



GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

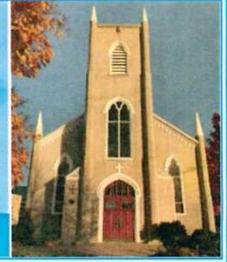
Mount Clemens, Michigan

Amazing Grace

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of Grace Episcopal Church

March 2026



Bequests



A bequest is a gift of personal property (such as money, jewelry, stocks, or other movable assets) made through a legally valid will, to take effect upon the death of the person making the will.

The practice of leaving property at death dates back thousands of years, such as in Egypt when property transfers at death were often arranged through written instructions. In ancient Rome, formal wills were common, and Roman law strongly influenced later Western inheritance systems. Roman citizens could designate heirs and make specific bequests, and these legal concepts became foundational in European legal traditions. During the Middle Ages, wills became closely connected to the Church. Many individuals left bequests to religious institutions to ensure prayers for their souls.

Today, bequests are a central feature of estate planning in many legal systems worldwide and are typically used for charitable giving, allowing individuals to leave funds to educational institutions, religious bodies, and nonprofit organizations.

At our annual meeting in January, I talked about the recent bequests Grace received from several people: Jim Smith, Brooke Lau's father, and Gustof Adolphus Persson III. We are familiar with the first two individuals, and we are extremely grateful for their gifts, but we did not know anything about the third person mentioned. So, one of our current members, Beckie Murphy, offered to do some genealogical research to find out about him. She put together an insightful report that may be found in this newsletter: Thank you, Beckie!

Our bishop has focused the last few years on Episcopalians leaving bequests to their congregations to help sustain their faith communities for future generations. The term our bishop uses is "Legacy Giving." A diocesan team has put together a program to help congregations initiate legacy giving ministries in their church, so we at Grace will be looking to begin this sometime after Easter. More information will be forthcoming.

Worship Opportunities

Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 AM

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE ONLINE
VIA ZOOM, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND
FOLLOW THE LINKS**

www.gracechurchmtclemens.org

**TO JOIN SERVICES LIVE BY
PHONE VIA ZOOM:**

8:30 Service: Call 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300

Password: 246040

10:30 Service: See YouTube link
on Website

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

9:30 AM in Guild Room

*Worship resources are available
on our Website 24/7/365.*



If you have already put Grace in your will, I say THANK YOU! If you haven't done so, I would encourage you to think about this, because it is an easy way to support Grace and keep the church going after we are gone. Remember, any size gift is appropriate and appreciated!

Thank you for being a member here at Grace and for all you do to make this such a great community!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve



Book Club at Grace

The next book club meeting will be at **6 PM** on **March 12** at Grace Church. The book to be discussed is *The Feather Detective* by Chris Sweeney. We look forward to meeting newcomers as well as regular members for a fun evening. Call Ann Strevel with any questions or concerns.

Upcoming American Lutheran Events

- **Soup Suppers:** Meet in ALC's Fellowship Hall at **5:30 PM** on Wednesdays in Lent to share homemade soups, crackers, bread, and cookies, followed by a Lenten service at **6:30 PM** presided over by Pastor Julie. This year's theme for Lenten services is "Prayer Around the World."

If you'd like to contribute a favorite soup or a batch of cookies, plan on making between 20-25 servings of soup and/or about 2 dozen cookies. Please bring them to ALC by 5 PM that Wednesday. Contact Nancy Boeck at 248-703-0861 or Donna Pretzer at 586-549-2908 with any questions.

- **Aspire:** This Christian women's event was created out of the desire and need for women to enjoy a night out with fellowship and spiritual growth. One night of three hours full of laughter, learning, stories, and music with three women taking the stage. ALC women attended last year, and it was so fabulous, we're going again!

This year's event is on **Friday, April 17** at **7 PM** (doors open at 6) at the Frankenmuth Bible Church, 210 S. Main Street in Frankenmuth. VIP tickets are \$45.85. The speakers are Bible teacher Barb Roose, comedian Christy Conder, and musician Jaime Jamgochian. We'll carpool from the ALC parking lot and leave early to have an early dinner at Bavarian Inn before the event. If interested in attending, contact Donna Pretzer at 586-549-2908. The deadline for registration is **Monday, March 23**. See <https://aspirewomensevents.com/> for more information.

