

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

March 2008

Rector's Reflections

## Leave the Ordinary Behind

By 11:00 am I had finished reading the Sunday Washington Post. It was a very unusual Sunday morning some weeks ago when I had extreme laryngitis and illness (a couple of days later diagnosed as bronchitis) forcing me to spend all of the day and much of the week following at home trying to rest and recover. I can only remember one other time I missed a Sunday morning because of illness (in the mid 1980s in New Hampshire with strep throat).

Illness disrupts our ordinary routine. We lose control. We have to deal with pain, discomfort and concerns about those around us (who minister to us, whom we don't want to infect with our germs). There can be isolation and a debilitating sense of dependency. It can be difficult to find God's grace and love in the midst of illness.

It was a wonderful blessing for me to be well enough to be at the Eucharists on Monday night and Wednesday morning with their distinctive Lenten themes. In an ordinary week, I would not have felt the same. I enjoyed the quiet and time for reading, almost like a retreat. And it was affirming to receive a "get well card" from our pastoral care card writers and to have so many say to me, "I hope you're feeling better." I never felt distant from our parish community.

The Church uses the term "ordinary" in some definite ways. There is "ordinary" time - the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost - when we think of the ministry of Jesus rather than the specific seasons focusing upon the Incarnation, Passion and Resurrection. The "ordinary" of the Eucharist are those parts of the liturgy that remain constant week in and week out in contrast to the propers (collects, readings, etc.) that change. Lastly, we can refer to the "ordinary" as an ecclesiastic exercising defined authority (a Bishop, Abbot, Archdeacon). You might think of me as the "Ordinary" of Grace Church and Russell Road!

Lent offers us movement out of ordinary time. Holy Week is really an even more extra-ordinary commemoration that links us every year to what Jesus Christ experienced "once and for all."

I hope you are already scheduling your plans for Holy Week and Easter. Of course, we are looking forward to having Bishop Johnston with us for the first time (and his first Easter in Virginia). How we understand the mystery of our faith in the risen Christ is based upon our experience. The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter invite us to leave the ordinary behind.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1855-2005

# Worship Schedule

Sacer Notus

## Life is Busy

### 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  
(during Lent 6:30 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Next Grace Notes deadline: March 15 for the April issue. Articles may be placed in the Grace Notes folder in the credenza in the Commons, submitted by e-mail ([grace.notes@gracealex.org](mailto: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).

Life is busy, frighteningly busy and in our faces. We rush and run but then something happens. It can be something as small as a few inches of snow or something as catastrophic as a death. It can be something as out of our control as a power cut or something as in control as a change of heart – but suddenly the world gets quieter and we can hear our own heart beat again.

I imagine that those first disciples could hear their heartbeats as they walked away from the cross. I imagine they felt every step as both painful and numb. I imagine they were in that strange time between time which we experience when our usually head over heels world comes screeching to a halt.

They experienced a desolation which took them to a place where they would never have placed themselves even a few days earlier. I imagine them wrapping arms tight around themselves and perhaps around each other, unsure and afraid, bewildered and suddenly alone.

This sense of bereavement and loss is not one which sits happily with our 24/7 culture of entertainment and merriment. But loss is a process which is common to all humanity – it is something which we all experience, the only alternative to bereavement is total isolation from everyone else, and that in itself is a maddening grief which most do not wish to bear.

Holy Week and Easter reach out to us on so many levels – the crowning glory of the resurrection sings praise and glory – we are saved. Christ is risen. But before that, those quiet huddled figures making their way back to rooms and inns, utterly saddened, torn through with the deepest grief, remind us that our real humanity is where God reaches in to us.

If we allow our humanity in all its messiness and lay all of who we are at the foot of the cross, then we open ourselves up to the true fullness of the risen Christ. Poured out in grief, we are raised up in resurrection glory. If we rush past the cross pretending it is something to do with other people then we are running away. If we allow the quietness, if we listen, we will hear our heartbeat, and if we listen again, we will hear the breath of the risen Lord in the garden, calling our name, quietly entering into all our being.

