

Amazing Grace

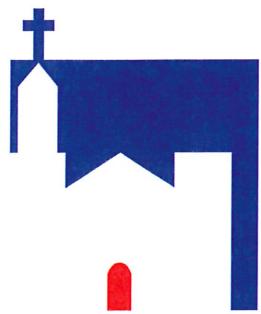


March 2025

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Wayne Street

Sandusky, OH 44870



~ Mission Statement ~

"In light of our confidence that 'God loves you. No exceptions', Grace Episcopal Church strives to be a welcoming community, inviting everyone to learn, serve, and share in Christ's love."

The Most Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, Diocese of Ohio

MASS

Sunday at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

In-Person, livestreamed on Boxcast, and on Facebook

**Daily Mass at 9am in the Chapel
(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)**

In-Person and on Facebook

Tuesday at 5:30pm in the Chapel • In-Person and livestreamed on Facebook

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 8am - 3pm

CONTACT US

Telephone

419-625-6919

Website

GraceSandusky.org

Church Office E-Mail

office@GraceSandusky.org

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

frseth@GraceSandusky.org

Barb Reszko, Candidate for Holy Orders

babrauniii@gmail.com

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

rarcpa@sbcglobal.net

Parish Staff

Fr. Seth Wymer, Rector

Barb Reszko, Candidate for Holy Orders

Randy Ruthsatz, Organist/Choirmaster

Debbie Chase, Parish Administrator

Kelly Gerhardstein, Housekeeper

Dr. Robert Speers, Parish Historiographer

RECTOR'S REFLECTION - MARCH 2025

As we round out a busy February we can finally start looking into March and the Lenten Season that will be upon us in just a couple of days!

We started February by having a number of parishioners join other Episcopal Church leaders from across the Diocese at the Winter Convocation. During our time together there was a lot of good discussion around what is working well at Grace and what things we should put some thought into to ensure we are doing the best we possibly can. These items are things that the 189th Vestry of Grace will start discussing. Three items that struck me were:

- The difficulties that parish leadership (clergy and lay) battle in regards to ensuring there are proper procedures and processes in place with the desire to think creatively about where our church is and where it needs to go.
- The need to ensure that our greatest capital – our human capital (the many, many volunteers and paid staff) – are properly cared for and valued.
- And a lot of discussion was had around church music – there will be more on this in our discussion of the church renovation found later in the Newsletter



Before we move into the penitential season of Lent we will have time to gorge (hence the name Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday) ourselves on pancakes and sausage on Tuesday, March 4th from 4:30p-6p in the Mary Simpson Room. Then the following day, Ash Wednesday, we have three opportunities to start to become shriven through our observance of a Holy Lent (think of a juicy grape on a vine that is left to wither or become shriven to a raisin). Our Ash Wednesday services will be 9a, 12:10p, and 5:30p. All three services will be Mass with the distribution of ashes. This traditional practice of starting Lent reminds us of our own mortality and helps us to prepare our body and soul for meeting our Maker when we are called home.

One of the ways I invite you into a holier Lent is to join me on Thursdays of Lent in the Chapel where we'll hold a period of quiet private prayer then pray a special Lenten Vespers (Evening Prayer). I pray it is a way to consciously set some time for a conversation with God at least weekly. I pray you'll join me in this time of prayer.

March will not be all "doom and gloom". We are planning our third Euchre Night of 2025 on Friday, March 28th. This is a great way to invite folks to come and see Grace Church that is not a church. We will provide some snacks and beverages, but you are more than invited to BYOB and/or bring in a snack to share. Don't know how to play? No worries. You can learn from the okayiest at Euchre (me...I'm the okayiest)!

During the month of March we will also be collecting donations to support Heifer International – a development organization that is working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to underdeveloped parts of the world. We will also be collecting items for Project Noelle – this local non-profit provides gifts at Christmas, Easter, and birthdays to children whose parents have died to drug overdoses. Please be generous to both worthwhile groups!

My prayer for each one of you is: As we prepare to enter into this holy Season of Lent may we come with joy to the empty tomb on Easter morning, a better and closer follower of Jesus Christ than we are today.

