

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

June 2008

Rector's Reflections

Our education in faith never ends...

Even now, so many years removed from actual academic life, I look forward to June as the end of the "school year." Of course schools, especially colleges, start ending in early May. Graduation day for our 5th graders in Grace Episcopal School is June 6. Public schools will end their year later in the month. I want to congratulate all students and parents, especially our parish college and high school graduates.

Youth Sunday is June 8 and we will celebrate a special Eucharist at the first 10:00 am Sunday choral service. (For the summer we "combine" the two Sunday choral services at 9:00 and 11:15 am into one 10:00 am liturgy.) We'll honor our youth graduates and give thanks for our youth programs. This special service will be followed by our parish picnic. We'll be able to see and to appreciate the new turf field our school parents have donated.

June marks the end of spring and the beginning of summer. I hope we can all make use of the change in schedules and use time this summer for rest, relaxation, renewal and even some "study." Knowing and serving God in Jesus Christ means to be a student in the school of life-long learning. Our education in faith never ends. The Holy Spirit constantly guides us into new understanding, new truth.

Also in June we'll celebrate the start of the new ministry of our Deacon, Patrick Crerar. Patrick starts on June 19. He will work closely with La Gracia, outreach, TNT, and Pastoral Care. I know you will look forward to greeting Patrick, welcoming him to Grace and encouraging him during his transition from seminary to parish life.

Summer is not a time for vacation from church. If you are travelling, you may want to explore a Sunday liturgy in a church as a visitor. The 10:00 am choral Eucharist gives many a chance to worship with parishioners who normally come either at 9:00 or 11:15 am. And you might even try a 7:30 am or 5:00 pm Sunday liturgy. Even though school is out and the summer soon begins we commit ourselves to continue in the "apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers." (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 304)

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule through June 1

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

Sunday Schedule on June 8 and beyond

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 7:30 a.m.
Child care 9:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.
La Santa Eucaristía 9:00 a.m.
Choral Eucharist* 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 5:00 p.m.
* alternates between Rites 1 and 2

Weekday Eucharist through June 6

Mondays, Rite 1 6:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, Rite 2 with healing .. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, Rite 1 7:00 a.m.
Thursdays, Rite 2 7:00 a.m.
Fridays, Rite 1 12:15 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist beginning June 10

Tuesdays, Rite 2 with healing .. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, Rite 1 7:00 a.m.
Thursdays, Rite 2 12:15 p.m.

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: June 15 for the July-August 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).

Sacer Notus

a knitter of wisdom

Summer is upon us. I am astounded that I have nearly completed a full round of activities with you all and grateful for so many wonderful people at Grace who have showered me with blessings over these first few months.

Yesterday I started knitting a sweater – I enjoy watching the yarn change and turn and snake off the needles. I learned to knit when I was five – my mother gave up trying to teach me and turned me over to my grandmother. I don't knit much but when I do I can still smell her laundry detergent and see her small dining room where she would knit blankets, at great speed.

I don't know whether Great Aunt Nelly could knit, I suppose she could, but Great Aunt Nelly, who I only met once, was notable for two things. First of all she told me not to eat so much aniseed candy because dogs like aniseed and they would chase me. Secondly, she thought that being a priest was a good idea and told me I should move to America or Sweden as the Church of England (in the 1980s) was behind the times. She was the only person in my family who ever encouraged me.

My Grandmother's house had an odd collection of wise old ladies over the years – but the wisdom both practical and anecdotal has stuck to me – although I still do like aniseed candy and have yet to be chased by a dog!

Grace Church is kind of like that too – like my Grandmother's dining room – all of your wisdom gathered together and shared around the table. I am very grateful and often I find I am a knitter of wisdom, but not my own, wisdom of many generations infused by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom of so many lives shared together in the body of Christ and so valuable and amazingly wonderful and uplifting.

