



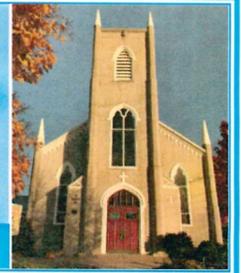
Mount Clemens, Michigan

# Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

November 2019



## EMBRACING CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Christian stewardship refers to the responsibility that each of us has in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that we have been given. We understand stewardship to be our thankful and intentional response to the question: "What does God call me to do with the gifts God has entrusted to me?"

Our bible and our Episcopal Church maintain that the appropriate formula to use for our financial giving is the tithe – a tenth of all we have. This ten percent standard for giving is both daunting and confusing. Do I give ten percent of my gross, net or adjusted income? Does this include all of my investments and retirement accounts as well? Should this entire amount all go to the church or does this percentage include all my charitable giving? So many options yet few details to guide us! As with many things in our Episcopal Church, the final choice is left up to the individual. So pick a starting point and go from there.

When I was first married, my wife and I decided that it was important to share our financial resources regularly with God through the parish we were attending. We didn't follow the tithing guideline back then. The formula we used was simple: we looked at how much income we received in a given month and then subtracted out all our expenses. Then we took the remainder and held back a portion for contingencies and whatever amount was left we put in the offering plate. This method of giving equated to ½% of our annual net income. Surprisingly, the average annual giving for Episcopalians is 1% of their income.

After my wife died and I found myself relying on God more, the realization hit me that we had been doing this giving thing backwards. I needed to change my formula around and write my check to support God's mission first before I took out expenses. The question then became, "how much" because I was looking at a larger pool of money to start with rather than the miniscule scraps left at the end.

This new perspective posed quite a dilemma. How should I calculate a fair share to give that is representative of my gratitude for all that I have? Did I trust in God more than I trusted in my money? I am embarrassed to say that my words were professing trust in God, but my actions clearly showed that I aligned my security and wants with my money. This insight made me uncomfortable so I set out to rectify the situation.

I knew that I could not automatically start giving 10% of my net income so I decided to increase my pledge by 1% each year until I reached my goal. It is not about comparing myself with others, it is about stretching myself and increasing my giving on an incremental basis. No matter how much or how little we give, there is always room to grow!

Fortunately for us God knows that the process of transformation does not always happen in the blink of an eye. God knows our fears and imperfections and is ever so patient as we take one step at a time toward deepening our faith and commitment.

I would like to challenge you to join me on this journey of stewardship refinement. Will you start by identifying where you are on the giving continuum and then commit yourself to increasing your giving by one percent each year until you become a tither? I know this is a big ask but I strongly believe that this is our responsibility as followers of Jesus.

Christian Stewardship is a spiritual journey we take as individuals and as a community of faith in which we seek to move from a perspective of scarcity to one of abundance with ever increasing gratitude and generosity.

My prayer for all of us is that we may be the best stewards of our time, talent and treasure as we utilize, share and oversee all the personal and material resources that we have at our disposal for the Glory of God and the betterment of all creation.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

### Worship Opportunities

#### All are Welcome



Sunday, November 3  
10:00 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, November 10  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, November 17  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, November 25  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

**VIEW OUR CHURCH DIRECTORY ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!**

FREE App for iPhone, iPad, Android & Kindle



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.



Celebration	Date
Veterans Day	Nov 17 2019
Christmas Carols	Dec 15 2019
Baptism Anniversary	Jan 19 2020
Wedding Anniversary	Feb 16 2020
Ministries (Church)	Mar 15 2020
Confirmation Anniversary	April 19 2020
Mother's Day	May 17 2020
Father's Day	June 21 2020
1870 Mass	July 19 2020
Future Worship	Aug 16 2020
Outreach ministries	Sept 20 2020



Our kick-off for the 150th Anniversary went great! The scavenger hunt put together by Brooke Lau was a success — thanks, Brooke, for the help with the clues! The first person to the site of the time capsule was Scott Satterly.

