



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
315 Wayne Street
Sandusky, OH 44870

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Organization
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Sandusky, OH
44870
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Amazing Grace

JANUARY
2012

Amazing Grace

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
315 Wayne Street
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

~ Mission Statement ~

Grace Church is a welcoming community, inviting everyone to learn, serve and share Christ's love.

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TELEPHONE: 419-625-6919 FAX: 419-625-6924

Grace Church Web Site: www.gracesandusky.org

Grace Church E-Mail: graceepiscopal@bex.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

SERVICES

Thursday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE HOURS

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday
and by appointment.



For after-hours pastoral emergencies,
please contact Jan Wood at (419) 366-5649.

Jan's email address is jan.graceepiscopal@bex.net.

*The Rev. Jan Smith Wood, Priest-in-Charge
 Amy Fox, Senior Warden
 Becky Montague, Junior Warden
 Janet Poyer, Clerk
 Randall Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster
 Tim Morrow, Sexton
 Debbie Chase, Parish Secretary
 Jolene Mills, Parish Nurse*

*The Ministers:
 All the Members of Grace Church*

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Jan Smith Wood, Priest-in-Charge jan.graceepiscopal@bex.net
 Debbie Chase, Secretary (office) graceepiscopal@bex.net
 Tim Morrow, Sexton tim.graceepiscopal@bex.net
 Jolene Mills, Parish Nurse jolen.graceepiscopal@bex.net
 Amy Fox, Senior Warden amy.graceepiscopal@bex.net

**TREASURER'S REPORT
 GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 NOVEMBER 30, 2011**

	<u>Revenues</u>	-	Actual Month	Current	Budget	Budget Var
1	Member Giving		15,354	128,627	114,125	14,502
2	Other Revenues		142	3,541	458	3,083
3	Thrift Shop Revenues - Net		1,524	10,916	16,500	(5,584)
3	Total Revenues		17,019	143,085	131,083	12,001
18	Total Expenses		50,170	361,271	345,312	(15,959)

Pastor's Page

The Rev. Jan Smith Wood

Happy New Year. Again.

We began a new year on November 27th when Advent began and we began a new year on January 1st when everyone else did. Turns out that New Year is the oldest human celebration – who knew? I heard it on the radio (driving in my first Ohio snow storm), but seems a credible supposition given the fact that every humanly-construed calendar has a regular beginning – no matter if it's Babylonian, or Mayan, or Chinese Lunar, or Gregorian, or Julian, or... When we get a fresh start, we tend to celebrate.

We celebrate a fresh page. A clean slate. A new day. We celebrate hurdles cleared. Obstacles removed. Victories accomplished. Detours behind us. We celebrate the fact that we've lived another day, climbed Mount Everest, or simply climbed out of bed once more. We celebrate.

It is good to have multiple chances to celebrate and to start anew, isn't it? It is good to stop and take stock of what we've accomplished and when we have succeeded, what we've left undone and when we've been rescued, when we've led and when we've depended upon others. It is good to remember. In remembering both the successes and failures, the privileges and deprivations, the good and the bad, we can grow more fully into the wholeness that God intends for us.

Put another way, without reflection upon all that we are and have been, there is neither growth nor forgiveness. Without honesty and vulnerability, we are stuck inside the hamster-wheels of our own making. It has been my experience that openness to the ways in which I have failed, fallen short, made egregious errors, and downright hurt others is the beginning of the healing that only God can affect. We open the door to grace and forgiveness and new life when we open the door to that closet where we would hide all that we fear to face. In opening the doors and the windows to our souls and our hearts and our fears, we let in Holy Spirit. We let God work on us. God never fails to do so – with love, healing, grace, blessing.

May this new year's resolutions and reflections give you the strength to throw it all open to God's love and blessing. May you be blessing and grace to all whom you meet, knowing that we have nothing to fear because God loves us without end, beyond measure, and far past our deserving.

Happy New Year!

Worship Notes:

We are now firmly in the liturgical season of Epiphany. Epiphany comes from the Greek word that means a “showing” or “manifestation” of the divine. Beginning on the Feast of the Epiphany when we celebrate in particular the coming of the magi to the manger on January 6th, the season of Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday which begins the season of Lent. The Gospel narrative that we follow in this season reflects many of the small – and large – epiphanies in Jesus’ earthly ministry. From his Baptism in the River Jordan by John (each Gospel has its own take on this world-shifting event) to healings and miracles and calling of disciples – each reading invites us to see ways in which the divine nature of Jesus, rabbi and healer, was revealed to those with whom he lived and taught and journeyed.

