

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

October 2007

Rector's Reflections

releasing our gifts...

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has written a new book about the Christian faith. His title, *Tokens of Trust*, emerges from his basic theological belief, we can trust God. We come to this truth first through the gift of life, of creation and, then, when we understand the promises of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The parish church is where we discover "God in company." Archbishop Williams writes,

"A well functioning Christian community is one in which everyone is working steadily to release the gifts of others."

I shared this quote at Shrine Mont as we concluded our parish weekend and considered this year's theme, "Come Empty, Leave Full." Shrine Mont is a wonderful celebration of our "release" of gifts. From the fellowship to the worship to the follies to the porch activities to the joy of the children, the weekend is one constant releasing of gifts. We give thanks for this year's coordinators, Mike and Halina Jones, and their hard working committee for sharing their gifts.

We will work steadily during the weeks ahead to release more gifts. Our Christian education classes have started. Soon our stewardship efforts will help us focus on raising our annual pledges to support a 2008 budget that will probably grow to over \$1 million. The capital campaign steering committee is planning for a January kick off (with a gala dinner on January 26, 2008) while doing the necessary planning and preliminary work. Foyers begin this month and provide a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and meeting new parishioners. Every Sunday (and on line) we advertise more than a dozen opportunities for mission, ministry and program.

Attending corporate worship is another way we "release gifts." With almost 1000 people on our rolls and more than 500 households on our local mailing list, we can expect 400 to 500 parishioners in church each Sunday. The 11:15 am and 5:00 pm Eucharists have increased in attendance. Other than at Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil/Day, you don't really need to worry about finding a seat (or a parking place) at Grace Church.

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855-2005

Worship Schedule

Sacer Notus

Silence

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1.....7:30 am
Child care.....8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristía.....9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 2.....9:00 am
Christian ed classes.....10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 1...11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2.....5:00 pm

Weekday Eucharist

Mondays, Rite 1.....6:30 pm
Tuesdays, Rite 2/healing...6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite 1.....7:00 am
Thursdays, Rite 2.....7:00 am
Fridays, Rite 1.....12:15 pm

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: October 15 for the November 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).

It was interesting that in the part of the J2A training which I attended the subject of silence emerged. A vaguely panicked hush fell on the sponsors in the room – teenagers? Silence? Most had experienced groups they could barely keep on a couch let alone get to be silent.

I put my priest hat on and volunteered that it had to be taught. It seems strange that you would have to teach something which on the surface is so simple – sitting still and shutting up – but you do have to teach it and you do have to learn and practice it.

In our hectic lives silence is not something which we come by very easily if at all – if we can find it, it gets shoved in between taking out the trash and walking the dog. And then there is more to the Spiritual practice of silence than just stopping – silence is actually starting something, it is creating a space, an opening for a dialogue with or an experience of God.

Anyone can learn silence, but be patient with yourself because it takes a while to learn to filter out the background noises and even the most experienced person will have days when the milk not being on the shopping list will keep coming back. But silence is worth learning, because once you become comfortable with it, once you break from the ceaseless motion which you thought had to be, the silence becomes not only external but internal – a deep place of God's dwelling.

Silence then, a quietness of soul, can become something which we carry with us even in the most noisy of places. And it all comes from a willingness to learn, a willingness to practice. Like an athlete building up from a few seconds, to a minute, to ten and perhaps longer. Breathing God in and out. There is no age limit, upper or lower, on finding God this way, and I hope that silence will appear in the lesson plans for our young people as well as, perhaps, in the life plans for some of us.

— *The Rev. Caroline A. Kramer, Assistant Rector*

Organ Update

Engineering and design work continues to be done on our new organ, and the builder tells us that we are still on schedule. As in many cases, most of the preliminary work is “behind the scenes” so there is little to see yet. But you can get a foretaste of what our new organ will be like by seeing a recently completed instrument by our builder, Michael Hart. He recently completed an instrument for the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda; they are having a series of events to dedicate the new instrument the weekend of October 19-21. There is a poster in the commons, and further information may be obtained from the parish website: www.redeemerbethesda.org. Everyone from Grace is invited to attend.