For our Veterans' remembrance, the committee is asking you to bring a picture or memento of a loved one who served or is serving in the armed forces on November 17th for the 10:30 service.

And we are still welcoming volunteers to the 150th Anniversary Committee.

The next meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 11 at 6:30 pm in the Guild Room.



**"B" BUCKS for Blessings in a Backpack**

If your wallet has any dollar bills with B on them, please put them in the offering plate to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.

**November Birthdays**

- 1 Jane Carpenter
- 6 Bob Johnson
- 7 Monica Dunbar
- 10 Daniel Fox
- 10 Carolyn Siewert
- 13 Betty Brogan
- 16 Tom Murphy
- 22 Ena Pederson
- 23 Pam Schafer
- 24 Kim Bradmon
- 24 Maureen Cobb
- 26 Paul St. Peter
- 28 Donna Chapman



*Let's Celebrate!*

**RETIREMENT CELEBRATION & HOLY EUCHARIST Honoring the Ministries Of Bishop Gibbs & Karlah Gibbs**

**Saturday, November 9, 2019, 11:00am  
The Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
4800 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI**

The entire diocesan household is invited to join with the Gibbs Family and friends from around the church for this festive occasion. A reception will



**Convention Update**

Tish Germain, Shirley Lappi and Pam Sherry served as your delegates to the recent diocesan convention. It was the last one with Bishop Gibbs, who gave his final convention address during the Eucharist. He spoke on the convention theme of Abide in Me. He spoke of how we all need to be connected to the vine, Jesus, and without that connection, we will wither away, our branch useless. In addition, he spoke of how loving is part of the bearing of fruit on the vine, loving God, loving ourselves and loving others. He challenged all present with the love work we need to do, in diversity, inclusion, equity, stewardship and being attentive to the needs of the world around us.

On the business side, the proposed 2020 budget of just over \$2.3 million passed unanimously, as did the proposed resolutions. There was a vote on a change to the constitution, updating language, which must also pass next year to become permanent. Finally, there was a proposed change to our canons, related to the process for selection of a new bishop. It did not pass, but was sent back to committee for revision, to bring forth next year.

The other major event was a panel discussion sponsored by the diocesan Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Topics covered programs and activities currently ongoing in the diocese. They are: an Arab speaking Christian congregation sharing space in an Episcopal Church; a monthly support group, safe place, for LGBT youth, that grew out of a suicide in the community; celebrating other cultures within a congregation, with regular worship and meals of the culture, such as Caribbean or Liberian; assisting and reintegrating convicted prisoners into society; and confronting racial bias head on. After the presentations, there was a Q & A session, and time for table discussion.

We thank the parish for the privilege of serving as your delegates to convention, and are available to answer any questions you may have.



**A NOTE FROM  
EDIE  
WAKEVAINEN**

Just a short note to share two things. The first is that I have officially moved my membership to Grace, and I am very excited about being a part of this community. The second is that the Commission on Ministry and the bishop notified me that they have removed me from the ordination process. That means I will never become a priest like Pastor Steve. I will be discerning what the next steps are for me, as we all do--figuring out how God wants me to be serving.

**From the Health Ministry — Advanced Directives**

Grace’s Pastoral Care Committee and the Parish Nursing Committee are sponsoring another information session on Advanced Directives. This is YOUR way of ensuring YOUR wishes are carried out in the event of a catastrophic event, either due to health issues or an accident. Most Americans have their thoughts and ideas about the do’s and don’ts of their care, but fail to put it in writing. We will have forms available for people to take home, and discuss with their loved ones. There is no commitment, this is just an information session. In addition, an attorney will be present to answer questions related to Michigan law. We will all die, that we cannot control. It is the how that we can address while we are still able.

The event will be held **Sunday, November 10, after the second service**, in the Guild Room. **Refreshments** will be served.



