



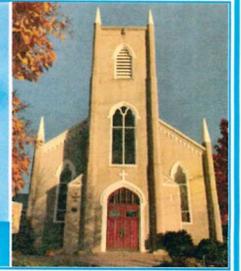
GRACE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

Mount Clemens, Michigan

# Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church



January 2020



## WHO AM I?

When we meet and talk to people we often describe who we are by our profession, the current job we have or the fact that we are retired, because our society places so much importance on what we do for a living. How we earn our money gives us purpose and meaning and places us in the hierarchy of our society. Prestige and honor is given to certain types of professions and we all know where someone stands in the pecking order by the type of job and the amount of money they have.

This stratification of society frequently keeps us locked into our place in the given order. We often think, act and live out our lives within the stated parameters of this worldview. We spend considerable amounts of time and energy pursuing things and positions that are considered acceptable and worthy. Granted, we all have to make a living. None of us can survive without a paycheck, savings or investments, but should this pursuit of money be the sole purpose and goal of our lives and the identity we adopt? I wonder, therefore, how often we identifying ourselves as Christians or Episcopalians when someone asks us who we are or what we do?

The bigger question, however, is this: **What are we as followers of Christ called to be and do?**

This seemingly simple question has caused great strife and tribulation throughout the centuries. Christian churches and denominations have split and new ones have sprung up, wars have been fought, reformations and schisms have occurred and condemnations have been issued. Different understandings of this question have caused division and segregation among the faithful since the church began.

As a Christian my understanding of my purpose should be informed by Jesus' understanding of his purpose and mission. Jesus didn't identify himself as a carpenter but rather as one who was doing the will of his heavenly father. Likewise, his disciples put aside their professions and identified themselves as followers or disciples of Jesus. Can we do the same?

St. Paul describes all of us as one body in Christ. This is a well-known metaphor for how all of us are needed in God's plan. Just as each body part, no matter how small or inconspicuous is vitally important to the whole. The body cannot function as it is intended to without each segment doing its assigned job.

We may ask, "How am I doing as an individual Christian? Does my work matter? How are we doing as a church? Does what we do here in this place or as a wider denomination make a difference? There is no task, great or small that is inconsequential to the larger body. We cannot see or know the whole of God's plan in its entirety, but we are all part of it. Every one of us is a member of the body and we all have a function. For without our participation, the body is not complete.

So if you were given the opportunity right now to stand up to define yourself and your purpose in life, what would you say? Would you highlight your career, family and retirement activities, or would you somehow identify yourself with Jesus and God's plan?

In this New Year of 2020, may God guide us to new understandings of our purpose, our call and our role as followers of Christ.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

## Worship Opportunities

### All are Welcome



Sunday, January 5  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion,  
with Music

Sunday, January 12  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, January 19  
8:30 am Holy Communion  
10:30 am Holy Communion, with Music

Sunday, January 26  
10:00 am Holy Communion, with Music  
*Followed by Annual Meeting*

## 2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Sunday, Jan. 26, after a single service at 10 am**

On this day there will only be one service at 10:00 am followed by brunch and our meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

We will be voting for three new vestry members, reviewing all the good work that we did in 2019 and learning about our 2020 budget that will guide our ministry in the coming year.

## Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text — right from the directory app.



### It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



### January Birthdays

- 3—Charles Ewalt
- 6—Grace Westergren
- 8—Karen Davenport
- 12—Howard Rosso
- 13—Mike Oakley
- 15—Jeff Lamb
- 20—Sandy Atkinson
- 20—Alex Kinsora
- 21—Randy Dixon
- 21—Shirley Lappi
- 26—Ann Gwinnell



Celebration	Date
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



Through the Grace of God, we celebrate 150 years! So far, the monthly celebrations have shown us the strong commitment the members of this parish have continued for 150 years and it shows no sign of slowing down. And on December 15, 2019 with the caroling was no different. Amy, our music director, led us singing songs our founding members sang in 1870. Singing along to the extra verses of Jingle Bells was like stepping back in time.

On January 19, 2020 we will be celebrating our Baptism promises. If you or someone you know was baptized here at Grace, please bring pictures of the joyous occasion. We would like to display them at coffee hour.

We hope you share our excitement as we look forward to celebrating these moments. Any questions, feel free to contact Ann Strevel or Tish Germain.