—*Thom Robertson, Director of Music*

Grace Notes ✧ October 2007

Treasurer's Report

It's Fall already and we are all back from summer vacation. At the end of the summer, our church finances are in good shape. Year to date cash receipts are greater than cash expenditures. Total cash receipts totaled \$623,043 and total expenses totaled \$580,310 resulting in a surplus of \$42,733 as of August 31st. We were able to meet all of our monetary obligations and have a surplus because many parishioners continued paying their pledges through the summer. Thank you to everyone for keeping current with your pledge payments during the summer and in the coming months as well.

Several people have inquired about donating stock to Grace Church. The church has an account with TD Ameritrade that we use for accepting stock donations. If you are interested in donating stock to the church, parish administrator, Charlotte Wright, has instructions detailing the procedures for a transfer. Please feel free to contact the parish office to talk to Charlotte. If anyone is interested in reviewing the monthly financial report that is given to the vestry, a copy of the report is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

In October, the vestry will begin the budget process for 2008. Program coordinators are working on their budget requests for next year. I just want to remind everyone working on the budget that the deadline for submitting information is October 12th. The budget will be refined during November and December.

— Linda Durand, Treasurer

Musical Notes

Choir Rehearsals Have Begun! It's not too late to join a choir and have the best seat in the house. Just contact Thom Robertson if you're ready to sing.

St. Nicholas Choir (grades 1-4) meets Wednesdays, 6:30-7:00 pm

Alleluia Singers (grade 5 – adult) meets Wednesdays, 7:15 – 8:45 pm

Schola Cantorum (grade 5 – adult) meets Thursdays, 8:15 – 9:45 pm

Handbell Choir (grade 5 – adult) meets Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

The **Grace Church Choral Society** will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, October 2nd. This group is open to all adults, including those outside the parish, who are willing to commit to six weeks of rehearsals to learn a major choral work. Rehearsals are each Tuesday in October (8:00 – 9:30 pm), and the fall performance of John Rutter's "Requiem" will take place on Friday, November 2nd in honor of All Souls' Day. Please contact Thom Robertson if you are interested in this short-term commitment to singing.

Choral Evensong will be presented in conjunction with the 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist on Sunday, October 28th. This ancient service, sung daily in the great cathedrals and

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From the Parish Register

Marriages

- Brittany Lauren Johnson and Chad Ryan Murchison
- Lauren Ashley Sherline and Thomas Christopher Papageorge
- Ruby Lee Chiu and Vincent Hsiang-Hao Lim

Transfers out

- Richard James Gleason to St. Timothy's Church, Herndon

Burials

- Mararet Frances Rogers Bryant
- Patricia Scott Illeszky
- Maxine S. Pickens

— Dorothy Daniel

Grace Anew!

At the first meeting of the full steering committee for the upcoming Capital Campaign, a bit of brainstorming led to the adoption of the official name for the campaign. In the hymn written by Carl Daw for the sesquicentennial celebration at Grace Church, consistent themes of hope, justice and newness weave through the lyrics. The phrase, "grace anew" is a part of the final stanza of the hymn. The image of the efforts of Grace parishioners to vision and make possible a new organ and renovations to the physical plant is well summed up in the phrase "Grace Anew!" While God's grace is changeless, we seek to make anew the physical space needed to respond to His grace.

—Mary Lewis Hix &
Chris Rugaber,
"Grace Anew" Co-chairs

Introducing Father John Wires

Rector's Reflections
(continued from page 1)

If you haven't met the tall, dark and distinguished gentleman in the clerical collar who is now part of our Sunday congregation – and Celebrant on Wednesday mornings – you will know more about him when he speaks about “The New Atheists” at the Adult Forum this fall. Father John Wires and his wife of 27 years, Karen, recently transferred to Grace from Good Shepherd. They have a 19-year-old daughter, Sarah, who is studying at George Mason. Father John grew up a cradle Episcopalian in Macon, Georgia. He earned his B.A. from Mercer University and his M.A. from Johns Hopkins, and studied for the priesthood at Virginia Theological Seminary. For 15 years he served as Chaplain at Episcopal High School,

received his Ph.D., and then went into private practice as a clinical psychologist. Karen, a speech pathologist, has joined his practice. It didn't surprise me that someone who has spent “all his life” in the sciences, and has also been a priest for 35 years, can offer some highly interesting conversation. In a brief half-hour we touched on Gnosticism, Saint Augustine and “Enemies of the Faith.” It was a bit hard to break away for lunch, and I look forward to both his Forum and additional conversations.