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

# Treasurer's Report

At the Annual Meeting in January 2008, I briefly discussed the income received for the Organ Fund/Grace Anew and the expenditures through December 31, 2007. I want to list that information again in the Treasurer's Report so everyone will be able to have the information. Every quarter between now and the end of the work being funded by the capital campaign, I will provide a financial update. Listed below is a summary of the cash receipts and cash expenses from 2005 when the first contributions were received to the Organ Fund through December 31, 2007:

## Income:

Contributions – 2005 & 2006	\$40,510
Contributions – 2007	<u>152,724</u>

Total Cash Contributions received as of 12/31/07	193,234
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## Expenditures:

Payments to various contractors working on the organ	64,675
Architectural Fees	39,912
Acoustical Consultant	900
Legal fees and loan fees associated with BB&T loan	1,273
Administration salaries	420
Misc. expenses	<u>1,050</u>

Total Cash Expenditures as of 12/31/07	<u>108,230</u>
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Net Cash as of 12/31/07	<u>\$85,004</u>
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Several people have asked about making donations of stock to the church in payment of their annual pledge or their pledge to Grace Anew. Our Parish Administrator, Charlotte Wright, can provide information about transferring stock to the church through its account with TD Ameritrade. Please tell Charlotte if your stock donation is for your annual pledge or your Grace Anew pledge so we can credit your pledges correctly. Church Office: 703-549-1980

— Linda Durand, Treasurer

From the

# Parish Register

## Baptisms

- Jenna Lynn Payne, daughter of Tom and Teresa Payne, granddaughter of Al and Janet Baker
- Geovanny Joe Portillo, son of Elmer Portillo and Betsy Bamford, grandson of Tricia Bamford, great grandson of Joy Lamb

— Dorothy Daniel

# Annual Golf Outing April 28th

Each April golfers from Grace Church gather to celebrate a "Spring Fling" with an 18- and 36-hole tournament on the last Monday in April. Once again Tantallon Country Club in Fort Washington, Maryland will be our venue. A Captains' Choice tournament will begin at 12:30 pm. For those marathon golfers, an early round, best ball tournament will begin at 7:30 am. Fees for the day are \$125 for the 18-hole tournament and \$150 for 36 holes. All proceeds will go to the Grace Anew Fund. Prizes are awarded. All are invited. Bring a friend. Watch for sign-up sheets in early April.

— Bob Malm

# Meet Father Yohana

I am called Yohana, 35 years old and married to Sabina. We have a daughter, Joan Catherine, who is 2 years old. I am originally from Tanzania and am now enrolled at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) for the two-year Master in Theological Studies (MTS) program. During the remaining one and a half years of my studies, Grace Church will be my host parish.

After completing secondary education in 1993 (schools in Tanzania follow the British system), I was accepted to join the ministry and, after three years of study, earned a Diploma in Theology from St. Marks Theological College in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

In 2004 I attained a Degree of Theology from St. Paul's University in Kenya. I became a priest in 1999.

My most recent posting before coming to Grace was to the Saint Thomas Parish in Yombo, Tanzania (about 10 miles from Dar-es-Salaam city center), where I ministered for two years. My ministry included catering to spiritual needs, upgrading the parish's economy, improving the environment of the parish, and overseeing the Mother's Union, which works to empower young and old women in the Church. By the help of God we were able to raise the income of the parish by 100%, increase the number of parishioners, and renovate

the roof and the vicarage. By the hand of God we nearly completed the parish hall (it now only needs final touches), started a choir and made significant headway on erecting a fence around the entire parish (in Tanzania most of the churches and houses are fenced for privacy and security).

In bringing my East African perspective into your ministry, it is my prayer that we can continue building the body of Christ together.