- **Group Tours:** There are several short tours in the works, all with Bianco Tours of Taylor:

Ark Encounter 2-Day Trip: Either May 19-20 or May 20-21

Holland Tulip Time 1-Day Trip: Various dates available

Again, contact Donna Pretzer at 586-549-2908 if interested or if you have any questions. Stay tuned for more trips later in the year!

Gustof Adolphus Persson III

Grace Church's Generous Benefactor

Researched and compiled by Rebecca Murphy 2/6/26

A surprise estate distribution letter arrived in December 2025, awarding Grace Church with a \$211,858.82 bequest from the estate of Gustof Adolphus Persson III.

Gustof III was born April 20, 1946 in Detroit, MI to Gustof A. Persson II and wife Hazel (née DeGroot). He was baptized at Grace Episcopal Church December 27, 1946 (church records housed at Mt. Clemens Public Library). He died October 25, 2021 at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township. According to his short obituary:

"Gustof proudly served his country in the US Army as a postal clerk stationed in Germany between 1972-1974. He retired from Compuware as a supervisor after 32 years. He was a member of Grace Episcopal Church. Having a more simple demeanor, he enjoyed crossword puzzles, loved to read, and could often be found relaxing on his back patio with views of the Clinton River (his home was at 576 Wellington Crescent, Mt. Clemens). As a generous man, he found great value and supported the Wounded Warriors Project, Boys Club, and various religious organizations."

His funeral was arranged by the Harold W. Vick Funeral Home and he was cremated and inurned with military honors at Clinton Grove Cemetery on November 11, 2021.

Public records indicate he lived most of his life in Mt. Clemens, but some years were spent in Spring Hill, FL.



Gustof Persson

Home at 576 Wellington Crescent, Mt. Clemens. Gustof III, pictured right, at age 19, from 1965 Aquinas College Yearbook

I find no evidence he ever married and sadly he did not leave much of an internet footprint. He was an only child and his father only had one sister, who did not remain in the Mt. Clemens area. His mother's family (DeGroot) relocated from MN to Grand Rapids, MI when she was very young. The picture of Gustof Persson in 1965 at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids is definitely him, based on school photos from Mt. Clemens High. He would have been about 19 years old. It is a Catholic institution, but maybe he attended due to his maternal family connections in Grand Rapids. I find

him in a March 13, 1968 article from the Lexington Herald (KY) newspaper in a list of students applying for an accelerated two-year ROTC program at Morehead State University. His home is specifically noted as Mt. Clemens. I also found a commencement program from Morehead State University in KY indicating he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. He was a member of the university's Loyal Eagle Club, having donated money for subsequent classmates. Sadly, I have been unable to find any other pictures of him after age 19.

In the 1950 Mt. Clemens, Macomb County census, Gustof (III) is 4 years old, living in his widowed grandmother Jessie Persson's (née Shaw) household with his parents **Gustof Adolphus Persson (II)** and Hazel Camille Persson (née DeGroot). Hazel was born March 28, 1916 in Winona Co., MN and died January 23, 1976 in Mt. Clemens,

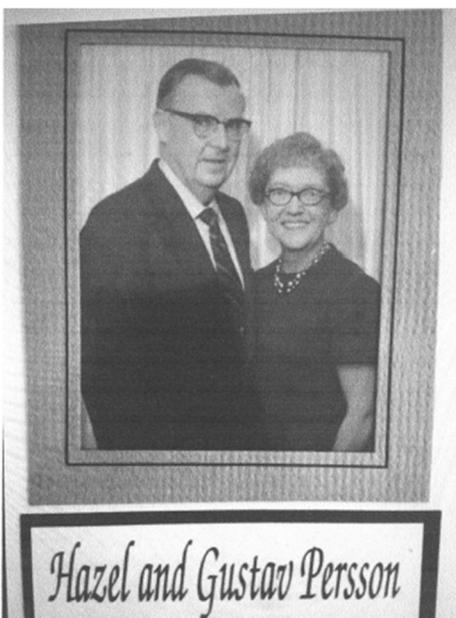
Macomb Co., MI. His father is listed as a branch manager for the "Bank of Commerce." The only bank with that name that I can locate was in Hamtramck or there is/was a similarly named National Bank of Commerce in Detroit. In 1940, according to his WWII Draft Registration, he worked as an assistant bank cashier at the Community Bank in Warren on Mound Road and Chicago Road.

