

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

April 2008

Rector's Reflections

Live in Anticipation

Our Easter joy is multiplied this year at Grace Church as we anticipate the conclusion to our Grace Anew Campaign and see visible progress in our choir gallery and organ projects. Some years ago the popular singer, Carly Simon, recorded a hit song, "Anticipation." We need to be able to look forward with hope and anticipation. Great expectations fuel hard work and sacrifice.

Jesus, risen from death, used the 40 days before his Ascension to help his disciples anticipate a glorious future. They were still in shock. The mystery of Christ's victory over evil and death still seemed so confusing. Each of the four Gospels leaves us in suspense. But, unlike the first disciples, we know the story in Acts; we know the power of Pentecost, the gifts of the Spirit, the birth and amazing growth of the Church.

Knowing the story and anticipating our own future, we give thanks for the truly amazing gifts of generosity and sacrifice that have helped the Grace Anew Campaign to surpass \$1.1 million in commitments. We set a goal of \$1.25 million. I anticipate passing this goal before Pentecost Sunday, May 11.

To do so, we need another 150 gifts/commitments to join the 150 already recorded. No gift is too small. All commitments are important. We count over 800 active members in some 400 plus households. If you haven't made a gift or submitted a pledge to the Grace Anew Campaign, please do so as soon as possible. Cards are available in the church tract rack, on the credenza in the Commons and in the office.

The Gospels record 10 appearances of the Risen Christ. At least four of these were in Galilee more than 80 miles north of Jerusalem. More than 500 people, including the disciples, saw the Risen Christ. To them and to us, the Lord says, "Come and follow." We are called to make disciples, to grow the Church. Jesus is on the move during the Easter Season. Grace Church is on the move into a future of faith, hope, love and joy.

There is no turning back for the people of faith, for Easter people, for Christians. As important as the past is for all of us, and we know tradition shapes our lives, the future is filled with promise. Our Grace Anew Campaign is about the future. All of us who are a part of the campaign know that Jesus is with us always.

Easter is a celebration of the future. Live in anticipation. *Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

— 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
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: April 15 for the May 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).

You probably remember the story of the Emperor's New Clothes. A vain Emperor is duped by two clever con-artists into believing that they have made him a set of clothes which can only be seen by people who are stupid and unworthy. The Emperor, in his pride, believes he is wearing clothes he cannot see and none of his advisors are willing to admit to his nakedness as it would shed negative light on their character. The charade is only broken when a child calls out from the crowd during the grand procession: "The Emperor is wearing no clothes!"

The real tragedy is that even when the Emperor himself realized that he was naked he felt he had to continue walking as if he was fully dressed – so that no one would know he knew. This deception is something which we are probably familiar with – when we know things are not as they should be and yet stick our noses in the air and keep walking anyway. Eventually, I hope, we get the message and change our behavior – after all we know the Easter story, we know that Jesus is calling our name and we know that being back where we belong, with Jesus, is ultimately more comfortable, than walking down a crowded street pretending dignity.

But what of those who have nowhere to take that feeling of being let down by life? What of those who realize that their investment and energy has been in spurious or vain hope of worldly things – how does the Resurrection speak to them? The truth is it doesn't unless we reach out. The danger in reaching out, just as the Emperor's courtiers found, is that by speaking the truth of the Gospel we expose ourselves to the risk of being thought stupid or inferior. But do we really want to allow the alternative? Do we really want to say that the invisible cloth of worldly achievement in any way outweighs the glory of the Kingdom of God.

Just agreeing, just sitting quietly, just allowing – these all seem fairly harmless. But just agreeing was how the crowd formed against Jesus, just allowing was how they got him to the cross. Then there was no peace to be had, not until that first mention of a name in the Garden – "Mary." That peace of entering

(continued on page 6)

Youth and Children

After Easter always seems like the home stretch in Christian Education. Certainly it is the time when the regular program will wind down for the summer, but don't forget that this summer we have Vacation Bible School July 21-25. You can sign up online – you do not have to be a member to sign up – www.Grace4Kids.com. Click "Vacation Bible School."

(continued on page 3)

Town Halls

Fr. Malm and Mother Caroline met with parents and teachers on three occasions in Town Hall style meetings to assess and discuss the future of youth and children's ministry. The review of these ministries is ongoing as are their needs, especially with the resignation of Ashley Metz, the children's ministries coordinator, to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude.

