

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

## Receiving the Body of Christ

Several weeks ago on a dark, cold winter morning I made my way to the Church to preside at a 7:00 am weekday Holy Eucharist. After parking, turning off the alarm, turning on the lights in the Nave and at the Lady Altar, I began putting on my vestments with just two or three minutes to spare before starting the liturgy. A Lay Eucharistic Minister arrived and the two of us entered the Nave. We were the only two present.

Needless to say, attendance at the weekday eucharists varies greatly (as it does for the five Sunday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist). Sometimes we have two or three present. Sometimes, especially for the five Lenten Monday evenings, we have many present. In the summer, during clergy vacations, we shorten the schedule to three days – Tuesday through Thursday.

Last year we celebrated 243 Sunday eucharists and 262 weekday eucharists. We say that Grace Church is first a "Center for Worship..." Our worship is built upon the celebration of Holy Communion. I encourage you to grow in your devotion and in your understanding of the Holy Eucharist during the year ahead. And I encourage you to be as faithful and as regular as you can be attending our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist both on Sundays and during the week.

Grace Church has always witnessed to the importance of eucharistic worship. Our first Rector, Father Sprigg, led the Diocese of Virginia to open Annual Council with the Holy Eucharist in 1869. Most of the eucharistic ceremonial we observe today started under Father Ball and Father Carpenter (1893-1931); this includes sung services, bells, incense and Midnight Mass. In 1971, Father Merrow reported at the annual parish meeting that we held more services than any other parish in the diocese. I doubt if that has changed.

Several years ago, one of our parishioners decided upon a challenging Lenten discipline: attend Holy Eucharist every day for the 40 days of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday. Since we don't celebrate the eucharist on Saturday, and because of a demanding work schedule, other parishes were visited, mostly in Washington, DC. As Episcopalians, we are blessed to have so many parishes and resources in the metropolitan area, including the Seminary and the National Cathedral.

Ash Wednesday is February 25. I hope many of you will attend the Holy Eucharist on Mondays in Lent. I hope to see our attendance on Sundays and on weekdays increase. Mostly I hope we will all come to know Jesus Christ in new and powerful ways through our eucharistic worship. Receiving the Body of Christ in the Holy Eucharist sustains us as the Body of Christ in the world.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

February 2009

## Inside this Issue

Grace on Mission.....	2
Needlepoint Kneelers Dedication.....	3
Parish Register.....	3
Parishioners' Generosity.....	4
Graceful Worship .....	4
Treasurer's Report.....	5
Bring a Friend to Church/Brunch.....	6
Lenten Series .....	6
Altar Guild Tea .....	7
St. Francis Garden Pet Directory.....	7
Grace School Events.....	7
February Birthdays .....	8
Parish Note.....	8
Children's Ministries.....	9
Christmas Turnout .....	9
Parish Staff.....	9
Music Notes.....	10



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1855-2005

# 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is earlier: February 10 for the March 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 Doug Prince (editor), June Huber, Cindy Ikard, Bill Malone, Barbara Morris, Beth Wiggers and Tim Willard.

From the Assistant Rector

## Grace on Mission

I hope that you have had the chance to learn about the five exciting mission opportunities we are exploring for 2009 at Grace Church. We held an adult forum in January, and John Berry and the missions committee have put together an excellent brochure with details about the possible missions. Presently, teams are being assembled and planning meetings are beginning. If you think that you may have a call to mission, please let us know.

It is important that we remind ourselves from time to time why we do mission work. Just as Jesus sent out his apostles into the world (see Luke 10), so our Lord sends us out into the world to heal the sick, to drive out demons and to proclaim the kingdom of God is near. We often go to those who have recently suffered from natural disasters or other hardships, and our very presence reminds them that they are not alone. We help them to drive away the demons of despair and abandonment and we assure them of the presence of Christ in their very midst. We go forth to bring about healing in a heartbroken world, and sow the seeds of faith, hope and love.

Mission work creates relationships. Sometimes those relationships are long lasting, like the relationships Grace parishioners have established in New Orleans. Other times the relationships take a very special character, like the relationships between families at Grace and girls they have sponsored at Our Little Roses in Honduras. We are currently exploring our relationship with the people of Tanzania and are hopeful that we can join Father Yohana and our seminarian, Jennifer, in creating a bridge across the Anglican Communion.

