



GRACE YOUTH NEWS

May 2016

Living your faith:

Summertime Sacraments

Q. What are the sacraments?

A. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.

Q. What is grace?

A. Grace is God's favor towards us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills.

(BCP, pp. 857-858)

I love the idea of grace. I love that God enlightens my mind, stirs my heart, and strengthens my will... *just because.*

I also love that we have traditions in the Episcopal Church to celebrate special moments of grace. Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist are the two great sacraments of the Gospel. Other sacramental rites include confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, reconciliation of a penitent, and unction. (*Learn more about these rites in the Book of Common Prayer, pp. 857-861.*)

We regularly celebrate these sacraments at Grace Church. The rites ground us and bind us as a community of faith.

- ⇒ When we are baptized, we are adopted by God and become forever members of the Church.
- ⇒ When we share in Holy Communion, we are transformed by the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
- ⇒ When we are confirmed by the bishop, we join a long succession of disciples making a commitment to follow Christ.
- ⇒ When we vow to love our partners forever, we receive God's blessing in marriage.
- ⇒ When we are hurting or need healing, we are anointed with oil to receive strength.

But not all sacramental moments happen in church.

Confirm Not Conform, our youth confirmation curriculum, describes sacraments as "things we can see, or feel, or touch, or taste, or hear, that makes us realize God is with us."

You might experience a sacramental moment on a beach or on top of a mountain while vacationing this summer. You might realize God is with you as you walk your dog or ride your horse. You might hear God as you help build a house with Habitat for Humanity. You might feel God's touch as you pass a plate to a hungry neighbor at Trinity Hot Lunch.

As the writers of our confirmation program tell us, "Ultimately, the sacraments are experienced by each person as an encounter with God. There is no one right way to receive the gift of grace. God's favor towards us does not depend upon getting it right. We receive God's favor with limited understanding but with humble confidence in God's presence with us."

Enjoy your summer... and don't forget to keep yourself open to those sacramental moments.

By Janis Greenbaum,
Director of Christian Formation & Communications

May Youth Group Gathering

Sunday, May 1 / 11:15 a.m.

Come together for an adventure in food and fun as we celebrate spring with a progressive lunch at restaurants around Kirkwood.

Youth Confirmation: Celebration Sunday

Sunday, May 8 / 10 a.m.

Congratulations to our nine youth members who were confirmed in the Episcopal Church by Bishop Smith on April 23. This group will help lead our 10 a.m. worship service on May 8. Then be sure to join us in Albright Parish Hall for a reception after the service.

Graduation Celebrations

Sunday, May 15 / 10 a.m.

Is someone in your family graduating from high school, college or another program? Join us as we celebrate all graduates during our 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 15. Be sure to send your graduation information to Janis Greenbaum in the church office (janis.greenbaum@gracekirkwood.org).

Volunteer at the Surf Shack

Sundays, June 5 - Aug. 7 / 10 a.m.

Have a great time working as an assistant "lifeguard" in our summer Sunday school program. We'll meet in the Surf Shack (*otherwise known as LaVielle Conference Room*) during the 10 a.m. service each week. We'll play games, engage in science projects, create fun crafts and enjoy snacks. Be a role model to our younger members! See Janis Greenbaum or sign up online: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044aa8ad2aa20-surf>.

ECM Carnival

Friday, June 24 / 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Grace Church hosts this fun fundraising event for Episcopal City Mission every summer, which includes carnival games run by youth from around the diocese. If you would like to help plan and build a game and/or work at this event, please contact Janis at janis.greenbaum@gracekirkwood.org or 314-651-1843 (cell/text).

DID YOU SEE THAT?



April 23: AJ, Drew, Charlie, Jason, Hadley, Melanie, Brigid and John pose with Bishop Smith and Fr. Todd following their confirmation at Christ Church Cathedral.



March 27: Sarah & Matt lead the acolyte team at the 10 a.m. Easter Sunday worship service.



March 27: Charlie, Sam and the entire Russell family enjoy Easter Sunday services!