

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

December 2008/
January 2009

Rector's Reflections **The Incarnation... changes everything.**

While driving to South Carolina to visit my daughter last month, I noticed at least three FM radio stations that were already playing Christmas carols/music. It was November 14th, almost six weeks before Christmas! I also noticed Christmas decorations, including wreaths and lights, already displayed on some homes and schools.

Once again I was reminded that my sense of timing and preparation for Christmas is so different from many in our culture. And our focus on Christmas at Grace Church, at least liturgically, grows through the Advent season, continues for the 12 days of Christmas and lasts for weeks through Epiphany until we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Christ Child in the Temple in early February.

To highlight the ongoing reality of the Incarnation, we use these words as a "Fraction Anthem" through the Presentation, six weeks after Christmas:

The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. He was with God in the beginning and dwelt among us.

Every year Advent, Christmas and Epiphany ask us to consider how we prepare to live our lives based upon the truth St. John helps us to realize, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." The Incarnation, God in the human flesh of Jesus, changes everything and we try to build our lives upon this central fact.

Seasons and celebrations come and go. Time marches on. The infant becomes a boy and, then, the man known as Rabbi. Soon the cross looms in the distance and we are asked to move from one great question about life, "How can God use human flesh?" to another mystifying question about death, "What is eternal life?"

So I can't rush into Christmas music or decorations. Trying to live into the first great question takes at least the 24 days of Advent.

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Worship Schedule

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 with 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: January 15 for the February 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

Moving Forward During Advent

Although Advent is a penitential season, it is also a positive time in the Church's year. While the purple in Church reminds us that we need to clean out our spiritual lives, the name of the season—Advent—connotes forward movement, and what we are moving toward is the mystery revealed and hidden in the incarnation of Our Lord.

It is easy to turn this whole picture into a kind of tableau, but really Advent asks us to look harder. The tableau is there: the beauty of God made human, but so is the brokenness that Jesus came to heal. The pride and determination of self, which pulled the Jews from their covenant status, is not something of the past; it is something that we still struggle with individually and as a Church.

Some people say it is hard to see God in the city. I wonder whether it is all too easy. The God we see in the city is often not the Christmas Card God but rather a harder-edged incarnation, the Jesus who swept clean the Temple and demanded that people examine their hearts and consciences so that they could be in a relationship with Him and with their Creator.

Advent calls us to move forward in the knowledge that the God we serve is both beautiful and challenging, in both the stained glass and the broken glass by the side of the street. This may bring us up short, but really, were it not so, would we want this one-dimensional Christ in our lives? Would we really be able to commit to a rosy-cheeked infant out of a sentiment of prettiness?

This swirling reality is positive because it allows—allows for all of us—for our humanity and our lack of humanity. We move toward the perfection of Christ, but we walk in the imperfection of the world that Christ really lived in. God knows. God knows where we are. God knows where we have been. God knows where we are going. This Advent let us be positive, clean up, and reset our path toward Christ. Let us walk in Christ and allow His Holy Incarnation to be everything that it can be.

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

Grace Church Choral Society

Beginning Tuesday, January 13, 2009, the Grace Church Choral Society will begin rehearsals for a concert to be given on Saturday, February 21. Rehearsals are for all interested in singing a major choral work with orchestra. You don't need to be a member of either Grace Church or its choirs. For further information, and to be placed on the email notification list, please contact Thom Robertson.

— *Thom Robertson, Director of Music*

Junior Warden's Report

As we finish out 2008 and begin 2009, I thought it would be good to look back and see what we have done around the church and school...

At the start of the year, it was difficult to maintain comfortable temperatures in the school classrooms. Some simple valve replacements alleviated the need to open windows during winter to keep the rooms from overheating. Longer-term solutions are being developed by the Property Committee, which will address heating and air conditioning issues across the entire complex.

In the spring, the school added a new turf field, which improved the recreation experience for the students and reduced the amount of mud and dirt coming back into the building. As part of the upgrades to the playing fields, we supported the school's proposal to extend the block retaining wall. The extension allows grass to grow on the back lawns and prevents soil from being washed away during rainstorms. Now the back lawns look even better.

One project that we all saw from start to finish was the expansion of the loft. Doesn't it look great! In addition, work on the organ continues, and visible signs of its progress should start showing up in the very near future.