However, several things are clear. First of all, we have much to be grateful for. We have a dedicated group of volunteers across the age groups who staff our programs and we have children and young people who love to be here. Whilst there are age and group specific concerns there are also some universal ones which we must grasp.

Very briefly these include the need for a coordinated and age appropriate approach to learning from preschool to high school. We need to develop learning goals and systems which incorporate a wide range of spiritual, biblical, academic, social and societal learning goals. Some of our curricula are better at this than others and we may need to supplement especially in areas such as prayer, liturgy and the sacraments.

Many parents of younger children are eager for more social events geared towards families to be included on the church calendar. Youth parents are concerned about the acolyte corps and keeping young people involved at Grace. Surveys are still being returned at time of writing and will be assessed after Easter.

Over all the process has been a positive one so far. The next big step will be to prayerfully consider the shape of the program and staffing needs over the next few years. Please keep the staff and vestry, children and parents in your prayers as we go through this process.

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

Youth and Children *(continued from page 2)*

Summer Camps are always on offer at the Diocese and run all summer for children and youth ages eight and older. Check out www.theDiocese.net for more details.

Dates for your diary:

- April 20 – Rite 13 Parent Meeting 10:15 am in St. Mark
- April 27 – Teacher Luncheon and meeting in the Merrow Hall Auditorium from 12:30 pm for all Sunday School Teachers. Watch out for invitations.
- June 1 – Teacher Recognition Sunday
- June 8 – Youth Sunday at 10:00 am followed by the Parish Picnic

For current updates check out www.Grace4Kids.com

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

From the

Parish Register

Transfers in

- Stephen and Sally Falatko, with baptized daughters Grace and Claire from St. Paul's Church Alexandria
- Heather Lynn Hurley from Grace Church, Medford, Massachusetts

Marriages

- Matti Gardner-Reed Jackson, granddaughter of Chuck and Poppy Gardner, and Russell James Jackson

Transfers out

- Calvin Hook to Church of the Holy Spirit, Ocean City, Maryland
- Charlene Rusnak to Old Donation Episcopal Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Burial

- Dr. Robert H. Gruver

— *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*

Senior Warden's Report

Your Vestry has been hard at work. In February, we met at the College of Preachers for an overnight retreat—a time to get to know one another and discuss various business items.

We met for our first official Vestry meeting on Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

We approved the contract for the loft contractor. Carl Seward will be the Project Manager and Kristine Hesse, is the Architect. The current organ was sold to Trinity Lutheran Church in PA. They will begin removing the organ after Easter. We will soon begin to see the renovations.

We have started a new tradition at Vestry meetings this year. In the past

each Vestry member would sign up to do a meditation at the beginning of each meeting. This year we have decided to share a vision. Each month a different Vestry member shares their vision for Grace Church. So far, we have had two shared visions.

The Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month to set the agenda and the full Vestry meets on the second Tuesday of the month. If you have any issues you would like for the Vestry to consider, you may contact the Rector or me, jane.rosman@gracealex.org.

Faithfully, Jane

— Jane Rosman, Sr. Warden

Junior Warden's Report

Thank you to everyone who has helped me to get acclimated to the role of Jr. Warden. Many kind folks have offered their time and knowledge assist me in making sure things with the building and grounds run smoothly and needed repairs are completed before most of us even notice that a problem existed.

Over the last few weeks much work has been done in preparation for the loft expansion and organ installation. The undercroft has been cleaned up to make room for work that will happen in that storage area as the new organ is assembled. Our annual Fire Inspection by the City was conducted on March 6 and we passed with 3 minor issues which have already been corrected or are in process of correction. As part of the

inspection the Fire Marshall requested that we remove all stoppers from the stairwell doors so that they could not be propped open. The stairs function as emergency exits and should have doors that close automatically. Please help us to ensure everyone's safety by keeping the doors closed.

By the time you read this the school should have begun, and maybe even completed, the long anticipated installation of a new Turf Field. The Vestry approved the school's plan last year. While the project is being fully funded by the school and parents association, it will be a huge benefit to the school students and to our children.

— Phil Smith, Jr. Warden

Organ Update

If all goes according to plan, by the time you are reading this the old organ will have been removed. It was sold to a Lutheran church in Greencastle, PA and they began the removal process on Monday, March 24. We hope that the organ will continue to lead God's praises in its new home.

