

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

November 2007

Rector's Reflections

Always be thankful

I first learned about Thanksgiving from my grandfathers. My father's father was an immigrant from Estonia. He had come to the United States in the late 1920's with his wife and infant son, my Dad. He settled in Brooklyn, NY and worked on the docks in Lower Manhattan. His wife died of cancer while my father was in college and my aunt was in high school. From 1956 to 1963 my family lived in New Jersey and during those years we would spend Thanksgiving Day with my Grandfather Malm in Brooklyn.

He lived on the top (4th) floor of a building most would call a "tenement." This was in exchange for serving as janitor and building manager, although he still worked on the docks. My sister and I thought he spoke with a very strange accent and he seemed a little "scary" to us. But he loved to cook us dinner on Thanksgiving and to remind us of how proud he was to be a U. S. citizen. "Always be thankful," he told us.

My mother's father was a cranberry grower in Massachusetts. His ancestors came from England in the mid 17th century. His family had lived in the same town for six generations. Normally we visited with my maternal grandparents at Christmas and for most of the summer. I thought my Grandfather Hiller was the most generous, easy going person alive. Since I was the oldest grandchild, and the only grandson, he doted on me and gave me a tremendous amount of attention. His love was total and unconditional. Every November a huge box would arrive at our home a week or so before Thanksgiving—fresh cranberries from Massachusetts.

I'm sure most of us older than six have powerful memories of those in our past who have shared God's love and joy with us. We come to November and to our celebrations of All Saints, Christ the King and Thanksgiving, reflecting on all those who have nurtured us in the past. We give thanks for this love and faithfulness. Thanksgiving is a constant in our life in Christ.

I give thanks for all of you who continue to teach me about Thanksgiving. May we share our thanksgivings with those who have not realized all the blessings of this life. May we live the words of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (5:18), "*Give thanks always.*"

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

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GOD'S
Grace
FOR ALL

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855-2005

Worship Schedule

Sacer Notus

Casting away the works of darkness

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1.....7:30 am
Child care.....8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristia.....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: November 15 for the December/January 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).

November 5th is Fireworks Day— at least where I come from. Bonfires, fireworks, jacket potatoes, and parkin—all with the smell of fallen leaves and wet soil. As a small child the fireworks were in our garden with my Dad yelling at my hyperactive brother to stay out of the way – the language got more flowery as the box got emptier and the bangs got bigger.

Whilst I am touting this date for fireworks please consider—first of all it gets dark very early in November, before dinner time if I remember rightly. So there is no waiting around until nine or ten o'clock at night to see the flashes. Secondly it is cold. You get to wear lots of clothes so as to not get bitten by a single bug; plus, you have a really good excuse for cooking an enormous pot of Cocoa when you get back into the house.

I guess the thing I miss about not having Firework Day (or Guy Fawkes Night) is that it always gave me that feeling of settling down into winter. After the bangs of the fireworks everything went back to normal, the Church stayed in green for those slow last weeks of (as it was then) Trinity. Then Advent came along, announced with music and singing and a new color which delighted my eye in worship – purple has always been my favorite. It is the prettiest and most demanding of the liturgical colors because in its seasons, Lent and Advent, we are asked to pause and pay attention.

In a world of partying and gifts and the seven week holiday season (and I have no doubt British retailers envy the extra holiday) to “pause and pay attention” is hard enough. Truly casting away the works of darkness and seeking out the armor of light can seem almost impossible. We are called to try – to find a space in all the bustle to keep Advent.

Perhaps Thanksgiving is a good place to start to get ready for Advent. No fireworks, but nevertheless an announcement that it is the end of Fall. So that with gratitude for the Church year which has passed and the beginning of the new, we may pledge ourselves again to God, who is our all in all and that we may, indeed prepare a dwelling place for Him who is to come.

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

“Why is the “Grace Anew” campaign needed at Grace Church?” Part 2

Grace has many HVAC systems throughout the building, some dating back to 1948, and several have been in need of renovation for a very long time. An Energy Audit, conducted in Fall 2006, concludes that Grace is 53% less efficient in energy use than the average church of comparable size. A few of the obvious problems are: heating in the school is very difficult to control and rooms get so hot and dry that children and staff experience health problems, disruptive noise in the nave occurs when the HVAC system turns on and off, and staff offices are often so cold in the winter that even space heaters do not make the workspaces comfortable. There are a number of “hidden” issues that also must be dealt with as we responsibly care for our church building. Consultants tell us that the boiler and domestic water service need to be replaced. Other parts while still serviceable are inefficient.

