

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

July/August 2009

## Summer Sabbath

The fourth commandment states "Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy." Christians inherited the concept (and commandment) of Sabbath from our Jewish forebears. For ancient Jews, the seventh, or last, day of the week was a day to cease and desist from all labor and to celebrate the covenant relationship with God, the Creator of all. Faithful Jews not only rested and relaxed on the seventh day; they also gathered for worship and prayer.

We hear Jesus tell his disciples and the Pharisees, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27). The early Church changed the Sabbath day from the seventh day of the week to the first day of the week in honor of Jesus' resurrection. Sunday in the Christian tradition is our day to gather for worship, celebrate our relationship to God and rest from our labors.

This traditional understanding of "a day of rest and worship" certainly has changed over the last 40 years. Many people have to work. Many people go shopping on Sunday. Sports activities keep families busy. Household chores and work that can't be done during the week fall to Sunday.

Related to all the cultural changes in our thinking about a "day of rest and worship" is church attendance. Few of us feel the desire and/or obligation to attend church every single Sunday. I think we do pretty well at Grace, but on any given Sunday, fewer than 50% of our active members come to worship.

I see the summer, especially the days I take for vacation and continuing education, as a time of Sabbath. It is a season (rather than a day) for "rest and worship." We all need a break from our labors and activities. We need time for prolonged reflection, meditation and prayer. Visiting and worshiping in other parishes give me a deep appreciation for Grace. Occasionally I may experience in a liturgy something I think we can "use" here.

All of us will "keep" the summer and many of us will vacation; travel; participate in camps, courses, conferences, pilgrimages, mission trips; and find time to rest and relax. What will it mean for us to "keep it holy"? How might we find holiness in the weeks of summer? Can we enjoy a summer Sabbath?

Here on Russell Road there will hardly be a sense of rest, although our worship schedule slows and we don't have any Christian Education classes. Work on the HVAC improvements continues. The new organ will begin to take shape and August will bring weeks of tuning. I like to think that both of these "Grace Anew" projects are efforts to "keep holy" our physical plant and our music program. Surely they are signs of the faithful stewardship we celebrate as members of Grace Church.

Enjoy the weeks of the summer and remember to keep them holy.

Grace, Peace and Love.

— *The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector*

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1855-2005

# Worship Schedule

## Summer Sunday Schedule

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

## Summer Weekday Eucharist

Tuesdays, Rite 2 with healing... 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays, Rite 1 ..... 7:00 am  
Thursdays, Rite 2 ..... 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: August 15 for the September issue.

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

# Oh Happy Day

I do believe in relying on God's provision. We seek God's will first, and then trust that God will provide that which is required to live into God's purposes. Time and time again, God has proven reliable. Yet, I'm always amazed when it all works out in the end. I probably shouldn't be so amazed. After all, God has put me here, among a loving and supportive congregation.

I knew that we had to participate in this year's Chirilagua Festival. Kind of like Art on the Avenue, the Chirilagua Festival is about equal parts carnival, music festival, and taste of the town. In the past, this event attracted some 40,000 people and we'd never had a booth there. Incidentally, if you are wondering about that name "Chirilagua," it is a nickname for Arlandria and is an actual place in El Salvador.

Our Spanish language congregation, La Gracia, had a booth at the festival, where we distributed balloons (that read "La Gracia Iglesia Episcopal"—Grace Episcopal Church—and on the other side read, "La Iglesia Episcopal Le Da La Bienvenido"—The Episcopal Church Welcomes You). We also handed out invitations to everyone to come and worship with us, with a little map so they could find their way. Lastly, we asked others to share their contact information with us and asked them to identify a situation or problem in the neighborhood that they thought our church might help to improve. It is my desire that Grace Church become even more engaged and connected with our community, and hoped that last question would help us to identify how we might be of service.

In all, it was a great day. I was a little anxious at the beginning and end of the day. "How would we get everything in place? How would we get it all back to the church? Who would help us 'work' the booth?" These doubts crowded my mind. But God does provide!