See you in church on Sunday,

Fr. Seth | Rector

Below are some important dates of events taking place here and in the Diocese in March.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please reach out to Fr. Seth or Debbie in the Parish Office.



Sunday, March 2nd

9a - Adult Faith Formation - Our Liturgy
10a - Children's Chapel (3rd grade and below)

Tuesday, March 4th

4:30p-6p - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, March 5th

9a - Ash Wednesday Mass with the distribution of ashes
12:10p - Ash Wednesday Mass with the distribution of ashes
5:30p - Ash Wednesday Mass with the distribution of ashes

Thursday, March 6th

6p-7p Contemplative prayer and Vespers in the Chapel

Sunday, March 9th

9a - Adult Faith Formation - Our Liturgy

Thursday, March 13th

6p-7p Contemplative prayer and Vespers in the Chapel

Sunday, March 16th

9a - Adult Faith Formation - Our Liturgy
10a - Children's Chapel (3rd grade and below)

Thursday, March 20th

6p-7p Contemplative prayer and Vespers in the Chapel

Saturday, March 22nd

4:30p-5:30p - 1st Community Meal of the Month
5:15p - Evening Prayer in the Chapel

Sunday, March 23rd

9a - Adult Faith Formation - Our Liturgy
3pm - Cole Burger concert

Thursday, March 27th

6p-7p Contemplative prayer and Vespers in the Chapel

Friday, March 28th

6:30p-????? Third Euchre Night in the Mary Simpson Room, we will provide drinks and some light snacks, feel free to BYOB or bring a snack to share!

Saturday, March 29th

4:30p-5:30p - 2nd Community Meal of the Month
5:15p - Evening Prayer in the Chapel

Sunday, March 30th

9a - Adult Faith Formation - Our Liturgy
11:30a - Vestry meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PROTECT AND SERVE

Ted Bertsch
Cameron Brace
Chris Cheek
Sam Freeman
Adam Hagelberger
Joel Hagy
James R. Hart, III
Craig Lambert
Vance Lambert

Brian Michael Laws
Marcus Mettert
Kevin Poyer
Sean Poyer
Thomas Roesch
Cameron Scholl
Jamison Shriver
Ayden Swinehart
Matt Trautman



Join your Amazing Grace Family
for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
on March 4th.



We will serve from 4:30pm – 6pm
to accommodate those attending the 5:30 service.

No reservations required.

Menu includes fresh & hot pancakes, sausage,
juice, coffee, milk and Polish Paczki!

If you would like to help at this, there is a sign-up sheet
on the bulletin board outside the church office, or
contact Becky Montague at 419-271-1085.

LENTEN MEDITATIONS: If you would like to receive daily thought-provoking email meditations during Lent from Episcopal Relief and Development, please go to their website <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/lent/#subscribe> to subscribe.



You can also click on this QR code to be directed to the ERD website.



Beginning Ash Wednesday, you will receive Lenten Meditations in your inbox each day (except Sundays) until Easter. If anyone would like a hard copy of these meditations, please contact Debbie in the church office.



Ash Wednesday is March 5th

We will have three services that day in the Chapel:

9am
12:10pm
5:30pm

PASTORAL CARE

If you know of someone in the congregation who is ill, homebound or in the hospital please let the parish office or Fr. Seth know so that he can visit them. Fr. Seth's contact information is: 740.624.5818 and frseth@gracesandusky.org



Join us for Evening Prayer

When: 5:15pm (On Community Meal Saturdays)
In March - the 22nd and 29th

How long: 20 minutes

Where: Chapel, Grace Episcopal Church, Sandusky, Ohio

Who: EVERYONE

What to expect: Pray and reflect together, Share God's love.



Church Renovation

Welcome to the newest segment of the *Amazing Grace* newsletter – an ongoing update of where we are in the process. On February 9th the Properties Committee gathered to give their recommendation of Tusing Contractors to complete the work on the church. We had Feick Contractors and Tusing submit bids/proposals. The Properties Committee felt that Tusing spent the time and effort in giving us a proposal and not just a budget or bid for the work. Tusing's proposal is \$796,000.00.

