

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

July-August 2008

Rector's Reflections

so much work to be done...

I will always remember Sunday, June 15, 2008. As we celebrated Fathers' Day, the start of my 20th year at Grace and the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood, I received gifts that truly honor the ministry we share together. The needlepoint kneeler with the symbols of the 12 Apostles reminds me of Christ's "Great Commission" to go into all the world and make disciples, teach and baptize. The stunningly beautiful silver paten and chalice will bear the Body and Blood of Christ for Grace Church, the Body of Christ serving Alexandria and beyond.

I deeply appreciate these wonderful gifts. I give thanks for our wardens, vestry, altar guild and others who worked "behind the scenes" to surprise me. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of so many who donated to the cash purse presented me (along with three cakes, exquisite yellow roses and a fantastic reception). I was blessed to share all this with Leslie and three of our four children. During the Eucharist and at the reception, there were times when I felt overcome with emotion. I hope I can always share in the spirit of thanksgiving so manifested. These gifts and the celebration just remind me of the privilege I have to serve with the staff and people of our parish. And we have so much more work to do.

Summer is always a time of rest, relaxation, renewal and re-creation. However, work continues in many important ways for us this summer. I'll mention just three: the loft and capital improvement projects, Shrine Mont, and our new Deacon.

I hope the loft project will be completed by the end of July. Progress continues on the new organ, the roof repairs and upgrades to the HVAC. It is important that our contributions to the Grace Anew fund and our regular pledges to the annual fund remain steady throughout the summer.

Shrine Mont is a very important part of our life in the Diocese of Virginia. Mother Caroline served as Chaplain to St. George's Camp Session #1. Several of our young adults are working on the Shrine Mont staff this summer. Many of our children will attend St. George's or another camp. Our parish weekend, September 5-7, really celebrates the end of summer and the start of the new program year.

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855-2005

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

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

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

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: August 15 for the September 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

Find new ways to look at God

The walkie talkies rattled on their stands. I didn't pay much attention – the chatter was pretty normal for Shrine Mont at this time of night but the children liked to listen,

“That's here,” said Calum.

“What's here?” I asked.

“Listen,” he said, “the skunk.” The children all headed for the door. I shouted after them to stay inside – the last thing I wanted was to scare the thing into spraying.

Outside the next building, sure enough, there was a rustling and then the tell-tale white streak. No smell yet though. I hoped everyone would have sense enough to take the walkie talkie advice seriously and leave it alone – eventually it shuffled off and a nervous counselor dashed out and grabbed the offending trash bag. Plywood cabins are little defense against an angry skunk.

Such is summer life at camp. It is important on many levels – it lets young people get away for a while to a place which offers them space and fresh air. It gives them a chance to make new friends and learn new skills and more importantly, from my point of view, it gives them a chance to take a fresh look at their spiritual journey and perhaps see God in a different way in the beauty of the mountains.

It is not only campers who need to find new ways to look at God – we all do. Summer is a great time, as we travel, or even as we stay here to look for God in new ways and in new places. Make the effort to go to Church on vacation, take a walk or a boat ride, enjoy a picnic. Allow God to be in all the places where you find yourself – especially the less familiar ones – make your prayer one for learning more of God each day.

So even if you have decided to forego the joy of dodging skunks in the woods this year – don't give up on finding God in all sorts of new and exciting places and keep praying for those young campers who will talk for hours with wide eyes about the perils of cabin living.

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

Mark Powell's Ordination

The Rev. Mark Powell, our seminarian in 2005-2007, was ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday, June 28, at 10:00 am at his home parish, St. Andrew's On-the-Sound, Wilmington, NC. Please keep Mark in your prayers and anyone travelling to the NC coast this summer should stop by St. Andrew's.

Treasurer's Report

In case you missed the news, Grace Church is now offering Electronic Giving. Easy and simple to use, Electronic Giving allows your monthly contributions to be transferred electronically from your checking or savings account or your credit card directly to the church account. Please visit the church website or the office for a registration form. Additionally, call Nat Ames at 703/524-9883 for help and questions.