Our three Bishops have written good letters in this month's mailing from the Diocese, *Abundant Gifts*. Bishop Johnston makes a clear distinction between obligation and “response-ability.” Our financial pledges and gifts to the church, our volunteer time and talent, our attendance at corporate worship are not obligations. Hopefully all we do at and for Grace Church is our response to God, knowing all God has done for us. Our response is the work we do to release our gifts and the gifts of others.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

— *June Huber*

Grace Episcopal School News

On Sunday, October 14, Grace Episcopal School will observe Episcopal Schools Sunday with the parish at the 9:00 am service. The theme for the celebration this year is “Let Your Light Shine” which is drawn from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. This Gospel charge reminds us that each child of God is a gift filled with the shining light of God's love and grace. The students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will be singing “This Little Light of Mine” at the service that day. Please join us in the singing. After the service, there will be a forum in Merrow Hall Auditorium on the education at Grace.

A thumbnail sketch of our enrollment this year is: 112 students strong; 43% girls, 57% boys; 20% are parishioner students; 30% are new students; 12% diversity; 48% siblings; and 8% receive financial aid. The school employs 35 faculty/staff members. Our light is shining brightly over all of them!

The upcoming 3rd Annual Grace Cup Golf Tournament will be held at Mt. Vernon Country Club, a new venue, on Monday, October 29. The Parents Association is sponsoring this event. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to upgrade our soccer field to

synthetic turf to enrich our physical education facilities for the students and the parish. As the parents do each year, 10% of the proceeds are given back to a local charity. This year's recipient is The Women's Giving Circle of Alexandria (WGCA). I hope that many Grace Church golfers will join us for the tournament. If you are not a golfer but would like to join us, there are many volunteer opportunities available. For further information, please call Rich Smith—703-813-5740.

— *Chris Stegmaier Byrnes,
Head of School*

WHY???

From Property Committee and Capital Campaign Committee

As we plan for a Capital Campaign at Grace, the important question is “Why”? Why is a new organ needed? What are the problems with the HVAC system? What is wrong with the current roof? This article and another in November will address these appropriate questions.

The current organ, installed in 1960 and rebuilt in 1982, needs many repairs, some of which would require great expense. For example, several keys do not always work (often sticking “on” at the most inopportune moment) and the organist is required to change the key of some hymns so they can be played on the organ. One of the large bass pipes (to the right of

the stained-glass window) is suffering from metal fatigue, resulting in a decided lean to that pipe as it settles down upon itself. The rebuild of 1982 was done in a slipshod manner; many of the pipes added to the organ at that time were never properly voiced, and are inappropriate for the rest of the instrument. Lastly, much of the inner workings of the organ have reached the end of their normal life – to totally disassemble the organ and replace them would almost equal the cost of a new instrument. The console (the keyboards, pedals and stops) is rapidly becoming unreliable with various components simply no longer working.

The new organ is needed because of the instrument itself, and a benefit of its replacement will be to move the new pipes away from the beautiful stained glass window in the loft and open that space up so it can be appreciated. The enlarged gallery will allow room for more singers and instrumentalists (including, on occasion, tables for the handbell choir) and, because the new gallery railing will be more open, everyone on the floor of the nave will have a much better view of the window.

— Michelle Cox, Property Committee Chair

— Mary Lewis Hix, Capital Campaign Co-chair

Mission Work in New Orleans

One of the most memorable opportunities for our July 2007 mission trip to New Orleans was the chance to spend a day working on the Diocesan Mobile Respite Care Unit. This large RV, filled with a variety of cleaning supplies, toilet paper, chilled bottled water and snack foods, travels five days a week to various sites in the Lower Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

