

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

Confirmation

The Confirmation that we know and celebrate in the Episcopal Church today has evolved over the entire history of Christianity. By the 5th century, the word *confirmation* described several post-baptismal rites, including the blessing of older children who had been baptized as infants and the welcoming of adults back into the fellowship of the Church. In some places, godparents were encouraged to teach each child the Creed and the Lord's Prayer, then see to it that the child was confirmed "as soon as the Bishop comes within a distance of seven miles."

The Reformers were not quite sure what to do about Confirmation, but many believed in catechetical instruction, a Bishop's blessings, and an annual visitation. Thus, Confirmation became a time when the Bishop bore witness to the "catholicity" of the Church and, acting as Chief Pastor of a diocese, celebrated the reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

By the 16th century, the practice of giving baptized children Holy Communion had largely died out in the West. Confirmation in our tradition became a process of first learning about the faith, then receiving the laying on of hands by the Bishop, and finally sharing in the Eucharist. Until the 1970's, children were confirmed around the age of 11 before receiving Communion.

However, in 1971 the House of Bishops explicitly stated that "Confirmation should not be regarded as a procedure of admission to the Holy Communion." Thus, Holy Baptism was given a renewed place of priority in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and young children began to receive communion once again. Confirmation was reestablished as a time for a mature public affirmation of baptismal promises for both teenagers and adults coming into the Episcopal Church from other denominations.

At Grace Church we use the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program to help our young people prepare for two years to be Confirmed. For adults, we use our Inquirers' Classes and conferences with the clergy to prepare adults for their reaffirmation with the Bishop during his annual visit.

Confirmation literally means "with strength." As our young people and adults strengthen their faith through Confirmation, all of us in the community are strengthened in our faith. Confirmation in today's Episcopal Church is a great time of renewal. We are blessed to normally celebrate this on Easter Eve or during Eastertide. What better opportunity for us all to strengthen our faith after the journey of Lent and Holy Week?

A great deal of preparation for Confirmation will take place during March. We can all keep our candidates in our prayers. We can all share a word of support with them. We can all look forward to our Bishop, Peter Lee, coming to be with us at Grace for his very last Easter before retiring. We can all "confirm" our faith by the Cross and Passion of Our Lord.

— The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

March 2009

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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 6:30 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. The next *Grace Notes* deadline: March 15 for the April issue.

Articles may be placed in the *Grace Notes* folder in the credenza in the Commons, submitted by e-mail to (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

La Gracia Charts Course for Growth

As you may know, Grace Church has a Spanish language Mass on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the St. John Room on the third floor. Anyone is welcome to worship with us, even if your Spanish is rusty (or you'd just like to experience worship in Spanish). I've been very ably assisted by Lucy-Lee Reed and Lina Dobbs, and this past Summer we brought on a new musician, Francisco Robles, who is a wonderful singer and guitar player.

After the departure of our missioner, the Rev. Fred Huntington, we experienced some decline in our attendance in La Gracia. However, over the past six months, attendance has stabilized and we are looking to grow the congregation. We had a forum in November, which many of you attended, and we heard from some members of La Gracia who have been coming to Grace for more than a decade.

Over the past few weeks, we've been having forums in La Gracia as we seek answers to questions like: how can we make the St. John Room an even more worshipful space? What Christian Education programs do our La Gracia family want and need? And in February, we'll be looking at how the people of La Gracia can be engaged in the larger Grace community, perhaps through outreach programs or other ministries. We'll also consider what steps we can take to grow the congregation.

During this time of discernment and reflection, please keep the La Gracia community in your prayers. Also, I'd encourage you to greet La Gracia congregants as you pass them in the corridors, stairwells or elevator. Hospitality means so much, and even a "hello" or "good morning" in English—along with a smile—goes a long way.

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

Feeding the Hungry in 2008

In 2008, the Grace Episcopal Food Pantry distributed 2029 bags of food to feed the hungry of Alexandria. A total of 1853 people in 855 households relied on us to provide an emergency food supply.

Along with canned and non-perishable food, the Food Pantry distributed \$9090 in grocery vouchers that could be used to buy perishable items such as milk and bread. These vouchers are currently only available to clients with children and are verified on the referral form that the client receives from the Alexandria Department of Human Services.