Mission work changes lives, and not only for those who are served. There are some things that an experience can teach that words cannot. When a young person in our parish goes on an overseas mission, they often experience our world in a way that they never appreciated. While we have poverty in America, we are largely free from the abject poverty in which much of the rest of the world lives. For many youth, mission is the first time that they come face to face with people who live in dire poverty, who only eat perhaps one meal daily, and who struggle just to survive on \$1-\$2 a day. We can tell them about that kind of poverty, but having seen it, having smelled it, having an actual experience of it, changes their world view and often leads them to want to do something to improve the life of those who suffer. In short, missions make us more compassionate and responsive people.

I've personally seen the impact of missions upon the life of young people. One of those young folk, who accompanied me on a building project in Belize some years back, discerned he was called to go in the Peace Corps. He later worked on clean water projects in Central America. I have no doubt whatsoever that the mission experience was part of his formation. I've heard from our own young people in this parish that their mission experience was "life changing."

Mission work is one of the many ways we live into our baptismal covenant to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ" to

*(continued on page 8)*

# Needlepoint Kneelers Dedicated

On Sunday, January 11, four new needlepoint memorial kneelers were dedicated as part of the continuing Sesquicentennial Nave Needlepoint Project, which was launched in 2005. The first kneeler, Stained Glass Windows, was installed and dedicated on Sunday, November 6, 2005 and to date all 83 planned kneelers have found sponsors. Thirty-four have been completed, an additional 28 kneelers are currently being stitched. By mid-2009 we expect at least 10 more to be started.

All kneeler designs have been created exclusively for Grace Church by Patricia Lamb Bamford. The project has been coordinated by Constance Noland Troyer with the assistance of the remainder of the Needlepoint Kneeler Committee, Ruth Corlett, Dorothy Bakke and Anne Caputo. For a full history of needlepoint at Grace Church, please consult the *Memorial Needlepoint Kneeler* book in the glass case in the narthex. This book contains a fuller description of the organization of this project, information on other needlepoint in Grace Church and details of the kneelers, donors, memorials for whom the kneelers are dedicated, names of the people who stitched the needlepoint, and dates of dedication.



*Pentecostal Crosses stitched by June Huber*



*Mac Eason Rein, Jr., June Huber and Norma (Skitsi) Simpson Rein at the January 11 Kneeler Dedication.*

From the

## Parish Register

### Baptisms

- ✧ Matthias Corbin Alden, son of Matt and Michelle Alden
- ✧ Connor Schuyler Beyreuther, son of Jennifer Beyreuther
- ✧ Blair Michele Forbes, daughter of Trey and Jill Forbes
- ✧ Karen Grace and Blaise Augustin Lamson, children of Brian and Renee Lamson
- ✧ William Glen Malone, adult
- ✧ Hayden Phineas Pastuszek, son of Harry Pastuszek and Elizabeth Pascucci

### Confirmation

- ✧ Richard Jay Kelly, by the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, at Trinity Church, Arlington, for Grace Church

### Transfer In

- ✧ Corey Campbell Hastings, with baptized children Beck and Clara, from Christ Church, Alexandria

### Requiem Eucharist and Burial

- ✧ Charles W. Barker
- ✧ Diane Powell Dellefield

— Dorothy Daniel

# Generosity Shown for Thanksgiving and Christmas

Annually I coordinate efforts with the Salvation Army, located in Del Ray, to provide food and assistance to families and individuals in the local area during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due to the state of the economy, 2008 was an extraordinary year for those programs.

Before Thanksgiving, I told the Salvation Army that Grace would sponsor 25 families of varying sizes. Those families quickly found sponsors, and we agreed to take on more. Later, I learned that the Salvation Army still had 150 families needing sponsors. An email was sent to all Grace parishioners and you answered...and answered...and answered! We ended up sponsoring 74 families (compared to 45 in past years). Thanks to the fine coordination on the part of Heather Hurley and Marianne Swearingen, both of TNT, all of the baskets were delivered, including two or three for whom the recipients could not be located until Father Crerar stepped in, located the recipients, and delivered the baskets himself.

