

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

July/August 2007

Rector's Reflections

the courage to move forward

Many parishioners have asked me about the second half of my sabbatical time which covers most of the summer. July and August will resemble last year's schedule of classes at the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), travel to Massachusetts and Georgia, and some time spent at home reading and gardening.

But there will be some major changes. Last summer I could not run because of a severe ankle injury. I really missed running. Hopefully, this summer will be injury free. Leslie also had physical difficulties, even having to be hospitalized for six days. I think the summer always alerts us to our desire for physical health and activity. As a community, Grace Church keeps us in mind of health, healing and the support needed at times of illness.

Last summer I studied theology, specifically the reality of suffering. On the first day of class the VTS professor asked us, "Does God suffer?" We spent the next three weeks studying classical and modern theological responses to this question. This summer the course is entitled "Preaching in Times Like These." The professor, The Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hook, has spoken at our Lenten Monday night series and I am eager to learn more from her and my fellow students.

Last summer Anne Turner had major responsibilities as the only full-time Priest on our staff. This summer we say goodbye to Anne (and Steve and Lucy) and part-time clergy help will cover liturgical and pastoral needs until I return on August 22nd. It's been a long goodbye for Anne; we've known since the fall that she would be moving this summer. That really doesn't make it any easier. She's been a marvelous colleague and has grown into a faithful, skilled Priest and Pastor, since coming to us right out of Berkeley/Yale four years ago. We will miss her and look forward to our celebration with her on July 22nd.

Fr. Jack Weise will supply on the first three Sundays in August. Fr. John Wires, who has recently come to Grace with his wife Karen, will preside at three 7:00 am Wednesday Eucharists. And Fr. Fred Huntington will be available for any pastoral emergencies. I give thanks for the dedication and joy Jack, John and Fred share with us.

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GOD'S
Grace
FOR ALL

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855-2005

Worship Schedule

Summer Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 7:30 am
Child care 9:45 am–11:15 am
La Santa Eucaristía 9:00 am
Choral Eucharist* 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 5:00 pm
* alternates between Rites 1 and 2

Summer Weekday Eucharist Schedule

Tuesdays, Rite 2 with healing ... 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite 1 7:00 am
Thursdays* 12:15 pm
* alternates between Rites 1 and 2

Grace Church is:

- ✧ A center for worship and fellowship
- ✧ A school for discipleship and stewardship
- ✧ A community for healing and outreach

About Grace Notes

Grace Notes is published 10 times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia—monthly except for combined July/August and December/January issues. Deadlines for submitting copy are by midnight on the 15th of the preceding month. Next Grace Notes deadline: August 15 for the September issue. Articles may be placed in the Grace Notes folder in the credenza in the Commons, submitted by e-mail (grace.notes@gracealex.org) or faxed to 703-549-2832. All articles are subject to editing. Grace Church's newsletter team includes Barry Barr (editor), Cindy Ikard, Doug Prince, Beth Wiggers and Margaret Will (layout).

The Curate's Corner

Farewells and Faith

As I write this article, I have six full weeks left at Grace Church. (My last Sunday here will be July 29.) By the time *Grace Notes* reaches you, the time will be even shorter. I find myself holding on to the dwindling number of days, trying to pack as much into each one as I can.

What is most present to me now is all the unfinished business, all the unanswered questions. What will happen to those babies I baptized during Easter season? How will the newcomers I met last month grow into the life of this community? What will be the blessings and the challenges for the couples that I married last year? Where will the next pilgrimage go? The next mission trip? I have had the privilege of entering into so many of your sacred stories. I will not get to see how those stories end.

And yet, when I think about it, all that unfinished business brings me comfort as well as sadness. Because it reminds me that all our stories are overlapping, interwoven, never just begun and certainly never finished. We are always entering one another's lives *in media res*—into the middle of things already underway. C.S. Lewis tells us that we are all destined for “the Great Story which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever, in which every chapter is better than the one before.”

These upcoming weeks will have hardness in them, because they will have farewells. But they will also be an experience that builds faith: living into the larger love that binds us all together, that never lets any story be lost, that joins us all together through Christ.