A Grace parishioner provided his truck without hesitation and helped us get our booth and supplies to the event. In all we had a dozen volunteers from our La Gracia congregation to "work" the table. Three young ladies, from Grace, also came and did face painting, which was such a huge hit that we had lines six and seven deep waiting to have their faces painted. At the end of the day, as I wondered how I'd get everything back to the church, I looked up and saw two other Grace parishioners, who jumped right in to help. The one who helped us bring everything to the festival reappeared, with his truck, and before long we were back at Grace.

I have purposefully not named these individuals. They were to my mind divinely sent, angels, that swoop in when they are needed, so that we can all live more faithfully into God's purposes. I am thankful for them all, not just for helping make this day a huge success, but for their ready (indeed eager) willingness to serve joyfully and at a moment's notice, a quality I encounter often among the angels of Grace Church.

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

# One Person Can Make a Difference

After the floods in June, 2008, Rev. Maureen Doherty, rector from Waverly Iowa, happened to be driving home to Cedar Falls. She noticed a pile of rubble in front of a house in the flooded area. In the rubble were the belongings of 14 families, who had lived in the Shady Rest Motel, a low income facility adjacent to the house. Mo, as she calls herself, knocked on the door of the house. Phyllis, co-owner of the motel, dragged herself out of bed to answer the knock. Depressed, she was barely able to face a new day. Mo asked if she needed some help. With that introduction, the Shady Rest Motel developed into a project eventually spearheaded by the Diocese of Iowa. The story that Phyllis told was one of hardship and bad luck. She was the mother of two boys at home and a daughter, a young mother herself. At the time, her husband worked for Tyson's meat packing. Eventually he was to lose his job. They had

dropped flood insurance they carried through the years and now, without income from the motel, she and her husband were unable to keep up mortgage payments on the house. Necessary financing needed for Phyllis's home and the motel seemed to fall between the cracks of the bureaucratic requirements of FEMA and the Small Business Administration. With temperatures 30-40 degrees below zero throughout the winter, no work was possible. Mo went directly to the Iowa Diocese, who responded by sending its flood relief director to Northern Virginia to spread word of their need. He spoke eloquently of the needs in Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, where Virginians have headed since last June. The floods in Iowa did not bring the national and international media to our living rooms for any extended period of time. The Shady Rest Motel Project is the result of one individual's response to the horrors she observed. Rev. Doherty's response set in motion the renovation project we participated in. In addition to our efforts, groups of college graduates from Americorp and Episcopalian churches from Texas and New Jersey have responded. Our local Home Depot in Springfield volunteered to train volunteers in the art of hanging drywall and mudding. It is now anticipated that in the next couple of weeks, two of the efficiencies will probably be ready for families to return. By the end of the summer the remaining efficiencies should be ready for families to return before the winter sets in.

The Mission Team Members are Fr. John Wires, Karen Wires, Kevin Sherlock and Brian Lamson.

— Karen Wires



*Brian Lamson applies mud.*



*Mission Team members Fr. John Wires, Karen Wires, and Kevin Sherlock get a sendoff from Barbara Read (left) and Khaki Berry (right). Both photos courtesy of the Grace Church web site.*



Interested in reading more about the Iowa Mission Trip? Visit <http://www.gracealex.org> and click on Iowa Mission Trip 2009.

# The Feast of the Transfiguration

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From the time I was eight or nine until nearly sixteen, I looked forward to the weeks I would spend at St. George's Camp. Forging friendships as I did art projects and swam in the pool while beginning to understand the concept of "the body of Christ" were as important to growing up as family dinners, homework, or learning to drive. But every year there was one day that marred the epitome of fun that was St. G's: the climb up North Mountain. Oh how I loathed that hike! The sweat and grime and carrying the heavy pack that dug in to your hips and back, the way your feet hurt—it was just torture!

And yet, when we finally reached the

top and hoisted ourselves on to the large rock from which we could look over the whole valley, somehow I'd forget that I smelled and that I had blisters and that I was still hungry after our lunch of PB&J: there was something exhilarating about looking at the valley spread out beneath you that transformed the whole experience.