As we worship together in this season of divine manifestation, perhaps we will come to see Jesus Christ more clearly. Perhaps we will know more explicitly all the ways in which Christ is still active in human life: calling, healing, proclaiming, demanding, challenging, making holy. Perhaps we will know, like the psalmist, that there is no place we can go where God cannot find us or be present to us.

As we live into this new year of 2012, may we be ever alert to the epiphanies occurring all around us all the time. God is made visible in any nook or cranny of this good creation – for those whose senses are open and available to perceive the divine. As the poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, famously wrote:

Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes—
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.

Here's to a barefoot Epiphany!

VESTRY EPISTLE



"Put your trust in him always,
O people, *pour out your
hearts before him, for God is
our refuge. "(Psalm 62:9)

Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. for children under the age of 4. My granddaughter Penelope at age 6 months was enrolled in a "Child Drowning Prevention" class, in which she was put fully clothed in a pool with an instructor who taught her how to roll over from her stomach onto her back and float. As I watched her, what impressed me was the strength of the relationship between her and her instructor, based on absolute and unwavering trust, that empowered her to master this survival skill. The image of her in the pool, "pouring out her heart" for her instructor captured for me the essence of the relationship that I wish for with God: unwavering trust in Him who is my refuge.

Don Lenhart

BONES AND BALANCE

The last Balance, Strength, and Flexibility class for this current session is January 30th. If you missed the first class, Don Lenhart will start the next cycle of this class on April 9th. A sign up sheet will be posted by March 26th.

Don will be out of town from February 1st through March 22nd.

The Face of Grace—Advent at Grace 2011



GIVE THE GIFT THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY

Give the gift that money can't buy...a lifesaving blood donation. Please consider being a blood donor for the Sandusky Community Churches Blood Drive on Saturday, January 21st, 2012.

Here's an overview of frequently asked questions and what to expect as a blood donor:

Eligibility Requirements:

- ♥ All blood donors must be evaluated at the time of the donation to determine eligibility to give blood. A health history is taken along with a brief examination including temperature, pulse, respiratory rate, blood pressure, and hemoglobin or hematocrit measured.
- ♥ Be healthy
- ♥ Be at least 17 years of age. 16 year olds may donate with parental consent. Necessary forms need to be completed before arriving at the donation site (forms can be found at the Red Cross website)
- ♥ Weigh at least 110 lb. – additional weight requirements for all high school donors
- ♥ For more specifics regarding eligibility associated with medications and general health conditions, please refer to the Red Cross website.

Donation Process:

- ♥ Come to the Columbus Avenue United Methodist Church, January 21, 2012, between 11am and 4pm
- ♥ Drink plenty of fluids the day of the donation
- ♥ Wear comfortable clothes – wear a short sleeved shirt or sleeves that can be easily rolled up above the elbow
- ♥ Include iron-rich foods in the diet weeks before your donation (ex: broccoli, spinach, red meat, fish, poultry, beans, iron fortified cereals, etc.)
- ♥ Bring a list of prescription and/or over the counter medications that you are taking
- ♥ Bring an ID (donor card, driver's license or 2 other forms of ID)
- ♥ Bring a friend to also give blood or to support you in your gift-giving process
- ♥ Relax!!

Tips for a Successful Donation:

- ♥ Maintain a healthy iron level in your diet
- ♥ Get a good night's rest
- ♥ Drink an extra 16oz. of water and fluids before the donation
- ♥ Eat a healthy meal before the donation – avoid fatty foods
- ♥ After Your Donation:
 - ♥ Drink plenty of fluids over the next 24-48 hours to replenish lost fluids
 - ♥ Avoid strenuous physical activity for 5 hours after the donation
 - ♥ If light-headed, lie down with feet elevated until feeling better
 - ♥ If bleeding or bruising occurs under the skin, apply a cold pack to the area periodically during the first 24 hours
 - ♥ Call the American Red Cross toll-free number provided to you after your donation – call for any questions or concerns

What Happens to Donated Blood?

