

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

October 2009

The Cost of Discipleship

The title for this reflection is taken from the book written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in 1937. Bonhoeffer was the brilliant German theologian, preacher and pastor who was arrested and executed by the Nazis before the end of World War II. His book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, is a profound statement of what it means to be a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Here is a quotation that appears on the back cover of my paperback edition:

“Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves...the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship...”

“Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock...”

“It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life.”

Every October we consider the cost of our discipleship at Grace in very specific ways. First, we celebrate the season of the Saints leading us up to All Saints Sunday on November 1. We're planning for several baptisms on Sundays this month. We'll celebrate St. Francis Day (4th), Grace Episcopal School Sunday (18th) and Youth Sunday (25th). We plan for at least one wedding and one requiem. We'll also welcome Bishop Jones for the blessing and dedication of our new organ.

All of these liturgies remind us of the sacrifices of time and talent we are called to make as active members of this parish community. Community is the first cost of discipleship. It's challenging, time consuming and sometimes controversial to belong to a church.

We also consider the cost of discipleship as we review our lifestyles, finances and sense of security. The biblical standard of giving, a tithe (10%) for the support of God's work, is a goal for most of us. Jesus did not put any kind of measurement on *“taking up the cross.”* We can compare our gifts to Grace, pledges and support of Grace Anew (for the new organ and other major renovation projects), to what we spend for vacations, clubs, automobiles, entertainment, other charities, etc. These are lifestyle questions. The cost of discipleship includes sacrificial, generous, and joyful financial giving.

Our tradition at Grace is to bring forward our pledges on All Saints Sunday at each celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This is a tangible sign of the cost of discipleship and a once-a-year event that gives meaning to the “offertory” in every one of our liturgies.

— The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 7:30 am
Child care8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristía9:00 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. The next *Grace Notes* deadline: October 15th for the November 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

A Walk In The Woods

Summer has passed and now it is Fall, the time many church folk refer to as the start of “our program year.” All of our programs are in full swing. The clock is wound tight; seconds tick away to remind me of another upcoming meeting or obligation. Yet, as we shift from three mid-week services to five and from four Sunday services to five, I’m reminded of the absolute need to maintain some balance.

A lot is happening at Grace. Of course our educational programs for youth and adults are back in session. We have a new book group beginning, which you can read more about in the Sunday bulletins. TNT, our twenties and thirties group, will also have some new offerings, including a movie and discussion night in November. La Gracia, our Spanish-speaking congregation, is forming a new Bible Reflection Group. And the upcoming adult forums promise to be thought-provoking and informative.

Outside, formerly green maples will soon become standing torches, aflame with orange and red. Those leaves, which are so beautiful today, won’t last forever. They will soon fall away. (We need to enjoy them while we can!) The natural world reminds us that the Lord renews the face of the earth.

Apart from church, where I feel closest to God, I experience God’s presence in the wilderness. Hiking is one of the activities I do to maintain my sense of balance. I love getting out into nature, especially in the Spring and Fall, hiking along the Appalachian Trail for several days, or just taking one of the many day hikes we have in our region. In fact, this time in nature has influenced the way I read some passages of scripture.

This Fall, I’ll be leading a hike up Old Rag. This is one of my favorite day hikes and offers some of the most impressive views on the East Coast. I find it impossible not to acknowledge the hand of God in creation, as I look out from this Virginia peak upon the sheer splendor of the Appalachian Mountains on the one side and the Chesapeake Plain on the other.

The hike is an offering of our TNT group but is open to anyone who feels fit enough to hike 8 miles round trip, at a reasonable pace, up and down a mountain. We’ll take some time on top for a celebration of the Eucharist. We’ll have a light lunch; take breathtaking photos, and then return. The hike takes place on October 10. We’ll carpool from Grace, leaving by 7:00 am. I’m very happy to share this experience with you and hope you too experience some of the same sense of awe at God’s creation that I’ve experienced on these journeys.

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

October Adult Forum Schedule

10/4	Environment	10/18	Education
10/11	Iowa and New Orleans Mission Reports	10/25	Stewardship

Remembering Shrine Mont

What was a rainy and gray Friday in Northern Virginia turned into a crisp and sunny day at Shrine Mont, and it stayed that way all weekend. The beautiful weather was a backdrop to another fun-filled retreat enjoyed by Grace Church parishioners and friends.