After driving for half-an-hour, we pull over in the parking lot of an abandoned strip mall. The store signs are in place and almost pristine, but the storefronts are a litter of broken

glass and looted interiors. As we open our doors, people of every sort and status begin to pull over. Older couples, young families, giggling teens, workers on a utility crew down the street, and single women with multiple children in tow make up our customer base. We greet them by shaking hands and giving them our name and hometown. We tell them we’re here because we want them to know we care and we’ve not forgotten their situation. After a while their faces blur together as sweat trickles down our backs and the sun beats down from directly overhead. One older man, who is working on a utility crew down

the street, stops for a cold bottle of water. We ask him where he was when Katrina hit, “On an oil rig in the Gulf,” he replies. He goes on to tell us his wife, who usually evacuates during hurricanes, elected to stay in their house this time. “We haven’t found her body yet,” he says. As we stand, suddenly silenced, a single tear courses a path through the dust on his face. Rich Kelly reaches out to put an arm around his shoulder and responds, “We may not know where her body is, but we know where she is, don’t we.” “Yessir, we do,” is the reply.

— Anne Caputo

October Birthdays

10/1	Pat Echols	10/8	Barry Joyner	10/18	Merrin Winkel
10/1	Maggie McQueen	10/8	Kiah Kramer	10/19	Beth Yancey
10/2	Martin Flores	10/8	Susan Merritt Nelsen	10/19	Mayra Zelaya-Gonzalez
10/2	James Malm	10/8	Virginia Robinson	10/20	Tricia Bamford
10/2	John McQuilkin	10/9	Thomas Dunn	10/20	Lydia Durand
10/3	Katherine Kramer	10/12	Puddy Blunden	10/20	Jim Stancil
10/3	Ward Morris	10/13	Barbara Sherlock	10/21	Lesley Kalan
10/3	Charlotte Terry	10/13	Travis Thompson	10/22	Jennifer Beyreuther
10/4	Margaret Carlson	10/14	Lucinda Bach	10/22	Jay Legere
10/4	Ruth Corlett	10/15	Christina Gabbert	10/22	Margaret Lukens
10/4	James Lockwood	10/15	Laura Laemmle- Weidenfeld	10/23	Wendy Cummings
10/5	Bill Burch	10/15	Lisa Medley	10/23	Jacqueline Klein
10/5	Harley Hughes	10/15	Charles Nelson	10/23	Ava Lee
10/5	Meaghan Jamberdino	10/16	Kevin Beyreuther	10/23	Rafaela Salgado De Reyes
10/5	Calum Kramer	10/16	Christine Cheevers	10/25	Michelle Anderson
10/6	Louisa Alford	10/16	Rachel Dady	10/25	Kim Frankena
10/6	Anne Berry	10/17	David Adams	10/25	Paul Rugaber
10/6	June Huber	10/17	Kirk Logie	10/26	Colin Rushing
10/6	Mary Johnson	10/17	Sophia Lund	10/27	Paul Hanley
10/6	Marshall Nelson	10/17	Christy Sweet	10/28	Sue Donelson
10/6	Ronald Peralta	10/17	Nicholas Winkel	10/28	Fred Huntington
10/6	Nicholas Smoot	10/18	Mimi Barnes	10/30	Teresa Payne
10/6	Fiona van der Sluis	10/18	George Lindroth	10/31	Barbara Blakistone
10/7	Walter Moore	10/18	Lana McGlynn	10/31	Campbell Spence
10/7	Wendy Murphy	10/18	Patrick Ruff		
10/8	Charlie Iovino				

Graceful Worship

Our Lectern

Can't write about our pulpit (last month) without balancing it with our lectern, can I? A lectern (from the Latin *lectus*, "to read") is a reading desk with a slanted top, usually placed on a stand or affixed to some other form of support, on which documents or books are placed as support for reading aloud, as in a Scripture reading, lecture, or sermon. A church lectern is the stand on which the Bible or Lectionary rests and from which the "lessons" are read during the service. Lessons may be read or

chanted by a priest, deacon or lay reader (lector). The lectern is set in front of the pews, so that the reader or speaker faces the congregation.

Lecterns are often made of wood, and sometimes from brass in the shape of an eagle. The latter symbolizes the word of God being spread world-wide. They may be either fixed in place or portable. Churches that have both a lectern and a pulpit will often have them on opposite sides of the sanctuary. Sometimes, the lectern will be placed

in the center of the "quire" (between the nave and the sanctuary, as in our church) or in the nave.

