

The PACE is published by

Grace Episcopal Church
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Web Site
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"Like us on Facebook"

Church Office Hours
Mon. 8-2pm
Tue. Wed. & Thur.
1:30-3:30pm
Fri. 8-2pm

Children's Christian Education

Sunday School

Team teaching by:
Bobbin Davis
Lynn Kramp
Debbie Zimmerman

We are disciples of Jesus:
helping one another be the
hands and feet of Christ by
sharing God's love with the
world.

Deadline for the next PACE is
Friday, January 3rd, 2025



The Pace of Grace

November 2024



May We Prepare with a Holy Advent

Advent is upon us! This means we are beginning our new liturgical year (Year C). Which involves a new start of another year in our lectionary. You'll notice during Advent that we begin (really, we have begun a couple weeks ago) with readings pointing toward Christ's Second Coming. Which then transitions to the celebration of Christ's First Coming, aka Christmas!

For many, this is a special time of year for a variety of reasons. We will have an abbreviated Festival of Lessons and Carols followed by our Annual Christmas Party and the infamous White Elephant gift exchange—so fun! It is also important to remember those who will be trying to celebrate with an empty chair or two at the table. Indeed, my own family is building new traditions this year trying to preserve memories and stories of loved ones who are with us in a changed reality. "Life is changed, not ended" as our Proper Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer reminds us in the Liturgy of the Burial of the Dead.

Nonetheless, this is the season of hope. We bask in the promise that Jesus will return and that he was born as one of us to offer us salvation. The Greatest Story Ever Told begins with the Incarnation and culminates in Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion, and Resurrection from the dead.

Thus, Advent is the time of preparation. Not just for parties, presents, and cards, but preparing our hearts and minds and bodies to meet our Lord once again *and* for the first time. May we prepare with a Holy Advent.

Faithfully and lovingly, Fr Jeff+

Help Needed!!!!

We are in need of at least two ushers-If you are able to volunteer your time and gift of greeting and welcoming our Grace family just one Sunday a month. We need help on the 2nd and the 4th Sunday of every month. Please contact Sherrie in the office, she will set you up for training and get you on the schedule!!

Update from the Vestry on the progress of the Search

Committee. The search committee meets twice a month. Beth Sphatt is your contact person.

Outreach and Evangelism Committees

"LITTLE FEET" MINISTRY

On November 23rd and 24th 70 elementary school children in the Willoughby-Eastlake school district chose a new pair of shoes or boots just in time for winter thanks to Little Feet. The children shopped and selected their own shoes or boots, and this is always so much fun for them.

Again, this year, JCPenney at Great Lakes Mall provided the footwear. Between the funding from Grace Episcopal Church's fundraisers and donations, and the Black Friday sales and discounts from the store, the families purchased shoes or boots at little or no cost.

Edison, Grant, Longfellow, Thomas Jefferson and Royalview Elementary Schools all participated this year. School Liaisons provided a list of elementary students who were eligible to participate.

We all are thankful to the school Liaisons and staff and the JCPenney management and staff for their outstanding support of this event. Many thanks to everyone who so generously donated to or participated in providing shoes or warm boots for so many "Little Feet".

A special thanks to those who volunteered their time to come to the store to greet families and assist kids and families with shopping: Sandy Wesley, Beth and Ray Sphatt, Lynne Kramp, Chris Burke, David Webster, Thora, Toni

Swisher, Gary Hill and Debbi and David Zimmerman. From Grant School: Miss Diana, and from Longfellow, Miss Lisa.

God Bless You,

Kathy Hill

Evangelism/Outreach Team



New shoes and fun too!!





Grace Helpers!! Thank you!!



The JC Penney "A" team of helpers!!!!



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Hanna's Home Giving Tree

Again, this year we are fortunate to bless Hannah's Home with Christmas gifts through Hannah's Home Giving Tree. Hannah's Home is a Christian group residence that provides a safe and nurturing environment for single pregnant women in crisis while supporting emotional, physical, psychological and spiritual growth.

Hannah's Home will provide tags labeled with gift wish items needed for resident moms and babies, alumni moms and their children, and items needed for our programming.