Nineteen volunteers staff the Food Pantry. Most serve about once a month to distribute food. Others buy food, stock the pantry, and handle the administrative paperwork required by the Capital Area Food Bank. In addition to very generous cash contributions from Grace parishioners, the Food Pantry received food worth over \$9000 from the Winkler Nature Preserve Summer Camps. To provide a visual demonstration of how much was donated, the Grace Episcopal School arranged boxes of cereal and

(continued on page 9)

Marion Rice Celebrates 100th Birthday

Parishioner Marion Rice celebrated her 100th Birthday on February 5, 2009. Lucy-Lee Reed and Nancy Robinson, on behalf of the congregation, delivered a giant bouquet of balloons and a card signed by many Grace Church members, with the beautiful photograph of the Grace Church nave at Christmas by Deborah Crabtree on the cover. Marion was especially pleased to see the greetings from many fellow worshippers from the 7:30 am Eucharist. Father Bob Malm brought her communion later in the day. Marion is the last of four sisters who grew up at Grace. Marion's grandmother was married at the old Grace Church on Patrick Street in 1861, making her our longest living connection to the early days of our parish.



Marion Rice

Author's Note: Grace Church was closed by the end of 1861, along with most other Alexandria Churches, for refusing to include the prayer for the President of the United States in the litany. By December, 1862 it was being used as a Union Army hospital.

— Nancy Robinson

Graceful Worship

The Lady Altar

In most Anglo-Catholic churches, the second-most prominent altar is the Lady Altar, dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. It is usually placed in a prominent position at the right (Gospel) side of the High Altar. In large churches it may be located in its own chapel, called the Lady Chapel.

The Lady Altar at Grace Church, along with its Altar Cross, was brought to our present building from Old Grace Church at 207 South Patrick Street. The Altar Cross has the following inscription on its back: *"This sign of the price of our salvation is the first Altar Cross to*

be used in divine worship in the Diocese of Virginia. Placed in Grace Church, Alexandria, during the last decade of the nineteenth century, it has borne witness to the faith of the Church until now, in the fourth decade of the twentieth century, when it was completed with Corpus and title (IHS) on St. Michael's Day, 1933."

The wooden railing around the altar space—carved by Dorothy Abernathy, who also carved the front door of the church—depicts four events important to Mary: Isaiah's prophecy that she would

From the

Parish Register

Baptisms

✧ Daniel W. Eustace, adult

Marriage

✧ Michael Gregory Van Akin and Meghan Meredith Young

Requiem Eucharist and Burial

✧ Gladys S. Burcham (burial in Richmond)

— Dorothy Daniel



Interested in learning more about ministries and programs at Grace Church? Go to www.gracealex.com and click on *Programs*.

bear the Son of God, the Annunciation, Mary's acceptance, and her visit to cousin Elizabeth. The apron (the part just under the rail) bears the wheat and grape motif of the Holy Communion, and the Mystic Rose, symbol of the loving heart of Mary. The cushions on the Lady Altar kneelers, designed by Patricia Boatner, bear symbols associated with Mary: a crown (for the Queen of Heaven), the letters MR (Maria Regina), the Fleur de Lys (emblem of royalty), and both the Lily of the Valley and the Lily (symbols of purity). Flowers on the Lady Altar are always white.

— June Huber

Rector's Cross Award

Father Malm presented the 2009 Rector's Cross Award to Rick Eudy and the Acolyte Corps at the annual meeting on January 25, 2009. This was the first time the award was presented to both an individual and a group.

Acolytes perform many of the functions that make the liturgy at Grace possible. As crucifers and taperers, they lead the procession of the choir and ministers into the service. As servers, they assist the clergy in the preparation and administration of the Sacrament. And as thurifers and boat bearers, they tend to the incense used during Festival and Solemn Eucharist services. As Acolyte Coordinator, Rick is responsible for training and scheduling acolytes to serve in these capacities.

Below is a list of Acolyte Corps members.

"I am very grateful to see the acolytes receive this recognition and honored to be included with them. It strengthens my sense of community to be included with the previous recipients of the Rector's Cross," Rick said after receiving the award.

The Rector's Cross Award recognizes parishioners who have contributed to the life of Grace Church. Those receiving the award are considered pillars of the Grace Church community. A plaque of current and former recipients hangs outside of Father Malm's office.