Our rotating Soup Kitchen kicks off at Grace on **Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** and runs through **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

We will have our wonderful volunteers from Kensington Church, Complete Care Chiropractic and Grace cooking and serving our guests. **We are in need of hosts** on January 26, February 2 and February 9<sup>th</sup> to open and close the hall. We typically open the doors at 3:30 and leave at 6:30. Please talk to us if you are interested. **We would like to offer our guests socks (new please) and gloves this winter.** If you would like to donate, please put items in the box marked Soup Kitchen in the hall.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry!  
*Ann and Dave Farrell*



**PLEASE NOTE: The office will be closed the week of Thanksgiving and will reopen on Monday, Dec. 2**

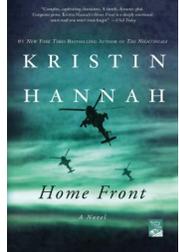
**MEIJER 2019 HOLIDAY  
SIMPLY GIVE CAMPAIGN**

Nov. 10 through Jan. 4, Grace's Food Pantry will benefit from \$10 donation cards purchased at Meijer on Groesbeck in Clinton Twp. On Double Match Days, **December 3 and 13**, Meijer will **TRIPLE** your donation, so please mark those dates. **Simply take a card from the display in the lobby at Grace to Meijer or pick one up in the store next time you shop.**

**KNITTING & CROCHETING MINISTRY**



Will meet on Saturday, November 16 at 1:00 in the Parish Hall. All knitters, crocheters, and those who want to be are welcome. Please call Rosemary at 586-719-9693 or Mimi at 586-359-3346 to let them know you are coming so they can update you of any changes. Yarn will be provided.



**Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, Nov 12 at 7 pm here at Grace. They will be discussing Homefront: A Novel by Kristin Hannah. If you have questions, please see Ann Strelvel.



Our Becoming Beloved Community conversation continues with a focus on the New York Times 1619 Project which looks at the history and consequences of the first Africans being brought to Virginia as slaves in 1619.

We as a church and a nation need to have these honest conversations about how slavery has shaped our country, the problems that we still face and ways that we can address these issues.

Please join us on Sunday, November 15 at 12:15 in the Guild room to participate in the conversations.



**OUTREACH  
MINISTRIES**

**COMMUNITY SUPPERS**  
Sundays at 5:00 pm (November-March)  
Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, year-round

**GRACE FOOD PANTRY**  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

**BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**  
Sending weekend food home for 300 needy Mt. Clemens schoolchildren. Backpacks are packed on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm during the school year.

**McLAREN MOBILE CLINIC**  
Free medical care in our parking lot 8:00 am—11:00 am the **THIRD TUESDAY** of every month.

*All outreach ministries welcome volunteers, financial, food and clothing donations Call the Church Office for more information at 586-465-4573.*

**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Thursday, December 19 1-7 pm,  
in the Parish Hall Schedule online at  
[Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) Sponsor Code: GRACE ,  
or see Martha Houser



**November Meetings and Events**

Bible Study between services in the Guild Room every Sunday  
Yoga Thursdays downstairs 7 pm

Sat, Nov 9, 10:30 am.....Prayer Group Meeting  
Mon, Nov 11, 6:30 pm.....150th Anniversary Mtg  
Tues, Nov 12, 7 pm.....Book Club  
Thurs, Nov 14, 6:30 pm.....Vestry Meeting  
Thurs, Nov 16, 1 pm.....Knit/Crochet Meeting

**Grace Episcopal Church**  
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Website: [www.gracechurchmtclemens.org](http://www.gracechurchmtclemens.org)  
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 10:00 am–4:00pm

**Grace Episcopal Church Staff**

**Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik**  
Cell: 203-641-2068  
Email: [pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org](mailto:pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org)

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan  
Minister of Music: Ms. Amy Saari  
Parish Administrator: Donna Hodgson

**2019 Vestry**  
Tish Germain, Sr. Warden  
Gary Stevens, Jr. Warden  
Rosemary Berger, Gay Gillespie, Martha Houser,  
Jeff Lamb, Stef Lozon, Tom Stotz, Nicki Urban,  
Treasurer: Janet Seewald • Clerk: Tom Stotz