The monthly meeting has been canceled for January. We wish you and yours a Happy New Year!

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

### VISIT GRACE ON THE WEB!

Read the newsletter, check the calendar, listen to sermons and browse through photos of life at Grace.

[gracechurchmtclemens.org](http://gracechurchmtclemens.org)



## THE CONSECRATION OF THE REV. DR. BONNIE A. PERRY

February 8, 2020 @ 10:30 am - 2:00 Pm

### Consecration Weekend Schedule

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

The Henry, Dearborn

6:30 – 10 pm – Open House Reception with hors d'oeuvres and music. Short program beginning at 7pm.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

The Ford Performing Arts Center, Dearborn

9:30am – Theatre opens for seating

10:30am – First procession begins

11 am – Ordination & consecration, followed by reception

#### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit

11 am – Welcoming & seating of the 11th Bishop of Michigan



### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The Transitions Team is inviting members of our congregations to fill a variety of roles for the Consecration of the Rev. Dr. Bonnie A Perry as the 11th Bishop of our Diocese on Saturday, February 8, 2020! The committee is hoping for a broad cross section of volunteers from across the diocese, representing the entire geography and demographic composition of our household. All volunteers must be willing to arrive at the Consecration site by 7:45 am and be prepared for rehearsals, briefings, orientations and instructions at 8:00 am.

To sign up, go to: <https://edomiforms.formstack.com/forms/consecrationvolunteers>



A huge THANK YOU to all here at Grace for the overwhelming response and generosity to our giving tree project in support of Good Shepherd Coalition and Henry Ford Behavioral Health patients here in Mount Clemens. Both organizations were thankful beyond words!

Blessings to all,  
Grace Church Prayer Group



### **Lay Eucharistic Ministers Needed**

Have you ever wondered if you could be a Eucharistic Minister (EM)? Well, wonder no more. If you're interested, we're anxious to talk to you about it.

And, if one of the reasons holding you back is the idea of being over-scheduled, fear not! We can arrange schedules around you. You can have your choice of services, and how often you'd care to serve. In fact, if you only want to be an "on call" EM, we can accommodate that, too.

So, if you're a confirmed communicant in good standing, please consider participating in this wonderful position and contact Nicki Urban or Gary Stevens if you'd like to join our ranks. Thank you .

### **A WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY**

I am getting requests from those who want to assist women in the Incarcerated Ministry at Grace. I am grateful for the support. Please keep in mind the following from this point on. Anything you wish to pass on to the women in this ministry should come through me. Please feel free to leave it in my box or give to Pastor Steve or Donna. As this ministry grows, I need to be accountable for what is passed on to those we serve. Your continued prayers for this ministry are appreciated. Thank you, Mary Williams

*"... I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:35-40*



**PRAYER SHAWLS** Do you like to knit or crochet? A Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin at Grace. The Prayer Shawls will be blessed by Pastor Steve and then given to shut-ins, those recovering from surgery, those who are ill or having a new baby. If interested, please call Rosemary Berger 586 719 9693, or Mimi Lambert 586 359 3346 for more information (where, when and how to donate yarn).

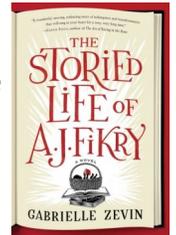


**"B" BUCKS for Blessings in a Backpack**  
If your wallet has any dollar bills with B on them, please put them in the offering plate to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.

**THURSDAY YOGA** with Vivian Dusina has resumed. Thursdays at 7 pm in the "Yoga Room" downstairs. Fee is \$7 per person, all proceeds go to Grace.



**Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, Jan 14 at 7 pm here at Grace. They will be discussing *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin. If you have questions, please see Ann Strelvel.





**American Red Cross Blood Drive**  
Thursday, April 2, 1-7 pm,  
in the Parish Hall Schedule online at  
[Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org) Sponsor Code:  
**GRACE** , or see Martha Houser



On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, 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.



**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.*

**January Meetings and Events**

Bible Study between services in the Guild Room every Sunday

Yoga Thursdays downstairs 7 pm

Sat, Jan 11, 10:30 am.....Prayer Group Meeting

Thurs, Jan 9, 6:30 pm.....Vestry Meeting

Sun, Jan 26, after 10 am service.....Annual 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, Tom Stotz, Nicki Urban,  
Treasurer: Janet Seewald • Clerk: Tom Stotz