These items are used as Christmas presents, rewards to moms for successfully completing programs where they learn child care and independent living skills, and in the day to day running of the home.

The tags will be delivered to Grace church between November 11-18. We will display the tags for you to choose from and then collect the unwrapped gifts by December 15. The gifts will then be delivered to Hannah's Home.

More info will follow. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Burke or Kathy Hill.

Peace & blessings,

Kathy

Evangelism/Outreach Team

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

First Energy cleared some of our tree branches from the high voltage line which runs along boundary between Grace and Klucher's residence. This was a happy day for your Junior Warden, who had been "bugging" First Energy (CEI) for 2 years. Last year, I tried to get a quote for some of this work, and learned the tree company will not work around high voltage lines. Note: the crew, last month, did not clear branches that are below high voltage lines, so branches intertwined with our phone and internet lines remain.



Trimming at our East Upper Parking Lot

Grace Church has hundreds of visitors downstairs most every week. The capital improvement cited by congregation and endorsed by Vestry (in principle) pertained to downstairs restrooms. Buildings and Grounds is studying the idea of creating an ADA (wheelchair accessible) restroom, by rebuilding the Sunday School rest room. Currently, that rest room is "out of order" until further notice.

by Phil Davis, Jr. Warden



From the Bench ~Music Director Scott Arra

Choir Practice Thursday evenings, at 7pm. Come warm up and learn some beautiful music with us!!

Sunday Mornings we warm up our voices at 9am, then share our beautiful gifts that God has blessed us with during the 9:30 service.

All are welcome!!!!



Coffee Hour

Is a super fun way to get to know our Grace family and for us to get to know you. So please join us each Sunday after the service in the gathering room. Everything is provided! If you would like to host, please sign up at our communication board. Provide a simple snack. Before the service starts, make coffee, and set up the napkins, cups, plasticware, juice, and water. Once the coffee hour is over, just clean up the coffee pot and put away any unused utensils.

Hope to see you there!!!!

Where in the world is James? Tanga TZ??!





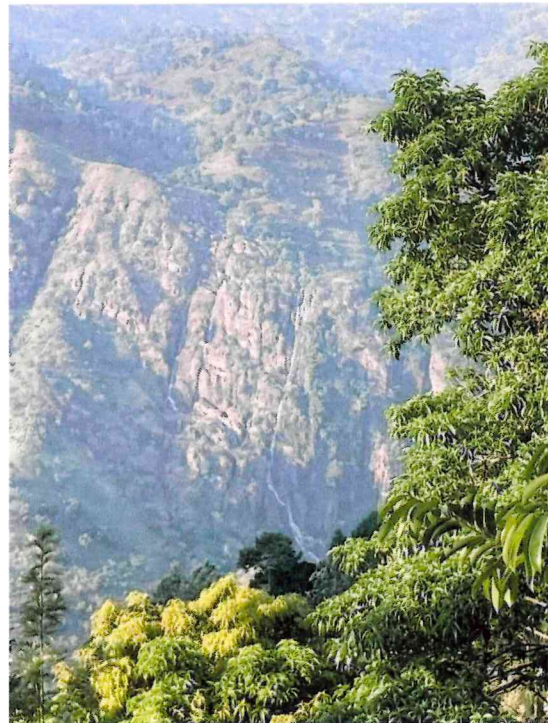
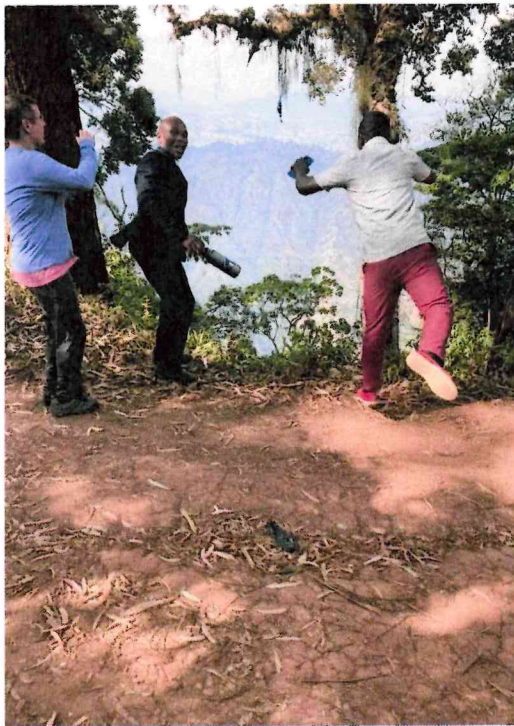
Ever see a garden like this at a highway rest stop? (Behind me, bus loads of people are filing into bathrooms, photos not available)



