy	Terry	Caroline
Psalm 31:9-16			
Philippians 2:5-11			
Mark 14:1--15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)			
April 8 Tenebrae	Robert B		
Hebrews 12:1-3	Anna		
John 13:21-32	Julie		
Psalm 70			
April 9 Maundy Thursday	Debbie	Colleen	Terry
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14			
1 Corinthians 11:23-26			
John 13:1-17,31b-35			
Psalm 116:1, 10-17			
April 10 Good Friday	Who ever is at the service		
Isaiah 52:13-53:12			
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9			
John 18:1-19:42			
Psalm 22			
April 12 Easter Day	Sova 7am		
<i>Readings to be chosen</i>	Julie 7am		
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9	Sova 8am		
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Julie	Barbara	Colleen
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43			
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8			
April 19 Easter 2 Healing Service	Campey		Pam
Acts 4:32-35	Rick	Anna	Terry
Psalm 133			
1 John 1:1-2:2			
John 20:19-31			
April 26 Easter 3 Childrens	Burke		
Acts 3:12-19	Children	Caroline	Barb
Psalm 4			
1 John 3:1-7			
Luke 24:36b-48			

April 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
All Sundays will follow the normal schedule of 8 and 10 am worship with the addition of the Great Vigil of Easter at 7 am Easter Sunday	Childcare is available at the 10 am Sunday Service. There will be no Hymn Sing on Easter Sunday. Services will be Rite II		1 Rector Mtg Ann Arbor @ 2 pm	2 Rector Appt. 7:45 Pastoral Care 6pm @ Red Robin or 7:30 @ Grace	3	4
5 Palm Sunday Liturgy of Palms 8 & 10 am service Downriver Rainbow 4 pm	6 Memorial Garden meets at 6:30 pm	7 Rector Cathedral 10 Reaffirmation Service	8 No Noon Eucharist Tenebrae 7 pm	9 Maundy Thursday beginning at 7 pm	10 Good Friday Stations of The Cross at Noon	11
12 Easter Vigil at 7 am Services at 8 & 10 am	13	14 Rector Mtg 8 am Rector COM @ 6 pm	15 Noon Eucharist	16	17	18 Convention at Cathedral starts @ 9
19 2nd Easter Contemporary Music & Healing @ 10 am Vestry after 10 am	20  Grace Notes info due	21 Rector Mtg 8 am	22 Noon Eucharist Confirmation classes begin – see bulletin	23	24 Rector Away through the 27th	25 Rector Away through the 27 th Taco dinner and Line dancing 5-8
26 3rd Easter Children's Service @ 10 am. Rector Vacation Day	27	28 Rector Mtg 8 am	29 Confirmation classes Rummage Sale set up 6 pm-8 pm	30 Rector Mtgs. @ 9:30 and 6 pm Rummage Sale set up 9 am-3 pm	May 1 Fri Rummage Sale 9am –3 pm	Rummage Sale Sat. May 2 9-11am