We currently experience consistent roof leaks in four places throughout the building. The far back corner of the auditorium near the stage, the tower area over the St Luke room, the area across from the elevator outside the auditorium and the area over the Chancel all require immediate repair. Additionally, the entire Merrow Hall Auditorium roof must be replaced. Following this first phase of repairs, further roof maintenance will be needed in 2009.

So the answer to “why the “Grace Anew” campaign” is the following: Repairs to the HVAC systems are needed for the health and comfort of church and school occupants. Roof repairs are a basic fulfillment of our stewardship responsibilities to our church home, passed to us by those who have come before and promised to those who will carry Christ’s love into decades beyond. The organ will allow the parish to continue to worship God with all our hearts and minds.

— Michelle Cox, *Property Committee Chair*

— Mary Lewis Hix, *Capital Campaign Co-chair*

Musical Notes

Requiem on November 2

The Grace Church Choral Society will present *Requiem* by John Rutter on Friday, November 2, at 8:00 pm. This is in honor of All Souls’ Day. This 20th-century choral work has quickly become a classic in the repertoire. Plan to hear this work as we honor our loved ones.

Lessons and Carols on December 2

The Grace Church choirs will present their second annual *Advent Procession with Lessons and Carols* on Sunday, December 2, at 6:00 pm. Similar to the more familiar *Lessons and Carols* for Christmas, this service includes music and readings appropriate for Advent. The progression of the choir, starting in the dimness of the narthex and ending in brilliant light at the high altar, symbolizes the movement from the prophetic expectation of the Messiah to the very brink of messianic fulfillment, both in the birth of the Son of God and His final coming in judgment and glory. At times during the performance the choirs will surround you as they sing. Don’t miss this opportunity to support those choristers who give their time every week to help lead our worship.

— Thom Robertson, *Director of Music*

From the

Parish Register

Baptisms

- Nicholas William Gentry and Nora Katherine Gentry, children of Michael and Ramee Gentry

Marriages

- William Michael Hix, Jr., and Samantha Jo Gross
- Ronard Bautista Peralta and Kara Michele Houston

Transfers in

- Michael McGough from All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church, Washington, DC

Burials

- David Worley, brother of Lorna Worley

— Dorothy Daniel

Going to Church with the Roses

On Sundays the girls who live at Our Little Roses go to the Episcopal Cathedral “El Buen Pastor” in San Pedro Sula. The church is a modern structure with tall clear windows and a very beautiful carved and painted Christus Rex hanging behind the altar. The girls arrive in their yellow school bus with clean faces and shiny brushed hair. They sit in the pews, fidgeting like children everywhere, in small groups or with missionaries that they are already beginning to know and like. Nick Robinson was especially popular—surrounded by a group of seven and eight year old cuties who vied to sit next to him.

It is quite interesting that, despite the language and cultural differences, there is little difference in the format of the service from what we know at Grace and we Anglos were able to follow along even if we didn’t speak Spanish. One of the main differences in Honduras is that the hymns are not like ours at Grace. Many of them have a faster Latin beat and are accompanied by a piano and sometimes a tambourine. My favorite part of the service is the Peace which must take about ten minutes to complete. At the same time that hymns are being sung as loud as possible, half of the congregation is

walking around the sanctuary hugging others and shaking hands. The whirl of people and the noisy echos of the singing turn this experience into a cacophonous joy given up to God.

After the service we all filed out, past a lovely porcelain Baptismal font painted with flowers, and into the bright sunshine. Juice and cookies were served as people stood and chatted before the girls got back on the school bus to return home, and our group of missionaries headed out to brunch.

— Barbara Read

Graceful Worship

Ember and Rogation Days

Under Days of Optional Observance, the BCP lists Ember Days and Rogation Days on page 18. These occasions afford us a special opportunity to recognize the wondrous cycle of nature and the even more wondrous story of our redemption.

Ember Days, derived from the Latin *quatuor temporum*, meaning “the four seasons,” are four separate three-day sets within the same week, specifically Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Each three-day set, or “Embertide,” roughly corresponds to the natural seasons of the year. Autumn brings the Michaelmas Embertide; winter the Advent Embertide; spring the Lenten Embertide; and summer the Pentecost Embertide. These periods of prayer

and fasting originate from the Old Testament prescription of a “fast of the fourth, fifth, seventh, and tenth months” (Zechariah 8:19). Early Christians maintained this observance but altered the Jewish custom of fasting on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Wednesdays (the day that Christ was betrayed) and Fridays (the day that He was slain). Later, the Roman Church added Saturdays to culminate each Ember Week.