As you may have noticed this summer, the roof over Merrow Hall was replaced, and several other problematic areas of the roof were repaired. During construction, the roof sprung some minor leaks, but most have been sealed. The Vestry also approved an addition to the roofing project to repoint the masonry on the decorative bell tower above the altar. The failing masonry there is allowing water to leak into the altar area during heavy storms.

The parking lots were resealed with fresh blacktop during the summer and the spaces were freshly striped. As fall came, we repaired several exterior lights to provide much needed lighting around the property and in the parking lots.

One project that you may not have seen unless you have small children was in the Nursery. The dividing wall within the Nursery was cut down to a half wall in order to open up the space and allow the workers a better view of the children playing in the entire space. It's a great improvement that will benefit our smallest ones for years to come.

Wow, it's been a busy year around Grace! Thanks to everyone who has helped keep the improvements, big or small, on track. Let's hope 2009 is just as productive, because there is always something else to keep a Junior Warden (and his or her many helpers) busy.

— *Phil Smith, Jr. Warden*

From the

Parish Register

Baptisms

- Maya Maria Hendricks, daughter of Cedric Hendricks & Tania Shand
- Justin Joel Meza Iraheta, son of Juan Martinez & Hilda Galeas
- Lawrence Entler Kline, son of Lawrence Kline III & Sara Zaza
- Michael Teunis Madigan, son of Matthew & Kathryn Madigan
- Charlotte Mei Houston Peralta, daughter of Ronard & Kara Peralta

Transfer In

- Paulette Fitzgerald from the Church of Christ the King, Stone Ridge, NY

Transfer Out

- Stephanie and John Miles, with baptized children William and Ben, to St. Mark's Church, Alexandria
- Bonnie Rollings to St. Stephen's Church, Huntsville, AL

Burial

- John Kavanaugh Russell

— *Dorothy Daniel*

Quiet Day

The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross will present a quiet day entitled "Becoming Agents of God's Future" on Saturday, January 10, at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, 4200 Albemarle Street in Washington. The leader will be Fr. Martin L. Smith, distinguished author and teacher. Fr. Smith has spoken at Grace during our Lenten Series. The program will begin with registration at 9:30 am and conclude at 3:30 pm. The \$50 fee (payable in advance) includes morning coffee and lunch. For further information and a registration form, email SCHC-DC@innernet.net or call Georgiana Greely at 703.683.2897. The registration deadline is December 15.

— *Georgiana Greely*

Father Crerar's Ordination

Rector's Reflections
(continued from page 1)

All are invited to attend the ordination of the Rev. Patrick Crerar, Grace Church's Deacon and Assistant to the Rector, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria on Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 pm. Following the ordination service, St. Paul's Church will host a reception in its fellowship hall for the several newly ordained priests from the Diocese of Virginia.

and should be over by 9:15 pm. Watch for further details in Sunday bulletins or on the Grace Church website, www.gracealex.org.

We rejoice in Patrick's ministry to Grace Church and to our La Gracia congregation since he was called to join us in June 2008 following his graduation from the Virginia Theological Seminary.

— Ruth Corlett

In addition, in honor of Father Crerar's ordination and his first celebration of the Eucharist at Grace Church at our 6:30 pm daily service on Monday, December 15, parishioners and friends are invited to a potluck supper in Merrow Hall Auditorium. The supper will begin after the Eucharist, around 7:15 pm,

Please note that there will be no 5:00 pm service or Holy Eucharist on Sunday, December 14, at Grace Church.

Nor can I quickly move away from the meaning of Christ's birth. I need even more time than the 12 days from Christmas to Epiphany. The cross comes too fast after the manger.

Enjoy the seasons. Make the most of the time. Reflect on the great truths and the great questions.

All of us on the Grace Church staff hope you and your loved ones enjoy the blessings of Christmas and look forward to the hopes of the New Year.

Grace, peace and love,

— The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

Habitat Breakfast

Attending the Habitat for Humanity Annual Breakfast was a compelling way to start the day. With the usual lauding of accomplishments and the necessary pleas for contributions, there were a couple of deeply appreciative testimonials from beneficiaries of the affordable home program. When you see and hear the people who have moved into their new home describe how it changed their lives, it becomes clear how valuable this program is. And this value not only benefits the new homeowner, but all those who have participated in making it happen.