— *Father Yohana Elias Mtokambali*

## Parishioners without Borders: PTSD in New Orleans

Here are a few memories from Grace Church's New Orleans mission team last summer: living and eating together, teens and adults, listening to each other's stories of the day. Covered in sweat, grime, paint and grins from a hard day's labor, we – "aid workers" and Christians – witness a different kind of conflict and an entire population suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Three miles away from the thriving French Quarter, the devastation of the Lower Ninth Ward and St. Bernard's parish are as grim as Bosnia, Beirut, or Baghdad. We share these memories of people we met:

With the Mobile Respite Unit, we passed out supplies and listened to the stories of residents of St. Bernard's Parish in a ruined shopping center where floodwaters stood 28 feet deep. Sharing dinner with homeless clients at St. George's Dragon Café, we listened to how hopeless they feel. At the Sunday Eucharist at Grace Canal Street we talked with one woman who had spent more than a year trying to rebuild her life. Sadly, she told us, "I can't take it anymore; I'm moving to Seattle." We were deeply moved by the gratitude of Miss Sadie, an elderly black woman, who thanked us as we helped to put the finishing touches on her rebuilt house.

Mother Debbie Scalia told us that even those whose homes sustained no physical damage were still suffering psychologically. Fr. Walter Baer of Grace Canal Street, joking but serious, told us "We all have PTSD."

Fr. Bill Terry of St. Anna's, which has weekly Eucharist and supper for the homeless, told us succinctly, "Your greatest mission work is just being here, to let us know we're not forgotten, and then witnessing back home to our struggle."

We're going back in July; would you like to join us?

— *Nancy Robinson*

# The Nave Needlepoint Project

In 2005 Grace Church launched an exciting long-term project to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the parish and to provide a lasting legacy for future generations of Grace Church parishioners. The project will replace all of the old “leather” kneeler covers with needlepoint. At this time nineteen kneelers have been completed, installed and dedicated as memorials and stitching is in progress on thirty additional kneelers. We expect at least two more to be in place this Spring 2008.

Eighty-three kneelers in the Nave will be covered. Sixty-five of those have already been chosen by memorial donors, and only eighteen remain available. Memorial donors have the unique opportunity to honor loved ones in memory or thanksgiving and

to have their commemorations included in the Memorial Kneeler Book on display in the Narthex. A donor may stitch the kneeler or we will find someone to stitch it.

There is also a wonderful opportunity for those who would like to stitch one or more of the kneelers. If you are an experienced needlepointer or would like to learn, we will supply everything you need to complete a kneeler.

For more information about the project including the costs to dedicate a memorial kneeler or for a kit to stitch a kneeler, pick up a brochure in the Narthex or on the credenza outside the office and/or call Connie Troyer 703 548-8249.

— *Connie Troyer*

# Summer Camp at Shrine Mont

For those of you who are new to the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia or new to the Episcopal Church, one of our treasures is St. George’s Camp at Shrine Mont in the Shenandoah Valley. Our youngest began as a camper at age eight and went to every year’s session until she was ineligible. At that point, Kristin became a counselor, ending her college years as the program director. Now her son, who is from another diocese, attends along with two of our local grandchildren. To further illustrate the magnetism of St. George’s, when we drop off or pick

up grandchildren, we encounter numerous former campers of Kristin’s as current directors – 22 years later.

If you are interested in learning about St. George’s and the other camps at Shrine Mont, there are brochures available on the credenza outside the church office. You can also go to <http://camps.thediocese.net>, or contact me ([linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org](mailto:linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org)). It is important to remember that scholarships are available and there is a discount for siblings. The earlier one applies the better.

— *Linda Waskowicz*

# The Rector’s Cross, 2008

At this year’s Annual Meeting, the Rector announced that he had selected Chuck and Becky Barker as the recipients of this year’s Rector’s Cross — the award given annually for significant service to the parish. Presentation of the award occurred on the same day that copies of Chuck’s book, *A History of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia* were made available to the parish. Because of the book, most of Chuck and Becky’s children and grandchildren were in attendance. They had no inkling of the Rector’s intent beforehand. It was only after Chuck was introduced as the author of the history, and as his family joined him in the front of the auditorium, that the Rector made his surprise announcement regarding the Rector’s Cross.

Fr. Malm talked about the book — but much more regarding Chuck and Becky’s service at Grace Church dating back to 1959 when they first arrived in No. Virginia. Fr. Malm cited their many years of supporting the choir, their involvement in numerous musical venues such as the Gilbert and Sullivan shows, Chuck’s time as Senior Warden, his leadership of the Search Committee for a new rector following Fr. Merrow’s death, Becky’s membership in the Altar Guild, and their constant willingness to be a part of numerous other parish-wide efforts. Sarah, Josh and John were present with their families making it a very special occasion.