We would like to encourage everyone to continue with their annual pledge payments throughout the summer. The church has expenses such as program expenses, salaries for the clergy and lay staff, and maintenance of the building, which still must be paid. Please consider paying your pledge before leaving for your vacation. Or better yet, consider the electronic banking.

Parishioners have been very generous in paying their pledges to Grace Anew! As of June 15, the church has not yet drawn against the construction loan with BB&T. We have been able to pay almost \$400,000 in expenditures without borrowing from the loan! However, we will most likely have to draw in the first of the loan proceeds this summer, as work continues on the organ, the loft and the roof. Thank you to everyone for making it possible for us to get this far in the construction process without using the loan.

Please remember to keep up paying on your pledges! Have a wonderful summer.

— *Linda Durand, Treasurer; Nat Ames, Assistant Treasurer*

Donations to the Legal Defense Fund

Most of you are aware that the dispute over property in the Diocese of Virginia has transitioned into litigation in the Virginia courts. The Diocese of Virginia has established a legal defense fund. If you would like to make a voluntary contribution, please send it to: The Diocese of Virginia, 110 West Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23220

For more information, please contact Cleve Corlett, Delegate, Jane Rosman, Delegate, Anne Caputo, Alternate Delegate or June Huber, Alternate Delegate.

From the

Parish Register

Baptisms

- James Everett Ruff, son of Greg and Amanda Ruff, grandson of Hillary Ruff

Blessing of a Civil Marriage

- Jeffrey and Terry Albritten, daughter of Lottie Henry

Memorial Service and Burial

- Georgie Fugitt Richardson, parishioner and sister of Marion Rice

— *Dorothy Daniel*

Spring Fling Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament had to be rescheduled to June 2 from April 28 when heavy rain prevented the afternoon round. Six drenched golfers did get in 18 holes with the team of Jay Legere, John Metz and Margaret Will winning the best ball competition.

Monday, June 2, was a fantastic late spring day without a cloud in the sky and perfect temperature. Six golfers completed 36 holes and six others played in the 18-hole "Captains Choice" match; this year the winning team was Peter Iovino, Jay Legere and John Metz, although the "Chicks with Sticks" team (Chrissie Crosby, Stephanie Reed, Jane Rosman and Margaret Will) tied them with their 17-stroke handicap. Grace golfers look forward to September 5 and the Friday golf tournament at Bryce Resort to start off the Parish weekend at Shrine Mont.

—*Bob Malm*

Senior Warden's Report

Rector's Reflections
(continued from page 1)

The Property Committee has been very busy evaluating contracts for the new roof on Merrow Hall. A contractor has been selected and contracts have been signed. We will soon have a new roof!

The construction on the choir loft has been underway for some time. We all anxiously await the finished loft.

On Sunday, June 15th, we celebrated Fr. Malm's 30th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. On behalf of the parish and vestry he was presented with a needlepoint kneeler to be installed and blessed in July, a chalice and paten inscribed with:

*In celebration of 30 years of
ordained ministry
The Rev. Robert H. Malm
June 2008*

Fr. Malm blessed the Malm chalice and paten, putting them right to work as we received communion for the first time from them.

Upstairs in Merrow Hall Auditorium, we had a festive reception with a presentation of the purse for Fr. Malm.

Thank you to all who contributed to such a wonderful celebration.

—Jane Rosman, Senior Warden

By now our new Deacon, Patrick Crerar, has been hard at work in his first parish job since graduating from The Virginia Theological Seminary last May. Patrick will be working hard to expand our Latino ministry, reach out to young adults and strengthen our existing outreach ministries, even as we send out two Mission Teams in July. He needs our help and support.

It's summer, but there's so much work to be done. I'm into my 20th year as your Rector, but there's so much work to be done. Christ calls and empowers each one of us because there is so much work to be done. In order to give our work at Grace our very best, we all need time for renewal, for vacation, for rest.