— *The Rev. Anne Michele Turner, Assistant Rector*

Festive Coffee Hour for Mother Turner

As you know, Mother Anne Turner will be leaving Grace Church at the end of July and moving with her family to Massachusetts. Before her leave-taking, we have planned a festive coffee hour for Sunday, July 22, immediately following the 10:00 am service. This will be an opportunity to celebrate her ministry among us and formally bid Anne and her family a fond farewell. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Grace Notes ✧ July/August 2007

A Pentecost Journey

On May 27, eight parishioners from Grace Church, accompanied by one from Christ Church and one from Emmanuel Russell Road, journeyed to Heathsville, a town on Virginia's Northern Neck, to celebrate Pentecost with the "continuing congregation" of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

St. Stephen's is one of the 11 parishes in Virginia that voted in December to leave the Episcopal Church. The vote was 99 to 33 and the parish name was changed to St. Stephen's Anglican Church, and it affiliated with the Anglican Church of Nigeria.

Evicted from their parish home, the 33 soon organized themselves to continue the ministries of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. They borrow space in the local Methodist Church for a weekly 8:00 am Eucharist and the Diocese of Virginia helped them find the services of a retired priest, the Rev. Hal White. The 33 have since grown to more than 60! Some of those who voted to leave the Episcopal Church had second thoughts and others, who had left before the vote because they tired of the dissention of those who wanted to leave the Church, have now joined the continuing congregation.

The Grace parishioners were invited for Pentecost because Grace gave the continuing congregation its red choir robes that were once used by the Alleluia Singers. The St. Stephen's choir wore them on Pentecost, at an outdoor Eucharist, and the color was perfect for the occasion. In addition, Grace has contributed a number of kneelers (the Methodist Church where they meet has none) and the Vestry has voted to purchase 10 prayer books and hymnals for the continuing congregation.

Those attending from Grace were Cleve and Ruth Corlett, John and Georgiana Greely, Michelle Cox, Anne Caputo, Mickey Craven, and Betty Alexander. Jane Gilchrist from Christ Church and Jennifer Adams from Emmanuel Russell Road also attended.

— *Cleve Corlett*

Note from the Treasurer

While many of us will be going on vacation this summer, our Grace Church expenses and obligations will not be taking any time off. Please keep your pledge payments current during the summer. Remember, if you will not be in church, you can always mail pledge payments to the church office.

— *Linda Durand*

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

- Ashley Consuelo Sanchez Alvarenga, daughter of José Correa and Iris Alvarenga
- Eleanor Carter Cooper, daughter of George and Caroline Cooper
- Reagan Leigh Hope, daughter of Joseph and Leigh Hope
- Katherine Elisabeth Moore, daughter of Eric Moore and Adrienne Welker

Transfers in

- Michelle Marie Anderson, transferred as baptized member from St. Barnabas, Annandale

Burials

- Victor Crepeau

— *Dorothy Daniel*

The job's not finished 'til the paperwork's done.

Or What keeps parish administrators up all night?

Several months ago I had a conversation with our Parish Administrator about the records she maintains on parishioners in Church Windows – an automated database of parishioner contact information and other such vital and valuable information that parish administrator's worry about keeping current. One of the things I

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J2A Thanks Everyone !!!

(continued from page 1)

The J2A Yard Sale was a huge success!! We cleared over \$3,700 towards our June 21-July 1 Pilgrimage to Germany. We had lots of stuff to sell—so much that we cut off donations for lack of space to display it all. The crowds lined up early, waiting in the parking lot for the doors to open at 9:00 am. They were the first customers to the Altar Guild Bake Sale. Thanks to Linda Waskowicz for the brilliant idea and her excellent Altar Guild crew for their donations; that portion alone raised almost \$300.

We'd like to especially thank those folks with no direct family ties to J2A beyond being part of the Grace

Church family. While we are nervous about not acknowledging everyone, Joyce Stancil, Kathy Durkin, Lisa Doelp and Nancy Robinson deserve special mention for their organizational skills. We certainly could not have done this without your help! Our clothing and housewares areas had no hope without the tireless effort of a small army led by them.