— *Frank Waskowicz*

# Getting to Know Bishop Johnston

Our Celebrant at the Easter Vigil is the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, elected and consecrated last year as the Bishop Coadjutor of Virginia. As such, he will succeed Bishop Peter J. Lee when Bishop Lee retires, which under church canons he must do no later than May, 2010. This will be Bishop Johnston's first official visit to Grace.

A native of Florence, Alabama, Bishop Johnston was born on October 20, 1958. After attending public schools in Florence, he attended The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, being

elected to Phi Beta Kappa and graduating *magna cum laude* in 1981. He holds degrees in both philosophy and music. In 1985 Bishop Johnston entered Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, where he received his M.Div. degree *summa cum laude* in 1988, graduating first in his class.

Bishop Johnston was ordained to the diaconate on June 11, 1988 and to the priesthood on December 14, 1988. He served as curate of St. Paul's Church, Selma, Alabama, before accepting a call in 1990 to

become rector of Church of the Advent in Sumner, Mississippi. In 1994, Bishop Johnston accepted the call to serve as rector of All Saints' Church in Tupelo, Mississippi, where he served until his election as bishop. Under his leadership, All Saints became noted for its profound healing as a congregation and for its remarkable growth, as it became a strong presence in outreach ministries (receiving national recognition for HIV/AIDS ministries) and in leadership for the Diocese of Mississippi.

— Cleve Corlett

## Agapé Celebration Follows Easter Vigil

All are invited to the *Agape* celebration in Merrow Hall Auditorium immediately following the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 22, in celebration and thanksgiving for those newly baptized, received and confirmed. It is our very special privilege to welcome The Right Reverend Shannon Sherwood Johnston. Our feast of love and fellowship will provide an opportunity to show Bishop Johnston our appreciation and support for his service and leadership. There will be sign up posters around the church to bring finger-foods and to help set up, serve and/or cleanup. All ages are welcome. Childcare will not be provided.

— Margaret Will

## Special Music During Holy Week

Special music will be one of the elements of several services during Holy Week. On the Wednesday of that week, both choirs will present Choral Tenebrae at 7:30 pm. This service will include the chanting of psalms, the readings from Lamentations, and three anthems – all highlighting the solemn nature of Holy Week.

On Thursday evening, the Schola Cantorum will sing at the Maundy Thursday evening service; the anthem will be Maurice Duruflé's setting of the plainsong "Ubi caritas".

On Easter Eve, both choirs will be joined by a brass quintet as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

— Thom Robertson, Director of Music

# Schedule for Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter 2008

## Palm Sunday, March 16

Normal Sunday Schedule of Services – All Palm Sunday liturgies include the blessing and distribution of palms and a dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel

## Monday, March 17

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

## Tuesday, March 18

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

## Wednesday, March 19

7:00 am Holy Eucharist

7:30 pm Choral Tenebrae for congregation and choir

## Maundy Thursday, March 20

7:00 am Holy Eucharist

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm La Gracia: Liturgy of the Day, foot washing, La Santa Eucaristía

7:30 pm Liturgy of the Day, foot washing, procession to the Altar of Repose, stripping of the altar, Prayer Watch (continues all night).

Child care will be available for children ages 6 weeks through first grade in the nursery from 7:15 pm through the end of the service.

## Good Friday, March 21

6:30 am Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

12:00 noon The Stations of the Cross

Child care will be available in the nursery from 11:50 am to the conclusion of the Stations of the Cross.

1:00 pm Silence

1:30 pm Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel, Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

3:00 pm Concluding Prayers

6:00 pm Children's Service

7:30 pm Tenebrae

## Holy Saturday, March 22

9:00 am Morning Prayer

8:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter with service of light, lessons and collects, Holy Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop Coadjutor of Virginia, Celebrant and Preacher.

The service will be followed by a parish Agapé celebration in the Auditorium.

Child care will be available for children ages 6 weeks through first grade in the nursery from 7:30 pm through the end of the service; there will be no child care for the Agapé as all ages are welcome.