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

Senior Warden's Report

The Rev. Robert Hiller Malm was ordained Priest on June 17, 1978 in the Diocese of North Carolina. The Vestry invites you to come celebrate the 30th anniversary of Fr. Malm's priesting and the beginning of his 20th year of ministry with us here at Grace. We will celebrate this occasion on Sunday, June 15, Father's Day. We will be on our summer schedule combining the 9:00 and 11:15 am services to one 10:00 am service. After the service we will have a reception in Merrow Hall Auditorium.

We are incredibly fortunate at Grace. We have enjoyed long-term Rectors. In my lifetime, Fr. Malm is the third rector. You can do the math.

I hope to see you at the celebration.

—*Jane Rosman, Senior Warden*

June 2008 ✧ Grace Notes

Junior Warden's Report

The Property Committee continues to work hard to ensure the repairs to the Merrow Hall roof are completed late this spring or in early summer. In addition, the committee continues to work on the recommendations from Potomac Energy Group (PEG) to make some updates and adjustments to the heating and cooling systems so that we experience better temperature control, comfort for all of us and potential energy savings. Since the heating and cooling systems across the facility are so complex, this work will be ongoing for some time with high priority areas getting work done first.

As part of the installation of the new turf field for the school, the Vestry voted to assist the school in paying for an extension to the retaining wall on the back fields. This will help improve the appearance of the area, usability of the area as well as protect the property from runoff and erosion. The grassy areas around the field have been covered with sod near the field or seeded and are coming along nicely. Work trailers for the Loft/Organ project have been kept close to the building so that they do not interfere with the use of the fields or the re-seeding of the area.

—*Phil Smith, Junior Warden*

Youth and Children's Ministries

As we come to the end of the education year here are some dates to note:

- Sunday, June 1, is our teacher appreciation day. This is the final day for regular Sunday School programming.
- Monday, June 7, is clean-up day for Christian Education and our supplies and office – volunteers re needed from 10:00 am.
- Sunday, June 8, is our Youth Service at 10:00 am with a farewell to our seniors, followed by the parish picnic.
- Music Camp (see paragraph to the right) is July 7 through 11, and Vacation Bible School is July 21 through 25.
- Children's Chapel will continue during the summer period, but we may need some volunteers to cover Mrs. Young's vacation.
- During the summer, watch out for Tuesday morning craft mornings and Wednesday morning movies – sign-ups will be coming online at www.Grace4Kids.com.

From the

Parish Register

Baptisms

- Harper Sophia Soraghan, daughter of Michael Soraghan and Jessica Tefft-Soraghan
- Sarah Townsend Snow, daughter of Jeffrey and Karen Snow

Marriage

- Christopher Todd Kupczyk and Katherine Louise Zucca

Requiem Eucharist and Burial

- Rebecca Sayad Barker, wife of Charles W. Barker, Jr.; mother of Charles W. Barker, III, John Barker, Mary Lydia Brown, Sarah Barker Richey and Joshua Barker

— *Dorothy Daniel*

Grace Church is:

- ✧ A center for worship and fellowship
- ✧ A school for discipleship and stewardship
- ✧ A community for healing and outreach

This summer Grace's music and children's education departments are teaming up for one week to put on a musical titled *It's Cool in the Furnace* which is about Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and Daniel and their well known adventures. The camp for rising 3rd thru 12th graders will run daily, July 7 through 11, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. All singers and actors are welcome. The cost for the week is \$50 (bring your own lunch) and the performance will be at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 11. Registration is online at www.grace4kids.com. Aftercare may be available for an additional charge, if there is sufficient interest.

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

Altar Guild Tea

“looked like a Renoir painting!”

The 8th annual Altar Guild Tea generated enthusiastic responses from the 65 guests who enjoyed an afternoon of heavenly tea sandwiches, scones and sweet delights. One guest described the setting as looking like a Renoir painting.

The event began with a demonstration of creative ways to arrange flowers in everyday objects and concluded in the Auditorium in Merrow Hall which was turned into an elegant tea room for the occasion. Floor-length white tablecloths were topped by mint green and violet squares and those were topped with crisp linen tea cloths.

Flowered china, sparking silver and colorful floral centerpieces completed the scene. Guests were served an assortment of six sandwiches, followed by hand-made scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam. The meal concluded with an assortment of cookies, mint brownies and tarts along with the traditional English touch of luscious ripe strawberries. The Afternoon English Blend tea came from Harrods.