As always, this event shows that it truly does take a village to raise a child. With the help and support of the Grace Church village, we continue to guide our children on their journeys to adulthood with grace. Thanks again from the youth, sponsors and the families.

— *Chrissie Crosby & Alison Campbell*

So this change brings the Rev. Caroline Kramer to us in late August. Caroline will bring her own unique gifts to us as an experienced Priest, mother of four young children, and wife. I expect her to get right to work with our youth and education leaders before the start of school and our fall programs.

When I visit Georgia and Massachusetts, places I have known and loved all my life, I see change—in people, in places, in all kinds of expected and unexpected ways. Sabbath is a time to rest, reflect, ponder the past, dream about the future. Christians are called to Sabbath as a disciplined and regular dimension of life, for a day, a week, a season. This time should give us all a new perspective on changes as signs of God's activity among us. We give thanks and ask God for the wisdom, the patience, the courage to move forward.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

Grace Church School

In June, Charlie Iovino, Luanne Griffin and Bob Wood “retired” from the Grace School Board as their terms came to an end. We are very grateful for their many, many hours of support, service and dedication to the school. They were caring and concerned about our greatest assets—the children and faculty. We wish them well and thank them for the very important role they played in the life of our school.

I look forward to working with the new School Board Chair, Mike Hix, and the new School Board members, Walt Terry and Roxana Jordan in the coming school year. With our VAIS

Accreditation completed and behind us, we look ahead to new challenges.

All golfers in the parish please mark your calendars for Monday, October 29 for the 3rd Annual GES Golf Tournament. The golf tournament has a new venue this year—Mt. Vernon Country Club. All proceeds raised at the golf tournament will be used towards the new synthetic turf field on the soccer field. Please come out and support the school! For further information, please call Rich Smith 703-813-5740.

— *Chris Stegmaier Byrnes,
Head of School*

Get Ready for the Capital Campaign

Fellow parishioners, I have good news: Grace Church has all the money it needs to pay for a new organ, roof, and heating and air conditioning system. Most of it is just still in your pockets.

Getting those funds into the church's bank account instead is the goal of the Capital Campaign, which aims to raise \$1.2 million for a new organ, expanded choir loft, roof replacement and HVAC upgrade by the spring of 2008.

The campaign will be led by a steering committee, which was recently formed. Mary Hix and I are

serving as co-chairs. Suggestions for a name for the campaign are welcome.

The campaign will formally launch in January 2008. As is customary for such fundraising drives, the steering committee will solicit some pledges before that date, so do not be surprised if someone from the committee contacts you this year.

As most of you know, plans for the organ and expansion of the choir loft are moving ahead. Detailed drawings of the choir loft expansion, displayed recently in the church foyer, provide an exciting glimpse of the improvements

that are in store and that the campaign seeks to support.

The steering committee has decided to work with Patsy Bjorling, a development consultant employed by the diocese. Ms. Bjorling, whose services are free to Grace Church, has a tremendous amount of experience in working with parishes on capital campaigns and is an invaluable resource.

Please keep the Capital Campaign in your prayers!

— *Chris Rugaber*

Graceful Worship

More about Windows

The Nave windows present a history of the church remembered through people. They begin with St. Paul in the first window on the Epistle side (right side, facing the altar), and end on the Gospel side in the 20th century with Bishop Fabian of Trinidad.

