

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

May 2008

Rector's Reflections

## The Spirit always leads us into the future...

Pentecost is one of the three major feasts of the Christian year, but for most people and parishes it doesn't compare to the preparations and celebrations for Christmas and Easter. Pentecost is considered to be the "birthday" of the Church since the Holy Spirit filled the disciples and empowered them to go into all the world, preach the gospel and baptize. This title comes from the Greek name given to the ancient Jewish Feast of the Weeks, commemorating the giving of the Law by Moses, and celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Passover.

In England the ancient church referred to Pentecost as Whitsunday because all the baptismal candidates wore white on this day as they became Christians. But the liturgical color for the feast day is red – the color used to symbolize the Holy Spirit – and many like to wear red to church on Pentecost, May 11 this year (which is also Mothers' Day).

The Holy Spirit is "the giver of life," guiding us into "all truth." The Spirit empowers us in our own day to grow the Church, to preach the Gospel, to bring God's love to the world. The experiences of the first Pentecost described in Acts, Chapter 2, include an amazing account of energy, of vision, of signs and wonders, of baptism (about 3000 that day!), of change. This experience of the Holy Spirit is so dramatic that all Sundays for the rest of the Christian year (until Advent) are numbered as "Sundays after Pentecost."

We will celebrate the Feast with Festival Choral Eucharists at 9:00 and 11:15 am. The Season of Pentecost will be filled with change for us at Grace Church: saying thank you to Fr. Fred Huntington (and his wife Linda) for their years of service to La Gracia as we transition to new opportunities for ministry; celebrating the Ordination of Deacons for the Diocese at the National Cathedral on May 24, and welcoming our new Deacon, Patrick Crerar, in June; celebrating the end of the education year and honoring our graduating seniors; moving into the summer schedule, weddings and baptisms. The Spirit always leads us into the future.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1855-2005

# Worship Schedule

Sacer Notus

## God is here and real

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Next Grace Notes deadline: May 15 for the June 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).

Do you know that Beatles song “Eleanor Rigby”? It is about loneliness. It is gut-wrenching. Eleanor Rigby and Father McKenzie, the two main characters in the song, are both trapped in this horrible and pointless existence from which they have no escape.

I always want to fix it. I want to rewrite it, to make it something else—although I know that the truth of it is real for many, many people. But the reason I want to rewrite it is because I know that the sadness which the song holds on to is something which God desperately wants us to let go of.

Many of us have experienced loneliness. There are so many different sorts. There is a chronic loneliness which comes from living and functioning alone, there is a more acute loneliness of loss and bereavement or separation. There is loneliness when we get locked up inside ourselves and feel cut off from others even when we are surrounded by people whom we know and love. But what Christian life gives us, what God gives us and the song does not, is hope.

That hope is real in many ways but let me offer two. First God. God is here and real. When people are sinking and somewhere near the bottom I often tell them, if they can, to read Psalm 139 – it is a great antidote to loneliness with its expression of God's universal presence. It is true whether we feel it or not.

Secondly, the Body of Christ – I mean this both sacramentally in the Eucharist – and also incarnationally in the Church. We are, as Christians, always welcome at the table and that table, is something which we share with others.

The characters in the song no doubt shared at the altar rail, they were no doubt based on real people. All of us must pray that in our community we will work tirelessly to be Christ's body in such a way that we embrace everyone and leave little room for cynical observation.

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



# Treasurer's Report

A number of people have expressed an interest in using credit or debit cards or on-line banking to pay their pledges to Grace Church. To address this interest, Nat Ames researched online banking, interviewed churches that are using it now, and reviewed various entities that provide web services. After considering the research, the vestry approved a motion to work with Vanco Services, a company that provides electronic giving services to a number of churches in the Virginia diocese, at the April 15 vestry meeting. Thus, the vestry has approved the use of electronic funds transfers (EFT) and credit and debit cards. Initially, the electronic giving program will be used to receive Grace Anew pledges and expanded later in the year for annual pledge giving. Nat is now organizing the implementation phase of the program. When all of the logistics are organized, the information will be given to all parishioners. Stay tuned!

Below is an update of the first-quarter Capital Campaign cash receipts and cash disbursements (ending March 31, 2008). This is not a summary of pledges made; it is only a summary of cash received and spent:

	Balance @ 12/31/07	Jan-March 2008	Total 3/31/2008
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Cash Contributions	193,234	161,127	354,361
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>			
Organ expenses	64,675	101,399	166,074
Architectural Fees	39,912	2,853	42,765
Accoustical Consultant	900	4,648	5,548
Gala		12,018	12,018
HVAC		3,257	3,257
Legal Fees/loan fees	1,273		1,273
Permits		1,757	1,757
Administration Salaries	420	184	604
Misc	1,050		1,050
Total Expenditures	108,230	126,116	234,346
<b>NET CASH</b>	<b>85,004</b>	<b>35,011</b>	<b>120,015</b>

The first quarter pledge statements will be available soon. The statements will report parishioners' payments on both their annual pledge and their Grace Anew pledge. Please review your pledge statement carefully to make sure that your Grace Anew pledge is properly reported. Any corrections should be sent to [mary.hix@gracealex.org](mailto:mary.hix@gracealex.org).