Thirty-eight volunteers worked to make this a very special event, including six sandwich makers, one very special scone baker, and several who made the sweets. We collected \$2,200 for Grace Anew! Campaign and 100% of the proceeds go directly to the fund as all the food, tea, china, flowers and table/chair rentals are donated.

—*Anne Caputo*

Preaching Excellence Program

Seminarian Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly has been invited to attend the Preaching Excellence Program (PEP) Conference June 1-6. Seminary students from the eleven Episcopal seminaries and Episcopal students from non-Episcopal seminaries are invited, with the endorsement of their dean, to participate in a five-day in-depth seminar on the art and skill of preaching. Jennifer is one of ten seminarians from Virginia Theological Seminary attending the Conference.

The seminarians participate in liturgies, lectures, small preaching groups and spiritual direction. PEP is intended to help seminarians with the way they proclaim the Gospel. According to the Episcopal Preaching Foundation website, “Students are selected by the Deans and faculty members as the most promising and proficient future preachers for the Church.” Jennifer is looking forward to the Conference, and hopes to incorporate her learning from the conference into her preaching at Grace in the fall.

—*Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly, Seminarian*

Successful Completion of Grace Anew!

The official completion of the Grace Anew Capital Campaign occurs on June 1, with celebration and appreciation in the Sunday morning worship services. The goals of the campaign have been twofold: to secure pledges of \$1.25 million and to involve all Grace parishioners in the campaign.

The dollar goal has been met and exceeded, a tribute to the generosity of the parish and the diligence of parishioners who have made calls seeking pledges. A large percentage of parishioners are donors to Grace Anew, either by long-term pledge, one-time contribution, or participation in a fund raising event.

This communal effort speaks to the vitality of the Grace family and its plans for the future of the parish. As we rejoice in the new continuo and observe weekly progress on the expansion of the loft, the bricks and mortar reality of the fund raising appeal remind of the importance of the Grace Anew effort. The summer months will bring the repairs to the roof, and continued work on the HVAC systems.

A draft listing of all who are participating in the Grace Anew effort will be distributed on June 1. Those who pledge or donate to the campaign in the future will be added to the final plaque that will be installed at the completion of the campaign.

We give thanks for all who share in the Grace Anew hope for the future of Grace Church.

—*Mary Lewis Hix and Chris Rugaber,
Co-Chairs, Grace Anew*

June 2008 ✧ Grace Notes

Blessings to all...

Three Crucifixes

We are deeply grateful to the people of Grace Church for the extraordinarily generous purse given to us on May 18. As we have said, all of the monies will be distributed to missionary efforts around the world with which we enjoy a personal relationship. We would be happy to provide more details to interested parties. With blessings to all who gave.

— *Fred and Linda Huntington*

The crucifix came into ritual use in the early Middle Ages, usually showing Jesus on the cross with open eyes and no trace of suffering, and reflecting theological emphasis on the Resurrection. In some cases Jesus was shown as the crowned “Christus Rex” (Christ the King). By the 13th century, with increasing theological focus on the humanity and suffering of Jesus, the crucifix began to show Jesus’ body twisted and bleeding on the cross. Renaissance painters and sculptors of the 15th century, in accordance with the prevailing spirit of the era, transformed the image of Jesus yet again — Christ’s arms are now outstretched, his head bowed, his eyes closed, but his body is no longer wracked with pain. Instead, he is modeled on the Greek ideal of taut,

sensuous muscularity, displaying the earthly perfection of the new Adam.

Grace Church is fortunate to house all three versions. The first crucifix, mounted on the pillar to the left of the pulpit, shows Christ the King, robed in Eucharistic vestments and wearing a crown. The second crucifix on our Rood Beam depicts the suffering Christ, and the symbolism of the Rood Beam is that all must pass under it (through suffering and death) to reach the Eucharist (and attain the glory of everlasting life). The third, almost life-sized crucifix over the High Altar shows the living Christ ever-present in his Church, wearing only a loincloth and showing a musculature that is clear and strong.