The order of the windows is:

St. Paul – the first great Christian theologian

St. Athanasius (c.296-373) – we owe to him the doctrine of the Holy Trinity

St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo (354-430) – the architect of the catholic (universal) church

The Venerable Bede (673-735) – a careful scholar and early historian

St. Anselm (circa 1033-1109) – 36th Archbishop of Canterbury who fled England after siding with the Pope over the King (in error, this window appears before the next)

St. Dunstan (908-988) – Archbishop of Canterbury and patron saint of armorers, blacksmiths and musicians

St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) – recognized for his untainted holiness

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) – loved for his hymns reflecting the mystery of the Holy Sacrament

William Laud (1573-1645) – Archbishop of Canterbury and defender (to the death) of the Catholicity of the English Church

Samuel Seabury (1729-1796) – consecrated in 1784 in Scotland to

become the first bishop of the American Church

Edward Pusey (1800-1882) – leader of the “Oxford” or “Tractarian” movement

Fabian of Trinidad – visited Grace on September 11, 1949 and was the first bishop from outside our diocese to visit our church

The information here is a very condensed version of what is available in “Outward and Visible Signs.” Copies of this wonderful booklet are available on the credenza outside the church office.

— *Michelle Cox*

Grace Church Parishioners Sponsor "Roses"

Did you know that you could help transform a young girl's life — a girl who had zero chance of escaping abject poverty until Our Little Roses Home for Girls came along? Some Grace Church parishioners are doing just that — sponsoring girls so they can grow into women who are healthy in mind, body and spirit.

John and Anne Boris have been sponsoring Julia Ovieda since 1992 when she was seven years old. Now that she is 21 and has graduated from high school, she works as a secretary while taking computer classes at the university. Julia lives in a group house with other girls who are preparing to be on their own. The Boris's are still providing support for Julia to help with her college expenses.

Lana McGlynn sponsors Jocelyn Boquin who is 15 and in the seventh grade. English is her favorite subject. In fact, she thinks that grammar is "fun!" Jocelyn wants to go to college and continue studying English. She has been living at Our Little Roses "for a long time" and the best part of being there is "her sisters," as all of the girls think of themselves. Jocelyn loves MTV, soccer and pepperoni pizza.

When new girls arrive at the home, they may be dirty, thin, injured and afraid. With time, good food, rest and lots of love, however, they begin to develop into typical, happy children. These girls were once homeless and destitute, but with the gift of Our Little Roses, God, American churches and their individual sponsors, they can look forward to having joyful, productive lives. For more information about sponsoring a girl, please contact Joanne McDaniel 540-832-5141 or visit the website www.ourlittleroses.org.

— *Honduras Mission Committee*

Where are you called to serve?

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Every Episcopalian is, by definition, a missionary, because every Episcopalian is a member of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the formal name given to the Episcopal Church under its incorporation in 1821 (as stated in Canon 3:1). Even more important, we are missionaries because mission is inherent in the Christian life. The word *mission* stems from the Latin *missus*, meaning the "act of sending." Thus, when we say that the Church has a *mission*, we mean that individually and together, we are sent by God.

As missionaries, we are called to go forth in the name of Jesus Christ, to do God's work among God's beloved children. This call, which Jesus issues to us in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 – "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" – means that even when we are tempted to remain content in our own homes and parishes, we are asked to step outside our comfort zones.

Although we have sent mission teams to Honduras and New Orleans, many of you have expressed interest in learning about other mission work here and abroad. Opportunities are vast and include locations such as: the Appalachians; New York City; Navajoland; Manley Hot Springs, Alaska; African Team Ministries; Dominican Republic; Juba, Sudan; London; Rwanda Sunrise School; and Ukraine Orphanage. A complete listing of where other Virginia Episcopal churches are doing mission work is available on www.thediocese.net.

If you feel called to mission work, proposals for 2008 trips, including EYC trips, should be submitted to the Mission Trip Subcommittee by October 1. Applications are available on the Grace Church website or call Lana McGlynn 703-980-8546 or Deborah Crabtree 703-683-2955. Proposals are reviewed by this committee, and are then sent through the Outreach Committee to Vestry for approval. **Let us go forth in the name of Christ!**
Thanks be to God.

— *Deborah Crabtree*

Senior Shrine Mont 2007 Renewed by the Spirit: Come Empty, Leave Full

Are you looking for a way to cap off a busy summer of fun and excitement? Great! How about a relaxing weekend in the mountains of Orkney Springs, Virginia with your church friends? Then mark your calendars for September 7 – 9, 2007 and come to Shrine Mont.