Enjoy the summer. Find refreshment. Change the pace. Experience God's love. Be ready to work. Give thanks always.

—The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

With Infinite Thankfulness and Caritas

When God, in His infinite wisdom, directed Becky and me to Grace Episcopal Church back in 1951, little did we know what a monumental blessing that would become. My family and I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Grace Church Family for the overwhelming support and assistance that were indispensable in getting us through the difficulties of the past several months. Too countless to be enumerated were the sincere expressions of sympathy and support, the many visits and other concrete physical evidences of assistance. The parish leadership,

both clerical and lay, was heartwarming and a rock of significant emotional assistance to our family. We are particularly grateful for the magnificent memorial service and Eucharist which was so uplifting and will never be forgotten; for the hard work and selflessness of the staff, altar guild, choirs and individual musicians, acolytes, ushers, kitchen help and all others involved.

Thanks be to God for Grace Episcopal Church and its unique aura of altruism.

—Chuck Barker and Family



photo by Deborah Crabtree

Latest news of our Seminarian, Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly

Check out Jennifer's schedule these days and you know that compared to our on-the-go seminarian, the Energizer Bunny moves with the speed of cooling lava.

Fresh from her Middler year final exams, on June 1 Jennifer sped off to Villanova University in Philadelphia for a week-long Preaching Excellence Program (PEP) Conference in which a highly select group of seminarians ("the most promising and proficient future preachers") took part in in-depth seminars on the art and skill of preaching—from 7:30 am to 9 pm! The theme of the week was Sermons on Parables. It was intense—Jennifer's

group of seven was guided by a priest and homiletics professor—and it was the opportunity of a seminarian's lifetime to hear great sermons (as many as nine in one day!), to analyze and evaluate sermons of budding preachers, and to get constructive criticism.

Jennifer will deliver her parable sermon this summer in her home diocese of Delaware where she'll continue her Field Education internship for six weeks at St. Martha's Episcopal Church in Bethany Beach (less than two blocks from the water). Besides her preaching and taking part in the

church's various groups and committees, Jennifer's emphasis will be with the Outreach Committee's work with the young people who come from around the world for summer work in the area's beach-front hotels and restaurants. Jennifer's excited about working with these youth, many of whom have limited English and may feel ill at ease, far from home in a strange culture.

It's a lot of work and study, but, besides her Bible and textbooks, Jennifer is also taking her bathing suit. Add some sunglasses and blue sandals—and, Energizer Bunny, look out!

— *Barbara Morris*

Summer Choir

If you've wanted to sing in a choir without committing to weekly rehearsals, the summer schedule is for you! Just gather in the St. Cecilia Room on the lower level at 9:00 am on any Sunday morning; we'll put together a simple anthem to be sung at the 10:00 am service that day. If you miss a week, don't worry – you can come back without fear of having missed a rehearsal! You may be some of the first to experience singing from the new choir gallery once it is completed sometime in July; at that time we'll move the continuo organ upstairs (it's mobile!) and sing from the gallery.

— *Thom Robertson, Director of Music*

Graceful Worship

The website says it's "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 for his 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."

As our Shrine Mont Retreat draws closer, I reflect on the history, beauty and meaning of this special place.

Nestled among the trees at the foot of

Worship at Shrine Mont

Great North Mountain in the Shenandoah Valley is the rustic and serene Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration. This open-air cathedral, unique to the Diocese of Virginia, was consecrated in 1925. Each of its stones was pulled by horse or rolled by local people from the mountain that embraces it. The baptismal font was originally a dugout stone used by Indians to grind corn.

I look forward to "celebrating being part of the family of God" at this holy place with many members of our branch of "the family."