Jesus took three of his disciples on a similar journey. Peter, John and James followed Jesus as he walked up a mountain intending to pray when they reached the top. Once there his disciples shared a vision—Jesus' clothes became white and shining, Moses and Elijah appeared

on either side of him and a voice declared, "This is my son with whom I am well pleased!"

The event of Jesus appearing as an embodiment of God the Son is celebrated on August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration. We can't all experience visions like Peter, James and John to remind us that the Holy Trinity is present in and around us all. But every once in a while, when we are lucky enough to have a bird's eye view of a piece of creation we cherish, we can remember that God's love has the power to touch and change us in many ways.

—Margaret Eckel

## School News

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### **Grace School Graduation**

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

### **5th Grade Graduates:**

- ✧ Camron Cohen      ✧ Charlie Kittredge      ✧ Mike Laposata
- ✧ James Manship      ✧ John Sweeney      ✧ Katie Wood

### **School Board Members Retiring**

In June, Mike Hix, Kim Griffin, Roxana Jordan, Stu Perry, and Walt Terry "retired" from the Grace School Board of Directors. We are very grateful for their many, many hours of support, service and dedication to the school. We are especially grateful to Mike Hix whose leadership on the School Board was so valued over the past two years. We appreciate their care and concern about our greatest assets—the children and faculty of the school. We wish them well and thank them for the very important role they played in the life of our school community.

I look forward to working with the new School Board Chair, Alison Smith, and the new School Board members, Peggy Conner, Patt Perry, Bill Reuther, Tania Shand, and Dick Troyer in the coming school year.

## Congratulations Graduates!

### **High School Graduates**

- ✧ Heather Kelly
- ✧ Evan Metz
- ✧ Tod Moore
- ✧ Angus Walsh
- ✧ Sam Waskowicz

### **Additional College Graduates**

- ✧ Elizabeth (Liz) Carter  
University of Virginia Law School, JD
- ✧ Stephanie McCartney  
GWU, PhD (Chemistry)

# What's Happening Around the Parish?

## Food Pantry

PANTRY—a place to store food before serving it. That's Webster Dictionary's definition. But that's strictly bare bones. To accurately define the Food Pantry at Grace Church, Webster would need to mention the dedication of parishioners who generously share their time, money and goods with less fortunate folks—and do it graciously with charity and respect for human dignity.

Check out the pantry someday. It's across from the office and is open (staffed by volunteers) from 1:00 to 3:00 pm Mondays and Tuesdays and on Fridays from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Look around. At first glance you may think you've walked into an Andy Warhol painting. Rows and rows of colorful cans of soup, beans, corn and spaghetti line the shelves. But, Warhol-ish as it is, this isn't art. It's a vital food lifeline to our neighbors in need, referred to us by the Alexandria Department of Human Services. Some food comes from USDA surplus, some from parishioners who donate food or money. Volunteers fill shopping bags to make up a “basic issue” bag.” Depending on what USDA supplies, the “basic issue” varies. A typical bag might hold one can each of mixed fruit, corn, apricots, spaghetti sauce, refried beans and beef stew plus cereal and pasta. Depending on their family size, number and age of the children, clients are given one or more USDA bags, plus a voucher for perishables at Giant or Foodway and one or more basic Grace Church bags that typically may have macaroni and cheese, tuna, beans, mashed potatoes.

Barbara and Kevin Sherlock, chairmen of the Food Pantry, can always use more of everything. People. Canned goods. Cash. Consider this idea: celebrate a birthday or anniversary with a donation. And think of “pantry” in its expanded definition—where both food and Christian love are stored and liberally dispensed.

— *Barbara Morris*

## J2A “Fill in the Blanks” Tour

Rock bands name their tours all kinds of wacky names, for instance Taylor Swift is on the road with her FEARLESS Tour. Um, Taylor Swift? Fearless?!? Sorry, I digress.

Each Journey to Adulthood group has a theme for their Pilgrimage and this year's group chose the “Fill in the Blanks” Tour. They decided that they wanted the journey to name itself along the way. No preconceived notions. They are open to everything we see and do and experience. They will name the tour as we travel, 11 days,

11 words (since this is being written before we leave, I can't provide more info).