Suppose you just want to sit in an old-fashioned Adirondack chair and read? What if you want to relax with friends, sipping a glass of wine? How about porch activities, a scavenger hunt, a relaxing massage, or an evening hike to the cross? Or you could be a part of the Assistant Rector's Environmentally Correct Frisbee Golf Tournament. What about spiritually renewing opportunities for worship, prayer, meditation and reflection? Can't wait to see the next installment of *Follies*? Then Shrine Mont is for you! Of course, since this weekend is about relaxation, you don't have to participate in every activity; you can do some, do one or just relax and enjoy.

Where could you have a weekend like this for so little – \$30 for kids 4 to 7; \$77 for the 8 to 12 year olds; and

\$144 for those 13 and up? Scholarships are available. Lodging, food, relaxation and fun all included. So what are you waiting for? Make your reservation now with Joyce Stancil and her team on Sunday mornings during coffee hour.

— Michael S. Jones, Senior Warden

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discovered is that this information is not completely up-to-date. To remedy this situation, Charlotte will be including a copy of the information she currently has on file for each of us along with our record of contributions for the period ending June 30, 2007. When you receive this data sheet, if your information needs to be corrected, please write in the correct information and return the data sheet to the church office. If all of your information is correct, please note that on your data sheet and return it to the office.

— Michael S. Jones, Senior Warden

The Shroud of Turin

On our recent trip to northern Italy, Ward and I visited Turin's massive sandstone Cathedral and were moved by the reverent and beautiful manner in which the Shroud of Turin is preserved and protected in a chapel near the main altar. Tradition says that the linen shroud is the burial cloth in which Joseph of Arimathea wrapped the body of Jesus before placing him in his tomb.

The shroud, which was last shown to the public in 2000 to celebrate the Christian Jubilee, is preserved in a glass-fronted chapel in a large, long, coffin-like container that is covered with a sumptuous red and gold cloth embroidered with symbols of the Passion of Christ. On top of the container is a starkly dramatic display of thorn branches. In general, the Cathedral is abuzz with tourists, but in this corner all is silent and reverent.

As I read the prayer that is posted, in several languages, on the railing of the chapel, I realized that the "truth" and "authenticity" of the shroud may not be paramount. Rather, the multi-lingual prayer perfectly expressed what is truly important:

"Oh God, our Father, the image on the shroud reminds us of the suffering inflicted on your son, Jesus, who took on Himself the sins of the world. Help us to see Him in every person so that we may serve Him and proclaim His love, and grant us the joy of contemplating the radiant face of Jesus, risen from the dead, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen."

(A detailed brochure of the shroud's history, including scientific tests and research is posted outside the church office.)