- ♥ Donated blood is transported to a Red Cross Center
- ♥ The blood is readied for transfusion, labeled and stored
- ♥ Blood is shipped to area hospitals 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

For more information regarding blood donation, please go to www.redcrossblood.org

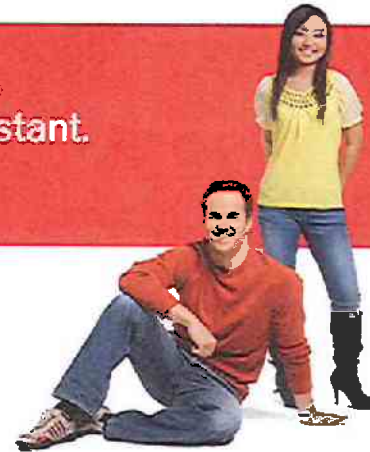
Please consider giving an hour of your time to help three people in need. One pint of blood given from you helps three people in need.

Give the perfect gift and help a family member, a friend or someone you've never met unwrap a lifetime of memories. Please see the Health Bulletin Board for more specifics regarding the Sandusky Community Churches Blood Drive to be held on Saturday, January 21st at Columbus Avenue United Methodist Church.

Blessings to you and yours for a happy and healthy New Year!

Jolene Mills
Parish Nurse

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



Sponsored by Sandusky Community Churches at:

Columbus Avenue United Methodist Church
2401 Columbus Avenue

Saturday, January 21, 2012

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Soup & Sandwich Lunch provided to donors

Gift for New Donors & Bringing a Friend

Babysitting Available

Door Prizes Hourly – Grocery Basket Giveaway

Contact information: Linda L. Johnston
419-684-7006 / clifford3313@aol.com

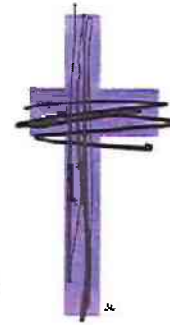
Participating churches: Grace Episcopal, St. Stephens UCC, Zion Evangelical
Lutheran, Columbus Avenue UMC

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

2012 LENTEN BOOKLET

We are already beginning the process of compiling material for the 2012 edition of the Grace Church Lenten Booklet, and we would like you to consider participating in what will be the fifteenth edition of this inspirational product of our parishioners.

Would you be willing to contribute one of the 47 entries necessary to complete the upcoming booklet? It can be your own original material or something you have read somewhere that you find thought provoking, inspirational, meditative, etc. If you are willing to help us, please send your material to us by email at john@mackiron.com or graceepiscopal@bex.net or by mailing or delivering them so they reach the church office by Friday, February 10th. This will give us sufficient time to assemble all submissions into the booklet for distribution on and after Sunday, February 19th, the Sunday prior to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd.



If you would be interested in helping us, please confirm it to the church office or to John Bacon by phone (days 419-626-3713 x.3700 or cell phone 419-239-5648), or at the above email addresses so we can add you to our list of anticipated contributors.

Thanks for sharing your Lenten journey through this special parish ministry!

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Lee and Mary Ellen Wieber on the birth of their fifth grandchild, Carlee Zsolnay Wieber. She was born December 30th and is the first child of their son, Sean and his wife, Lilly from Evanston, Illinois.

2nd SUNDAY BREAKFAST



The next 2nd Sunday Breakfasts are scheduled for January 8th and February 12th. Be sure to stop by the Mary Simpson Room between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services to enjoy a hot breakfast prepared and served by your Parish Life Committee.

All donations are given to "Pennies for Meals."

BOOK-A-MONTH FOR JANUARY

Our book group is reviewing C.S. Lewis The Screwtape Letters. It is a book that has been around since WWII, and was probably read by anyone in college, but deserves a re-read, especially considering our accumulated "wisdom", hard-earned in the "College of Hard Knocks."

It is an enchanting little book that involves a series of communiques to the disciple, Wormwood, from his doting mentor Screwtape. Wormwood has been given the challenge of securing yet another wayward soul from the clutches of The Enemy, namely God, for the delight and amusement of "The Leader." It is at once amusing and yet a timeless book which will hopefully give all readers something to reflect on concerning our own personal "devils" and how we wrestle with them.

The Book Group meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month at 12:00 noon.

Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The 176th Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Mary Simpson Room on Sunday, January 22nd at 11:30 a.m.

After the meeting we will be celebrating Janet Senne Day. Janet is retiring from the Thrift Shop after many dedicated years of service. Please stay after the meeting to celebrate Janet's retirement.