— Linda Durand, Treasurer

From the

## Parish Register

### Baptisms

- Jeffery Hudson Chiow, son of Jeffery Chiow and Summer Jones
- Amanda Dawn Foster-Baril, adult

### Transfer in

- Christine L. B. Cheevers from Christ Church, Alexandria.

At the Easter Vigil, 22 March 2008, by the laying on of hands of the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop Coadjutor of Virginia

### Confirmed

- Camila Consuelo Alvarenga
- Maxine Cristin Meeks
- William L. Meeks

### Received

- Suzanne Carroll Cooper
- Mary Ann Ryan

— Dorothy Daniel

## Eucharistic Ministers

A new class of Eucharistic Ministers will be trained in late spring or early summer. Eucharistic Ministers assist the clergy during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist by bearing the chalice and the bread to those receiving Holy Communion. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or if you are currently licensed and are willing to mentor a trainee, please contact the clergy. The Bishop licenses those who have been selected and trained. On a monthly basis, Eucharistic Ministers take Communion to the sick and shut-ins.

— Gary Carter

## Patrick Crerar to Join Staff

The Rt. Rev. Peter J. Lee, Bishop of Virginia, has appointed Patrick Crerar to the staff of Grace Church as an Assistant to the Rector effective June 19<sup>th</sup>. Patrick will be ordained on Saturday, May 24, at the National Cathedral with other Deacons from the Diocese. All are invited. He will graduate on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from the Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). His sponsoring parish is The Church of St. Clement in Alexandria. All Deacons are under the authority of the Bishop. Fr. Malm, with the Vestry's confirmation, initiated the call to Patrick after consultation with the Personnel Committee and the Bishop. Patrick graduated from George Mason in 1991 with a BS in Finance.

After working as a financial advisor for Paine Webber and later Smith Barney, he moved into advertising and started his own business in 1998. With the Bishop's approval he has worked part time during Seminary, keeping his business in operation. During his first year at Grace he will work  $\frac{3}{4}$  time in the parish.

During his time at VTS he has served as a Seminarian at St. Anne's, a large parish in Reston. Patrick did mid-Atlantic training during the summer of 2007 at St. Barnabas' Church in Annandale. His Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) work was done at Goodwin House. For a number of years, he directed St. Clement's winter shelter program for the

homeless. At Grace he will have primary involvement with outreach, pastoral care and young adults.

Patrick is married to Christina Crerar, an accomplished professional jazz and swing vocalist. They reside in Arlington. He enjoys the outdoors and has participated in the AIDS Ride (330 miles) and AIDS marathon team to raise funds and awareness. At VTS he has served as a class chaplain and on the Social Concerns Committee and the Environmental Concerns Committee.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

## Out of the Darkness; Into the Light

When asked to write about the Altar Guild's perspective on the Great Vigil of Easter, what immediately came to mind was: ***Out of the Darkness; Into the Light.***

Working on the Saturday morning crew two weeks before Easter, the lights went out in the church, and we worked with flashlights in the pitch-black sacristy for about two hours to set up for Sunday services. The next week, the cord of an iron was accidentally severed, causing fuses to

blow and another blackout in the sacristy. There were many dark times during Holy Week. The Vigil began in darkness and sorrow. I will never forget watching when the Vigil fire ignited at first strike, the Paschal candle was lit and then slowly the soft candlelight spread throughout the Nave illuminating the faces of the congregation as I watched from behind the Chancel door, flashlight in hand, waiting for the cues to switch on the overhead lights and spotlights.

The Altar Guild, made up of more than 50 women and men, works quietly behind the scenes and takes great pride in providing what our clergy and parish community need to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, doing the same duties that have been done throughout the centuries for God's people. On behalf of all members of our Altar Guild, we thank you for the privilege of serving.

— *Ruth Corlett, Altar Guild President,  
Easter 2008*

# Grace School's Annual Fundraising Drive

Springtime is here, and the Grace School Annual Fundraising Drive for the financial aid program is underway. Please remember to support Grace School's important outreach efforts by contributing to this program, which benefits students and families under financial constraint. Last year, parishioners were very generous with their donations. This was so helpful to our financial aid program and made it possible for 12 children to attend the school. Interest in financial assistance is ever-growing, but the funds are never sufficient. Thank you to all who have so generously donated in the past and to those who continue to participate in this effort. Information about donating will arrive to you by mail. However, if we miss

you, you can simply send donations to the school office with the notation in the memo line "Spring Program/Financial Aid" (checks payable to Grace Episcopal School). We are also selling raffle tickets for a Grand Prize of cash. You could be the lucky one, and again, profits go to the financial aid program. If you have any questions about donations, please contact school board member, Roxana Jordan at 703-683-0229 or Luanne Griffin, Development Director, at 703-549-5067 x103.