Rogation Days are the three days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) immediately before Ascension Thursday. “Rogation” comes from the Latin *rogare*, meaning “to ask,” and was applied because the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday included the passage “Ask and ye shall receive” (John 16:24). Rogation

Days were initiated in 470 by Bishop Mamertus of Vienne in response to a terrifying series of natural calamities. The practice spread through France and Germany, and was eventually incorporated into the Roman Rite. The faithful observed these days by prayer and fasting in preparation to celebrate the Ascension, and farmers often had their crops blessed by a priest at this time. A common feature of Rogation Days in former times was the ceremony of “beating the bounds,” in which a procession of parishioners, led by the minister, churchwarden, and choirboys, would proceed around the boundary of their parish and pray for its protection in the forthcoming year.

— June Huber

Gracious Reminders

1621. 1789. 1863. 1941. In American history, Thanksgiving is linked to four dates. In 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated a three-day feast commemorating their harvest. Persistent prayer and assistance from the Indians brought the Pilgrims a crop that would ensure their survival. After a harsh winter where many died, this first Thanksgiving Festival was a celebration of bounty, a time of showing gratitude to those responsible. Pilgrim Edward Winslow ascribed credit to God when he wrote “By the goodness of God, we are far from want.” In 1789, President George Washington issued a proclamation establishing the first Day of Thanksgiving to God under the new constitution. Washington’s

proclamation expressed gratitude to God for the formation of the United States:

“That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks—for His kind care and protection of the People of this country previous to their becoming a Nation...”

1863 was memorable in Abraham Lincoln’s presidency. In July of that year, 60,000 men were lost at the Battle of Gettysburg. Walking among the graves at Gettysburg moved Lincoln to commit himself to Christ. Lincoln acknowledged the importance of setting aside a day to remember and thank God:

“We have forgotten the gracious hand which

preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.”

Thanksgiving became a permanent holiday in 1941 when President Roosevelt signed into law its observance on the fourth Thursday of November. Our Thanksgiving history is linked to people who remembered that grace comes from God. The celebrations, proclamations, and eventual holiday were intended to mark that grace and remind citizens to be thankful for it.

— *Asby Rushing*

College Care Packages

Brownies, popcorn and other munchies, cards from friends—these can help students and loved ones far away cope with homesickness or end-of-semester stress. We will be assembling care packages to send to our Grace Church college and prep school students and military members at the November 25 coffee hour. We would love to have your help! You may either bring your contributions with you that day or drop them off a week ahead of time. To assist us with coordination, please let us know in advance what you will be bringing by emailing Nancy Robinson, Pastoral Care Coordinator, at

nancy.robinson@gracealex.org. If you don’t have time to help fill boxes, please stop by and sign one or more of the cards. Last, if you have a student away at college, boarding school, or a loved one deployed with the military, it’s not too late to give their name, address and e-mail to me or Beth Wiggers, Administrative Associate, at beth.wiggers@gracealex.org to ensure they get a package. Thank you!

— *Nancy Robinson*

UTO Ingathering

Sunday, November 18, is the date of the United Thank Offering (UTO) ingathering. Consult your hearts and count your blessings; then count your bills and coins. Are you truly satisfied that they represent your thankfulness? Blue boxes and envelopes are available for your use. Please be generous; the need is great in all the world, and we are our brothers’ keepers.