As another mission season approaches, and locations and needs are assessed, we can use what we have learned and seen on past trips to evaluate where we can best serve. There are many ways to look at mission trips and how they have helped. Not all of that good goes to the recipient. There are also great rewards in the giving. Mission trips build strong ties both within the group that travels and among their supporters. The life lessons and skills learned are a vital component, and the financial cost of those trips can be considered an investment in the

missioners that will directly benefit our church community, not the least of which is the desire to serve even more.

The opportunity to attend this meeting was a reminder of all the options available to us; we should remember that our talents could be used near and far. If one thing became clear, it is that it is time to consider how we can offer hands and hearts to something greater than ourselves, in mission afar or in local outreach closer to home.

— John Berry

The Importance of an Advance Medical Directive

During the Adult Forum on October 19, *Eldercare and End of Life Issues*, I was reminded just how important it is for everyone to have an Advance Medical Directive.

In August of 2007 I lost John, my partner of 40 years. We were in our final week of our annual month's vacation in Middlesex County, VA. We took a day trip to Jamestown and at the end of the tour John said he wanted to rest for a while in the Visitors Center. While he was resting I went to the gift shop and was there for no more than 10 minutes. Upon my return I found him unconscious; I thought he had just fainted. The woman sitting next to him started

CPR immediately and then the officials at the Visitors Center brought out a defibrillator and began shock treatment, as did the rescue squad, who arrived within a few minutes.

John had gone into cardiac arrest and never regained consciousness. The first evening at the hospital I went to my car and found John's Advance Medical Directive on the front seat. I contacted his sons in North Carolina and South Carolina and a sister in Ohio and they all came to the hospital in Williamsburg. I was facing end of life decisions in a strange hospital 135 miles from home. The hospital personnel couldn't have been nicer and never asked to see any official

documentation. However, this might not be the case elsewhere. The family and I spent a lot of time reading his Medical Directive, following his wishes to the letter. We asked that life support be removed, and after this was done, he had a very peaceful physical death within 20 minutes.

Losing a loved one is always difficult, but it was a great comfort to me and John's family to know that we were doing exactly as he wished. His Advance Medical Directive made this possible and helped us get through a very difficult time.

—Michael Heintz

J2A Fall Festival Auction a Success!

The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) auction was held on November 8, 2008. As a major fundraiser for our pilgrimage, it was a massive success! Many kind and generous people attended the event and bid, bid, bid! All of us had different responsibilities: checking people in the lobby, serving food, putting up decorations, and so on. It was definitely a team effort since so much work went into preparing for the event. If it weren't for our extremely kind adult helpers, we would not have had the achievement that we had. Those who helped us, parents or not, donated much of their time and talent. Not only did they help set up on Friday

and Saturday morning, but they also attended the event and spent money to support us. Our group is grateful for all that they donated, be it money, time, talent or items.

The event was wonderful. My job, checking people in at the front desk, got to be very busy. Later I scampered upstairs to help at the balloon popping station. As I wandered around Merrow Hall, I could tell that the attendees cared about our group very much. Bid sheet after bid sheet was filled with competitive prices. People hovered over bid sheets of items that they

wanted, and the voices of Eleanor and my dad, the auctioneer and MC, could be heard above the murmur of the crowd. I was very pleased to see that the Groovy Girl Doll baskets that my family donated were being bid on. Finally, after many years of sitting on a top shelf, they would be used again!

At the end of the night, after cleaning up decorations and tables, I was extremely happy with the turnout and the generosity of our church family. Thank you so much for bidding and supporting us. With everyone's help we raised over \$12,000 for our pilgrimage!

—Christina Iovino

St. Francis Garden Pet Directory

No list has been kept of the pets whose ashes are buried in the St. Francis Garden. Fred and I would like to compile such a list electronically and put the information into a book. The list will be set up so that it may be continued. If you have a pet whose remains have been buried in the St. Francis Garden, please send the following information to fsaalfeld@verizon.net or ersaalfeld@verizon.net:

- Name of Pet
- Family name or the name you would like in the book
- Kind of Pet (dog, cat, hamster, etc.)
- Date of burial

—*Liz Saalfeld*

The Church's One Foundation

The 214th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia will be held in Reston at the Hyatt Regency January 23-24. Grace Church will be represented by The Rev. Robert Malm, The Rev. Caroline Kramer (non-voting), The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Cleve Corlett and Jane Rosman.