As a consequence, the choirs have moved down to the north side of the nave since work should begin on the remodeling of the gallery shortly. During that construction period, all public access to the gallery will be curtailed. Again if all goes according to plan, construction work should be completed by the end of August; at that time the choirs will return to the gallery and await the installation of the new organ.

During this interim period we'll be using the new "continuo organ" which is the first phase of the organ project; the organ builder hopes to deliver this instrument by the middle of April. This small encased instrument will sit down at the front of the nave near the statue of St. John; it will have its own keyboard and be able to lead singing in a gentle manner. It is our hope that we can augment its sound on occasions with the use of various other instruments. (If you'd like to be part of that augmentation, let me know!)

— Thom Robertson, Director of Music

Let Your Light Shine

Most of us take up a ministry because someone – often the Rector – asked us to do something. Or we have a feeling we ought to do something and this job came along. Or we have kids in Sunday School and we think we should be involved in youth ministry. Or someone strong-armed us after church one Sunday because they heard us sing and now we are in the choir. But most of us do not deliberately seek out a ministry that will enable us to shine. This is usually for one of two reasons. One, we feel that God has called us to ministry and

however uncomfortable that might be, we were called. Two, we have no real understanding of what ministry is and where our ministry might be.

One night a week for the length of the school year, a small group of people meet to explore ministry and how they might fit into it. They study the Old and New Testament, Church History and Theology and they dissect their lives, their beliefs and their skills in an attempt to understand where they might best serve God in this life. It is not an easy task, but it is a very

enjoyable and rewarding one. We are all in this journey together with God and the support of our different groups makes our progress possible. If you think you might benefit from such an exercise, please talk to me or to any of the current or former EFM members. Our current class is: Halina Banas-Jones, Jo Belser, Mickey Craven, Jonathan Doelp, June Huber, Mike Jones, Michelle Searcy, David Tepper, Jane Weaver and Margaret Will. I am the current mentor for the group. If this strikes a chord in you, please feel free to talk.

— *Lorna Worley*

Graceful Worship

Sign of the Cross

The origin of this ancient Christian gesture is uncertain. In the Episcopal Church it is traced with the hand from forehead to lower chest and from left shoulder to right shoulder. Signing of the forehead, lips and heart at the reading of the Gospel is customarily done with the thumb, symbolizing the words “May Christ’s words be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.” The sign is a customary gesture in several other liturgical contexts. It may be used at the beginning or ending of one of the Daily Offices, or at the absolution following the confession in the Eucharist. The Book of Common Prayer directs that the celebrant at baptism will make the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidate for baptism (using chrism if desired), saying “You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever.” In the form for Ministration to the

Sick, the BCP directs that if the person is to be anointed, the priest dips a thumb in the holy oil and makes the sign of the cross on the person’s forehead.

Depending on the context, the sign may express personal Christian devotion or identity, blessing, absolution, consecration to holy use, or the conclusion of something done to the honor of God. Although use of the sign of the cross is widespread throughout the Episcopal Church, the BCP does not require the gesture to be made by members of the congregation at any time. Yet many Episcopalians feel comfortable and welcome to do so as a spiritually meaningful sign of the special relationship we have with God in Christ Jesus.

— *June Huber*

Grace Church Choral Society

The Grace Church Choral Society will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room. This spring’s concert will feature two choral works by G. F. Handel: *The Utrecht Jubilate* and the *Utrecht Te Deum*. Accompaniment will be by a small chamber orchestra and the new continuo organ. All singers interested in joining are encouraged to contact Thom Robertson. Rehearsals will continue each Tuesday night in April (7:30 – 9:00 pm) and the concert is to be Sunday, May 4 at 7:00 pm in the nave.