As always, the weekend presented ample opportunities for fellowship, worship and a wide variety of activities. Highlights included a viewing of the classic film *Lilies of the Field*, model rocket launching, Father Malm's golf tournament, Father Crerar's badminton and croquet competition, porch activities, prayer beads, the famous social hours and a bonfire complete with s'mores, guitars and campfire songs. The worship services were varied and reflective. Once again, we enjoyed an inspiring, bilingual service at the Shrine with our brothers and sisters from La Gracia. Time at Shrine Mont also offers fellowship through hikes, conversations on the porch and just hanging out with old and new friends.

This year's theme, "Consider the Lilies," reflects our need to unplug from the anxiety of everyday life and refresh ourselves through prayer, giving thanks and focusing on our relationships with each other and with God. Mike Jones presented the attendees of Sunday's morning prayer with a virtual bouquet of lilies. With the bouquet, he presented the following, which captures the spirit of the weekend:

Taking the Lilies Home

These virtual lilies have been on the temporary altar during our Sunday Morning Prayer service of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation at Shrine Mont. They have heard the hymns that have been sung, the prayers that have been offered, and the homily that has been preached. Now with their silent message, they come to you with our prayers and good wishes and in hopes that you will nurture them and they will nurture you, so that today, tomorrow and everyday that follows, you will continue to "Consider the Lilies."

— Tom and Deborah Crabtree

Reflections for Youth Name Calling

Our recent parish retreat at Shrine Mont offered a great opportunity for all sorts of new name calling ... in the very best sense! As someone new to Grace Episcopal Church, I learned to call names like Katie, John and Sarah. I was also able to learn who is called vestry member, Rite 13-er and Rector (actually, I'd met him before Shrine Mont!).

Along the way, too, my experiences allowed me to create my own names for folks. I made up names like Girl With Great Smile, Gifted Artist Guy or Oh-My-Goodness-At-That-Follies-Costume!

In Genesis 2:19 we read the first example of God offering humans the opportunity to name. In this God gives us tremendous power because in naming, the recipient receives a part of our creativity, a part of our energy and, therefore, a part of us. Likewise, through classifying someone or something by name, we also identify, claim

and possess a part of them.

This act puts us in community and binds us always ... to a friend or to someone new, or even to a new puppy named "Sugar" or to a class book assignment named "not too lame." Whether anyone ever hears the name by which we call another, this new element of energy is nevertheless a part of us through our creativity—and through our divine relationship as a creation of God, who gave us the power to name at the beginning.

Over the next few weeks, think about this gift of creativity that God offers us and how God intentionally shares creation with us. And think about the names that are important to you when you think about yourself, your family, your church, and your youth program. Bring these identities and this creative potential with you on Sundays and, with God's help, let's talk about how to continue creating together at Grace.

— Julie Simonton, Assistant for Education and Youth

Parish Register

Transfer In

- ✧ Jonathan Wolcott from St. Paul's Alexandria
- ✧ David and Stacey Glazier with baptized daughter Grayson from Christ Church, Alexandria

Deaths

- ✧ Virginia Holsinger
- ✧ Marion Rice

— Dorothy Daniel

Senior Warden's Report

Autumn is a time for beginnings. As Father Patrick said in his column, we feel a quickening of our pace when the air turns crisp and the days grow short. It's also a time to take stock of the year and a time to look forward. We have been busy over the summer here at Grace. Here are some of our accomplishments.

Facility improvements — As reported in the September issue, our work on the HVAC system is nearly done. We need only wait for the first cold days to test the heating components of our renovation before we sign off on the project. This is partly a behind-the-scenes project even though we will all enjoy a more even temperature—in both summer and winter—throughout our building.

Have you noticed the new carpeting on the High Altar and Lady Altar? If not, try stepping on the newly carpeted areas sometime. It offers a very nice cushiony effect with no worn or threadbare spots. Just before the new carpets were installed we had a thorough and complete cleaning of the nave. Cleaners reached high and low and behind things to remove “holy dust.”