The Vestry took up this recommendation on 2/16 and voted to move forward with the church renovation work with Tusing as our contractor. The discussion lead to a 8-1 vote in favor of the project being completed. The lone change to the scope of work was that the Vestry asked for a sample of the stone were the wainscoting currently is to be signed off on or denied before that part of the work is started.

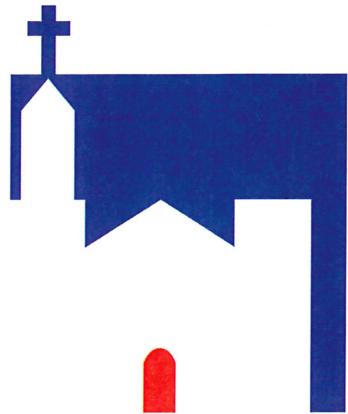
While this may seem daunting to some, it is something that we (myself and the Vestry) hope will enliven the parish, address some serious issues with the structure, and update our beautiful church so we can meet the needs of the next generation of Episcopalians who will call Grace Church their home. In the coming weeks we will share the breakdown of how this endeavor will be paid for, as well as, share some opportunities to memorialize/honor loved ones in this undertaking. This work will allow us to open our doors afresh to the community and share the loving message of Jesus Christ in a new and fresh space!

I have said it before and I will continue to say it: There is a lot to be thankful for here at Grace Church. In churches across the country (regardless of denomination) that are struggling with making the decisions to either fix their physical plant or invest in evangelism. Here we are comfortably able to do both. And both can be comfortably done thanks to your vision and generosity of spirit. So, thank you!

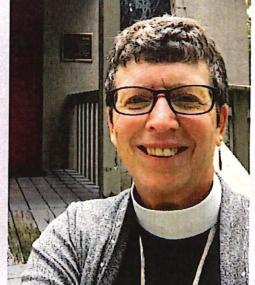
The work is slated to begin on Monday, April 28th. On the 27th (the Second Sunday of Easter) we will have a special 10a Service where we will remove the sacred objects from the church before the work begins. Please plan to be there, and to lend a hand!

During the 6-7 months the work is scheduled I will be adding a Saturday evening service in the Chapel at 5:30 beginning in May. During this service we will explore the breadth of the liturgies the Episcopal Church permits. We will also use this service to experiment with our sacred music. Sacred music is in fact sacred because of the words and meaning it conveys, not by the instrument(s) used to create it. It is my hope that as we explore we will rediscover that truth by the different ways God can be praised in song and choice of musical instrument (or lack thereof).

Fr. Seth



We welcome home Rev. Carol Fleming.
Many of you may remember Rev. Carol from her time here
as Priest Associate working with Fr. Ernie.
Rev. Carol has agreed to help St. Paul's, Bellevue once a month
and will be at Grace on occasion;
you may see her vested at the altar from time-to-time.
Welcome back Carol - we're glad you are here.



LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Thursday evenings at 6pm during Lent we will have a Prayer Service in the Chapel.



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Children's Chapel



Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

For children
Preschool through
3rd grade

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED, ESPECIALLY

Betty Guss (March 24, 2024)

Gracious God, nothing in death or life, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, nothing in all creation can separate us from your love. We commend these our beloved ones into your loving care. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy. Bless them in their dying and their rising again in you. Bless those whose hearts are filled with sadness, that they too may know the hope of resurrection; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



OUR 2025 GRACE CHURCH VESTRY

Julie Eastlake – Sr. Warden (2026)

Marcia Fordham (2026)

Brandon Johnson – Jr. Warden (2026)

Katie Cummings (2027)

Howard Holzhauser (2027)

Jenny Schoewe (2027)

Rick Doyan (2028)

Julie Geiger (2028)

Mark Pifer (2028)

On Sunday, February 16th we had to cancel services at the church due to the extreme weather conditions.

**SERVICES
CANCELLED
DUE to
WEATHER**

A text message was sent to everyone announcing the cancellation, as well as a notice posted on Facebook. If you did not receive the text message please let Debbie in the office know. It's possible your name was inadvertently omitted or we don't have your cell phone number.