— *Georgiana Greeley*

November Birthdays

11/1	Laura Bellantoni	11/10	Alexis Wood	11/19	Corinne Solsby
11/1	Kathie Burgess	11/11	Amanda Fowler	11/20	Andrew Alford
11/1	Sarah Low	11/11	Philip Hall	11/20	Benjamin Henderson
11/1	Michael Plunkett	11/11	Linda Huntington	11/21	Malcolm Eckel
11/3	Katherine Kramer	11/11	Andrew Scharnweber	11/22	Jerry May
11/3	Stuart Latta	11/12	Kathleen Burch	11/23	Olivia Lawton
11/3	Caroline Sweet	11/12	Maxine Meeks	11/24	Holly Bray
11/3	Alex Willson	11/12	Anne Zuidema	11/24	Ola Legg
11/4	Bob Blunden	11/14	Cindy Young	11/24	Elly Vogtmann
11/4	Bette Yancey	11/15	Ashley Alvarenga	11/25	Blanca Flores
11/5	Martha Grenfell	11/15	Derin Baird	11/25	Christina Iovino
11/6	Walter Davis	11/15	Jennifer Eckel	11/25	Ben Joyner
11/6	Judy Micklish	11/15	Thomas Howard	11/25	Jim Rubin
11/6	Jennifer Pease	11/15	Jeff McQuilkin	11/25	Katie Zeigler
11/6	Ray Peters	11/16	Christopher Hayden	11/26	Lisle Bean
11/7	Amy Barron	11/16	Stephanie McCartney	11/26	Stephen Boris
11/7	Grace Gnorski	11/16	Douglas Prince	11/28	Joe Reeder
11/7	Mia Howard	11/17	Denise Bean	11/28	Anna Sherlock
11/8	Kate Jerde	11/17	Mary Helen Fuller	11/29	Joy Lamb
11/8	Michael Richey	11/17	Joanne Lukens	11/29	Marilyn Sosa
11/8	Daniel Sherlock	11/17	Richard Thompson	11/30	Davey Centers
11/8	Barbara Simmons	11/18	Mickey Craven	11/30	Julie Cizek
11/9	Elsie Gruver	11/18	Nick King	11/30	Liz Imphong
11/9	Lieu Hazelwood	11/19	Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly	11/30	Cindy Long
11/9	Dabney Holloway	11/19	Andrea Baumann	11/30	Christa Warner
11/10	Patricia Ridgely	11/19	Joyce Gillum		

Parishioner News regarding Applications for Grace School for 2008/2009!

Founded in 1959, Grace Episcopal School provides an academically challenging and developmentally appropriate education for boys and girls age 3 through the Fifth Grade – all in a nurturing and enriching environment. Our strong academic program emphasizes the critical tools of learning: reading, writing, and mathematics. The curriculum is also varied: rich in music, literature, art, history, religion, science and physical

education. Spiritual development and moral values, plus service to others, are emphasized both within the school community and beyond.

Our low student-teacher ratios permit individual attention to each child and provide the faculty with the freedom to inspire students to reach their maximum potential. Before and after-school care, as well as financial aid, are available.

Grace Episcopal Church parishioners receive a 15% tuition discount for their children. Please note that our application deadline is February 1, 2008. For further information, or to schedule a school tour, please call Debra Busker in the Admissions Office at 703-549-5067.

— Debra Busker, Director of Admissions

We Need Your Flower Donations!

It's time for Christmas Flower and Greens donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decorations. If you wish to contribute to the Christmas decoration fund, please fill out the form below and enclose a donation of \$35. These forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note 'Christmas Flower Fund' on the check memo line. The deadline for notices to be included in the Christmas Flower Bulletin is Monday, December 10. Questions? Call Liz Saalfeld, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 703-425-8129. Please print the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Christmas bulletin and circle one:

“In memory of” or “In thanksgiving for”

Given by (enter the name or names of the donors exactly as you want them to appear):

Parish Staff

Robert Malm Rector
(rector@gracealex.org)
Caroline A. Kramer 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
(parish.office@gracealex.org)
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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Pledge Sunday and Fall Festival!

Pledge Sunday

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance; so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work.

—II Corinthians 9:8

November 4th is pledge Sunday.

The annual pledge drive is in full swing. Our pledges to Grace Church allow the vestry to budget for the upcoming year. Pledging is more than just a financial commitment; it is a tangible way for us to show our support for Grace Church and all that we accomplish as a parish.

Our pledges support the parish ministries of worship, fellowship, discipleship, healing and outreach. This is our chance to give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving—and to celebrate all that we have been given.

By now you should have received a pledge card and return envelope in the mail. As you consider how to complete the card, be grateful for the abundance that God provides you and respond to His blessings with an abundant pledge to God and to Grace Church.

Pledge cards will be collected beginning Sunday, November 4, at all services.

Fall Festival on November 3!

The Stewardship and Fellowship committees are pleased to host an all-parish Fall Festival. Ham, biscuits and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Don't miss this great chance for fun and fellowship!

Grace Church Fall Festival

November 3

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Merrow Hall Auditorium

— *Phil Smith and Howell Medley*

November 2007