The Chaplain will be the Most Rev. Dr. Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff.

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, our Diocesan Bishop, leads the Council. Bishop Lee is expected to announce his retirement date at this council. Bishop Lee became the 12th Bishop of Virginia on May 27, 1985. The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop Coadjutor, will become the 13th Bishop of Virginia upon Bishop Lee's retirement.

This meeting is the annual meeting of all of the Churches (194) and clergy (455) of the Diocese of Virginia. The Diocese of Virginia is one of the oldest and largest dioceses of The Episcopal Church, USA.

For more information about Annual Council please visit http://www.thediocese.net/diocese/annual_council_214.shtml

—*Jane Rosman, Senior Warden*

Help Us Build the Parish Archives

When our parish prepares for the upcoming bicentennial around the middle of this century, they'll turn to the robust trove of pictures, stories and documents that you and I have carefully put away in the parish archives. They will find a richness of memories about our worship, our community, our families, our joys, and our travails.

Unfortunately, that won't happen without your involvement. Now, especially, as you ready your house for the holidays and perhaps straighten things up a little, think about the pictures, programs and notes you're getting ready to toss. They might be appropriate for inclusion in our archives. Pictures (with dates, names and locations please), minutes of committee meetings, lecture notes, newspaper articles about the Episcopal Church in our time, stories, and clippings: these are great stuff!

What you give will be safely put away into humidity- and temperature-controlled storage. Electronic files of the archives will be available in the office. We can also create portable document format (PDF) copies of the files.

All contributions gratefully accepted. Put them in an envelope (or crate!) and leave in the office for Frank Waskowicz (phone 703.507.2699).

—*Frank Waskowicz*

Advent Procession

On Sunday December 7 at 6:00 pm, the Grace Church choirs will present their annual Advent Procession of Carols and Lessons. Similar to the more familiar Christmas Lessons and Carols, this service begins in relative darkness as the choirs progress from the narthex into the full light of the sanctuary ("...from darkness to light"). The choirs have been rehearsing this music since September, and they will encircle you as they sing to help set the anticipatory mood of Advent. You'll hear ancient plainsong, a shaped-note hymn, and even Rachmaninov's setting of *Ave Maria* sung in Old Church Slavonic. Following the service, there will be a festive reception in the auditorium of Merrow Hall.

—*Thom Robertson, Director of Music*

Grace Episcopal School News

In October, we were blessed with spectacular fall weather and a dedicated group of golfers and volunteers who helped make the golf tournament a success. We are thankful for all of the Grace church parishioners who participated in the tournament, which raised nearly \$15,000 for our school. We were also proud to donate a portion of the money to the New Neighbors Education Center in Alexandria, which provides English instruction and childcare and child development services to new immigrants in our area.

November also marked the beginning of our school's Annual Giving Fund drive to benefit currently enrolled students at GES. The Annual Fund is the most important fundraiser we rely on to help meet the school's budget requirements. If you wish to make a contribution to the Annual Giving Fund, you can pick up a brochure outside the church office or stop by the school office anytime during school hours.

Grace school's annual Auction and Gala will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2009. This year's theme, "I'm in Heaven," promises some "out of this world" auction items and decor. The auction will feature, among other things, chances to win a three-day all expenses paid trip to New York City, including round-trip airfare, hotel, dinner for two at Tavern on the Green, and a Broadway show. Tickets are available now by calling the school office at 703.549.5067. We hope you can join us on February 7 for what promises to be a heavenly experience!

— Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School

Graceful Worship

Revised Common Lectionary

Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2008, Grace Church will begin using the *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL). The RCL, published in 1992, takes into account constructive criticism (published in 1983) of the *Common Lectionary* based on evaluation of its trial use. Like the current prayer book lectionary, the RCL is a three-year cycle of Sunday Eucharistic readings in which Matthew, Mark and Luke are read in successive years with some material from John read in each year.