If Sunday services are cancelled Fr. Seth will have a Prayer Service at 8am and 10am on our Facebook page facebook.com/GraceEpiscopalSandusky



The deadline to submit information for the April newsletter is **Monday, March 24th.**



PARENTS: We would like to know when your children's events are! Whether they are involved in sports, music, theater, or art, Fr. Seth would like to try and make it to some of their events and advertise them on our calendar for others!



Please email the office office@gracesandusky.org with them or the link to where one might find them! Thank you in advance for including your parish family.

Helping the smallest victims of the opioid epidemic
(these children have lost a parent due to a drug overdose).

As one of our Lenten projects this year we at Grace are going to help provide items for 20 Easter baskets for the kids. We're going to gear our donations toward the older ones.

Below is a list of items that have been requested. If you would like to help, a collection bin will be in the lobby under the coat racks beginning March 2nd. We will be collecting items until Sunday, April 6th.

\$5 Fast Food gift cards
Pre-packaged candy
Nail polish
Drawing items – colored pencils, markers, pads
Reusable water bottles
Lip balm/Hand lotion
No show socks
Hair ties
Anything else a teen may like



HEIFER PROJECT FOR LENT: The Outreach Committee is excited to have the Heifer Project again for our Lenten project. Giving an animal gift is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Your donation is providing families access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Heifer International works in 21 countries around the world alongside local farmers and business owners. They support farmers and their communities as they mobilize and envision their futures, provide training so they can improve the quantity and quality of the goods they produce, and connections to market to increase sales and incomes.



We hope everyone will join us in supporting this project. No donation is too small or too large. Volunteers will be in the Mary Simpson Room after the 10am service **March 30th, April 6th, and April 13th**, if you wish to donate. Animal gift cards are available and range in price from \$10 to \$120 and you may buy as many as you wish! Checks can be made to Grace Episcopal Church with Heifer Project in the note. Help us make a difference in the world this Lenten season.



SOCER SIGN-UP

On Saturdays in April and May, the Bay Area Soccer League has soccer games for the local children's leagues at Osborn Park. As part of our *Invite* group, we are again going to be there on these game days to give out coffee, water, and snacks for the parents and kids (there are no concessions for these games). We did this last fall and it was very well received.

What we need from you – volunteers to help with these Saturday morning events. It will only be a couple hours of your time (approx. 8:30-11am). A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you have any questions, please speak with Becky Montague, Melissa Wymer, Fr. Seth, Debbie Chase, or Kileen Lawrence. This is a fun way for us to be present in our community.

Cole Burger, Pianist

March 23, 2025

3:00pm

Grace Church, Sandusky

Music by Bach, Shostakovich,
Brahms, Over the Rainbow,
Pure Imagination,
and Pirates of the Caribbean

Free Admission

Sponsored by the Sandusky Concert Association



Cole Burger teaches piano-related subjects at Bowling Green State University and Lutheran Summer Music. As a solo and collaborative pianist, he has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, including Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, roe's Teatro di Marcello and the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, the Goethe Institute in Bangkok, the American Cathedral in Paris, and the United States Ambassador's Home in Malaysia. Dr. Burger holds degrees in piano performance and economics from Northwestern University and the University of Texas.

HOLY WEEK

Spy Wednesday, April 16 - Morning Prayer @ 9am; Service @ 6pm

Maundy Thursday, April 17 - Morning Prayer @ 9am; Service @ 6pm

Good Friday, April 18 - Morning Prayer @ 9am; Service @ 6pm

Holy Saturday, April 19 - Morning Prayer @ 9am; Decorate Church @ 10am; Easter Vigil @ 8pm

Easter Sunday, April 20 - Holy Eucharist @ 8am in Chapel; Holy Eucharist @ 10am in Church

Looking Ahead...

COMMUNITY MEALS

Our March Community Meal dates are **Saturday, the 22nd and Saturday, the 29th**. We serve our meals in the Mary Simpson Room from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.



Donations of fresh fruit and desserts are always needed and appreciated. These donations help keep the cost of the meal down.

