

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

November 2009

Rector's Reflections

Celebrating Stewardship

In November we observe four of the great liturgical days in the Church Calendar: All Saints Sunday (1st), Christ the King Sunday (22nd), Thanksgiving Day (26th) and the First Sunday in Advent (29th). We also celebrate our stewardship and financial giving to Grace Church by offering our pledges on All Saints Day and following up through the month with everyone on our parish rolls until we hear from them about their financial commitment.

For some years I have thought that we could have 400 pledging units who would give a total of \$1 million in pledges. Of course, these are difficult times for most of us. The economy is still recovering we hope. Last year we had 331 pledging units promising to contribute \$885,000.

If you are reading this letter and consider yourself a member of Grace Church, I hope you will make a pledge for 2010. We also have about \$435,000 in contributions pledged for our Grace Anew projects, including the new organ. We hope these will be paid as soon as possible. And I hope that those of you who didn't pledge or who haven't given to Grace Anew might consider a one-time gift before the end of the year.

Our four major liturgical celebrations remind us of

1. Our joys and responsibilities as part of the Communion of Saints
2. Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who is the Head of the Church and the beginning and end of all time
3. The spirituality of Thanksgiving/Eucharist and knowing our blessings
4. The coming of Christ into our lives

God gives so much. *"All things come of thee, O Lord. And of thine own have we given thee."*

Grace, peace and love,
— The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

Inside this Issue

From the Assistant Rector	2
Reflections for Youth	3
Parish Register.....	3
Grace Anew	4
Graceful Worship	4
Pastoral Care.....	4
Parish Notes	5
November Birthdays	6
Connections.....	7, 8
Music Notes.....	7
Parish Staff.....	7
Christmas Flower Donations.....	8



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SESQUICENTENNIAL
1855-2005

Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1 7:30 am
Child care 8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristía 9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 2 9:00 am
Christian ed classes 10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 1 11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 5:00 pm

Weekday Eucharist

Mondays, Rite 1 6:30 pm
Tuesdays, Rite 2 with healing... 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite 1 7:00 am
Thursdays, Rite 2 7:00 am
Fridays, Rite 1 12:15 pm

Grace Church is:

- ✧ A center for worship and fellowship
- ✧ A school for discipleship and stewardship
- ✧ A community for healing and outreach

About Grace Notes

Grace Notes is published 10 times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia — monthly except for combined July/August and December/January issues. Deadlines for submitting copy are by midnight on the 15th of the preceding month. The next *Grace Notes* deadline: November 15th for the December/January 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 Great Day For Mission

On October 10, several of us gathered at Grace Church for a Missions Retreat. The rain and chilly temperatures, both outside and in, did not deter us. By the end of the day, we were all afire with passion about mission, thanks in part to Barbara Read (whose brainchild this was) and our retreat leader, Jennifer Ernst (who works with the Diocese of Virginia as a coordinator for missions and partnership in the Sudan).

The focus of the retreat was three-fold: to explore what we've learned from our mission experiences over the last four years (both as individuals and a parish); to consider what spiritual gifts and talents we have for mission; and to discern where God might be calling us to mission in the future. This was a retreat, which means that it was also a time of prayer. We began the day with Morning Prayer. We had Noonday prayer and ended the day with the Holy Eucharist. This was a great way to reflect on our discussions and to offer those reflections over to God.

Ms. Ernst opened by exploring the question, "What is mission and why do we go on mission?" Of course, it is Christ who sends us out, as he sent his disciples into the world (see Mark 6:6-13; Luke 9:1-6, 10:1-2, 8-9; Matthew 10:1, 5-10 & 28:18-20). We discussed what we've learned and how we've changed (spiritually, intellectually, even physically) from our mission experiences. People spoke at length of the transformative impact mission has had on their lives, on this parish and upon our youth. Some spoke of learning new skills and having a broader understanding of "who is my neighbor." With the latter in mind, there was a general sense that we discovered at Grace that our call to outreach includes but also goes beyond our immediate community. Others spoke of the impact of the encounter with real poverty and the amazing witness of faith seen in the most severe conditions.

We'll continue to discern our gifts as a parish for mission. We've got many talents that I've witnessed since coming to Grace in June 2008. All of these could be used for God's purposes in our future mission endeavors, whether one goes on a mission trip or not. Toward the end of the day, we talked about where the Holy Spirit might be leading us to employ our talents. We learned that the Diocese of Virginia has a mission focus now on Liberia, Sudan and Haiti. Of these, Haiti keeps arising as a possibility for mission in 2010 or beyond. Others talked about their connections with places as diverse as Rwanda, South Africa, Guatemala and El Salvador. We also spoke of Appalachia and outreach or mission to Native American communities.

Of course, my comments here do not capture the full substance of the day. It is pretty hard, in fact, to capture in words the transformation that occurs on mission. Seven years after my first mission trip and I'm still reflecting on the many ways it has changed me.