— *June Huber*

Grace School News

Only one School Board member is retiring this month, Beth Cohen. Beth has served as the elementary level representative for the Parents Association, Treasurer of the Board, and Chair of the Finance Committee for the last three years. Using her financial expertise, she provided the school board with a clearer interpretation of the school’s financial portfolio and was instrumental in sound investments of their assets. We appreciate the leadership and dedication Beth brought to the School Board. Beth, thank you for your years of service!

On June 6 at the 9:00 am chapel, Grace Episcopal School will hold graduation exercises for the twelve 5th grade graduates. Many of the graduates attended all eight years here at Grace Episcopal School! We are extremely proud of their many accomplishments here at Grace and in the community. We wish them the very best in all that they do in the future. Best of luck to all of you in Middle School!

5th Grade Graduates

Perry Conner
Bayley Garland
Avery Gray
Hayden Hamed
Kate Hansen
Will Hartshorn

Kate Kaiman
Jack Rodgers
Misha Ryjik
Talley Snow
Bridget Walsh
Ethan Williams

— *Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School*

June Birthdays

6/1	Francis Dombrowski	6/10	Barbara Biebrich	6/20	Otto Wolff
6/1	Jason Spence	6/10	David Kendrick	6/21	Tim Dodd
6/1	Ron Vassallo	6/10	Chloe Kramer	6/21	Barbara Read
6/2	John Cunningham	6/10	Jane Rosman	6/22	John Boris
6/2	George Waskowicz	6/10	Donna Triplett	6/22	Rachel Rushing
6/2	Margaret Will	6/10	Linda Waskowicz	6/23	John Raymond
6/3	Ava Fraser	6/11	Grace Hughes	6/24	Jonathan Doelp
6/3	Sarah Schultz	6/11	Surinder Khanna	6/24	Anne Lukens
6/3	Randy Wallace	6/12	Katie Alvarenga	6/24	Lew Michael
6/4	Abigail Dougherty	6/13	Rowena Lund	6/24	Karen Wires
6/4	Armando Falcon	6/13	Daniel Shaver	6/25	Peg Hogarty
6/4	Sam Woodhead	6/14	Nora Alvarenga	6/25	Benjamin Martin
6/4	Ben Yeannakis	6/14	Joyce Ames	6/25	Beth Scott
6/5	Sydney Barron	6/15	Richard Kelly	6/25	Jackson Spencer
6/5	Charles Binari	6/16	Matt Wolff	6/26	Didem Baird
6/5	Hilda Burcher	6/17	Katie Hayden	6/26	Wayne Cofer
6/5	Nolan Valliere	6/17	Sarey Hayden	6/27	Maria Cooper
6/6	Cynthia Puskar	6/17	Shannon Kelly	6/27	Jean Hawes
6/6	Wolf Ramm	6/17	Hazel Lockwood	6/27	Donaline Taylor
6/6	Philip Saphos	6/18	Al Baker	6/27	Jeff Winter
6/7	Avery Baird	6/18	Patti Burch	6/28	Paul Bellantoni
6/7	Nikolai Karemyshev	6/18	Debra Busker	6/28	Rebecca Funes
6/7	Travis McCartney	6/18	Sally Stone	6/28	Bill Spahr
6/8	Eleanor Reed	6/19	Ricardo Sosa	6/29	Margaret Hillsman
6/8	Polly Spahr	6/19	Mark Sweet	6/30	Sara Bamford
6/9	Lisa Cassidy	6/20	Lillian Curley	6/30	Heather Dady
6/9	Kristine Hesse	6/20	Cindy Diehl	6/30	Theresa Lewallen
6/9	Amelia Martin	6/20	Jessica Soraghan		

Shrine Mont Weekend September 5-7, 2008

We're excited to announce that this year's theme for the Shrine Mont weekend is *Lord, Make Us an Instrument of Your Peace*.