If you can help, items can be dropped off at the church the week before the meal(s) between 8am and 3pm or the Saturday of the meal after 3pm.

Interested in possibly being one of our cooks? Helpers? Questions? Please contact Lisa Fowler (lisa.fowler@bex.net or 419-602-7969).



5 th	Steve Smith
7 th	Terry Andres
8 th	Julie Geiger
14 th	Jeff Fowler
19 th	Marcia Fordham
20 th	Barbara Nielsen
24 th	Pete Fox
	Howard Holzhauser
25 th	Bob Daniels
27 th	Alizander Ali
28 th	Angelina LaMarca
29 th	Katie Crum

*Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase;
bless and guide them wherever they may be.
Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when
discouraged or sorrowful;
raise them up when they fall;
and in their hearts may your peace
which passes understanding,
abide all the days of their lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



I want to take this opportunity to thank Lee and Jane Wood, who for the last year have diligently sent birthday cards out to our parishioners (at least the ones we have dates for).

Thank you Lee and Jane!

We are also grateful to Ruth Brown for taking on this wonderful "inreach" we do for our parish family.

GRACE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
LUTHERAN & ELCA

Thrift shop
Serving our community since 1948

Grace Episcopal Thrift Shop
301 East Market Street • Sandusky, OH 44870
419-626-5453

Hours: Tuesday-Friday: Noon-4pm
Saturday: 10am-1pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

• Clothing, Decor and Housewares •

All Proceeds Benefit Erie County Charities
Our Store Is Staffed By Community Volunteers

301

• Donations Accepted, In Season •

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel	3 Rector's Sabbath Choral Society Practice 7pm	4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 4:30-6pm Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	5 Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Services 9am 12:10pm 5:30pm	6 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Lenten Prayer Service 6pm Chapel	7 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	8
9 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church	10 Rector's Sabbath Thrift Shop Steering Committee Mtg 9am	11 Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	12 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	13 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Lenten Prayer Service 6pm Chapel	14 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Food card giveaway 9am	15
16 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Children's Chapel	17 Rector's Sabbath  Choral Society Practice 7pm	18 Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	19 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	20 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Lenten Prayer Service 6pm Chapel	21 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	22 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
23 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church	24 Rector's Sabbath Choral Society Practice 7pm	25 Tuesday Eucharist 5:30pm in Chapel	26 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel	27 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel Lenten Prayer Service 6pm Chapel	28 Daily Eucharist 9 am in Chapel  Euchre Night 6:30pm	29 Community Meal 4:30p – 5:30p Evening Prayer 5:15pm - Chapel
30 Mass 8am Chapel Adult Faith Formation 9am Mass 10am Church Vestry Meeting 1130am	31 Rector's Sabbath Choral Society Practice 7pm					

MARCH RESPONSIBILITIES

	March 2 Last Sunday after Epiphany	March 5 Ash Wednesday	March 9 First Sunday in Lent	March 16 Second Sunday in Lent	March 23 Third Sunday in Lent	March 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Ushers/ Greeters	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	-----	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Lector/Chalice Bearer 8AM	Debbie Chase	9am Debbie Chase	Kitty Smith	Amy Fox	Mark Pifer	Debbie Chase
Lector/Chalice Bearer 10AM	Becky Montague	12:10pm Becky Montague 5:30pm Amy Fox	Ellen Mettert	Amy Fox	Jim Hart	Jeff Mettert
Acolyte	Ellen Mettert	-----	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert	Rick Doyan	Ellen Mettert
Livestream	Brandon Johnson	-----	Jeff Fowler	Brandon Johnson	Jeff Fowler	Don Lenhart
Altar Guild 10AM	Marcia Fordham	-----	Ellen Mettert	Barby Gravengaard	Mary Ellen Hart	Judy Porterfield
Coffee Hour	Melissa Wymer	-----	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Jenny Schoewe	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Amelia	Jeff & Nancy	Nancy
Andrea	Jenny, Dave,	Pauline
Barbara	& Tate	Richard, Lisa
Betty & Mike	JoAnn	& Missy
Bev	Joe	Ron & Alice
Bob	Joea & Neill	Ron & Rene
Caine & Owen	Judy & Jim	Ruth
Carolynne	Karen	Sr. Rosemary
Dawn	Kate	Steve
Doug & Beth	Kris	Steve & Kathy
Dudley & Linda	Lauren	Sue
Emily	Marie	Vince
Emily & baby	Matthew	Vona, Stewie &
Erica	Mia	Alizander
Ernie	Michael	Wayne
Jeff	Mike, Shelly & Derrick	