—Doug Prince

The Acolyte Corps

Masters of Ceremony

Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly
Michelle Cox (new)
Rick Eudy
Jeff Gustafson (new)
Jay Legere
John Metz

Acolytes

Jack Blunden*

Stephen Boris
Carl Eckel*
Peter Eckel
Colby Gustafson
Lauren Gustafson
Savannah Hall
Sarah Hughes
Will Hughes
Christina Iovino
Ben Joyner
Renata Kamakura**

Erin Kelly
Heather Kelly
Sean Kelly
Shannon Kelly
John Kendrick*
James Malm
Sloane Mebane
Lucy Medley
Paige Medley
Evan Metz
Heather Murphy

Grace Pattarini
Chas Saphos
Philip Saphos
Noelle Smoot
Angus Walsh
Duncan Walsh
George Waskowicz
Julia Zeigler

*2008 Graduate

**Moved Away in 2008

—Doug Prince

Music Notes

Are You An Anglophile?

Do you enjoy sitting in the quiet of an English cathedral listening to the choir sing Evensong? You can have that same experience without the hassle of buying a plane ticket! The Grace Church choirs will be presenting Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) on Sunday, March 22 as part of the 5:00 pm Eucharist. This service is one of the great treasures of our Anglican heritage, and it is offered daily in collegiate chapels and cathedrals throughout the United Kingdom. Won't you join us for this contemplative service?

Marshall University Choir

On Sunday morning March 22, the choir from Marshall University will be singing at both choral services (giving our choirs a chance to rest!). If you would be able to help host these singers, please let me know (music.director@gracealex.org). They will need overnight accommodations on the Saturday night plus transportation to the church on Sunday. There is also an opportunity to help feed them at lunch following the 11:15 am service. This is a chance to show the famous Grace Church hospitality to visitors.

—Thom Robertson, Director of Music

Vestry Elected

During the annual parish meeting on January 25, Grace parishioners elected the new vestry class for 2011, and the new executive committee was named:

Vestry Class of 2011:

Alison Campbell

Jeff Gustafson

Rich Kelly

Howell Medley

Frank Waskowicz

Alternates Erica McFarquhar

Margaret Will

Executive Committee:

Senior Warden Anne Caputo

Junior Warden Howell Medley

Treasurer Nat Ames

Register Phil Smith

Member-at-Large Linda Durand



First Vestry meeting of 2009

Many thanks to the class of 2008—Jo Belser, Cindy Diehl, Heather Hurley, Jane Rosman, and Richard Smith—for their service to Grace over the past year.

Notes from Diocesan Council

The annual Diocesan Council, held January 23 and 24 in Reston, was marked by Bishop Peter Lee's announcement that he will retire on October 1. His successor, Bishop Coadjutor Shannon Johnston, will not be installed until the 215th Diocesan Council in January, 2010.

In making his announcement, Bishop Lee said that he is retiring several months earlier than he had originally intended. He noted that the cost of supporting the Office of the Diocesan Bishop is fairly large, and that by retiring early he will be saving a quarter of the annual budget that would have gone to support that office. His concern with saving money underscores the fact that the diocese faces a very lean year because of budget constraints, with many parishes cutting their voluntary contributions to the diocese (although Grace continues to pledge 11 percent of its budget to support diocesan programs).

The issue that took up the most time during the two days of meeting was a resolution (R-4a) that "recognizes our

responsibility to respond to the pastoral needs of our faithful gay and lesbian members in a spirit of love, compassion and respect, and in doing so seek to fulfill our baptismal commitment to respect the dignity of every human being," and "affirms the inherent integrity of and blessedness of committed Christian relationships between two adult persons." In the end, the resolution was approved by a large margin in recognition of the Church's calling to support gay and lesbian Christians as full members of the Body of Christ.

In a related development, the Diocesan Windsor Dialogue Commission issued its report calling for a listening process to determine whether there is an "emerging consensus" that clergy should be allowed to bless same-sex unions. To facilitate this process, 12 parishes are being asked to engage in lengthy discussions of the subject in pairs of two and report by Easter of this year. While this process continues, the current diocesan policy continues to prohibit same-sex blessings.

—Cleve Corlett

Monday Night Lenten Study

This year's five-week series explores the role of prayer in our lives. Each Monday night begins with the Holy Eucharist in the Church at 6:30 pm, followed by a simple soup supper hosted by one of our parish organizations in the Merrow Hall Auditorium. Programs for adults begin at 7:45 pm and end at 8:45 pm. All are invited. Programs for children and their families are described elsewhere in this issue.