Mission Trips — Three successful mission trips were completed this summer. Travelers from Grace went to Iowa, New Orleans and Tanzania and will be reporting back at several Sunday Forums. The spirit of mission inspires us to listen to their stories, look at their pictures, and consider whether we have a role in mission travel ourselves. The work they do will help us direct and decide our mission trips for 2010. Whether you are a real missionary or an armchair traveler, we can all be part of the support and infrastructure

for missions at Grace. It takes our whole village to make missions work.

New Faces — We welcome Julie Simonton, our new Assistant for Education and Youth, who has begun to set her mark on our education, newcomer and youth programs. You will see Julie on Sundays and selected weekdays working on these important ministries. We also welcome Andrew White as our new Seminarian. Andrew made quite a hit in the Shrine Mont Follies as the narrator and ad lib master.

New Organ — When you read this we anticipate the new organ will be nearly complete and ready for dedication, a wedding and a requiem. Long-anticipated, we now see the physical elements come together from many disparate places. On the evening of the last vestry meeting in mid-September, we wandered into the nave to see what appeared to be the aftermath of an organ explosion. By the time you read this we should have all these elements in their proper places and the final assembly and testing nearly done. Glorious music will fill our nave for the entire year of celebration.

Shrine Mont — Another very successful Shrine Mont was completed under the expert guidance of Tommy and Deborah Crabtree. The next two years will be coordinated by the Smith clans; Richard and Alison in 2010 and Phil and Mai Lan in 2011. We give thanks for this time of rest and restoration and the beautiful Shrine Mont campus.

— *Peace to all,*
Anne Caputo, Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

Pledges — 331 family units have now pledged over \$885,478 for calendar 2009. Your vestry budgeted \$880,900 for Total Pledge Income. For calendar 2008, 346 family units pledged \$916,900.

Payment of Pledges — through August, \$562,102 in pledge income has been received. This represents 64% of the total annual pledges. This is about 5% lower than year-to-date 2008. While this is commendable given the current economic times, “summer recess” is over so please catch-up your unpaid pledges. Thank you for your continued support.

Income and Expenses — through the end of August, the operating fund shows a surplus of \$16,500. We have enjoyed lower expenses in one major item: interest on the loan. Most other larger expense line items are right on budget.

Grace Anew — through August, parishioners have paid in \$161,700 during this the second year of the three-year pay-in period. The total pay-in since the beginning of the campaign has been \$788,700. At this point, just over \$1,000,000 has been spent on the organ, loft, roofing and HVAC. Instead of using the BB&T loan to fill this funding gap, your church leadership has used the money market account. We have been borrowing from ourselves. This strategy has saved a significant amount in interest expense. Now that we are nearing the completion of our repairs and capital improvements, we have taken a second draw on the loan: \$160,000. The outstanding balance is now \$200,000. An estimated \$400,000 still needs to be spent.

— *Nat Ames, Treasurer*

Q&A on the General Convention

Jean Reed represented Grace Church and the Diocese of Virginia at the National Convention at Anaheim, CA in July as the First Alternative Lay Deputy. Here is his response to a few questions about his experience.

Q. What are the strongest memories you have in reflecting on the General Convention?

A. First, the enormous diversity — 110 dioceses and 16 nations of The Episcopal Church represented by their bishops in the House of Bishops and over 400 clerical and over 400 lay deputies in the House of Deputies; the Archbishop of Canterbury, and primates, and observers from many provinces of the Anglican Communion. More than 7,000 people attended the Eucharist on Sunday. Second, the theme of community and our interdependence on one another as captured by the Bantu word “ubuntu – I am because you are.” Civil discussion and a willingness to listen to one another despite differing viewpoints. Third, serving as a Eucharistic Minister during one of the daily Eucharists. Fourth, the day and a half serving as lay deputy on the floor of the House of Deputies and participation in the Virginia deputation’s daily noon caucus—bishops, clergy, and laity together—as we reviewed the events of the day in the hearings and on the floor of the two Houses. Much of this reflection was subsequently distributed in written form to the entire convention via the Virginia daily opinion newsletter *Center Aisle*. (www.centeraisle.net).

Q. Did the Virginia caucus result in bloc vote by the Virginia delegation on issues?

A. Absolutely not. We met together to share lunch and what was happening in the legislative hearings and on the floor in order to have a better understanding of the nature of the issues being considered. Some of these observations also provided leads for the *Center Aisle* staff. Delegates voted their conscience. The letters of Bishop Lee, Bishop Johnston and Bishop Jones (which you can read in the most recent *Virginia Episcopalian*) make clear that we shared diverse viewpoints.