Successfully crossed 7 time zones. The HIGHS...a special blessing on our journey, Kilimanjaro was completely visible our first morning from our Uhuru (Freedom) Lutheran Hotel, Moshi.



...and a real African high of a 5 hour bus ride for us.



.....Host Yakobo leading us in the leap from Mlalo towards... Nedemaha waterfalls.

We visited 5 churches in one day. Here, Makweli



... and one duckling



The walk began of the 2024 Safari Msalaba, a phenomenal amount of organizing work. Our first service contained three weddings and a confirmation.



We hiked all the way through Nilo Forest.



There was a service of hole water site where Bp. Frank Weston prayed for water and it has flowed ever since. This years walk celebrates him, 100 years after his death.



.....we arrived in Kizara, where we encountered this toy maker, pulling his truck.





The fantastic four continued on to Maramba. James and Daniel hiked around the mountain, into the night to Kwemtindi, pictured above as the sun rises over the Indian Ocean and Tanga City.



That evening we made the short musical walk from Kuze to Kibago



Meanwhile in Maramba the “f f” really enjoyed a retired Lutheran Minister, Annette, who preached in English for them. The visit was the subject of a news report.



One blessing, we got to meet our host Yakobo’s wife Rhoda, and their younger daughter...Sharon.



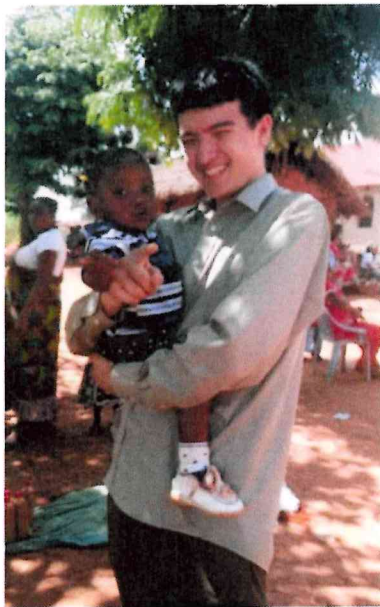
Yakobo, Daniel, James made it back onto the route of the Safari in time for James and Yakaobo to get into a soccer game. Yacobo far right, James in long -sleeves, long pants, and SOCKS! On the left.



One of our other friends, Baba Fredrick Kiango, managed to get into a checkers (Drafti) game that was fascinating. Kings are more like emperors.



Askofu Michael from Zanzibar, Fredrick again and Diocesan vehicles in Kambai...



James and an energetic young girl named Maria met outside of the church in Kambai, sharing peanuts with the rest of the kids



No Golden Shovel event



St. Augustine Tanga City



Indian Ocean!!!



Another church plant. the peak in the background was the first destination of the revived Safari Msalaba in 2012.



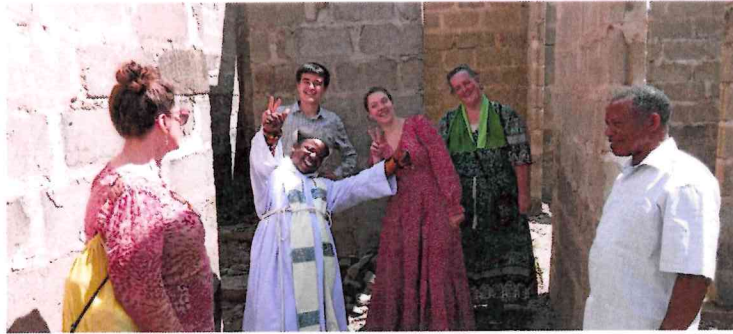
Canon Sebwa is 85 years old and walked the entire Safari... IN his Cassock. He is from Misozwe. Which was the rest day. The church of English construction. Here we are entering.