As usual, the weekend event is designed to be fun and relaxing with opportunities to do as little or as much as you like. Books, blankets, walking shoes are welcomed. Throughout the weekend, we plan to intertwine related topics of Peace, Transformation and Reconciliation for discussion and dialogue. Registration will continue each weekend in the Merrow Hall Auditorium between the 9:00 and 11:15 am services (after the 10:00 am service beginning June 8). Look for Joyce Stencil, et.al. For more information or questions, contact jean.centers@gracealex.org or barry.barr@gracealex.org.



Parish Notes

Parish Picnic Returns on June 8

It's that time of year again, when the sun is shining and the birds are singing, and the smell of lunch cooking permeates the 10:00 am service and enticing us all to come revel in fellowship and food. YES! It's the annual Parish Picnic, hosted by our wonderful Youth (with a Capital Y) and their sponsors. Drinks and meats and some entertainment will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. And pray for the sun and birds to come through. Any questions? Please contact chrissie.crosby@gracealex.org or richard.kelly@gracealex.org.

Summer Choir

Beginning June 8th at 9:00 am, Summer Choir will rehearse in the choir room on the lower level; the anthem for that morning will be rehearsed and then sung at 10:00 am. There is no mid-week rehearsal, and there is no carry-over from week to week – this is your chance to give singing in the choir a try! The anthems will either be old favorites or easy enough to learn quickly; ability to read music isn't a requirement (but it doesn't hurt either!) For more information, contact Thom Robertson at music.director@gracealex.org.

Choir Loft

By the time you read this, all the demolition will be completed, and work on the choir loft will be 75% completed. We estimate the occupancy permit will be approved by the City of Alexandria by the second week in July.

The spindles from the railing have been given to Liz Saalfeld who will be preparing them for sale in 2009, the money going to Grace Anew. A section of the new choir loft rail system may be on display even before you read this.

"Notes from a Student"

A few weeks ago, after a long day of classes, I was surprised to find at my door a huge box of goodies from the Pastoral Care Committee at Grace Church. It was so fun opening the box and seeing what was inside. There were different types of snacks, stickers, capsules that grow into sponge dinosaurs when placed in water—a toy I loved playing with as a child-, comics, a mesh bag for doing laundry, and even Ramen Noodles, so I didn't have to cook that night! (Which means, of course, more time to study.) My favorite thing, though, was the letter inside that was signed by many members of Grace Church. It's comforting to know that even though I am away at medical school, I am still a part of the Grace Church community. I will always feel connected to Grace no matter where I go, for it will always be my church home. Thank you for thinking of me and the other students away at school. It is very much appreciated! alex.barr@gracealex.org.

Parish Staff

Robert Malm Rector
(rector@gracealex.org)
Caroline A. Kramer Assistant Rector
(assistant.lector@gracealex.org)
Christine Byrnes Head of School
(office@graceschoolalex.org)
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Charlotte Payne Wright
..... Parish Administrator
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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

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Electronic Giving is coming to Grace!

Beginning June 1, Grace parishioners may consider a new way of giving to their annual stewardship pledge or to the Grace Anew campaign. Electronic giving will allow contributions to be transferred from your checking or savings account, or your credit or debit card, directly to the church's bank account. The Diocese of Virginia referred Grace to VANCO Services, which provides electronic payment options by fund transfer from one's bank account, or from credit or debit cards. Both parishioners and the church will benefit from this program. For those who choose to participate in electronic giving, withdrawing funds from your bank account is truly giving the Biblical "first fruits." It also eliminates the minor frustration of writing frequent checks or mailing payments when one is traveling. For Grace Church, the advantages are a more consistent and predictable cash flow and less paperwork. Seasonal fluctuations in giving patterns are lessened with electronic giving.

The traditional manner of giving by using stewardship envelopes will continue, and envelopes will be distributed for special offerings as they have been in the past. The offering will be collected during each Sunday service, and those who are participating in electronic transfer may choose to continue to place their envelope in the offering and mark it "EFT" or "I give electronically". Enrollment forms are available in the parish office and on line at the Grace website. For additional information about electronic giving, visit www.ElectronicDonations.com, the Grace Church website, www.gracealex.org, or call Nat Ames at 703-524-9883.

— Nat Ames, Assistant Treasurer