Q. Was there any special recognition of Peter Lee in his last attendance as Bishop of Virginia?

A. Bishop Lee has been a powerful voice in the Episcopal Church for bringing people together in the center, with a focus on the cross of Christ and the

Eucharist where we gather and are fed. In his opening editorial in *Center Aisle*, he emphasized the “center” not as a political compromise between extremes, but as a focus on what draws us together in the mission of Jesus Christ; and “together” not just in the identity of the Episcopal Church, but our identity as faithful Anglicans with an historic legacy and a worldwide community. In the last days of convention I sensed certain wistfulness on his part as his long and eventful service was coming to a close.

Q. Some have criticized the council as “having it both ways”. What is your view of the Council’s actions relative to the greater Anglican Communion?

A. Frank, there were two stories at General Convention. The first story was the Council’s actions in affirming The Episcopal Church’s deep and genuine commitment to its relationship with and support for the Anglican community, while continuing to address issues of human sexuality and encouraging dialogue on these issues with the other provinces of the Communion. The Council’s actions were essentially restated positions established by previous General Conventions. They were, however, subject to a great deal of misinterpretation and “reading between the lines” by the secular and religious-oriented media. All actions should be read carefully for what they actually say in reaffirming that the ordination process is under the control of local bishops and dioceses, while stressing that the path to ordination is open to all baptized persons.

The second story is the focus on mission as the heart of the church—fulfilling our baptismal vows to carry the Cross and promise of life in Christ to all. The sharp cuts in the three-year budget of the National Church enacted at General Convention will shift the focus and place increased responsibility for support of mission to local churches and dioceses, rather than the local churches waiting for initiatives from the National Church. This presents a challenge for the Diocese of Virginia and for the people of Grace Church. As the Presiding Bishop said in her sermon at the Opening Eucharist, “the heart of this body is mission—domestic and foreign ... and how will the heart push more life blood into a languishing world? Can you hear the heart beat? Mission...Mission... Mission!”

— *Frank Waskowicz and Jean Reed*

Music Notes

Organ Update

By the time you're reading this, the visual aspects of the new organ should be complete. During July, August and September, much of the work that transpired on the organ was internal: thousands of wires needed to be connected, wind pressures needed to be regulated in a dozen or more reservoirs, over two thousand pipes needed to be individually voiced, and the console—the “control center” for the organ—needed to be wired internally before being connected to the organ. But now we're reaching the final days and the organ will soon be sounding.

On Thursday, October 29 at 8:00 pm, Bishop David Jones will be with us to formally “awaken” the organ and bless it for use. This special event is open to all, and it will be your first chance to hear the organ. (Never mind the stray sounds you might hear from it if you're in the church during the previous weeks; they are just the test sounds needed to see that everything both works and sounds right. Besides, Thom needs to practice!) The choirs will sing a festive anthem that evening and, for the first time, the organ will lead a congregation in hymns of praise.

At 8:00 pm the following Monday, November 2, Thom Robertson will give the inaugural concert on the organ. He is planning a program that will show off the various features of the organ, including the ability to play the little continuo organ from the main console. There is also a rank of pipes in the “new” narthex that can be used to give pitches to the choir and lead singing from there as well. Thom promises to play a program that has something for everyone—including a “concert rag” for organ! Both the Organ Blessing and the Inaugural Recital will be followed by festive receptions. You won't want to miss these events!

Other Music Events

There will be a full year of events to celebrate the new organ. On Friday, November 6 at 8:00 pm, the Grace Church Choral Society will present one of the best known 20th Century choral works, *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé. This is an excellent work to showcase both the voices of the choral society and the organ accompaniment by guest organist Nathan Laube. An accomplished organist, Nathan has recently signed on with a nationally known concert management organization and, at the age of 21, already performs for national conventions. In addition to the accompaniment of *Requiem*, Nathan will present one of Duruflé's best known organ works: *Suite, Opus 5*.

On Sunday, November 22 at 6:00 pm, Thom Robertson will be joined by the King Street Brass (the quintet that plays on Easter Eve and Christmas Eve) for *Heroic Music for Organ and Brass*. You've heard them play before, but never with the full sounds of the new organ. Don't miss this event.