— *Thom Robertson, Director of Music*

April Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
| 4/1 | Gladys Cunningham | 4/8 | Andrew Busker | 4/19 | Alexandra Barr |
| 4/1 | Lenore Funkhouser | 4/8 | Keith Dobbs | 4/19 | Maggie Corlett |
| 4/1 | John Gnorski | 4/8 | Barbara Ebersole | 4/19 | Caroline Horwitz |
| 4/1 | Lelee Hazard | 4/8 | Brittany Murchison | 4/19 | Lindsey Malm |
| 4/1 | Joseph Madigan | 4/9 | Savannah Hall | 4/19 | Tracey Polson |
| 4/1 | John Metz | 4/9 | Fred Saalfeld | 4/20 | Katie Hoppe |
| 4/1 | Stephanie Miles | 4/9 | Paul Walden | 4/21 | Barbara Morris |
| 4/3 | Sean Kelly | 4/10 | Mary Stewart | 4/21 | June Ward |
| 4/3 | Lexie Robinson | 4/10 | Jenny Wolff | 4/22 | Roxanne King |
| 4/4 | Stephen Falatko | 4/11 | William Gillette | 4/22 | Amelia Pattarini |
| 4/4 | Lea Miller | 4/11 | Bailey Griffin | 4/23 | Adam Doelp |
| 4/5 | John Hazard | 4/11 | Ana Sosa | 4/23 | John Miles |
| 4/5 | Lynette Kamakura | 4/14 | April Everett | 4/24 | Peter Iovino |
| 4/5 | Christopher Koelbl | 4/15 | Louis Odum | 4/24 | Sarah Stancil |
| 4/5 | Sarah Richey | 4/15 | Gary Warner | 4/25 | Jose Alvarenga |
| 4/6 | Rachel Crabtree | 4/16 | Lisa Bellantoni | 4/25 | Evan Dobbs |
| 4/6 | Mark DiGiore | 4/16 | Khacki Berry | 4/26 | Gabriella Falcon |
| 4/6 | Cammie Griffin | 4/16 | Alfred Dumas | 4/26 | Tiffany Israel |
| 4/6 | Mary Ann Ryan | 4/17 | Molly Sim | 4/26 | Jonathan Lewallen |
| 4/6 | Harvey Winter | 4/17 | John Thompson | 4/27 | David Ebersole |
| 4/6 | Conway Zeigler | 4/17 | Mary Wallace | 4/28 | Allison Burch |
| 4/7 | Phil Hickok | 4/18 | Anna Marie Bull | 4/28 | William Martin |
| 4/7 | Kendall Metz | 4/18 | Austin Goode | 4/28 | Avery Meeks |
| 4/7 | Eric Waskowicz | 4/18 | Sarah Goode | 4/28 | Donna Plunkett |
| | | | | 4/28 | Richard Smith |
| | | | | 4/29 | Mary Barnes |
| | | | | 4/29 | Katherine Kellogg |
| | | | | 4/29 | Suzi Pease |
| | | | | 4/29 | Jaquelin Simons |
| | | | | 4/30 | Victoria Howard |
| | | | | 4/30 | Dick Rogers |

Surprised in Honduras

I went to Honduras expecting no more than “not much.” I was surprised. Many people told me of the importance of being modest, for the girls might be “jealous.” At Our Little Roses Home for Girls, the girls are loved and are taught to love. Frankly, if I was at Our Little Roses, I would be jealous of a girl just like me that was born with more luck than I. Yet the girls didn’t even hesitate to say hello and show us their home. When we arrived, they came up and took us by the hand to lead us. They tried to speak English for us and helped us on our way. We painted

the bathrooms for them and they loved us in return. I certainly felt warm inside after our return and I hope the rest of the group felt the same. It feels good knowing that you helped someone else and have them like you as you are. Even when you are half blue, covered in sweat, and sick, they will still come up to you and walk by your side. The Mission Trip to Honduras helped open my eyes to a different kind of warmth. Now, I use the values I learned at Our Little Roses on my personal path of faith.

— Renata Poulton Kamakura

Sacer Notus
(continued from page 3)

in, of standing up, of saying we believe is Resurrection joy. “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” Shout it out, tell it out, whisper it – but let it be known so that all the world can be clothed in His glory.

— The Rev. Caroline A. Kramer,
Assistant Rector

April 2008 ✧ Grace Notes

Parish Notes

St. Francis Guild

The St. Francis Guild was created in the early 1990s to help beautify and maintain the grounds at Grace Church. Like all gardeners, we plant, weed, prune, rake and try to make the property appealing for our own congregation, as well as for Grace school and visitors. We work a couple of times a month and try to accomplish one major new project a year. For instance, you may have noticed the resodding of the St. Francis garden. It is very rewarding to create beauty and order for God and Grace, and we would welcome other gardeners to join us. Please feel free to contact Kevin Sherlock or Barbara Ramm if you would like to help or if you have any ideas for improvement.