On to Christmas. Once again, I contacted the Salvation Army to request the names of 25 families and individuals for Grace to sponsor. This time, perhaps because of the timing of Christmas or the Thanksgiving effort, 11 families could not find sponsors. On the Monday before the baskets were due, I was heading out the door to return the names to the Salvation Army, worried about the shortfall. Then the phone rang. It was a member of Grace interested in sponsoring a family at Christmas. The caller asked how many families still required sponsors, and when I told her, she agreed to take all of them. I cried with gratitude. Everyone who needed a coat got one. Everyone received books and toys and clothes they needed and wanted.

It was truly a blessed Christmas for all. Thank you again for the opportunity. If you need a pick-me-up next year, let me know. You can help make it all happen. Assisting others is a truly awesome thing!

— Sally Schneider

## Graceful Worship

### At the High Altar

---

An altar is a raised structure (or natural place) on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship or ritual. The Middle English *alter* is derived from the Latin *altare*, meaning “to burn up.” At the Christian altar, the consecration of the Eucharistic elements represents Christ’s sacrifice for us.

Altars in the Anglican Communion vary widely. At the time of the Reformation, altars were fixed against the east end of the church, and priests would celebrate the Mass standing at the front of the altar. Beginning with the Second Prayer Book (1552) and throughout use of the 1662 BCP (which prevailed for almost 300 years), the priest was directed to stand at the north side of the altar, whether it was fixed or free-standing. The use

of candles or tabernacles (for reserved sacrament) was banned by canon law, with the only appointed adornment being a white linen cloth.

Beginning with the Catholic Revival in the 19th Century, the appearance of Anglican altars took a dramatic turn in many parishes. Candles and, in some cases, tabernacles were reintroduced. The pattern of the candles always creates, with the Cross, a prime number. Two candles plus the Cross represents the Holy Trinity; six candles plus the Cross equals the number seven frequently mentioned in the Book of Revelation; twelve candles plus the Cross equals thirteen used on high holy days.

In today’s Anglican practice, conformity to a given standard

depends on the ecclesiastical province and/or the liturgical preference of a given parish. In some parishes (such as ours) the high altar is of stone, stands upon three steps for each of the three sacred ministers, and is decorated with a silk frontal in the seasonal color. The surface of our high altar has a cross in each corner and one in the center, symbolizing the five wounds of Christ. The front face bears the Greek cross with four equal arms.

The continued popularity of altar rails in Anglican churches suggests that a sense of the sanctity of the altar and its surrounding area persists. Most parishes allow only those items that have been blessed to be placed on the altar.

— June Huber

# Treasurer's Report

---

I want to thank all parishioners for continuing to honor their annual and Capital Campaign pledges in spite of the uncertainty in the economy. As I am writing this report, our operations are close to breaking even for the year. Last year when the budget for 2008 was approved, we expected to receive \$875,000 in pledge income. Our actual pledge income received is almost \$885,000.

Take a look at the annual report for more information about income and expenses for 2008. Additional copies of the annual report will be in the church office. The income and expenses for Grace Anew projects for the last quarter of 2008 are outlined below.

— Linda Durand, Treasurer

	<b>Balance 9/30/08</b>	<b>10/1/08 -- 12/31/08</b>	<b>Total 12/31/08</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Cash Contributions	\$495,171	\$131,719	\$626,890
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Organ Expenses	257,358	1,217	258,575
Architectural Fees	50,623	391	51,014
Acoustical Consultant	5,548		5,548
Chairs & Kneelers for Loft		2,254	2,254
Gala	12,018		12,018
HVAC	14,543	12,370	26,913
Legal Fees and Loan Fees	1,802		1,802
Loft Construction	210,868	44,091	254,959
Permits	1,757		1,757
Roofing	104,732	12,965	117,697
Administration Salaries	604		604
Miscellaneous	2,102		2,102
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>661,955</b>	<b>73,289</b>	<b>735,243</b>
<b>NET CASH BEFORE LOAN DRAW</b>	<b>(168,147)</b>		<b>(108,353)</b>
Loan Proceeds	180,000		180,000
<b>NET CASH</b>	<b>\$11,853</b>		<b>\$71,647</b>

# Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch!

Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch. Do you know--or could you find--a friend, a neighbor, or a work colleague interested in finding a church home? Do you know someone seeking to learn more about church and a spiritual life? The Evangelism Committee can help! We will sponsor Grace's second annual Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch on February 22 during the coffee hour between the 9:00 am and 11:15 am services. Newcomers to Grace who haven't attended a newcomer reception will receive a written invitation as well.

Perhaps your friend or neighbor might enjoy our liturgy and music. Perhaps their children would enjoy joining our youth programs or acolyte corps. Perhaps they just need your personal invitation to come, or come back, to

church. We have much to offer at Grace through our caring Christian community.

Child care will be available. Please call the church office with the names of your guests. These RSVPs are critical to plan for food and set up the right number of tables. Normal coffee hour will be held in the St. Mark Room for those parishioners not participating.

A dinner organized by the St. Andrew's Guild on November 21 introduced 11 couples and singles to Grace, who universally remarked that Grace is a warm and welcoming church. While organized events are a great way to introduce people to Grace, please remember that the most effective greeting for newcomers takes place in the pews.

— John Berry, St. Andrew's Guild

## Lenten Series

---

The theme of the 2009 Lenten Monday Night Series will be *Prayer and Spirituality*. The series will take place during the five Mondays in March. Each evening will begin with Holy Eucharist at 6:30 pm in the church followed by a simple supper, prepared by one of our ministry groups, in the auditorium at 7:15 pm. There will be a speaker of the evening at 7:45 pm, and the event will finish by 8:45 pm. Our program for children this year is changing to an earlier time and a new format; see the *Children's Ministries* article elsewhere in this issue for details.

The speaker at the first event, on Monday, March 2, will be the Rev. Martin L. Smith, Senior Associate Rector at St. Columba's Church in Washington DC and the former Superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. He is

the author of several books on spirituality, a noted speaker (including at previous Lenten series here at Grace), retreat leader, spiritual director and columnist.

Our speaker on Monday, March 9, will be the Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, 14th Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). As a theologian and an ethicist, Dean Markham has taught courses in Christian theology and religious diversity, constructive theology, historical theology, worship and spirituality. He is the author of numerous publications.

Plans for our Monday night Lenten Programs are being finalized, and the remaining speakers are being invited. Check here in the March issue of *Grace Notes* or on the bulletin boards later in February for the full program.

## June Jamboree

Grace School offers a summer program called June Jamboree. Mrs. Ruth Young, the Summer Program Director, is finalizing plans for this fun summer camp held in June. If you have children or grandchildren who would be interested in registering, please call the school office (703-549-5067) for more information. Brochures for the camp will be available in early March. Look for more details in future issues of *Grace Notes*.

# 2009 Altar Guild Tea—Save the Date

Reservations will be accepted beginning at 9:00 am on Monday, March 2, for the 9th Annual Altar Guild Tea at Grace Church to be held on Saturday May 9, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. Last year's move to Merrow Hall Auditorium was such a huge success that we will again hold our lovely tea there. The theme will be Birds of a Feather, with table settings that include birds as their main theme or pattern. Guests will be seated at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary for a program relating to our being Birds of a Feather. The Tea service will follow with freshly brewed English tea, elegant savory tea sandwiches, scones with jam and clotted cream, and a variety of delicious sweets. Individual tickets are \$30. Proceeds will benefit the Grace Anew Fund. Seating is limited and in past years tickets have sold out quickly. We will maintain a waiting list to fill any cancellations. Circle March 2 on your calendar, and call the church office (703) 549-1980 to make reservations.

— *Denise Bean, Anne Caputo and Charlie 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 us the following:

Name of Pet \_\_\_\_\_

Family name or the name you would like in the book \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Kind of Pet (dog, cat, hamster, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of burial \_\_\_\_\_

You may send the information to [fsaalfeld@verizon.net](mailto:fsaalfeld@verizon.net) or [ersaalfeld@verizon.net](mailto:ersaalfeld@verizon.net). Father Malm has approved this idea and thought that the up-to-date book should be kept in the office.