Gustof II was born September 12, 1912 in Mt. Clemens and died August 19, 1980 in Mt. Clemens.

Gustof and Hazel married in 1939 in Grand Rapids, MI. They lived at 9 Breitmeyer Place in Mt. Clemens.



9 Breitmeyer Place



Gustof Adolphus Persson II's obituary tells us "he was branch manager of Manufacturers National Bank in Warren until his retirement." He served in WWII in the US Navy as a lieutenant on PT boats and was commander of a boat that was involved in the evacuation of General Douglas MacArthur from the Philippines. He graduated from Cranbrook Academy in 1933. He was a **member of Grace Episcopal Church, and had just retired from three years on the vestry prior to his death.** He was a member and past president of many local organizations such as Rotary Club, Warren Chamber of Commerce, Warren Kiwanis Club, and Old Crowd of Mt. Clemens. Hazel, a graduate of University of MI was a teacher at Mt. Clemens High School. She was Director of Student Activities when she retired in 1971.

In following internet records, Gustof III's grandfather, **Gustof Adolphus Persson I**, was born in Helsingborg, Helsingborgs kommun, Skane lan, Sweden on July 23, 1875 (Find a Grave, Clinton Grove Cemetery) and died in Detroit, Wayne County, MI on May 19, 1934. According to his obituary, "as a youth he worked his way to this country on a tramp steamer." "At the University of Buffalo, he received his MD before he was 21 years old." "He later took a post-graduate course at the University of MI and served as an intern at Battle Creek." "He was considered one of the foremost authorities on bacteriology in the United States and was a member of the advisory board of the Mayo Brothers' Clinic at Rochester." "He was a member of the Macomb and Wayne County Medical Societies and a 32-degree Mason at the Detroit Shrine." As per the 1920 Mt. Clemens, Macomb County census, he was a physician, immigrated to the US from Sweden in 1889, and became a naturalized citizen in 1910. I found an article by Grace Church "pillar" Nelly Longstaff (who was descended from founding members of Mt. Clemens, and a wonderful historian in her own right) which mentions him. In her history sketch of the Colonial Hotel and Bath House, she names Dr. Gustof A. Persson assuming the role of medical director in the late 1920s. She states, "he came to Mt. Clemens about 1907 and was first connected to the Minnestola Hotel on North Avenue." "He and his family were living there when it burned" (Feb. 1908). "Later he served as Medical Director to the Park Hotel, as well." She states, "Persson planned to build a new bath house, the Perssondale, on the banks of the Clinton River in the Breitmeyer subdivision." "It was to have research facilities as well as beautiful gardens." "This project was abandoned, however, and the Persson Foundation was formed to operate the Colonial Hotel and conduct research on rheumatism." "Dr. Persson died in 1934 after a short illness and in 1935 his widow (Jessie) sold it." He was married to Jessie Fisher Shaw, born June 1, 1875 in the Ottawa Municipality, Ontario, Canada. She died March 20, 1963 in Macomb Co., MI.



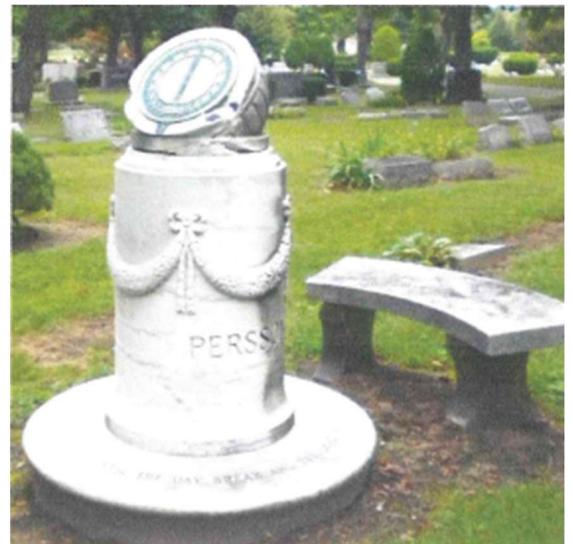
Dr. Gustof Adolphus Persson I

Dr. Gustof Adolphus Persson I was also a member of Grace Episcopal Church, and the following entries were found in Nelly Longstaff's 1971 Grace Episcopal Church anniversary history book:

- In 1926, "extensive work was done to beautify the parish house grounds" and Dr. G. A. Persson was one of three members "thanked by the vestry for their part in the improvement."
- Dr. Gustof A. Persson (I) is listed as a member of the vestry for 1917 and 1920-1923.
- In the early 1920s, Mrs. G. A. Persson (Jessie) donated cathedral candles and a bishop chair and bench from a Detroit church; her sister donated a carved wooden bench in 1951.
- Mrs. G. A. Persson (Jessie) donated money toward pews in 1954 in memory of Miss Emma Lilly.
- The Parish Register of 1971 lists Persson, Gustof (II) and Hazel, Gustof A. III.



PARK HOTEL
Mount Clemens, Mich.
A luxurious all-year health and pleasure resort, featuring the famous
Mount Clemens Mineral Baths
These wonderful curative baths are unsurpassed by any in the world for their remarkable results in the relief and cure of
RHEUMATISM
and kindred diseases. Analysis shows 125 pounds of healing mineral salts in each 65-gallon bath.
The Park Hotel offers every excellence of surroundings, service and cuisine. Golf, tennis, fishing, boating, Hotel and baths under one roof; *open all year*; American plan.
WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET.



Gustaf I, II, and III are all interred at Clinton Grove Cemetery.

March Birthdays

Diann Simmons	3/04
Jean Hitchcock	3/09
Scot Lau	3/16
Ernie Simon	3/21
Shirley Rumpel	3/22
Deborah Warner	3/24
Nancy Johnson	3/27
Christa Carpenter	3/31



Join us in the Guild Room for Bible study, every **Sunday at 9:30 AM.**



"F" Dollars for Fueling Kids' Futures

If your wallet has any dollar bills with **F** on them, please pass them along to help us fill backpacks with weekend food for hungry Mt. Clemens students.

Monthly Bible Study

Our monthly Bible study series is halfway through the book of Hebrews, but it's never too late to jump in. Join us on **Friday, March 13 at 6:30 PM.**



O U T R E A C H
MINISTRIES
Currently

COMMUNITY SUPPERS

Wednesdays at 4 PM

Sundays (Nov.-Mar.) at 4 PM

GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 AM to 12 PM

Curbside distribution

For Spring

God, thank you for spring and the hope of warmer, longer, brighter days.

Thank you for the coming of growth and life and birth.

Thank you that things are coming awake in the world.

This is what our calendar says, and we do see some signs that it is real.

But we also still struggle with the residual layover of winter.

Now we ask that you bring into reality all that belongs in this season.

Your word says that we will have provision, and hope, and joy, and health and loving relationships here and now in this life.

We ask that what belongs in this season would become actual in our practical lives.

We hope in you and in your promises. We hope in your gift of spring. Amen.



Recommended Food Pantry Donations

Canned soups, canned fruits and vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna/chicken, SpaghettiOs, Hamburger Helper, instant mashed potatoes, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereal, canned applesauce

Grace Episcopal Church Staff

Pastor Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Cell: 203-641-2068

Email: pastor@gracechurchmtclemens.org

Music Director: Josh Dulin

Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan

2026 Vestry

Mike Oakley

Lucy Smith

Mike Zubas

Ernie Simon

Sharon Potter

Don Siefkes

Margaret Morgan

Selia Tuten



**Beaumont
Hospice**



Become a Hospice Volunteer



Brighten someone's day with your presence! Hospice volunteers play a vital role by visiting patients and providing support to caregivers through listening, conversation, and companionship. This is a long-term commitment. Join us in making a meaningful difference during one of life's most significant journeys.

**Macomb, Oakland and
Wayne Counties**



248-743-9400



Ask for Leandra - Volunteer Coordinator