On Friday, February 27 at 8:00 pm, a Celebrity Concert will be played by French organist Christophe Mantoux. He is the Titular Organist of the Church of Saint-Severin, Paris, France. This will be part of his second concert tour to the US, and he will be performing on the west coast as well as in New York City before coming to Alexandria. This program will certainly include many of the classic organ works by French composers.

Other events scheduled for the coming season include Vesper Organ Concerts on the second Sundays of December, January, February, March, and April. These 45-minute concerts, held at 6:00 pm following the Sunday evening 5:00 pm Eucharist, will be presented by local organists. Watch the bulletin, Grace Notes, and the parish website for more information. Plans are also in the works for a hymn festival in the spring presented by several local church choirs.

— Thom Robertson

A Fall Harvest of Family Ministries

Welcome to the harvest season of October! We invite you to reap the fruits of rich family programs this month at Grace...

Parent Forum – Sunday, October 11 at 10:15 am – meet with other parents and Grace staff members to establish topics for the upcoming program year. We'll also continue our conversation about Vacation Bible School 2010 and our potential for offering a bilingual VBS program.

Family Fun Night! – Friday, October 30 at 6:00 pm – join Grace families in our first fun and fellowship evening of the program year. Kids and parents are invited to don their favorite costumes and gather for Halloween potluck, treats, crafts and games. It will be a *spirited* good time!

Mission to Tanzania

Lifted by your prayers, Theresa Lewallen, Cindy Diehl and I flew to Dar es Salaam in August. Of course, we were off to see Father Yohana in his country! What a joyous and challenging trip it was!

Tanzania is in East Africa. Though it has a stable government, Tanzania is the sixth poorest country in the world. There are significant weaknesses in the infrastructure in Dar, roads are very bad in some places, and many of the city's residents do not have access to clean water.

That said, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our hosts. After spending the days visiting churches and development programs we were welcomed into Father Yohana's home and those of his fellow priests every night but one! We enjoyed delicious

meals and good company. We were truly blessed to share in the ritual of hand washing before the meal, where the host washes the hands of the guests. After the washing they would invite us to eat from the laden table: "Karabuni sana," they would say, meaning, "You are very welcome." Truly welcomed was how we felt.

Our visits took us all over Dar, on car rides that were bumpy and wound through city streets filled with vendors, potholes, taxis, public busses, animals and on one memorable occasion two men carrying a full size sofa on a bicycle! We visited many places, including two schools, the Anglican Women's Center, the Headquarters of the Diocese, The Buguruni clinic and numerous churches. On Sunday each of us went to a different church, but all

had a familiar service, including hymns and service music that we recognized, even in Swahili. The choirs, both at church and at the many choir practices we stumbled into on our church visits, were so wonderful!

We learned about how Father Yohana and his wife Sabina live. On Sunday after church we sat outside behind their house on the grounds of the St Mark's Seminary visiting and watching the chickens peck the ground. Sabina made us the second of two wonderful meals, with delicious stewed octopus and the national dish, ugali, which is like a thick polenta. She is a wonderful cook, and does it all with no running water and on a charcoal stove on the ground.

Yohana's ministries as a teacher at the Seminary and a Chaplain at the hospital keep him moving about the city. He had talked to our Grace community about his need for help in buying a car, and we can attest that the need is there! Father Malm established a purse for this purpose before Yohana left, and it is our hope that we can make that dream a reality.

There are many needs in Tanzania, and many ways for our church to maintain a relationship with Father Yohana and our brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion. Theresa, Cindy and I hope that our trip is a starting point for conversation and a warm and welcoming relationship! Karabuni sana!

— Eleanor Reed



Spindles from Old Choir Loft Saved!

With the help of Father Malm the spindles from the old choir loft were rescued. Betty Alexander had the idea of making wall hangings from the spindles. She and Liz Saalfeld have made a different wall hanging for each spindle. There are only 20 spindles. Each will be sold at a silent auction after the reception for the dedication of the new organ on October 29, 2009. There will be NO holds or saves. Each spindle will be paid for with a check or cash and all money goes to the organ fund. Pictures of the wall hangings and spindles will be displayed in the church building so you can see where you want to place your bid!