— Barbara Ward

July/August Birthdays

7/1	James Ammerman	7/19	Cleve Corlett	8/9	Erica McFarquhar
7/1	Mike Hix	7/19	Sara Zaza	8/9	Paul Miller
7/1	Leslie Stancil	7/20	Callan Henderson	8/9	Don Wills
7/1	Helen Sweeney	7/21	Molly Clarke	8/10	Victor Vassallo
7/2	William Baird	7/21	Pegge Crepeau	8/12	William Edgar
7/2	Sherryl Dodd	7/21	Chad Ridley	8/12	Fatima Flores
7/3	Billy Barr	7/22	Carl Eckel	8/12	Daniel Robinson
7/3	Rhea Barr	7/22	Karen Spencer	8/12	Piers Spencer
7/6	Alexandra Falcon	7/23	Vance Allen	8/13	Bill Cunningham
7/6	Winnifred Samuda	7/23	Pat Moore	8/13	Paul Winkel
7/7	Skye Whitlow	7/23	Tod Moore	8/13	Rebecca Woodcock
7/8	Mike Gentry	7/24	Chris Caputo	8/14	Liz Carter
7/8	Ricardo Sosa	7/24	Mike Jones	8/14	Barbara Poole
7/9	Robert Schultz	7/24	Page Moon	8/14	Jane Vessels
7/10	Will Barnes	7/25	Jean Reed	8/15	Marc Cooper
7/10	Mike McGough	7/26	Martha Mills	8/15	Bill Cummings
7/11	Chuck Barker	7/27	Chad Murchison	8/15	Cynthia Fors
7/12	Greg Hoppe	7/28	Jane Weaver	8/15	Kelsey Reeder
7/12	John Runkle	7/30	Melissa Hayduchok	8/15	Carl Seward
7/14	Susanna Cunningham	7/30	Emma Imphong	8/16	Rocky Gillette
7/14	Claire Eudy	7/30	Sally Schneider	8/16	Rosita Sosa
7/14	Javier Flores	7/31	Lois Graumann	8/17	Ana Hernandez
7/14	Mitchell Hazard	7/31	Sharon Hickok	8/17	Kara Houston
7/14	Jeanie Kaufman	7/31	Stephanie Reed	8/17	John Kendrick
7/14	Vincent Lim	8/1	Chris Schreiber	8/18	Mary Boulanger
7/15	Lina Dobbs	8/2	Taylor Beyreuther	8/18	Matthew Manley
7/15	Martha Hazard	8/2	Heather Hurley	8/19	William Scharnweber
7/15	Rikki Jarrett	8/2	Andrew Scharnweber	8/19	Savannah Soraghan
7/15	Clayton Manley	8/2	Wendell Thomas	8/20	Jose Trejo
7/15	Emily Olsson	8/2	Julia Zeigler	8/21	Aidan Smith
7/16	Karlene Kelly	8/3	Brooke Henry	8/21	Frank Waskowicz
7/16	Marian Knight	8/3	Joanne Peters	8/22	Charles Gardner
7/16	Chris Rugaber	8/4	Ralph Lewis	8/22	Virginia Griffin
7/17	Howell Medley	8/4	Deborah Miller	8/22	Kate Nider
7/17	Georganna Murto	8/5	Jennifer Day	8/22	Santos Trejo
7/18	Chrissie Crosby	8/5	Kim Griffin	8/23	Katherine Di Crocco
7/18	Owen Dowell	8/5	Michael Ramm	8/23	Keith Giacomo
7/18	Elliott Gabbert	8/5	Jan Spence	8/23	Susan Kays
7/18	Dorothy Gerber	8/6	Georgie Richardson	8/24	Heather Murphy
7/18	John Hall	8/6	Lisa Sprague	8/24	Chase Nelson
7/18	David Murphy	8/7	Margaret Bryant	8/25	David Hoppe
7/18	Thomas Pfeiffer	8/7	Mary-Jo Cooney	8/25	Francesca Revilla
7/18	Ruth Schrott	8/8	Diana Jarrett		
7/18	Catherine Warner	8/8	Robert Schrott		

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Parish Notes

Summer Choir

As we have done in past years, the regular choirs are given a much-needed rest from weekly rehearsals during the summer. But we still want to have music each Sunday – so if you’ve wanted to sing in a choir but didn’t want to commit to weekly rehearsals, the summer schedule is for you! Just gather in the St. Cecilia Room on the lower level at 9:00 am on any Sunday morning; we’ll put together a simple anthem to be sung at the 10:00 am service that day. If you miss a week, don’t worry – you can come back without fear of having missed a rehearsal! Please give some thought to joining the summer choir, which began on June 17th and continues through the summer schedule.

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8/25	Mary Savino
8/26	Sam Blunden
8/26	Andrew Smith
8/26	Colin Stancil
8/26	John Sweeney
8/27	Sophia Raymond
8/28	Emma Alvarenga
8/28	David Boris
8/28	Elizabeth McGlohn
8/29	Maggie Eckel
8/31	Sue Hayduchok
8/31	Kathleen Paige

Building Alarm Schedule

During the week, the building alarm is turned off by 8:00 am by the school sexton or by the parish administrator. The alarm is turned on at 10:00 pm by the church sexton. Please do not enter areas that are alarmed, including the church, when the alarm is on.