*If you, a family member, or a friend is in need
of Pastoral Care, or is hospitalized,
please call the Church Office at 419-625-6919.*



Join us **Friday, March 28th** for our next Euchre Night! Bring a partner or just bring yourself (we'll find you a partner). Don't know how to play but want to learn? We will have a table and teachers there for you. The fun starts at 6:30pm in the Mary Simpson Room. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages provided. If you want to bring your own "refreshment", you are most welcome to.

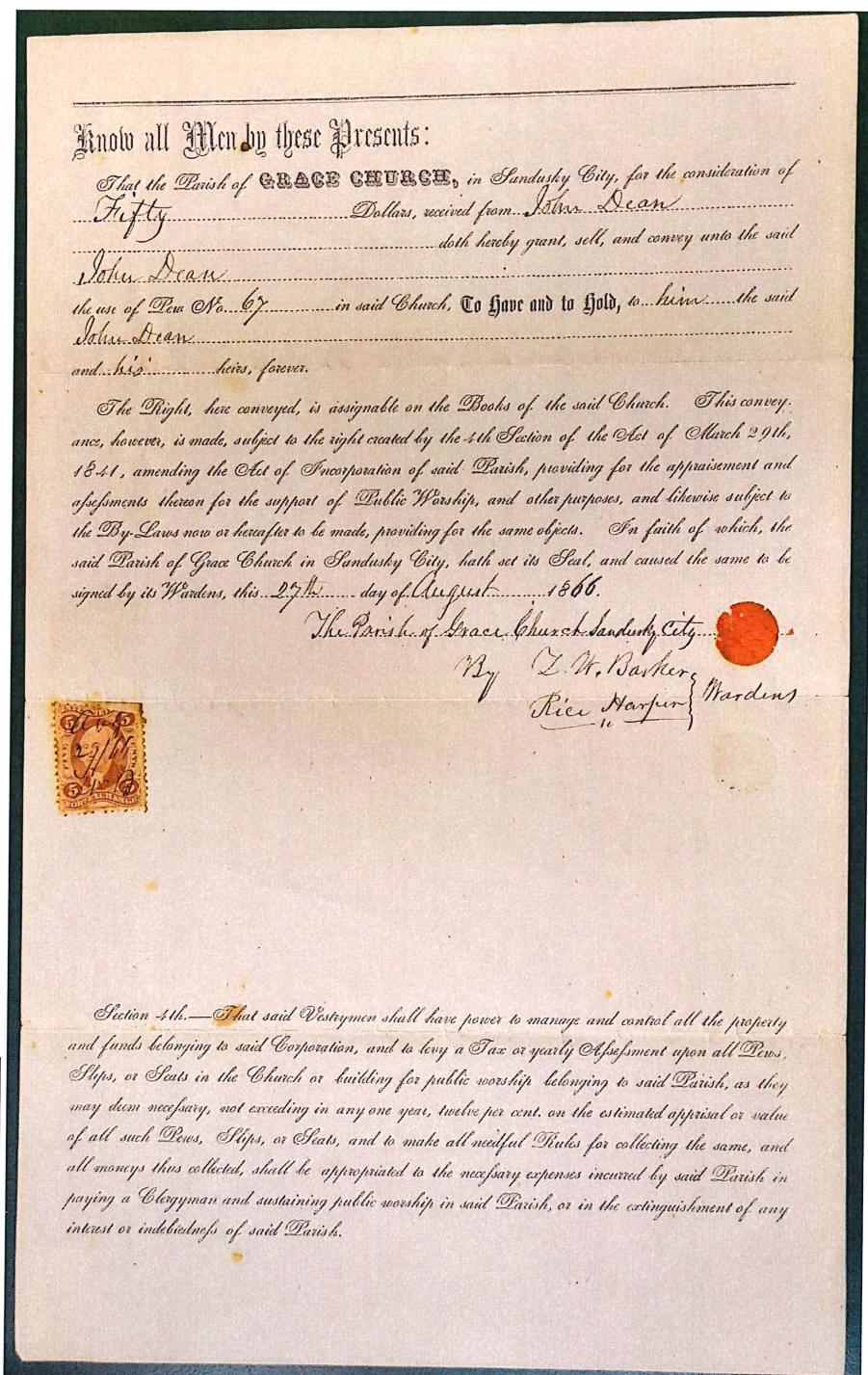
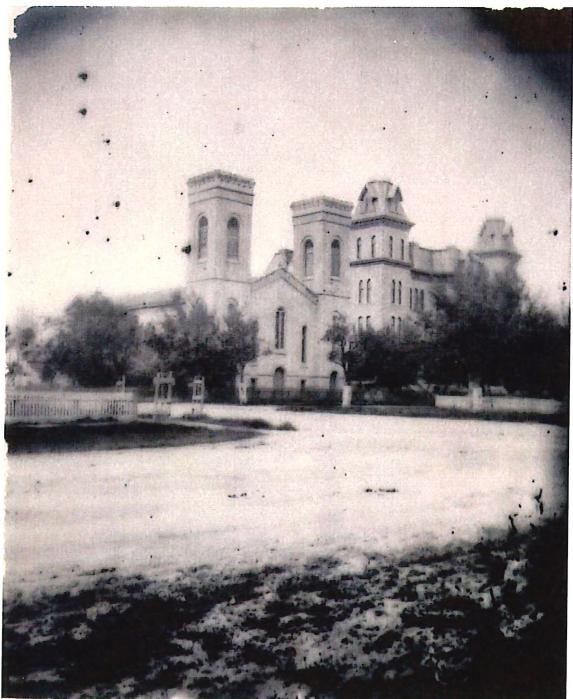
Here's a little bit of Grace Church history you may not know.