— *Liz Saalfeld*

## Grace School Upcoming Events

**Grace Episcopal School Gala/Auction on Saturday, February 7**  
Come one, come all, the Parents Association is sponsoring the Grace Episcopal School Gala/Auction on Saturday, February 7. The event will be held in Merrow Hall Auditorium. The event begins at 7:00 pm. This year the theme is I'm in Heaven! The ticket price is \$75 per person. As it is the week before Valentine's Day, this would be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with your loved one. (It will be easier to hire babysitters, too!) Main Event Caterers are providing the food, and there will be plenty of wonderful items to bid on through both a live and silent auction. Also, there will be dancing this year!

Tickets for the evening are available in the school office. For further information, please call or email the school office.

**Coffee with the Head of School**  
I invite parishioners to join me in the church foyer for Coffee with the Head on February 5. It would be a great opportunity to meet many of you, and I could arrange to give you a personalized tour of the school while it is in session. Please come and visit the classes to see one of the church's outreach programs in action. The coffee will start at 9:00 am and will last about an hour, depending on the turnout.

— *Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School*

# February Birthdays

2/1	Clara Hastings	2/12	Elizabeth Legere	2/20	Sophia Vassallo
2/1	Christopher Moore	2/13	Sally Falatko	2/21	Anne McFadden
2/1	Michelle Ort	2/13	Libby Padilla	2/22	Ned Goodnow
2/2	Laura Kendrick	2/13	Lucy-Lee Reed	2/22	Jean Goodson
2/2	Karla Merritt	2/13	Theresa Yeannakis	2/23	Claudine Donovan
2/3	Lawrence Kline	2/14	Megan Laboy	2/23	Lauren Gustafson
2/3	Kyle Laemmler	2/14	Stu Perry	2/23	Jack Herring
2/3	Elizabeth McCann	2/14	Dawn Yerkes	2/23	James Holloway
2/3	Tony Sosa	2/15	Catherine Giacomo	2/23	Carole Hunt
2/4	Adrienne Durand	2/16	Debra Creeger	2/23	Evan Robinson
2/4	Emma Grimes	2/16	Jack Hamilton	2/23	Nancy Robinson
2/4	Lottie Henry	2/16	Aidan Koelbl	2/24	Matt Centers
2/4	Alma Deane MacConomy	2/16	Jose Rodriguez	2/24	Carole Guzzetta
2/4	Mike Soraghan	2/16	Matthew Wiggins	2/24	Connor Murphy
2/5	Paulette Fitzgerald	2/17	Shirley Shaw Carroll	2/24	Renée Rutkowski
2/5	Marion Rice	2/17	Kate Reeder	2/25	Mildred Lewis
2/5	Jane Spence	2/17	Kevin Sherlock	2/25	Kerrigan O'Malley
2/6	Claire Terry	2/18	Jamie Grimes	2/25	Amelia Page
2/7	Alexandra Feeley	2/18	Catherine Terry	2/25	Alberto Trejo
2/7	Joseph Giacomo	2/19	Ashley Spencer	2/26	Jay Burgess
2/8	Mercer Alden	2/19	Mary Toler	2/26	Betty Jones
2/10	Bert David	2/20	Lily Dougherty	2/27	Sidonie Gillette
2/10	Laurie Harwood	2/20	Robin Taylor	2/28	Elizabeth Dorton
2/10	Betty Lawson				

From the Assistant Rector \_\_\_\_\_

*(continued from page 2)*

“seek and serve Christ in all persons” and to “strive for justice and peace” (BCP, 305). Our mission work is inherently evangelical, not only sharing the presence of Christ with those whom we serve, but also making a proclamation of our faith in our own context. For example, if you decide to spend your annual vacation time from work going on a mission, that says something about your priorities, your love for Christ and your fellow human being. Some will think you’re nuts! But some also may be inspired to learn more, more about you, more about your Church, more about Christ.

The work often is hard, but you don’t have to be a skilled construction worker in order to support the work of mission. There are a number of ways to support the work of mission—financially, prayerfully, and logistically—that don’t involve lifting a hammer. All help is welcome and appreciated. As we continue this important work, please keep our mission teams in your prayers.

— *The Rev. Patrick T. Crerar, Assistant Rector*

## Parish Note

### UTO Report

Many thanks to the 71 generous contributors who gave \$3,229.56 to the 2008 United Thank Offering (UTO). Since 2003, Grace Church has donated over \$22,000! This expression of your blessings has been shared in global projects and touched the lives of countless people. “The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all” (Proverbs 22.2).