Lenten Series Lectures:



March 2: The Rev. Martin L. Smith, Senior Associate Rector and Theologian in Residence at St. Columba's Church in Washington DC, will talk about *When Prayer Gets Difficult...*

March 9: The topic will be *Prayer Does Make a Difference: Quantum Physics and the Divine*. Our

speaker will be The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham, the 14th Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary.

March 16: The Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb, Professor of New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary, will address the topic *Prayer in the New Testament*.

March 23: The topic will be *Centering Prayer*. Terri Lynn Simpson, Associate Director of the Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage at Washington National Cathedral will lead the discussion and activity.

March 30: The Rev. Dr. Katherine Sonderegger, Professor of Theology at Virginia Theological Seminary, will give the concluding presentation on *How does God Answer Prayer? Does God Answer Prayer?"*

Children's Lenten Series

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 have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Episcopal Church's traditions surrounding Holy Communion. While the Episcopal Church welcomes and encourages children to receive Communion without having any formal instruction, the benefits of receiving a formal instruction allow families to participate in a more focused and meaningful way.

During this series, each child will receive his/her own booklet to work on with a parent. Each week we will explore in a fun and engaging method the following topics:

March 2: *Sharing a Family Meal*. Bring a picture of your baptism to share with other members of the class and learn what a typical meal is like at someone else's house.

March 9: *Storytelling: How the Gospel Stories Tell Our Story*. We will listen to stories about Jesus feeding 5000

people, the Last Supper and having breakfast on the beach. Why are eating and feeding others so important?

March 16: *These Holy Things: What We Use in the Eucharist*. A member of the Altar Guild will give us an inside look of the sacristy and altar. We will also learn all the church language for these holy things!

March 23: *Praying Together*. Using the Book of Common Prayer, we will take a close look at how the liturgy takes shape using prayers.

March 30: *Manners, Customs and the Body Language of Prayer*. We will learn the different ways of showing reverence and plan a service of Holy Eucharist.

All classes will meet in the St. Nicholas room from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and then join the congregation for Holy Eucharist. You may also join in a simple supper after the service. Childcare will be available from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm for children ages 4 and under.

—Rosa Castillo

2009 Chili Bowl

The 14th Annual Chili Bowl was held on Sunday, January 25 in the Merrow Hall Auditorium. Eleven program groups and one independent group were represented. Over 125 parishioners and guests attended the event.

Decorations ranged from simple and clever to elaborate and eye catching! There were two presentations of original musical numbers. We had an audio-visual display provided by the TNT group, including the chance to play some favorite video games from the 80's.

The chili recipes ranged from more traditional "bowls of red" to white chili to vegetarian chili to stealth chili. There were varying accoutrements including blue cheese, corn bread, shredded cheese, sour cream and corn chips. My favorite bribe—I mean accompaniment—was the bread pudding with hard sauce! Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Numerous awards were given out. Best Performance was awarded the choirs for their original musical piece. The

Best Presentation Award for table decorations went to the Altar Guild's "white glove service," where champagne was served and you could upgrade your plastic spoon for the "silver" spoon for fifty cents! Our esteemed panel of judges (two parishioners and one guest) chose the Mission Team as the winner of their Judges' Choice Award. The People's Choice Award, the table raising the most funds in their jars, went to J2A for raising \$318.76. Finally, the Best Use of Technology (we had some extra prizes so we started making things up) went to TNT for their use of projection screens to show a movie and another to play video games.

If you missed the Chili Bowl don't worry, there's another one in just over 11 months! This year the event raised over \$2,288 for the General Fund and a good time was had by all. We'll see you next year.