The lectern will usually be smaller than the pulpit, and both may be adorned with "antependia" in the color of the liturgical season. An antependium (Latin: "to hang before"), more commonly known as a hanging or frontal, is a decorative piece of material that hangs down in front of whatever it covers — an altar, lectern, pulpit, or table.

— June Huber

Parish Notes

Be a Grace-ful Walker

The City of Alexandria's 14th Annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer will take place on Saturday, October 20th. Participants may choose to walk or run 1.5K (.62 miles), 3.5K (1.86 miles) or 5K (3.1 miles). The Walk was initiated in 1994 by our parishioner, Vola Lawson, working with the Committee on Breast Cancer Awareness. Grace Church is a sponsor of this event and can register up to 5 participants on a complementary basis. If you would like to be one of our Grace-ful Walkers, contact June Huber at june.huber@gracealex.org or (703) 549-7213 as soon as possible

Art on the Avenue

Don't miss the best little street fair in Northern Virginia, Saturday, October 6, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Grace Church will again have its own booth, with balloons for kids, biscuits for dogs, and a small card about the next day's Blessing of the Animals at Grace. Stop by and say hello!

Blessing of the Animals

This year's blessing of the animals will be on Sunday, October 7, at 4 pm. Come and bring your bird, goldfish, iguana, dogs, cats, etc. This is a wonderful opportunity to bless our faithful companions as we are blessed every Sunday, and when can you enjoy such splendid confusion when we all get together! There will be treats for your pets as well as for humans so do join us!

October 2007 ✧ Grace Notes

Grace Church Library Update

Notice the new leaner look on the library shelves? During the summer we pared down the collection for the arrival of many new current and exciting arrivals in late Fall. In keeping with our policy of finding a "happy home" for books we do not need, we sent our weeded materials to a Lutheran church in Williamsburg. The books will become the core collection of a new congregational library. Thank you for your donations in the past, and they are always appreciated. When you leave them at the library desk, be sure to fill out a donation form so that we can be sure that it really is a donation. The forms are pinned at the top of the bulletin board above the desk. We are continuing to reconstruct the library catalog and holdings list after a computer crash. In the meantime, our monthly book circulation is increasing...keep up the good work. Enjoy!

— *Barbara Poole and Barbara Biebrich, Parish Librarians*

Musical Notes

(continued from page 3)

collegiate chapels in England, is one of the glories of our Anglican heritage. Why pay the cost of an airline ticket to England (plus the hassle of lost luggage!) when you can experience the same thing in the beauty of the nave of Grace Church? Please plan on joining the choirs as they present this service.

Parish Staff

Robert Malm Rector
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Pedro Hernández.....Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2007

Mary HixExec. 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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Shrine Mont 2007 – Some Closing Thoughts

Aside from a little heat, Shrine Mont 2007 offered a wonderful parish retreat weekend experience – with a few new activities and some old favorites. Many things stand out for us and make us smile when we remember: the sight of happy little faces making s'mores and singing songs around the bonfire, the buzz of activity around the numerous porch activities, the spiritually uplifting Eucharists and worship services, the opportunity for worship and fellowship with La Gracia, the quiet of the early morning, the relaxing back massage, social hour, ice cream, a sea of blue tee shirts, seeing the joy in the faces of those on the hayride, watching the look on Mother Kramer's face as Father Malm selected questions for her during *Conversation with the Clergy*, the fun of *Follies* and your reaction to our spoons and accordion duet, and the congregation singing Sunday's closing hymn, *Gracious God, you call your people*.

Most importantly, we want to thank everyone who attended and everyone who helped make Shrine Mont 2007 a success. While much work was involved in planning and putting on our parish weekend, *the yoke was easy and the burden was light*, because so many of you were willing to help in ways large and small.

Shrine Mont 2008 is in great hands, and we look forward to the leadership of Barry Barr and Jean Centers as your next Shrine Mont Coordinators. Congratulations to the Crabtrees, our 2009 coordinators. Great choice!

We hope that we can all remember to unburden ourselves of the things that weigh us down, so that we can be open to spiritual renewal, and the fullness of peace and joy; *Renewed by the Spirit: Come Empty, Leave Full*.

— Michael and Halina Jones, 2007
Shrine Mont Coordinators

October 2007