PARISH DIRECTORY

We will be publishing a new parish directory in early February. A copy of our current directory will be on the table in the Mary Simpson Room during the month of January. Please take a moment to be sure we have your most current information.

ENVELOPES READY

If you requested contribution envelopes you can pick them up in the Mary Simpson Room. If you would like envelopes for this year, please let Debbie know.

SCARVES FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Over twenty scarves (double our goal!) were blessed on January 1st and have been sent to the diocesan contact for this project. Congratulations and thank you to all those who knitted and crocheted.

Please join us on January 19th from 9:30 until 11:00 am to complete the project and continue this beautiful ministry of making prayer shawls and blankets for comfort to those in need.



Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

2012 Winter Convocation February 10-11, 2012

Sheraton Inn; Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio



When and Where

Sheraton Suites
Cuyahoga Falls

1989 Front Street
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
44221-3811

Friday, Feb. 10, 7-10 pm
Saturday, Feb. 11,
8:30 am to 3 pm

We have arranged special convocation rates for this all-suite hotel, overlooking the scenic Cuyahoga River gorge.



What Others Have Said of Fred's Work

"This is the most balanced, lucid, and appealing conversation about spiritual discernment for thinking Christians that I have seen in many years." - *Phyllis Tickle*

"Schmidt invites readers to join him on a path of Christian practice to discern life-affirming choices and find the sacred in everyday life.

This book provides guidance that is both sensible and joyful." - *Diana Butler Bass*

Seeking God's Will - Corporate Discernment in the Church

How do we know God's will for our congregations, vestries, committees, and ministries? How do we move beyond a prayer at the beginning of a meeting and then Robert's Rules of Order? These questions lie at the heart of our work together.

In addition to a slate of best-practice workshops from within our diocese, Fred Schmidt will lead us in examining how for our churches we can better recognize the difference between God's will and our own, deepen our ability to hear God's voice, and sharpen our powers of discernment.



[Click here to visit Fred's blog!](#)

OUR CONFERENCE LEADER

FREDERICK W. SCHMIDT

Director of Spiritual Formation and Anglican Studies, Associate Professor of Christian Spirituality; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Education Ph.D., University of Oxford, 1986; M.Div., Asbury Theological Seminary, 1978; B.A., Asbury College, 1975

Selected Publications

- :: *What God Wants for Your Life, Finding Answers to the Deepest Questions* (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2005).
- :: *Conversations with Scripture: Revelation* (Harrisburg: Morehouse-Continuum, 2005).
- :: *When Suffering Persists* (Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 2001).
- :: *The Changing Face of God* (Harrisburg: Morehouse Publishing, 2000).
- :: *A Still Small Voice: Women, Ordination and the Church* (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996).

Professional Distinctions

Priest, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC; Member, Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars; Service Recognition, National Institutes of Health; Class XI, The Clergy Leadership Project, Trinity Church (Wall Street); Fellow, American Council on Education, Center for Leadership Development; Senior Fellow, W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research

Office for Congregations and Christian Formation

The Office for Congregations and Christian Formation exists to help you and your congregation grow in faith, health, and vitality.

PARISH LIFE UPDATE

April McCormack & Donna Andres, Co-Chairs

ADVENT FAMILY EVENT PICTURES

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Advent Family Events during November and December. Pictures of the events are posted on the Parish Life bulletin board. Please take a look! We hope everyone enjoyed the time together to make Advent wreaths and chains, cookies, cards and the star ornament. Many of our senior members and shut-ins were given cookies, cards and wreaths! Thank you!

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON

Your Parish Life Committee will provide lunch following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd. Plan to stay for lunch and the special celebration for Janet Senne!

CHILI COOK-OFF and HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE and PROTECT

Sunday - February 12th - 4:30 - 6:00.

Our annual recognition and celebration for those who "Serve and Protect" will again be combined with our CHILI COOK OFF. Mark your calendars for SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. for the Chili Cook Off.



Details are still in the planning, but the event will be similar to last year with various categories for chili - but more prizes! It was a lot of fun last year with a good turn out - so we are looking forward to another wonderful event that includes our parish family and community members who serve and protect.