—Alison Campbell

March Birthdays

3/1	Eugene Alford	3/11	Karen Wille	3/22	Dawna Gardner
3/1	Yanira Rodriguez	3/12	Ashley Busse	3/22	Jeff Gustafson
3/1	Peter Zuidema	3/13	Virginia Holsinger	3/22	Paige Medley
3/2	Shirley Tyler	3/14	Alexandra Jordan	3/22	Liz Rugaber
3/3	Beau Grimes	3/14	Liz Saalfeld	3/22	Ethan Woodhead
3/3	Vi Legere	3/14	Mai-Lan Smith	3/23	Mia Giacomo
3/3	Cindy MacIntyre	3/15	Christian Flores	3/23	John Stewart Gnorski
3/3	Isabella Nannini	3/16	Jean Centers	3/23	Pat Hansen
3/3	Alice Russell	3/16	Michael Key	3/23	Easter Thompson
3/3	Tyler Smith	3/17	Jeremy Barr	3/26	Lisa Doelp
3/7	Meghan Cummings	3/17	John Hazard	3/26	Georgia Gillette
3/7	Chuck Dodd	3/17	Swep Nelson	3/26	Patt Sullivan-Perry
3/7	Sarah Martin	3/18	Betsy Bamford	3/26	Kathy Zucca
3/7	Jeannine Raymond	3/18	Emma Carter	3/27	Ashley Metz
3/7	John Weise	3/19	Ovidio Flores	3/27	Jessica Trejo
3/8	Ada Rairigh	3/19	Valerie Fowler	3/28	Jo Belser
3/8	Eddi Rairigh	3/19	Robert Schrum	3/28	Kearsley Walsh
3/9	Scott Knudsen	3/19	Barry Smoot	3/30	Brad Bergmann
3/9	Gregory Ruff	3/20	Barry Barr	3/30	Riley Butcher
3/10	Sophia Jordan	3/20	Gail Miller	3/30	Samuella Hunt
3/10	Renata Kamakura	3/21	Taylor Ballenger	3/30	James Murphy
3/10	Anabel Rodriguez	3/21	Madison Busker	3/30	Marianne Swearingen
3/10	Lynn Rohrs	3/22	Maquire Alden	3/31	Kate Schneider
3/11	Joyce Stancil	3/22	Kathleen Arthur		

Parish Notes

Weekday Observances in Lent

Confessions: Parishioners are invited to take advantage of “walk-in” opportunities for the Rite of Reconciliation, or private confession, on Tuesdays from 5:45 to 6:15 pm and on Fridays from 11:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Wednesdays during Lent: As in previous years, the Wednesday morning Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 6:30 am (starting March 4) and will be followed by a Lenten breakfast at 7:00 am in the St. Mark Room.

Stations of the Cross: During the Lenten season, the Friday 12:15 pm liturgy will begin with the Stations of the Cross.

Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Be sure to set your clocks ahead so you will be on time for church.

Recycle Update

Our recycle contract allows us to recycle paper, cardboard, cans and plastic bottles. Please rinse out all cans and bottles and leave them in the containers in the Merrow Hall and St. Mark’s Room kitchens. Our sexton, Pedro Hernandez, will put them in the special dumpster. We have containers for paper recycling in the parish office, the Sacristy and the choir room.

Holy Week Schedule

Mark your calendars—Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday on April 5. The full schedule of services from Palm Sunday through Easter will be posted on bulletin boards around the church and on our web site.

And don’t forget that Bishop Lee will be with us for Confirmation on the Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 11, at 8:00 pm.

Mission Trip Meeting

Interested in an unforgettable mission trip? Join us on Sunday March 1 for an overview of our next New Orleans mission. We will give dates, lodging, work programs—everything we know we’ll pass on. The meeting will be at Khacki and John Berry’s house at 7:00 pm. Please call 703-486-6833 for directions.

Graceful Moms

Are you looking for some uplifting conversation with other moms and maybe a little time away from the kids? Come join us on Tuesday mornings in the Library at 10:15 am. Childcare is provided so you can have a few unencumbered hours every week to learn about yourself, improve your parenting skills, gain spiritual enrichment, and find friendship

with other mothers who are in need of companionship and encouragement, as you may be. We look forward to meeting you! Please contact Katie Madigan katiemadigan@yahoo.com for more information.

Parent Forum

Parents, would you like to learn about our new Lenten Series for children and provide feedback on events such as the Christmas Pageant and Family Fun Night? If so, please join us at the parent forum on Sunday, March 22 at 10:15 am in the St. Mark’s room. 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 attend this forum if you are able.

Also, there will be no morning program for children on Saturday, April 4.

Iowa Relief Mission Trip

Father Pat Genereux, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Burlington, Iowa, addressed members of the Diocese of Virginia about relief efforts on January 31, 2009, at Olivet Episcopal Church in Franconia, Virginia.

Father Genereux spoke about the June 2008 floods that left four feet of water in people’s homes in eastern Iowa, a deadly tornado that killed four boy scouts attending a jamboree in western Iowa, and the economic devastation of the town of Postville after the traumatic arrest of several undocumented workers.