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

Stewardship 2009 – A Celebration of Mission

At the Founders' Day Dinner last Sunday night, September 27th, we proclaimed the theme of this year's stewardship campaign—A Celebration of Mission.

At Grace Church, we have much to celebrate. Grace Church has been a profoundly special place for 154 years—a direct result of the commitment of those who came before us to witness to God's grace as free to all—a commitment that continues today. We have much to celebrate because “mission” runs through everything that we do. As a parish, we nurture and maintain our traditions, develop new ones, and look inward and outward as we seek to follow God's call. Above all else, Grace is the foundation for our mission to follow Christ's example in service to each other, the community, the country and the world: a center for worship and fellowship; a school for discipleship and stewardship; and a community for healing and outreach.

God has been bountiful in the gifts given to us: a beautiful church and a loving congregation that is generous and committed; an army of volunteers; Altar Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, choirs and acolytes who make a glorious celebration of the liturgy possible; Sunday School teachers, Stephen Ministers, food pantry volunteers, program coordinators, committee members, youth and countless others who carry our missions outside the church nave; a dedicated and loving clergy who lead us to seek our very best in responding to the opportunities that God has given us; a dedicated lay staff that is fully committed to Grace Church; and a parish school that reaches out to the community to provide outstanding educational opportunities.

We have been given much. But with these gifts comes a profound responsibility and a continuing call to mission—a call to rise to the mission opportunities that are all around us.

Look around you on Sunday mornings in the church nave and in the Sunday School, and in the parish retreat at Shrine Mont at the greatly increased numbers of families with young children and see the abundant future of the Church. We must teach and nurture them!

Grace Church is surrounded by a local mission field filled with opportunities for building community and proclaiming Christ's message of love. Their needs are many and we must reach out to them.

The mission experience of our youth and fellow parishioners in the last few years has expanded our understanding of the needs of the wider world: the desert Southwest, Appalachia, the Pacific Northwest, New Orleans, Iowa, Europe, Honduras and Tanzania. As individuals, as a parish, and as a diocese, we are challenged to proclaim the Gospel and the Love of Christ to the world. And we are called to rise to that challenge.

In the Great Commission, Christ places the Challenge of Mission before all of us: Go you into all the world and proclaim the Good News! Feed the hungry! Clothe the poor! Heal the sick! May each of us rise to that Challenge as we consider the commitment of our tithes, our pledges of treasure, and the giving of our time and talent to support Grace Church's mission that will make this possible!

— Colin Rushing and Jean Reed, Stewardship Co-Chairs

Connections...

For several years, Dorothy Daniel and I wrote a column for *Grace Notes* with bits and pieces of information about parishioners and their families and those who had recently moved away. The purpose of the column was to remind ourselves that we are a parish family, the “small town” in this large metropolitan area, and that we are connected. Thus, the name of our new column: *Connections*.

And now it begins. . . This spring, five of our young people graduated from high school. **Heather Kelly** and **Angus Walsh** are graduates of Wakefield. Heather is attending Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte, NC, majoring in Hotel Restaurant Management. A young woman of varied talents, Heather took AP English and Auto Tech in high school. Angus is in Huntington, West Virginia attending Marshall University. He is planning to major in mass communications, continuing his interest in TV and film production. **Evan Metz** and **Sam Waskowicz**, T.C. Williams graduates, are both interested in international relations. Evan, at the University of Virginia, has already been elected her dorm representative to the Student Association. Sam, who was

a debater in high school, is pursuing that activity at the University of Mary Washington. **Tod Moore** graduated from Suffield Academy in Connecticut and is attending Gettysburg College. Tod, like most freshmen, hasn't picked a major but is attracted to film and political science. He plans to continue his study of Chinese.

Did you know that **Matt Madigan** is a rowing coach and this year coached the US women's single sculls at the World Championships in Poznan, Poland? Last year, Matt coached the women's quadruple sculls event at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, placing fifth overall. Matt and Katie have two young sons, Joey and Tony.

It is our hope that you will feel free to either e-mail or call us with any information you'd like to share: Dorothy Daniel, dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org (703-524-0990) or Linda Waskowicz, linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org (703-836-8435). We look forward to hearing from you. This is your column.

