

# GRACE

# NOTES

News from and about Grace Christian Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

September, 2007,

## Education Committee Report:

Mandate: The mandate of the Education Committee is to oversee, develop, plan, and promote adult and children's education (including Girl's and Boy's clubs, Sunday School Programming, Bible Club, and Vacation Bible School, Children's Worship, and Youth Group grades 7-12) and small Fellowship Groups. The Education Committee is also responsible for implementing the Abuse Awareness Policy of the Christian Reformed Church regarding adult volunteers working with children and teens. The Education Committee reports to the Administration Committee, and presents it with a brief annual outline of priorities that includes its budget needs.



Greg Yoder, chairman of the Education Committee reports: In a matter of weeks the many education programs of Grace Church will be kicking off their new year. We are excited about this because our goal is important and we know that once again the lives of many children and adults will be positively affected by the teachers and helpers who give of themselves so generously.



Arie and Pat Knoester are presently busy building their staff for Sunday school. Crew is meeting jointly again this year with the youth from LaGrave. They could really use some additional young adult help from Grace. If you think you might be interested in giving this some of your time, please contact Leah Yoder. Gems always seems to have a large turn-

out of young ladies who are attracted to this weekday program. To ensure that things run smoothly we really need to have additional help. If you think you can contribute in some way, talk to Amy Crow or Marla Hoekwater. This year it seems there are very few young men in the neighborhood that might be interested in the Cadet program. Also this program that has been led in past years by Jim Decker, Bob Crow, and Mark VanHarn is without a leader. With our new basement facilities it would be great to do a program with a few neighborhood boys. If you have any interest in helping this get off the ground then see Greg Yoder.

For as long as Grace Church has been on the corner of Buckley and Sheldon its members have been presenting Christ in interesting ways to friends and neighbors of the church and, of course, its own members. We are looking forward to another year of exciting programs and ask for your prayers. Take a moment to say thank you to some of the people who are directly involved in these programs.

*Greg Yoder, Chair Education Committee*

## A Request:

Dear Grace Church Family,

This is Cathy Ling writing this note. I'm a member of the Action Club, it coincides with the Kiwanas Club through the People with Disabilities. The Action Club needs your metal tabs from pop, soup, fruit, vegetable cans. We will bring them to the Ronald MacDonald House who support the parents of sick kids that are in the hospital. The support staff gets money for the metal tabs for the House, for whatever they may need. There are old cream containers in the kitchen of the church which are labeled for this project. Thank You.

*Your sister in Christ, Cathy Ling*

## Liturgical Dance Workshop

Grace Church was recipient of a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship this past year. This grant, made possible by the Lilly Endowment Inc., has been extended until the end of September. Because of the extension, the Grace Worship Grant Team is delighted to sponsor a Saturday workshop led by Susan Wilson. Susan leads the dance ministry at Fifth Reformed Church in Grand Rapids and has worked with our GEMS group this past year. This workshop will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2007.

If you or anyone in your family is interested in learning liturgical dance movements or in being a part of dance ministry at Grace Church, please join us on September 29 from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. There will be an abundance of food including breakfast and lunch. Throughout the morning Susan will be teaching some movements and dances that can be used in Grace Church worship services. If you would like to participate in this workshop, please contact Trudi Ippel, (245-1541) or call Grace Church (452-8920) to register.

*Trudi Ippel*



**Louise  
Washington  
1917-1999**

Hester Louise Washington was born in Chicago, where she grew up and attended public schools. She married Henry W. Washington in 1936 and in 1943 they moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. That union produced three sons: Henry W., Earl M., and Raymond N.



Louise (as she preferred to be called) was a charter member of Grace Christian Reformed Church and was faithful and active through the years. She directed a children's choir, sang in choirs, served as deacon, assisted with the clothing center, was known as the "cookie lady" in Bible School, served as kitchen chef for church events, and was a dear friend of many.

Christian leader considers me to be his friend and has become a mentor to me. Charles Marsh, in his fine book on the civil rights movement entitled "The Beloved Community" names Perkins the most influential African American Christian leader, since Martin Luther King, Jr. I was aware of Perkins' life and work. I had read his books and agreed with his outlook on racial reconciliation, forgiveness and urban community development. He influenced me through his writings and I admired him.

I began working at Church of the Servant (COS) in 2000. That year, my friend Noel Castellanos, now Executive Director of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) invited me, as his guest to their annual conference. CCDA was founded by Dr. Perkins. At the conference I introduced myself to John and we spoke briefly. Shortly after I returned to Grand Rapids, Nate Bradford a college student attending COS, informed me that he was hoping to do a one year internship with John Perkins in Mississippi and asked me to help him raise funds for that internship. Nate worked with Perkins for a couple of years and on each of those years I took members of COS to Jackson MS. It was on those trips that Perkins and I spoke together and began a close relationship. In May of 2003, John Perkins gave the commencement address at Calvin College. On that Sunday, he preached at my invitation at COS and had dinner at my home. After dinner, my son John (a high school senior) and Dr. Perkins spoke privately. My son decided to move to Jackson to begin work with Dr. Perkins. (Perkins can be persuasive.) That move provided opportunity for John Perkins and me to speak even more often.

In 2004, I received a call to become pastor of Grace CRC. I went to Jackson to talk it over with my friend. We talked about the options that I had before me and I decided while in Jackson to accept your call to serve here. In a moment of boldness, I said to Perkins, "If I accept the call to Grace, would you come and preach at my installation?" To my surprise, he agreed immediately. He preached at Grace Church at my installation on August 22, 2004 and has preached here three times since then.

If you have not read, "Let Justice Roll Down" I urge you to do so. You can learn more about the life and work of this great man of God at: <http://jmpf.org/> . If you are in High School this year, please reserve April 4-12, 2008 for me. I would love to go to Jackson MS with all of our high school students. I promise you a very memorable Spring Break!

*Pastor Jack Kooreman*



**My Friendship with Dr. John Perkins**

How is it that I became friends with Dr. John Perkins? How did Grace CRC become John Perkins' favorite church – his "home away from home"? It is the greatest honor of my life that this influential