Past relief efforts have shown that there are ways large and small to help rebuild lives: During the meeting, a poignant story was told of a young man who merely wanted to retrieve his collection of rocks after the flood. A dedicated volunteer group searched through muck and debris until they finally unearthed it. Their reward was the priceless look on the boy’s face when presented with his prized collection.

Grace Church plans to send a group to Iowa in May. The project will help renovate a small motel with 12 efficiency units to house previously homeless residents. Home Depot will provide skills training. If you are interested in helping but unable to travel to Iowa, you can participate in support efforts here at home and/or make a monetary donation. Please contact Karen Wires at knwires@msn.com.

—Karen Wires

Guest Readers Stimulate Young Minds

Imagine, if you can, Bob Steele wearing a multi-color jester’s hat complete with bells, deeply engrossed in reading a colorful book titled *Where’s My Mommy?* You may actually see that vision if you peek into the Day School’s pre-school classroom, because there, two or three times a month, as Guest Reader, Bob animatedly reads exciting stories to the three and four year olds.

It’s a ministry that Bob loves. He’s been delighting children, engaging and stimulating their inquiring young minds at the school for eight years. He has a colorful collection of hats including one with the Union Jack and one with St. George’s Cross. The kids especially like the jester hat. “Jiggle the bells!” they giggle as he reads.

Bob delights in telling how the children showed their appreciation for his work with them: they recently donated a book to the school library, dedicated to Bob, titled *Bob and Otto*, the tale of two worms! Bob loves it and says he gets enjoyment beyond words helping the eager youngsters.

Bob is not the only Guest Reader, though he is the only one with a jester hat. Others who have filled the Guest Reader chair include Father Malm, Beth Wiggers, Charlotte Wright and Head of School Chris Byrnes, as well as parents and grandparents of the students.

Pre-school teacher Ruth Young says that an important aspect of the Guest Reader program is conveying Christian values through child-enchancing stories. It also serves to teach good manners, as one child, picked at random, greets their guest at the door and escorts him to the special Reader’s Chair. At the end, there’s always a group “Thank You” as the Guest Reader is escorted to the door. “A very touching moment,” says Ruth.

— *Barbara Ramm*

Feeding the Hungry in 2008

(continued from page 2)

canned goods in the silhouette of a huge turkey at Thanksgiving. At Christmas, we received food collected by the office of the American Medical Group Association. Parishioners and school families also contributed needed items throughout the year.

If you wish to donate cash, contributions should be made to the Food Fund. The Food Fund is used for purchases from the Capital Area Food Bank (where we get most of the food we distribute) and for other items that are not available from the Food Bank. The Food Fund is also used to provide supplies for Brown Bag lunches and Carpenter’s Shelter dinners.

—*Barbara Sherlock*

Parish Staff

Robert Malm	Rector (rector@gracealex.org)
Patrick Carerar	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 2009

Khacki Berry	Evangelism
Anne Caputo	Senior Warden
Linda Durand.....	Member at Large
Eleanor Reed.....	School Board
Phil Smith	Register

Class of 2010

Nat Ames	Treasurer
Peter Iovino.....	Outreach
Cynthia Puskar	Worship
Colin Rushing.....	Stewardship
Easter Thompson.....	School Board

Class of 2011

Alison Campbell	
Jeff Gustafson.....	Fellowship
Rich Kelly	Youth
Howell Medley	Junior Warden
Frank Waskowicz	Communications

Alternates

Erica McFarquhar	
Margaret Will.....	TNT



Interested in learning more about new and happenings at Grace? Go to www.gracealex.com and click on *News*, then *Weekly Bulletin Inserts*.

Grace Notes

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Donate to the Nursery

As you think about doing some spring cleaning, please note that the nursery is in need of the following items:

- ♦ Sofa.
Our childcare providers would love to snuggle up with our toddlers and read them a story on a nice, comfy sofa!
- ♦ Bottle warmer
- ♦ Board books
- ♦ Training potty

— Rosa Castillo,
Childrens Ministries Coordinator

Easter Flower Request (include label above)

You are invited to participate in decorating the church with beautiful Easter flowers. Please complete this form and return it with a check no later than Monday, March 23 for \$35.00 to the parish office or place it in the Sunday offering. Make your check payable to Grace Episcopal Church and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. Please circle one: "in loving memory of" or "in thanksgiving for"

Please print the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Easter bulletin.

Given by (enter the name or names of the donors exactly as you want them to appear):

Envelope Number: _____