On Saturday the alarm is turned off by 9:00 am by the Altar Guild. It is turned on at 2:00 pm by the church sexton, unless other arrangements have been made, including confirmation of the change with the parish office.

On Sunday the alarm is turned off by 7:15 am by the clergy. It is turned on after the 5:00 pm service, unless other arrangements have been made, including confirmation of the change with the parish office.

A note is taped to the glass near the handle of the parish office door indicating the alarm is on, when it is on. Please check to see if this note is posted, and act accordingly.

The building burglar alarm is silent, but the monitoring service will notify the police, who will come. The building fire alarm emits the ringing of bells and causes the strobe lights to flash, as well as notifying the fire department, which will come. Please make inquiries as to this schedule or direct questions to the parish administrator. We anticipate changing the alarm code over the summer.

Parish Staff

Robert Malm	..... Rector (rector@gracealex.org)
Anne Michele Turner	..... Assistant Rector (assistant.rector@gracealex.org)
Fred Huntington	..... Priest Associate (priest.associate@gracealex.org)
Christine Byrnes	..... Head of School (office@graceschoolalex.org)
Thom Robertson	..... Director of Music (music.director@gracealex.org)
Ashley Metz	..... Children’s Ministries Coordinator (kids@gracealex.org)
Charlotte Payne Wright	..... Parish Administrator (parish.administrator@gracealex.org)
Beth Wiggers	..... Administrative Associate (office@gracealex.org)
Pedro Hernández	..... Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2007

Mary Hix	..... Exec. Comm. Member-at-Large
Mike Jones	..... Senior Warden
Vola Lawson	..... La Gracia
Chris Rugaber	..... Youth
Barbara Sherlock	..... Outreach

Class of 2008

Jo Belser	..... Register
Cindy Diehl	..... Pastoral Care
Jane Rosman	..... Worship
Richard Smith	..... TNT
Jan Spence	..... Junior Warden

Class of 2009

Khacki Berry	..... Evangelism
Anne Caputo	..... Fellowship
Linda Durand	..... Treasurer
Eleanor Reed	..... Education/School Board
Phil Smith	..... Stewardship

Alternates

Michelle Cox	..... Assistant Junior Warden
Nat Ames	..... Communications

Non-vestry Program Coordinators

June Huber	..... Communications
Donna Triplett	..... Education
John Berry	..... Evangelism
Ruth Corlett	..... Fellowship
Lucy-Lee Reed	..... La Gracia
Barbara Read	..... Outreach
Nancy Robinson	..... Pastoral Care
Howell Medley Stewardship
Jenny Wolff TNT
Jeff Gustafson Worship
David Crosby Youth

Grace Notes

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Bishop Johnston's Consecration as seen from the Choir

We arrived at the Cathedral at 7:15 am to find that the place was already hopping. Because we were so early, we found seats up front. I sat between a lady from Christ Church, Alexandria and a member of a special solo group from Falls Church.

There were 190 voices in the choir and when we sang it was glorious. From the choir stalls it was a taste of heaven. Our conductor was William Bradley Roberts, a personal friend of Shannon Johnston's and composer of one of the anthems: "May the Angels of God Watch Over You." The anthem was originally named "Shannon's Blessing" because it is a setting of the blessing Bishop Johnston uses regularly. It is a good piece and I hope we can sing it at Grace. Dr. Ray Glover was also there and conducted us in "Like As a Hart" by Herbert Howells. As it turns out our new bishop is a huge fan of Herbert Howells.

There were two highlights in the service for me. The first was when the new bishop – who will be our bishop for a long time, we hope – sang the Sursum Corda. The whole choir practically burst into cheers. He can sing! The second was Mr. James Martin, a baritone from St. Philip's Church in Jackson, MS. He sang the verses to "Taste and See" during the communion while we sang the chorus. He was so wonderful you could taste and see the goodness of the Lord when he sang.

On the whole it was a wonderful day of diversity and joy in coming together as a community of faith to celebrate the consecration of a new bishop on the feast day of Augustine of Canterbury.

— Lorna Worley

July/August 2007