Another way to give to the financial aid fund is to contribute to the United Way/CFC through your employment. The Grace Episcopal School United Way number is 8922; the CFC

number is 69266. (Be sure you designate your gift to **Grace Episcopal School** not the Grace Episcopal Day School in Maryland.)

The Spring Program performance is on Friday, May 16 in Merrow Hall Auditorium at 7:00 pm. This year the students will be performing a series of patriotic songs. We hope to see you there!

I invite all of our parishioner friends to the turf field dedication and ribbon cutting the morning of May 16 at 9 am. Following the dedication at 9:30 am, please join us for the Appreciation Tea in Merrow Hall Auditorium. All are welcome!

— *Chris Byrnes, Head of School*

Graceful Worship

## Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday, celebrated this year on May 18, is one of the few feasts that celebrates a doctrine rather than an event. On it we honor the triune God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It lasts only one day (instead of having a "season"), which some say is symbolic of the unity of the Trinity. At first it was unofficially celebrated. Pope John XXII officially established the feast day in AD 1334 as the Sunday after Pentecost. It is especially popular in the Anglican tradition because Thomas Becket

was consecrated on Trinity Sunday, AD 1162.

The concept of the Trinity is beyond our full comprehension. Although described in the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, it is most comprehensively addressed in the Athanasian Creed (BCP, p 864), beginning with the words, "We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being."

How can this be? Here are two illustrations that helped me. Think of your two eyes. They are distinct, yet one and undivided in their sight. Think of a musical chord. The notes are all distinct, but joined together as one chord the sound is richer and more dynamic. So the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is one Lord, almighty and eternal.

— *June Huber*

# May Birthdays

5/1	Emma Meeks	5/13	Nina Pfeiffer	5/22	Chip Fowler
5/3	Gaby Alvarenga	5/14	Evelyn Ovando	5/23	Thomas Crabtree
5/3	Jennifer Burch	5/14	Caleigh Warner	5/23	Joe Donovan
5/3	Bonnie Rollings	5/15	Walt Baumann	5/23	Thomas Durkin
5/4	Mary Blouin	5/15	Erin Kelly	5/24	Eleanor Cooper
5/4	Diane Ely	5/15	Lindsay Murphy	5/24	Madelyn Curry
5/4	Natalie Page	5/15	Amanda Smoot	5/24	Rachael Valliere
5/4	Melissa Woodhead	5/15	Nathan Yeannakis	5/25	Duke Chiow
5/5	Virginia Chandler	5/16	Halina Banas-Jones	5/25	Ramee Gentry
5/5	Kathryn Kilbride	5/16	Mike Dobbs	5/25	Stewart Hall
5/5	Walter Terry	5/17	Lois Hatch	5/25	Walter Lukens
5/6	Christian Portillo	5/17	Matt Stancil	5/25	Kevin Martin
5/6	Dorothy Weathers	5/18	Justin Ames	5/25	Dan Pattarini
5/8	Jared Smith	5/18	Cheryl Barnes	5/25	Sarah Thompson
5/8	Emily Summers	5/18	Gary Carter	5/26	Nancy Davis
5/8	Ruth Young	5/19	Martha Bethea	5/26	Kathy Durkin
5/9	Vylma Khanna	5/19	Amanda Chandler	5/26	Nicholas Pattarini
5/9	Lynn Poole	5/19	Jackson Fray	5/27	Raymond Curry
5/10	Marge Cook	5/19	Deborah Key	5/27	Doug Miller
5/10	Amanda Ruff	5/19	Jillian Martin	5/27	David Warren
5/11	Alexandra Karemyshev	5/19	Jan Wolff	5/28	Daniel Plunkett
5/11	Lee Meeks	5/20	Mike Barron	5/28	Michael Reed
5/11	Andrew Olsson	5/20	John Berry	5/28	Julia Reeder
5/11	Skitsi Rein	5/21	Camilla Alvarenga	5/28	Ashby Rushing
5/12	Reginald Jones	5/21	Frank Carroll	5/30	Yolonda Brawley
5/12	Pepper Lindroth	5/21	Douglas Collier	5/30	Dave Crosby
5/12	Meghan O'Malley	5/21	Anna Gabbert	5/30	Heather Kelly
5/13	Ralph Bull	5/22	Alison Campbell	5/31	Earl Durand
5/13	Georgiana Greely				

## Highlights from Youth and Children

Ruth Young has joined our staff in children's chapel and preschool Sunday School.