The RCL is an ecumenical lectionary shared by most Protestant denominations and widely used throughout the Anglican Communion. It provides three new features: (1) the option of semi-continuous reading of the great Old Testament narratives on the Sundays after Pentecost, to provide exciting new preaching opportunities, Vacation Bible School ideas or informal summer storytelling for adults as well as children; (2) the option of lections in thematic harmony with the Gospel of the day for the Sundays after Pentecost; and (3) inclusion of women and their role in salvation history, offering texts about women never before heard on Sunday.

The General Convention authorized the trial use of the RCL in 1997 and, in 2006, resolved that all Episcopal Churches would use it by the First Sunday in Advent, 2010. Because many Episcopal parishes and publications are now using the RCL, our Rector decided that this was the right time for us to make the change too. A brochure about the RCL entitled "In the Beginning Was the Word" is available in the tract-rack, on the credenza, and in the parish office.

— June Huber

Journeying with Mary: An Advent Series

Sunday December 7

Calling

Fr. Crerar

Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly

Sunday December 14

Art

Ann Boris

Sunday December 21

Prayer

Fr. Malm

Location

Merrow Auditorium

10:15am

All Welcome



*artwork by
Mother
Caroline*

Help Others at Christmas

Once again the Outreach Committee is teaming up with the Salvation Army to help provide Christmas to needy families in our community. While their needs are great, their requests are meager. I hope that you will consider sponsoring an individual or family. This year has been particularly rough for many families and they need our help. The sign-up for this program will begin the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please contact Sally Schneider with if you have questions or need more information at sally.schneider@gracealex.org or 703.683.1848. God bless and have a wonderful holiday season.

— *Sally Schneider*

Children's Notes

Sunday School has gotten off to a great start. Our new staff member Rosa Castillo is doing a great job with various projects.

On November 2, we had the "Parade of Saints" at the 9:00 am service. Our children joined in the opening procession carrying things they made in Sunday school that represented various saints. They then shared these with the adults in the forum.

Rosa is coordinating a Jesse Tree project. (By now parents should have

received a letter about this.) The tree will go up outside the sacristy. Do stop by to see the children's artwork and learn more about this ancient Advent custom.

Preschool will be doing a special Advent course on the theme of journeying.

This year's Christmas Pageant will be at 5:00 pm on Sunday December 21. Rehearsals will start at 2:30 pm or 3:00 pm that day depending on your child's age. Sunday School classes

will assign parts on the first Sunday in December. A light potluck meal will follow.

Our annual meeting will be Sunday January 25. Please plan to attend. Childcare is provided.

We will soon begin to send birthday cards to all children registered in our programs. If you have not registered your child, please do so to avoid this disappointment!

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

Help Greet Our Guests at 7:30 pm on Christmas Eve

When it comes to our Christmas Eve services, Grace Church members clearly do not favor the one at 7:30 pm. However, our neighbors do, and last year there were well over 100 people at this service, the vast majority of whom were not Grace Church members. The service itself is delightful, with lots of congregationally sung hymns, the brass ensemble, Sarah Ritchie enhancing the music, and the inspiring story of our Savior's birth. We invite you to consider attending the 7:30 pm service this

Christmas Eve, where it will be easier to get a seat, and to stay afterwards for a bit to enjoy cookies and cider and to help greet our guests. The hope is that you would consider this a gesture of Christmas hospitality, attending your more preferred service, as well. While attending this service may not be practical for some, others who are free and choose to do so will have the opportunity to share our Christmas joy in a whole new way.

— *Jo Belser*

Grace Anew!

We write to give thanks to Grace Church parishioners and friends for their generous commitment to the Grace Anew campaign. To date approximately 260 have made pledges or contributions to Grace Anew or the Organ Fund in the amount of \$1,290,000. The projects funded by Grace Anew are in progress: the new organ is in production, the choir now occupies the expanded loft, repairs and replacements to the roof have been done, and an orderly process for addressing the HVAC issues is in place. To date the expenses for these projects have exceeded the inflow of Grace Anew revenue, so the parish is now borrowing on a short term loan. The plan is for the payment of pledges over the next two years to allow for the rapid retirement of this loan. Many are actively monitoring cost containment of the projects so that the amount spent does not exceed the pledged monies.

Your continued support of Grace Anew is critical to the successful completion of the campaign. Please consider the following requests:

- If you made a multiple year commitment to Grace Anew, please honor the amount due in 2008 by the end of the calendar year. If you are able to shorten the time horizon for payment of your pledge, this will decrease the amount of interest expense on the loan.
- If you made a one-time pledge or payment to the campaign, please consider additional support in 2009.
- If economic uncertainty compromises your ability to fulfill your commitment, please notify us.