## Easter Day, March 23

Normal Sunday schedule of Services

# March Birthdays

3/1	Eugene Alford	3/10	Anabel Rodriguez	3/22	Kathleen Arthur
3/1	Carol Bull	3/10	Lynn Rohrs	3/22	John Boulanger
3/1	Yanira Rodriguez	3/11	Joyce Stancil	3/22	Dawna Gardner
3/1	Peter Zuidema	3/11	Karen Wille	3/22	Jeff Gustafson
3/2	Shirley Tyler	3/12	Ashley Busse	3/22	Paige Medley
3/3	Gladys Burcham	3/13	Virginia Holsinger	3/22	Liz Rugaber
3/3	Beau Grimes	3/14	Alexandra Jordan	3/22	Suzanne Warren
3/3	Caroline Kramer	3/14	Liz Saalfeld	3/22	Ethan Woodhead
3/3	Vi Legere	3/14	Mai-Lan Smith	3/23	Mia Giacomo
3/3	Cindy MacIntyre	3/15	Christian Flores	3/23	John Stewart Gnorski
3/3	Isabella Nannini	3/16	Jean Centers	3/23	Pat Hansen
3/3	Caroline Olsson	3/16	Michael Key	3/23	Easter Thompson
3/3	Alice Russell	3/17	Jeremy Barr	3/26	Lisa Doelp
3/3	Tyler Smith	3/17	John Hazard	3/26	Georgia Gillette
3/7	Meghan Cummings	3/17	Swep Nelson	3/26	Patt Sullivan-Perry
3/7	Chuck Dodd	3/18	Betsy Bamford	3/27	Ashley Metz
3/7	Sarah Martin	3/18	Emma Carter	3/27	Jessica Trejo
3/7	Jeannine Raymond	3/19	Ovidio Flores	3/28	Jo Belser
3/7	John Weise	3/19	Valerie Fowler	3/30	Brad Bergmann
3/8	Ada Rairigh	3/19	Robert Schrum	3/30	Samuella Hunt
3/8	Eddi Rairigh	3/19	Barry Smoot	3/30	James Murphy
3/9	Scott Knudsen	3/20	Barry Barr	3/30	Marianne Swearingen
3/9	Gregory Ruff	3/20	Gail Miller	3/30	Dottie Williams
3/10	Sophia Jordan	3/21	Taylor Ballenger	3/31	Ben Miles
3/10	Renata Kamakura	3/21	Madison Busker	3/31	Kate Schneider

Graceful Worship

## Tenebrae

The word “tenebrae” is Latin for “shadows.” The purpose of the Tenebrae service is to recreate the betrayal, abandonment and agony of the passion, and it is left unfinished because the story isn’t over until Easter Day. At Grace Church we have a Choral Tenebrae (the readings are chanted) on Wednesday of Holy Week at 7:30 pm, and a “said” Tenebrae on Good Friday at 7:30 pm.

At Grace Church, Tenebrae starts out in candlelight, with 15 candles in a special candelabrum called a “hearse” lit in front of the High Altar, and an

additional six “office lights” on the Altar itself. As psalms are read – before and after the lessons - all but one of the candles on the hearse are extinguished, leaving only the Christ candle in the center lit. As the first part of Psalm 22, which Jesus quoted on the cross, is read, the office lights are extinguished as well. Finally, the Christ candle is carried out, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil over good and leaving the congregation in darkness. After a period of silence, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at

the time of his death (Matthew 27) and his resurrection (Matthew 28:2). At the moment of the earthquake, the temple veil was torn apart, making the Holy of Holies exposed to public view. This is understood to represent God’s change toward us with direct access to him, no longer requiring the ceremonial acts of the priests for our forgiveness of sin. The Christ candle is carried back in. At this point, the service ends. There is no benediction and the people leave in silence and darkness.

— June Huber

March 2008 ✧ Grace Notes

# Parish Notes

## Easter Forum Series

March 30 begins the 10:15 am Sunday forum series titled, "Living Our Faith" in which parishioners will share stories of living their faith and ministry beyond Grace Church. Joe and Kate Reeder will kick off the series with a talk about inner faith work with Muslim leaders. Please plan to attend after coffee.