Bring-A-Friend to Church

The St. Andrew's Guild warmly thanks all parishioners who "brought a friend to church" and stayed for our gala brunch on March 9. And we thank our newcomers who came and have committed to joining Grace Church. All together – Friends, Newcomers and Guild hosts – we filled six tables of eight and enjoyed a brunch of fruit salad, croissants and buns, and an egg casserole from the best-selling Grace Church Cook Book. Father Malm spoke and took questions, and everyone left with a welcome folder stuffed with news and activities of Grace. If you missed it, bring a friend when we do it next time!

Change in Children's Chapel

Ashley Metz has resigned from our parish staff. Ruth Young, the Nursery Lead Teacher for Grace Episcopal School, will serve as the new Leader of Children's Chapel beginning on April 6. Ruth has 21 years of experience at our school, and teaches religion to preschool, junior kindergarden and kindergarden students. When asked if she was excited about this new opportunity, her face lit up and she said, "In my heart I am ready for this – I feel like it was meant to be."

Educational Series on Prayer

During Eastertide, our seminarian, Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, will present a three part educational series on prayer. The sessions will be: Praying with Scriptures (April 6), Praying with the BCP (April 13), and Praying with Prayer Beads (April 20). Each session will involve interactive methods to facilitate and enrich your prayer life. We will meet in Merrow Hall during Forum Hour. Please join us for any or all the sessions!

It's Liturgical!

Dear Acolyte Parents, Please watch for announcements about the revival of our acolyte quiz show. We'll need your help in bringing our acolytes to some refresher training in April (Sundays only) to sharpen their skills and wits. Watch for news on the Acolyte Email Net and in the Sunday bulletins. And do save the date of May 4 for the big event: 4 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium. By the way, it's never too late to join the Acolyte Corps!

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)
Charlotte Payne Wright
..... Parish Administrator
(parish.administrator@gracealex.org)
Beth Wiggers Administrative Associate
(parish.office@gracealex.org)
Pedro Hernández.....Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2008

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

Class of 2009

Khacki Berry Evangelism
Anne Caputo Fellowship
Linda Durand Treasurer
Eleanor Reed School Board
Phil Smith Junior Warden

Class of 2010

Nat Ames Assistant Treasurer
Peter Iovino Outreach
Cynthia Puskar Worship
Colin Rushing Stewardship
Easter Thompson School Board

Alternates

Reg Jones Communications
Richard Kelly Youth

Non-vestry Program Coordinators

June Huber Communications
Mike Jones Education
John Berry Evangelism
Ruth Corlett Fellowship
Lucy-Lee Reed La Gracia
Barbara Read Outreach
..... Pastoral Care
..... Stewardship
Marianne Swearingen TNT
Jeff Gustafson Worship
John Boris Youth

Grace Notes

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Grace Anew Capital Campaign

The work begins

Thanks to the generosity of over 140 Grace Church families, the Grace Anew Capital Campaign has received over \$1.13 million in pledges. Thanks to everyone who has committed to the campaign so far! We hope to see more parishioners participate as we work towards our \$1.25 million goal.

Meanwhile, you will soon see physical evidence of what the campaign is all about. The removal of our organ is scheduled to begin the week after Easter. We have sold the organ, for a small sum, to another church. That saves us the roughly \$8,000 fee we would have otherwise paid to have it removed.

We won't be without an organ for long, however, as a small replacement organ, known as the continuo, is scheduled to be installed two weeks after Easter, as part of our organ contract. These moves are the first physical steps towards obtaining our new, vastly improved organ. We hope everyone was able to see photos of the new organ pipes that were in the foyer.

Meanwhile, the property committee is continuing its work on assessing our roof and HVAC needs. The committee has received an extensive report from our HVAC consultants, the Potomac Energy Group, which catalogs our system and makes recommendations for upgrades and improvements.

The next step will be to seek bids from other contractors to perform the needed work. The property committee expects the work will begin by summer.

Our roofing consultant has also completed the evaluation of the first two roofs to be replaced—the roof over Merrow Hall auditorium and over the mechanical area, near the tower. That work also will be put out for bids and will likely begin in the summer, after the school year is completed.

Please thank Michelle Cox, who has completed a one-year term as chair of the property committee. She and her crew have done great work for Grace Church.

— *Chris Rugaber and Mary Hix, Grace Anew! co-chairs*

April 2008