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

Pledge Campaign Update

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it . . . I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart!

Psalms 24:1, 9:1

We are grateful for the outpouring of support for Grace Church on Pledge Sunday and the weeks since. As of November 9, Grace Church had received \$672,429 in pledges for 2009. We are especially encouraged by the number of pledges from new parishioners that we have received – a sign that Grace is becoming an important part of more and more people's lives.

The Vestry is in the process of preparing next year's budget, and the pledges that Grace Church receives determines what we will be able to accomplish next year. If you have not yet had the opportunity to send in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. If you need another Pledge Card, please simply contact the office and we will be happy to send you one. Also, if you prefer, you may now pledge online at www.gracealex.org. And, as always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either one of us.

— *Colin Rushing and Jean Reed,*
Stewardship Co-Chairs

December/January Birthdays

12/1	Florence Binari	12/20	Talley Snow	1/8	Gregory Herring
12/1	Poppy Gardner	12/21	Holly Henderson	1/8	Wyman Howard
12/1	Homer Hunt	12/22	Meghan Ames	1/9	Noelle Smoot
12/2	Elizabeth Zuidema	12/22	Priscilla Hanley	1/10	Chipper Fowler
12/3	Sloane Mebane	12/23	Mary Lacey Reuther	1/10	Sara Waskowicz
12/3	Bobbie Wallace	12/23	Constance Troyer	1/11	Edgar Alvarenga
12/4	Kevin Plunkett	12/23	Chris Yeannakis	1/12	Suzanne Lawton
12/4	Mary Walsh	12/24	Jack Blunden	1/13	Margaret Smith
12/5	Maggie Jerde	12/25	Donna Kennon	1/14	Anne Caputo
12/5	Maura Nelson	12/25	Nicholas Ramm	1/14	Renee DeMarco
12/6	Ben Fowler	12/26	Wanda Fraser	1/14	Ryan Durkin
12/6	Reagan Hope	12/26	Jessica Malm	1/14	Claire Falatko
12/6	Del Hunt	12/27	John Dady	1/14	Suzy McQuilkin
12/6	Cameron Sweet	12/27	Judith Murray	1/14	Betty Mills
12/7	Lara DeMarco	12/27	Sam Waskowicz	1/14	Kylie Payne
12/7	Chris Kern	12/29	Norma Alvarenga	1/14	Lynn Thompson
12/7	Harrison Moore	12/29	Linda Durand	1/15	Dorothee Arnold
12/8	Eddie DeMarco	12/29	Brett Medley	1/15	Waunetah Hall
12/8	Valerie Eudy	12/29	Steven Nider	1/15	Aubrielyn Reeder
12/9	Deborah Crabtree	12/30	Betty Alexander	1/15	Peter Spencer
12/9	Makena Polson	12/30	Jim Di Crocco	1/16	Rose Hall
12/11	Kimberly Edgar	12/30	Gabriella Everett	1/16	Libby Spencer
12/11	Alexander Everett	12/31	Thomas Crabtree	1/17	Caroline Legere
12/11	Lindsay Howard	12/31	Barbara Ramm	1/18	Cathy David
12/11	Wilmer Trejo	1/1	Judy Miller	1/18	Barrett Harwood
12/12	Kristina Larson	1/2	Barbara Davis	1/19	Jeannette Ovando
12/13	Isabella Giacomo	1/2	Jane Joyner	1/21	Jane Barr
12/13	Lucio Ovando	1/2	Brendan Smoot	1/21	Tom Donelson
12/14	Mike Stancil	1/3	Chris Corlett	1/22	Dorothy Daniel
12/14	Lucy Waskowicz	1/3	Yasuhiko Kamakura	1/22	Bill Eckel
12/15	Peter Eckel	1/3	Melanie Lund	1/22	Chris Kupczyk
12/15	Greg Whitlow	1/3	Dina Salamanca	1/22	Teresa Scalzo
12/16	John Greely	1/4	Michelle Cox	1/22	Alison Smith
12/16	Elise Raymond	1/4	Deborah Klaus	1/23	Nat Ames
12/17	Julia Cooper	1/5	Dorothy Bakke	1/23	Suzanne O'Malley
12/17	Mary Fox	1/5	Jayce Barr	1/24	Brennen Ruff
12/17	Mary Lewis Hix	1/6	Jose Alvarenga	1/25	Lizzie Goodnow
12/18	David Dellefield	1/6	Ted Key	1/25	Laura Mergens
12/18	Clay Everett	1/6	Kris Kramer	1/25	Michelle Searcy
12/19	Mac Rein	1/7	Colby Gustafson	1/25	Richard Troyer
12/20	Jim Dougherty	1/7	Karen Hoppe	1/26	Cindy Ikard
12/20	Pat Edelin	1/7	Emily Smith	1/26	Anthony Jamberdino
12/20	Elizabeth Newton	1/7	Sydney Toler		
12/20	Sandy Olexy	1/8	Scott Andrews-Weckerly		