The music department will join us in offering a camp for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders between July 7-11. The aim is to learn, create a set for and perform a short musical in a week. Registration is online.

Sunday School Teacher Recognition Sunday, June 1 and Youth Sunday, June 8 are set as we switch to the summer time schedule. On Youth Sunday we will enjoy the Parish Picnic after church services.

The preschool classes are starting on a new curriculum called "All Things New" – this is a fun story and play based learning system.

Vacation Bible School is filling up fast, so don't forget to go to the Grace4Kids web site and sign up for this fun filled week, July 21-25.

More about youth and children's programs can be found on the dedicated website [www.grace4kids.com](http://www.grace4kids.com). All registration is available online at this location.

— The Rev. Caroline A. Kramer, Assistant Rector

## Mission Notes

### EYC Mission Trip 2008

This summer our EYC will embark on its third bi-annual mission trip since this activity was introduced to the EYC curriculum. The youth alternate their summers now between pilgrimage and mission. As in 2006, the group is eager to help in New Orleans, and their adult leaders are ready to go with them. The dates will be 8-14 July, with projects in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, our sister church Grace Church Canal Street, and the feeding program at St. George's Dragon Café (Charlotte Wright's home church). A few extra adults wanting to go on mission will join forces for a strong Grace Church contingent. Another team is forming to return to Our Little Roses in Honduras.

### Mission 2009

Something to think about – Mission 2009. Having sent mission teams for three years to New Orleans and Our Little Roses, will it be time to look for a new mission field? Appalachia? Indian reservation? Africa? The Mission Planning Committee seeks your ideas and your prayers in discerning whether to look elsewhere and where we might next be called to serve. We will develop these ideas with the parish in the months ahead.

— EYC Sponsors/Mission Planning



## Musical Notes

### The Grace Church Choral Society

The Grace Church Choral Society will present a concert of works by G. F. Handel on Sunday, May 4 at 8:00 pm in the nave. This group of 30+ singers will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra including Grace Church's new continuo pipe organ. Featured on the program will be Handel's Coronation Anthem #3, "Let thy hand be strengthened," and the "Utrecht Jubilate" written to celebrate the peace at Utrecht in 1713. Also on the program will be two of Handel's organ concerti with organist Thom Robertson. The concert is free and open to the public.

What is a "continuo organ"? During the Baroque era, it became the practice for the bass line of an orchestral work to be doubled by a keyboard player, filling in the harmonies. This was known as playing *basso continuo*, and the keyboard instrument – whether organ or harpsichord – was known as the continuo instrument. These little organs never had more than one keyboard, and no pedals. There were usually only 3-4 ranks of pipes, and the cases of these instruments were small enough that they could be easily moved. Grace Church's new continuo organ (see photo, left) is similar to that, but looks more like an 18<sup>th</sup>-century English cabinet organ. It, too, will be easily moveable because of built-in wheels; it is small enough to fit into the elevator so it can be used in the gallery or even taken up to the auditorium.

—Thom Robertson, Director of Music

## 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)  
Ruth Young ..... Children's Chapel  
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  
Nancy Robinson ..... Pastoral Care  
..... Stewardship  
Marianne Swearingen ..... TNT  
Jeff Gustafson ..... Worship  
Chrissie Crosby ..... Youth

# Grace Notes

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

### Understanding Discernment

Some of you may have noticed discernment committee announcements in past weekly bulletins. While you may know that “to discern” is “to perceive,” spiritual discernment is “the art of making choices based on one’s loving relationship with God.”

A discernment committee can form to help a person, called the “seeker,” answer a calling or come to terms with a particular issue. The committee consists of six people and may meet for three or more sessions, with each session addressing a different question such as “How is God’s call unfolding for the seeker and what practical aspects need to be considered?”

The committee chair begins each session by stating the question for discernment. The members observe a moment of silence, and then pose questions to open the seeker’s imagination and encourage reflection. A meditative device, such as a candle, may be used to help the group focus. What is said in the sessions is held in strict confidence.

One hallmark of spiritual discernment is the period of silence that ensconces the questions and answers; this helps the members frame questions and allows the seeker to reflect before answering. (Imagine business or government meetings being run this way!) Toward the end of each meeting, the group members decide if they’ve reached a consensus about where God is calling the seeker. To determine if consensus has been reached, members look for signs the Holy Spirit such as a sense of peace, completeness, or joy.

As the discernment process unfolds, members may develop a special bond in knowing that together they have helped someone on his or her spiritual journey. Thus, please consider serving on a discernment committee if asked. Not only will you be helping a fellow parishioner, you may just find that you’ve taken another step on your own spiritual journey as well!

— Doug Prince

May 2008