— Dorothy Daniel and Linda Waskowicz

Parish Notes

Support the Fight Against Breast Cancer

Be a Grace-ful Walker! Alexandria's 16th Annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer will start at 8:30 am on Saturday, October 24, 2009. All proceeds from the Walk benefit the Walk Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital, which provides mammograms to uninsured women or those in financial need. Since the Walk's inception in 1994, nearly 5,000 women have been helped due to the support of sponsors, walkers and other donors. Once again, Grace Church is a "patron" of the Walk, which was initiated in 1994 by our parishioner, Vola Lawson. Join us, even if you can't walk very far—no one's counting. And dogs are welcome! For more information, go to www.gracealex.org and click on "Grace-ful Walkers 2009" on the left menu.

TNT 2009 Fall Schedule

Saturday October 10 — TNT kicks off the fall with a day hike to Old Rag, led by Father Patrick. At the peak, he will celebrate Holy Eucharist. Hikers should plan to meet in the Grace Church parking lot and be ready to leave at 7:00 am with sturdy shoes, a packed light lunch and enough water for an 8 mile hike. Open to everyone. Old Rag is about 85 miles from Grace Church in the Shenandoah National Park.

Sunday October 25 — Join TNT for Brunch in Shirlington. Meet at 12:45 pm in the Grace Church tower entrance.

Early November — Look for Movie Night at the church with pizza and childcare.

Sunday November 22 — Those with strong arms and backs get ready to deliver Thanksgiving baskets.

Art on the Avenue 2009 — October 3

The Evangelism Committee will set up our Grace Church booth in its usual place next to the Caboose Cafe on Mt. Vernon Avenue and offer balloons, dog biscuits and cards announcing our Blessing of the Animals. And you bet we can use some help! If you can offer two hours between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 3, there is a place for you. Please call Khacki or John Berry at 703-486-6833. We especially need a small truck to carry the helium tanks and our tent.

Blessing of the Animals — October 4

The annual St. Francis Day blessing of the animals will be celebrated at 4:00 pm on Sunday, October 4, in the St. Francis Garden by the parking lot. Please bring your animals (under control) for this short, 20 minute liturgy. We will again collect old towels and blankets to be donated to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

Parish Staff

Robert Malm	Rector
(rector@gracealex.org)	
Patrick Crerar	Assistant Rector
(assistant.rector@gracealex.org)	
Christine Byrnes	Head of School
(office@graceschoolalex.org)	
Thom Robertson	Director of Music
(music.director@gracealex.org)	
Julie Simonton.....	Assistant for Education/Youth
(assistant.education@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.....	Pastoral Care
Jeff Gustafson.....	Fellowship
Rich Kelly.....	Youth
Howell Medley	Junior Warden
Frank Waskowicz.....	Communications

Alternates

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

Editors Note: Space limitations prevented us from publishing the birthday list this month. For those of you with October birthdays, we're sorry for this inconvenience and wish you all a very Happy Birthday!

Grace Notes

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School News

On Sunday, October 18, Grace Episcopal School will observe Episcopal Schools Sunday with the parish at the 9:00 am service. The theme for the celebration is *Shepherds Will Feed You with Knowledge and Understanding*. The theme is drawn from the book of Jeremiah. This year during Episcopal Schools Sunday/Week, Presiding Bishop Schori says, "Episcopal Schools celebrate the many shepherds in our school who lead and instruct the students in their care: heads of school, chaplains, rectors, and most particularly, the classroom teachers." What a fitting segue into our 50th year celebration of Grace Episcopal School!

We are very pleased to welcome Fr. Daniel Heischmann, Exec. Director of the National Episcopal Schools, as the preacher for the service. The students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 will sing at the service, too. Please join us in the singing. After the service, there will be a forum in Merrow Hall Auditorium lead by Fr. Heischman on Episcopal Schools.

The upcoming 5th Annual Grace Cup Golf Tournament returns to Belle Haven Country Club on Monday, November 2. The Parents Association is sponsoring this event. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for upgrades to our audiovisual technology. As the parents do each year, 10% of the proceeds are given back to a local charity. This year's recipient is the New Neighbors ESL program. I hope that many Grace Church golfers will join us for the tournament. If you are not a golfer but would like to join us, there are many volunteer opportunities available. For further information, please call Luanne Griffin at 703-549-5067.

I look forward to seeing many of you on October 18 and November 2!

— *Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School*

October 2009