HEADLINES & HOT TOPICS

...will be the next subject matter for our informal Sunday morning theological reflections. In Advent, we gathered to read and ponder various Advent-themed poems. This was a wonderful way to access some new thoughts and inspiring insights – from the poetry and from the people gathered together. During the season of Epiphany, we will take a new starting point for our reflection. We will look at the daily news (as reported in the Sandusky Register) through the lens of our own faith. Together we will seek to understand what our prayers and worship habits have to do with whatever has made the headlines on any given Sunday. How do our beliefs inform our understanding of local and world events? How does our worship equip us to respond responsibly and intelligently? Come to the Guild Room from 9-9:35 on January 15th, 22nd, and 29th and we'll find out! Together!

OUTREACH NEWS

The January Outreach meeting will be on Sunday January 8 after the 10:00 service.

The deadline for submissions for the Grace Outreach Grant was December 31st. The Grant Task Force meets on January 8th to review all the submissions. The recipients of this grant will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 22nd. The money will be disbursed on or before February 15, 2012.

Outreach is continuing to host the hats, gloves, mittens and scarves drive during January. At our January Outreach meal we will be distributing all that has been collected.

The FREE Outreach Community Meal will be January 28th. We have a sign-up sheet outside the office if you would like to help prepare and serve the meal or donate fruit or desserts.

~ Thank You for Your Gift to Grace Episcopal Church ~

In memory of
Virginia "Ginny" Becker
Betty Anders

In memory of
Hazel Clark
Ben and Katharine Schneider

In memory of
Lowell "Bud" Everingham
George and Barbara Mayer

In memory of
Jane Hilton Mealy
Mel and Mary Stauffer

In memory of
Betty Neiding

Marilyn Canada	Ann Russell
Elmer and Liz Lippert	Ben and Katharine Schneider
George and Barbara Mayer	James and Judy Smith
Jeanne Neff	The Thrift Shop
Barbara Nielsen	

In memory of
Eleanor Scheid
Cotillion Club
George and Barbara Mayer

In memory of
Helen Wahlers

Don and Lou Hibbard	George and Barbara Mayer
Paul and Helen Johnson	Parkvue Healthcare Center

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



We Hope Your January Birthday is a Happy One

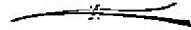
4th	Sylvia Ruthsatz	
7th	Helen Hoffman	Ben Schneider
8th	Janet Senne	
9th	Butch Allendorf	Arthur Keller
10th	Gerry Lehrer	Charles Spittler
11th	Richard Speer	
12th	Shelby Wadsworth	
13th	Jack Waldock	
18th	Lee Wood	
19th	Amy Coffey	
20th	Sandra Elgart	Joanna Morrow
21st	Caroline Cloak	Kathryn Roesch
26th	Ashleigh Moyer	
27th	Alex Toney	Andrea Toney
28th	Brian Coffey	
29th	Russ Dickman	Fred Waldock
30th	Debbie Coffey	Mimi Miller

*Please advise the church office
of any necessary changes.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE
IN NEED OF COMFORT OR HEALING**

Barbara	Beth	Betty	Carolyn
Charles	Chuck	David	Dawn
Diane	Doug	Frank	Fred
Hal	Helen	Jane	Janet
John	Linda	Liz	Lylah
Martha	Mary	Mike	Nadine
Nancy	Norman	Paula	Pauline
Peggy	Richard	Robin	Ruth
Rylan	Samantha	Taylor	Teresa
Tony	Vera		

*If you know of anyone who should be added or
removed from this list, please call the church office
at (419) 625-6919.*



Please pray for those who protect and serve:

Katie Gorby	Keisha Gorby
Kevin Hasselbach	Spencer Hartwell
Ben Kimball	Lee Kuns
John Mahler	Graeme McCoy
Marcus Mettert	Jacob Patton
Matthew Poeschl	Sean Poyer
Thomas Roesch	Cole Rogers
Cameren Scholl	Taylor Steager
Turner Stewart	Ned Tracht
Matt Trautman	

- MISSION -

***Grace Church is a welcoming community, inviting everyone
to learn, serve and share Christ's love.***

***The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop, Diocese of Ohio
The Rev. Jan Smith Wood, Priest-in-Charge***

Vestry Members

Amy Fox, Sr. Warden

Becky Montague, Jr. Warden

Janet Poyer, Clerk

Terry Andres, Member-at-Large

Susan Hunt

Donald Lenhart

Roz Stevenson

Jeff Fowler

Larry McCormack