— *June Huber*

July-August Birthdays

7/1	Mike Hix	7/19	Declan Jamberdino	8/9	Don Wills
7/1	Leslie Stancil	7/19	Sara Zaza	8/10	Victor Vassallo
7/1	Helen Sweeney	7/20	Lauren Feeley	8/12	William Edgar
7/2	William Baird	7/20	Callan Henderson	8/12	Fatima Flores
7/2	Sherryl Dodd	7/21	Molly Clarke	8/12	Daniel Robinson
7/3	Billy Barr	7/21	Pegge Crepeau	8/12	Piers Spencer
7/3	Rhea Barr	7/22	Carl Eckel	8/13	Paul Winkel
7/6	Alexandra Falcon	7/22	Barry Rosman	8/14	Liz Carter
7/6	Winnie Samuda	7/22	Karen Spencer	8/14	Barbara Poole
7/7	Keegan Polson	7/23	Vance Allen	8/14	Duncan Walsh
7/7	Skye Whitlow	7/23	Pat Moore	8/15	Marc Cooper
7/8	Mike Gentry	7/23	Tod Moore	8/15	Bill Cummings
7/8	Ricardo Sosa	7/24	Chris Caputo	8/15	Cynthia Fors
7/8	Jeff Valliere	7/24	Mike Jones	8/15	Kelsey Reeder
7/9	Robert Schultz	7/25	Jean Reed	8/15	Carl Seward
7/10	Will Barnes	7/26	Martha Mills	8/16	Rocky Gillette
7/10	Mike McGough	7/27	Chad Murchison	8/16	Rosita Sosa
7/11	Chuck Barker	7/28	Soma Fulwiler	8/17	Ana Hernandez
7/11	Marvin Ely	7/28	Jane Weaver	8/17	Kara Houston
7/12	Burrell Driscoll	7/30	Emma Imphong	8/17	John Kendrick
7/12	Greg Hoppe	7/30	Sally Schneider	8/19	Savannah Soraghan
7/14	Susanna Cunningham	7/31	Sharon Hickok	8/20	Jose Trejo
7/14	Claire Eudy	7/31	Stephanie Reed	8/21	Aidan Smith
7/14	Javier Flores	8/2	Taylor Beyreuther	8/21	Frank Waskowicz
7/14	Mitchell Hazard	8/2	Heather Hurley	8/22	Charles Gardner
7/14	Jeanie Kaufman	8/2	Wendell Thomas	8/22	Virginia Griffin
7/15	Lina Dobbs	8/2	Julia Zeigler	8/22	Kate Nider
7/15	Martha Hazard	8/3	Brooke Henry	8/22	Santos Trejo
7/15	Rikki Jarrett	8/3	Joanne Peters	8/23	Katherine Di Crocco
7/16	Karlene Kelly	8/4	Jerry Horwitz	8/23	Keith Giacomo
7/16	Marian Knight	8/4	Ralph Lewis	8/24	Heather Murphy
7/16	Chris Rugaber	8/4	Deborah Miller	8/24	Chase Nelson
7/17	Howell Medley	8/5	Jennifer Day	8/25	Jeffery Chiow
7/17	Georganna Murto	8/5	Kim Griffin	8/25	David Hoppe
7/18	Chrissie Crosby	8/5	Michael Ramm	8/25	Evan Pfeiffer
7/18	Owen Dowell	8/5	Jan Spence	8/25	Francesca Revilla
7/18	Elliott Gabbert	8/6	Lisa Sprague	8/25	Mary Savino
7/18	Dorothy Gerber	8/7	Mary-Jo Cooney	8/26	Sam Blunden
7/18	John Hall	8/7	Amanda Foster-Baril	8/26	Andrew Smith
7/18	David Murphy	8/7	Jenna Payne	8/26	Colin Stancil
7/18	Thomas Pfeiffer	8/8	Diana Jarrett	8/26	John Sweeney
7/18	Ruth Schrott	8/8	Robert Schrott		
7/18	Catherine Warner	8/9	Erica McFarquhar		
7/19	Cleve Corlett	8/9	Paul Miller		

(continued on page 7)

Parish Notes

Our New Website

If all goes according to plan, Grace Church will have a new and improved website by the end of the summer. The Web Team is grateful for the suggestions it has received over the past two years, and is always open to more. Contact them at web.team@gracealex.org.