By now we have returned from our Pilgrimage to Washington State. The journey began before the sun came up on June 25 and we returned home on July 5. We traveled by two big vans and drove over 1,000 miles. We traveled across Puget Sound via ferry, slept in teepees, saw glaciers and snow topped mountains, celebrated the Eucharist in a rustic outdoor chapel. We've seen flying fish (at Pike Place Market) and the original Starbucks.

Our adventures are chronicled on the daily journal. The journal, along with photos, is displayed in the stairwell. If you need anything explained, please asks us—we'll be happy to share our experience with you.

Finally, we'd like to thank the parish, the Vestry and our families and friends for their support over the last four years. We look forward to the continued support as we all continue on our Journey to Adulthood.

— *Alison Campbell*

## Relax with TNT This Summer!

Twenties and Thirties please join us for these upcoming events:

**July 11:** Heaven on Earth: Manuscript Illuminations from the National Gallery of Art. Free exhibit. Meet in the Grace Parking lot at 10:00 am to carpool into the District.

**August 4:** Picnic and a Concert at Wolf Trap. Pat Benatar, Blondie, and The Donnas! Purchase your tickets for the show online at [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org). We'll carpool from the Grace Church parking lot and have a great meal before show.

To RSVP, join the e-mail list or learn more, send a message to [tnt.coordinator@gracealex.org](mailto:tnt.coordinator@gracealex.org).

— *Margaret Will and Marianne Swearingen, TNT program chairs*



Interested in learning more about ministries and programs at Grace Church? Go to [www.gracealex.com](http://www.gracealex.com) and click on *Programs*.

## July Birthdays

7/1	Mike Hix	7/14	Mitchell Hazard	7/20	Callan Henderson
7/1	Leslie Stancil	7/14	Jeanie Kaufman	7/21	Pegge Crepeau
7/1	Helen Sweeney	7/15	Lina Dobbs	7/22	Carl Eckel
7/2	William Baird	7/15	Martha Hazard	7/22	Barry Rosman
7/2	Sherryl Dodd	7/15	Rikki Jarrett	7/22	Karen Spencer
7/3	Billy Barr	7/16	Karlene Kelly	7/23	Vance Allen
7/3	Rhea Barr	7/16	Marian Knight	7/23	Rosa Castillo
7/5	Summer Jones	7/16	Emily Reuther	7/23	Pat Moore
7/6	Alexandra Falcon	7/16	Chris Rugaber	7/23	Tod Moore
7/6	Winnie Samuda	7/17	Howell Medley	7/24	Chris Caputo
7/7	Keegan Polson	7/17	Georganna Murto	7/24	Mike Jones
7/7	Skye Whitlow	7/18	Chrissie Crosby	7/25	Jean Reed
7/8	Mike Gentry	7/18	Owen Dowell	7/26	Martha Mills
7/8	Ricardo Sosa	7/18	Elliott Gabbert	7/27	Chad Murchison
7/9	Robert Schultz	7/18	Dorothy Gerber	7/28	Soma Fulwiler
7/10	Will Barnes	7/18	John Hall	7/28	Roy Hoffman
7/10	Mike McGough	7/18	David Murphy	7/28	Kearsley Walsh
7/10	Haywood Torrence	7/18	Thomas Pfeiffer	7/28	Jane Weaver
7/11	Marvin Ely	7/18	Ruth Schrott	7/30	Emma Imphong
7/12	Burrell Driscoll	7/18	Catherine Warner	7/29	William Reuther
7/12	Greg Hoppe	7/19	Cleve Corlett	7/30	Sally Schneider
7/14	Susanna Cunningham	7/19	Declan Jamberdino	7/31	Sharon Hickok
7/14	Claire Eudy	7/19	Sara Kline	7/31	Stephanie Reed
7/14	Javier Flores	7/20	Lauren Feeley		