## Choral Society Begins

On the first Tuesday of April, the Grace Church Choral Society will begin rehearsals for their spring concert; the featured work will be G. F. Handel's "Utrecht Jubilate and Te Deum" accompanied by chamber orchestra. Rehearsals will continue each Tuesday evening in April from 8:00 – 9:30 pm, and are open to anyone interested in joining the group. The concert will be on the first Sunday of May. For further details, contact Thom Robertson.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

This year on September 6-7, parishioners from the Grace Church family will travel to Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, Virginia for the church's annual retreat. The weekend's theme is "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace" from the well known prayer attributed to St. Francis. From its webpage ([www.shrinemont.com/information](http://www.shrinemont.com/information)) **Shrine Mont** is described as a place where people are more important than things, where prayer and reflection, rest and recreation are more important than appointments and tasks. It's a place where people give thanks to God. A spectacular

creation—from the beauty of the streams, flowers and wildlife which are at home here, to the people who come to this place to celebrate being part of the family of God. Set the date on your calendars and make plans to attend. Contact [barry.barr](mailto:barry.barr) or [jean.centers@gracealex.org](mailto:jean.centers@gracealex.org)

## GRACE ANEW! is in Full Swing

Between Ash Wednesday and Easter, forty parishioners will call upon members of the Grace Church family to discuss the Grace Anew! Capital campaign. Please welcome the contact from one of the callers and take the opportunity to learn more about the purposes and financial goals of the campaign. We hold fast to the hope that the goal of \$1.25 million will be reached or exceeded by Pentecost, and that the names of all parishioners and many Grace Church friends will be printed on the plaque that will formally recognize contributors to the campaign. A poster tracking progress of the campaign will be on display in the narthex on Sundays. What a joy it is to see the "progress to date" marker move up the organ pipes!

## Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch

If you are reading this before Sunday, March 9, please bring a friend to church and stay for brunch during the 10:00 to 11:15 am coffee hour. If there's still time, please RSVP to the church office. Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee and St. Andrew's Guild. Any questions? Contact [john.berry@gracealex.org](mailto:john.berry@gracealex.org)

# Parish Staff

Robert Malm ..... Rector  
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Beth Wiggers ..... Administrative Associate  
([parish.office@gracealex.org](mailto:parish.office@gracealex.org))  
Pedro Hernández..... Sexton

# Vestry

## Class of 2008

Jo Belser ..... Exec. Comm. Member-at-Large  
Cindy Diehl .....  
Jane Rosman ..... Senior Warden  
Richard Smith ..... Register  
Heather Hurley .....

## Class of 2009

Khacki Berry .....  
Anne Caputo .....  
Linda Durand ..... Treasurer  
Eleanor Reed .....  
Phil Smith ..... Junior Warden

## Class of 2010

Nat Ames .....  
Peter Iovino .....  
Cynthia Puskar .....  
Colin Rushing .....  
Easter Thompson .....

## Alternates

Reg Jones .....  
Richard Kelly .....

# Grace Notes

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia  
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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Chili Bowl a Savory Success

The 2008 Grace Chili Bowl, held on January 13 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, raised just over \$2900 for the new organ, new roof and the HVAC upgrade. People representing a dozen or so programs at Grace Church arrived early in the Merrow Hall Auditorium to set up booths and serve a variety of recipes as participants waited to purchase spoons and begin tasting. Chili tasters “voted” for their favorites by dropping money into bowls placed on each booth’s table.

The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) group, whose booth design was inspired by the *Sweeney Todd* film, won the first place People’s Choice award for raising the most money. (We can only hope that the movie did NOT inspire their chili recipe.) Speaking of appearances, the award for Best Presentation went to the Rite 13 group with their “Taste of Heaven” theme. Last, the Judge’s Taste award went to the Capital Campaign group.

The highlight of the evening was the spoon playing performance replete with accordion accompaniment. “I thought the event went extremely well, and it was great opportunity for fellowship and fun,” said Heather Hurley, this year’s Chili Master and event coordinator.

Whether you purchased a spoon or played one, the Grace Church 2008 Chili Bowl was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who participated, and see you next year!

— Doug Prince

March 2008