Lord, Make me an Instrument of Your Peace

What's the Shrine Mont Weekend all about? Just ask anyone who has been there and you'll likely get a resounding affirmation. Newcomers, children, single adults and frequent flyers all have their special memories: surrounding mountains, porch activities, children's play and laughter, Follies, reading time, making new friends or great meals. And this year's event scheduled for September 5-7 is shaping up to be no exception. Guided by the theme "Lord, Make me an Instrument of Your Peace," parishioners will experience a unique time for reflection, relaxation, laughter and prayer. If you have not registered yet, you may do so in Merrow Hall

(continued from page 6)

- 8/27 Sophia Raymond
- 8/28 Emma Alvarenga
- 8/28 David Boris
- 8/28 Elizabeth McGlohn
- 8/29 Maggie Eckel
- 8/30 Ella DiGiore
- 8/31 Susan Hayduchok
- 8/31 Kathleen Paige

Auditorium after the 10 am Sunday services. Spaces are filling up quickly. General information is available at www.shrinemont.com. Any questions please contact jean.centers@gracealex.org or barry.barr@gracealex.org.

Grace's Two Summer Mission Teams

Please keep our mission teams in your prayers. A combined team of EYC (youth) and other parish missioners is going to New Orleans on July 8. Our other team is going to Honduras on July 19. Names of missioners will be in the bulletins nearer the time. Please also thank God for the members of the teams who will not travel but have worked so hard to put these trips together. If you are interested in joining a Mission Team in future years please contact barbara.read@gracealex.org or john.berry@gracealex.org.

Going once, going twice

Please plan to attend the Grace Church auction on the evening of Saturday, November 8. The auction will benefit the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) group and most specifically, their pilgrimage planned for next summer. Michelle Cox is coordinating the group's efforts and will appreciate hearing from you if you are able and willing to donate your time, talents, or treasures! Michelle can be reached most easily at michelle.cox@gracealex.org.

Parish Staff

Robert H. Malm Rector
(rector@gracealex.org)
Caroline A. Kramer Assistant Rector
(assistant.rector@gracealex.org)
Patrick T. Crerar Deacon
(deacon@gracealex.org)
Christine Byrnes Head of School
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Thom Robertson Director of Music
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Charlotte Payne Wright
..... Parish Administrator
(parish.administrator@gracealex.org)
Beth Wiggers Administrative Associate
(parish.office@gracealex.org)
Ruth Young ... Children's Chaptive Associate
(childrens.chapel@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

Alternate

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
Jean Reed Stewardship
Marianne Swearingen TNT
Jeff Gustafson Worship
Chrissie Crosby Youth

Grace Notes

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A Look Ahead to Fall

The Special Events Calendar will be included in the September issue, but here are a few dates to put on your calendars:

- September 5-7: Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont
- September 14: Resume regular Sunday Service schedule (7:30, 9:00, & 11:15 am & 5:00 pm; Sunday School Registration and Sign-on Sunday (10:15 am); Youth Fall Kick-off dinner & meeting (5:30 pm)
- September 17, 18: Choir rehearsals resume (Wednesdays, St. Nicholas Choir, 6:30-7:00 pm, and Alleluia Singers, 7:15- 8:45 pm; and Thursdays, Handbells, 7:00-8:00 pm, and Schola Cantorum, 8:15-9:45 pm)
- September 21: Classes for children, youth and adults resume from 10:15-11:00 am
- September 28: Founders' Day: 153rd Birthday of the Parish
- October 5: Youth Sunday at 9:00 am; EYC mission presentation at 10:15 am; St. Francis Sunday Blessing of the Animals at 4:30 pm
- October 26: Inquirers' Class for 2008 – 2009 begins (10:15-11:00 am)
- November 16: Evensong, followed by Holy Eucharist (5:00 pm)
- December 21: Children's Christmas Pageant (5:00 pm) followed by potluck supper

July-August 2008