## August Birthdays

8/1	Emily Graves	8/10	Victor Vassallo	8/22	Kate Nider
8/2	Taylor M. Beyreuther	8/12	William Edgar	8/22	Santos Trejo
8/2	Heather Hurley	8/12	Fatima Flores	8/23	Katherine Di Crocco
8/2	Wendell Thomas	8/12	Daniel Robinson	8/23	Keith Giacomo
8/2	Julia Zeigler	8/12	Piers Spencer	8/24	Heather Murphy
8/3	Brooke Henry	8/13	Paul Winkel	8/24	Chase Nelson
8/3	Joanne Peters	8/14	Liz Carter	8/25	Jeffery Chiow
8/4	Jerry Horwitz	8/14	Barbara Poole	8/25	David Hoppe
8/4	Ralph Lewis	8/14	Duncan Walsh	8/25	Evan Pfeiffer
8/4	Deborah Miller	8/15	Marc Cooper	8/25	Francesca Revilla
8/5	Jennifer Day	8/15	Bill Cummings	8/25	Mary Savino
8/5	Kim Griffin	8/15	Cynthia Fors	8/26	Sam Blunden
8/5	Michael Ramm	8/15	Kelsey Reeder	8/26	Andrew Smith
8/5	Jan Spence	8/15	Carl Seward	8/26	Colin Stancil
8/6	Lisa Sprague	8/16	Rocky Gillette	8/26	John Sweeney
8/7	Mary-Jo Cooney	8/16	Rosita Sosa	8/27	Blair Forbes
8/7	Amanda Foster-Baril	8/17	Ana Hernandez	8/27	Sophia Raymond
8/7	Jenna Payne	8/17	Kara Peralta	8/28	Emma Alvarenga
8/8	Diana Jarrett	8/19	Savannah Soraghan	8/28	David Boris
8/8	Robert Schrott	8/20	Jose Trejo	8/28	Elizabeth McGlohn
8/9	Erica McFarquhar	8/21	Aidan Smith	8/29	Maggie Eckel
8/9	Paul Miller	8/21	Frank Waskowicz	8/31	Susan Hayduchok
8/9	Don Wills	8/22	Charles Gardner	8/31	Kathleen Paige
8/10	Jeff Solsby	8/22	Virginia Griffin		

## Update on Jennifer, Our Recent Seminarian

Jennifer and her husband, Scott, are settled in their new home in Wilmington, Delaware, where, on June 24, she was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons at the Cathedral Church of St. John. Jennifer reports that, unfortunately, for her ordination, she couldn't wear the emerald green stole that was Grace's farewell gift to her: a red stole was required. But she'll remember us as she wears "our" green stole many Sundays in the future in her service as curate at Christ Church Christian Hundred, Wilmington.

Double congratulations are due Jennifer for she graduated cum laude from VTS—and her thesis, titled *Reading Ruth: The Marriage of Hayil and Hesel* was deemed an "honors thesis." Jennifer's and Scott's next big event will be the birth of their baby in August. She would love to hear from us. Her new email is [jennifer.andrews@alumni.duke.edu](mailto:jennifer.andrews@alumni.duke.edu)

## Usage of Our Website

The members of your web team are encouraged by the usage statistics for our site; these numbers show increasing traffic since the launch last November. Knowing where our traffic is coming from can be helpful for program planning, and we keep track of other internet sites that link to pages on our site (for example, Google, Ship-of-Fools, Yahoo, the Diocesan website, the national website and several Northern Virginia portals). Most of the search queries sent to search engines which have led users to our site contained the words "Grace and Episcopal," "Russell (including misspellings)," and "Alexandria." This seems to indicate that most people searching for us using the popular engines already know who they are looking for, and for now at least there are not a great number of people who are searching from scratch without a preconceived notion of a church where they want to end up. As of June 10, our site has logged 16,683 total visits. There are 85 of you who have registered, and your visits (1,362) are linked to your names; the remaining 15,321 show as "unknown." As always, we are eager to hear what you think of our site, and we would especially like to know how you think we can make it better. Contact [web.team@gracealex.org](mailto:web.team@gracealex.org).

— Gary Carter

## Calling All Moms!

Graceful Moms is a group of mothers at Grace Church who meet every Tuesday morning from 10:15 am to noon for conversation, fellowship, Bible study, and mutual support. We have been on hiatus since spring but will reconvene beginning September 15. Traditionally, we met every other Tuesday in the library for a book group, reading Christian-based books on parenting and other issues important to us. On the alternate Tuesdays we met at St. Elmo's Coffee House in Del Ray for some fellowship and open conversation. Childcare is always provided at the church.