Our rest day resurfaced communion wafers from St. Mark's Shelby. Baba Paul of Christ the King, Muheza, had more than earned for his care of us...

James and Yakobo, found friends on the kids mat.





Baba Frederick in his future home, the rectory St. Matthews. Hale is building. Baba Frederick Diocesan Youth leader also. Oct. 12 and 13 he and others hosted the annual gathering, 2,300 kids overnight in Korogwe. (The two 0's are not a mistake!)



Arrival at Holy Cross Magila, final celebrations of Safari Msalba 2024



Even after the seven hour Sunday service and no meal, the Bishop had time to visit with his guest and...introduce his wife Freda.



The Bishop's brother, Raphael, who was a great help to James and I on the walks. He is sitting in front of the convent's massive stone cistern, still in use.



Horseplay... Probably in Swahili and we missed it.



Valerie and Lilly attracted a crowd. Our last night in Diocese of Tanga was a classy place run by Graci, a member of the Maranatha choir, St. Andrew's, Korogwa. As it turned out, I had a recording of her choir on my phone from last year.



Scout friends Baltazat and Stefano packing us up.

Our group, amused as a baja passes between me, the group, and the building Ohio Episcopalians helped build in 1973.



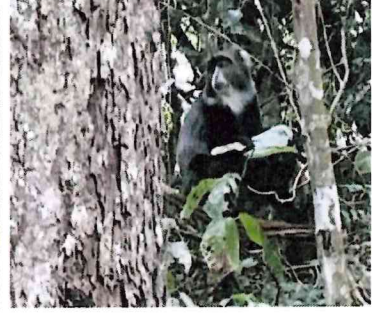
Our Safari to Arusha National park. Searching, searching...

Tazama, Wanyama!!

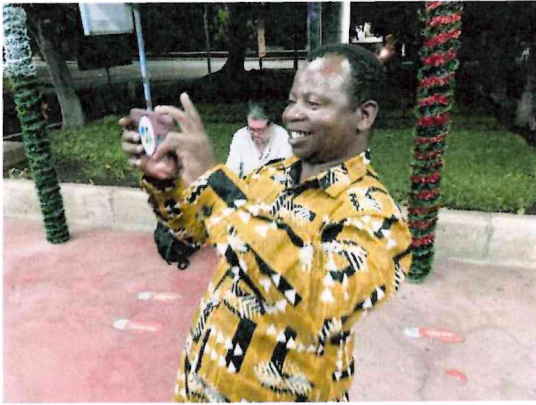


Look animals!!!





Last Photos



The Sunrise, outside my office window. November 25, 2024. My first day back to work after being out 3 weeks helping my sister transition home from her life saving Liver transplant! Thank you, all Grace family, especially those who helped out in the office. More than anything thank you for your prayers, Jennifer and I are forever grateful. Be God's Sherrie



December 1

First Sunday of Advent
Year C

READINGS FOR THE DAY

- [Jeremiah 33:14-16](#)
- [1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#)
- [Luke 21:25-36](#)
- [Psalm 25:1-9](#)

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

- [Baruch 5:1-9](#)
- *or* [Malachi 3:1-4](#)
- [Philippians 1:3-11](#)
- [Luke 3:1-6](#)
- [Canticle 4 or 16](#)

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

- [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)
- [Philippians 4:4-7](#)
- [Luke 3:7-18](#)
- [Canticle 9](#)

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- [Micah 5:2-5a](#)
- [Hebrews 10:5-10](#)
- [Luke 1:39-45, \(46-55\)](#)
- [Canticle 15 \(or 3\)](#)
- *or* [Psalm 80:1-7](#)

December 24

Christmas Eve

- [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
- [Titus 2:11-14](#)
- [Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)
- [Psalm 96](#)

December 25

Christmas Day

- [Isaiah 62:6-12](#)
- [Titus 3:4-7](#)
- [Luke 2:\(1-7\)8-20](#)
- [Psalm 97](#)