<https://sanduskyhistory.blogspot.com/2024/12/john-deans-pew-at-grace-church.html>

JOHN DEAN'S PEW AT GRACE CHURCH

This is the deed to pew number 67 in Grace Episcopal Church, issued by the parish to John Dean on August 27, 1866, granting him and his heirs the right to exclusive use of the pew in perpetuity, for a payment of fifty dollars (equivalent to a little more than \$1000 today). It was common through the nineteenth century for churches to sell access to specific pews, to raise funds for the church and to recognize the prominence of certain parishioners.

Grace Episcopal Church was founded in Sandusky in 1835, and has the oldest church building in the city. The original version of the building was completed in 1843; The towers, as seen in the photo above (circa 1870), were constructed in 1858. Other modifications have been made to the church over the years, and can be recognized by the difference in colors of stone.



Section 4th.—That said Vestrymen shall have power to manage and control all the property and funds belonging to said Corporation, and to levy a Tax or yearly Assessment upon all Pews, Seats, or Seats in the Church or building for public worship belonging to said Parish, as they may deem necessary, not exceeding in any one year, twelve per cent. on the estimated appraisal or value of all such Pews, Seats, or Seats, and to make all needful Rules for collecting the same, and all moneys thus collected, shall be appropriated to the necessary expenses incurred by said Parish in paying a Clergyman and sustaining public worship in said Parish, or in the extinguishment of any interest or indebtedness of said Parish.

John Dean, the owner of pew #67, had a productive life in Sandusky. He was born in 1835 in Tydd St. Mary, Lincolnshire, England, and came to Sandusky as a boy with his parents, William and Susannah Dean. He married Susan Belton in Sandusky on New Year's Day 1859, and together they had four sons and three daughters. He served two years in the United States Army during the Civil War years. He was a fisherman by profession. He died in 1892 and is buried with his wife in Oakland Cemetery.