(continued on page 9)

Parish Notes

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study began a study of the Sunday lectionary on November 26 in preparation for the First Sunday in Advent (November 30) and will continue each Wednesday through Easter. Each week's study stands alone, and we invite you to join us, as you are able at 10:00 am in the Library.

Bethlehem Crafts

After all morning services on December 7, handmade olivewood religious articles from Bethlehem and the Holy Land will be available for purchase in the foyer (by the glass doors from the parking lot). The carvings include Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candleholders, angels and other religious articles suitable as gifts. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

(continued from page 8)

- 1/26 Tania Shand
- 1/27 Katy Pattarini
- 1/28 Lucy Medley
- 1/29 Dan Macklin
- 1/29 Morgan Metz
- 1/30 Moira Jamberdino
- 1/30 Charlie Reed
- 1/31 Jonathan Austin
- 1/31 Lisa Boci
- 1/31 Anne Boris
- 1/31 Sarah Gabbert
- 1/31 Harper Soraghan
- 1/31 Bob Steele
- 1/31 Sharon Steele

Mission 2009

Parishioners soon will receive a brochure from the Mission Planning Team outlining five choices for mission work in 2009. If you sense a call to mission in 2009, please review the information and contact the mission planners listed in the brochure.

Christmas Gifts Program

Share your blessings with those in need in our community. Grace's annual gifts program has begun. Check the foyer for information and sign up to "adopt" a family, a senior or a child for the Christmas holiday. If you have any questions, please contact Sally Schneider at sally.schneider@gracealex.org or 703.683.1848.

Need a "Grace-ful" Christmas Gift?

Copies of the Grace Church Cookbook make a wonderful Christmas gift for family and friends. Purchase copies at \$15.00 each in the Parish Office during normal office hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm).

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is fast approaching. All program coordinators need to have their annual reports to Beth Wiggers at beth.wiggers@gracealex.org no later than January 5, 2009. Please be prompt.

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
(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)
Rosa Castillo
..... Children's Ministries Coordinator
(kids@gracealex.org)
Ruth Young . Children's Chapel Coordinator
(childrens.chapel@gracealex.org)
Pedro Hernández.....Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2008

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

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

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia
www.gracealex.org ✧ 703-549-1980 ✧ Fax 703-549-2832
3601 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22305-1799

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Christmas at Grace Church 2008

Christmas Pageant, December 21

5:00 pm Carols and Children's Christmas Pageant followed by a potluck in Merrow Hall Auditorium.

Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 pm The First Eucharist of Christmas with procession to the crèche. (Prelude at 4:40 pm) Child care provided for ages 6 weeks through kindergarten at this service only.

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist with Carols (Prelude at 7:15 pm) followed by a reception in the Narthex

11:00 pm Midnight Mass of the Nativity of our Lord (Choral Prelude at 10:30 pm)

11:00 pm La Santa Eucaristía (St. John Room)

Christmas Day, December 25

12:00 noon Festival Eucharist

St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr, December 26

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, December 27

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist

Christmas 1, December 28

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am La Santa Eucaristía

10:00 am Lessons and Carols with Choral Eucharist

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist

The Holy Innocents (tr), December 29

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

Feast of the Holy Name, January 1

12:00 noon Choral Eucharist

The Eve of the Epiphany, January 5

7:30 pm Festival Eucharist

The Epiphany, January 6

6:30 pm Holy Eucharist

December 2008/January 2009