Our first meeting of the new school-year will be in the church library on Tuesday, September 15. If you are a mom—or a mom-to-be!—please join us and help build this important ministry within the church. Please bring any ideas for readings you may have.

Even if you can't make it on September 15, you are welcome to join us anytime your schedule allows! Watch the bulletin and *Grace Notes* for announcements, or email [spiritual.moms@gracealex.org](mailto:spiritual.moms@gracealex.org).

— Ashley Denham Busse

## Parish Staff

Robert Malm .....	Rector
( <a href="mailto:rector@gracealex.org">rector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Patrick Crerar .....	Assistant Rector
( <a href="mailto:assistant.rector@gracealex.org">assistant.rector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Christine Byrnes .....	Head of School
( <a href="mailto:office@graceschoolalex.org">office@graceschoolalex.org</a> )	
Thom Robertson .....	Director of Music
( <a href="mailto:music.director@gracealex.org">music.director@gracealex.org</a> )	
Charlotte Payne Wright .....	Parish Administrator
( <a href="mailto:parish.administrator@gracealex.org">parish.administrator@gracealex.org</a> )	
Beth Wiggers .....	Administrative Associate
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Rosa Castillo .....	
.....	Children's Ministries Coordinator
( <a href="mailto:kids@gracealex.org">kids@gracealex.org</a> )	
Ruth Young .....	Children's Chapel Coordinator
( <a href="mailto:childrens.chapel@gracealex.org">childrens.chapel@gracealex.org</a> )	
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 .....	Pastoral Care
Jeff Gustafson .....	Fellowship
Rich Kelly .....	Youth
Howell Medley .....	Junior Warden
Frank Waskowicz .....	Communications

### Alternates

Erica McFarquhar .....	
Margaret Will .....	TNT

## Golf Tournament

All golfers in the parish please mark your calendars for Monday, November 2 for the 5th Annual GES Golf Tournament. The golf tournament returns to Belle Haven Country Club this year. Please come out and support the school! For further information, contact Luanne Griffin, Development Director, at [development@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:development@graceschoolalex.org). Enjoy your summer!

— Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School

# Grace Notes

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia  
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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Mark Your Calendars

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

**September 9, 10:** Choir rehearsals resume (Wednesdays: St. Nicholas Choir, 6:30 - 7:00 pm, and Alleluia Singers, 7:15 - 8:45 pm; and Thursdays: Handbells, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, and Schola Cantorum, 8:15 - 9:45 pm)

**September 11-13:** Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont: Consider the Lilies

**September 20:** Resume regular Sunday Service schedule (7:30, 9:00, & 11:15 am & 5:00 pm; Sunday School Registration and Sign-on Sunday (10:15 am)

**September 25:** Organ Dedication and Blessing (8:00 pm)

**September 27:** Founders' Day: 154th Birthday of the Parish; Classes for children, youth and adults resume from 10:15-11:00 am; Inaugural Organ Recital (6:00 pm)

**October 2:** A special music program, including a musical play by the St. Nicholas Choir (7:00 pm)

**October 4:** St. Francis Sunday Blessing of the Animals (4:00 pm)

**October 11:** Vesper Organ Recital (each month will feature a local organist)

**December 6:** Advent Procession and Carols (6:00 pm) followed by dessert reception

**December 20:** Children's Christmas Pageant (5:00 pm) followed by potluck supper; 5:00 pm Eucharist celebrated in St. John Room

### ***Education for Ministry Class***

The Education for Ministry class is now registering for the fall. EfM is a four-year extension course from the School of Theology at University of the South. Students commit to one year at a time. The class meets every Monday night 7:15 to 9:00 pm for the school year. The focus is not only studying scripture, history, theology and tradition but exploring your own life and theology as it leads you to your ministry as a baptized person. If you have questions, please contact the clergy or Lorna Worley, the class mentor, at [lorna.worley@gracealex.org](mailto:lorna.worley@gracealex.org).