— *Georgiana Greely*

# Children's Ministries

There will be a parents' forum on Sunday, February 8 during the Christian Education Hour in the St. Mark room. Come learn about our new Lenten Series for children and provide feedback on events such as the Christmas Pageant and Family Fun Night. Families are an important part of the Grace community, and we would like to continue to offer more family-friendly opportunities. But we need your input! Please come to this forum if you are able.

## Ash Wednesday Service for Children

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. A special service with Eucharist will be offered at 6:00 pm for families with children to help them better understand the importance of this holy season.

## Lenten Series for Children

This year Grace will offer a Lenten Series on Monday evenings at an earlier time that should be more suitable for young children. Children in grades Kindergarten to fourth, along with their parents, will focus on the mystery and rituals of Holy Communion using the Episcopal curriculum, This Bread, This Cup. Please register for this class on the sign-up sheet posted outside the Nursery to ensure that enough materials are ordered. Nursery care will also be provided for children ages 4 and under, but you must sign up to ensure adequate staffing.

### Schedule for each Lenten Series evening:

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm	Children and parents meet in the St. Nicholas room for class
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Nursery care available
6:45 pm - 7:00 pm	Children and parents join the service for Eucharist
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Families have dinner with other parishioners

— Rosa Castillo, Children's Ministries Coordinator

## Christmas Turnout Was Higher

Thank you, all who attended the 7:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. We raised participation by some 55 folks, with 170 attending this year and with most of the additional worshippers Grace Church regulars. It seemed right to have us there to welcome our many visitors and guests, about 100 of them, who worship with us at that time on that night. Special thanks go to the musicians: Thom Robertson on the organ, the hand bell choir, brass players, choir volunteers, and congregation, who all sang carols to celebrate Jesus' birth. We also thank Amanda Smoot and Susan Nelsen, who brought goodies to augment the cookies and cider served in the new narthex after the service. Lenore Funkhouser and I were delighted to have the opportunity to bring cookies that we ourselves had made--a once-a-decade activity for us. The absolute best part, though, was the worship service itself, a tribute to the birth of our Lord and King. We know that the 5:00 pm and 10:30 pm services were equally fitting, with 325 and 240 attendees, respectively. I hope that you will plan to attend one or more of these services next year, as well, especially the 7:30 one.

— Jo Belser

## Parish Staff

Robert Malm	Rector
(rector@gracealex.org)	
Patrick Crerar	Assistant Rector
(assistant.lector@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 Hernandez	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

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage PAID  
Alexandria, VA  
Permit #235

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Music Notes: "New" Setting of the Sursum Corda

Beginning on February 1 at the 9:00 am service, we will begin to use a setting of the Lift Up Your Hearts dialogue that is new to most of Grace Church but familiar to almost every other church in the diocese and throughout the greater Episcopal Church. This setting is found in the Hymnal at S-120; however, we will be printing the music directly into the Sunday bulletins as a reminder of the change and to make it easy to follow. You will already have rehearsed this at the Annual Meeting on January 25, so we hope you'll have little difficulty. We're making this change so that visitors from other Episcopal churches will be able to join us more fully in our liturgy, and it will also make it easier for visiting clergy to fully sing the service.

**Special Musical Events in March:** On Sunday, March 22, the Choir from Marshall University in West Virginia will be singing at both morning services. This choir is under the direction of Robert Wray, former parishioner and choir member. As time draws nearer for

their visit, I'll be asking for help with overnight housing of this group; please consider offering to house a couple of singers the Saturday evening before.

Also on Sunday, March 22, the Schola Cantorum and Alleluia Singers will be offering Evensong in conjunction with the 5:00 pm Eucharist. This is their chance to offer a special musical offering, and I hope you'll consider sharing an hour with them.

Lastly, we're pleased to be able to host a concert by Illuminare, a women's ensemble that focuses on early vocal repertoire (Medieval through Baroque). Their program is called The Lily and the Lion; it will explore the works of DuFay, Ciconia, Landini and others within the context of France (the Lily) and the culture of Florence (the Lion). This concert will be Friday, March 27 at 8:00 pm; admission is free but there is a suggested donation of \$15.

— Thom Robertson

February 2009