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

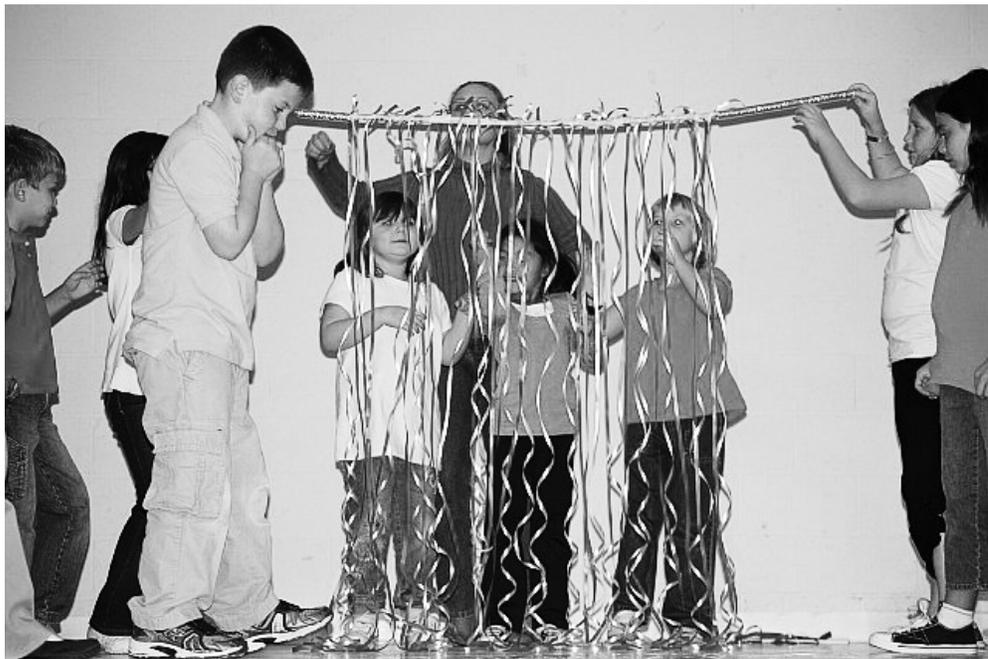
Busy, Stressed, or Bored? Try d365

1. MAYBE school's great, sports are great, friends are great, family's great, church is great, holidays are soon...which is great, but it's a lot to keep up with and life is crazily busy.
2. MAYBE good grades are tough to find, your team is struggling, friends have been fussy, things at home are tense, church hasn't been quite right, holidays mean too much hassle, and you're trying to pull yourself out of it, so life is rocking and stressed.
3. MAYBE classes are dull, you're not into sports—or much of anything for that matter, friends are preoccupied, family's kinda on your nerves, church is same old same old, the holidays are...well, who really cares—and it's all so monotonous that you're stupefyingly bored.
4. MAYBE it's all of the above...depending on the day? Or the moment???

Try www.d365.org. It's a website especially for students who are busy, stressed, bored, or any other adjective that describes the moments in your life. You can spend a couple minutes or a couple hours—whatever you've got or whatever you need—to reflect, center, and enjoy some quiet space.

Each day the website offers a different reflection on areas that influence the faith journeys of teens. The music is calm and helps you breathe deeply. The reflections are brief and can refocus you quickly. The prayers are short and easy to carry through the rest of your day. And you can sign up for a reminder to visit the site if you find it difficult to remember to stop...and...just...breathe...

— Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries



Members of St. Nicholas Choir perform *It's Cool in the Furnace!* a musical about King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Parish Register

Baptism

- ✧ Avery Kate Murchison, daughter of Chad and Brittany Murchison
- ✧ Sophie Belle van der Sluis, daughter of Howard and Annice van der Sluis

Marriage

- ✧ Dana McCue Dancer and Bryan Michael Jacobs

Transfer In

- ✧ Peter Fravel from Trinity Church, Manassas
- ✧ Peter and Sarah McElwain, with baptized son Charles, from St. James Church, Richmond

— Dorothy Daniel

Pastoral Care News _____

Pastoral Care Forum on Sunday, November 8

Please join us for a Pastoral Care Forum on Sunday, November 8, to find out about opportunities to participate in this growing ministry. We will be talking about different ways of caring for parishioners in crisis, including our newest ministry tool, LotsaHelpingHands.com, as well as Stephen Ministry, Pastoral Cards, Flower Deliveries, the ever popular College Care Packages, meals for New Moms (a GraceFull Moms project), and possible future support groups.

College Care Packages Sunday, November 29

Join us to prepare care packages for our college, boarding and grad school students and military parishioners stationed overseas during the coffee hour on Sunday, November 29. Take a break from making an Advent wreath to sign a card for a member serving our country abroad or a student facing exams. It takes a lot of contributions to fill Fifty (50)! boxes, and about \$6-8 each to mail them (depending on the destination), so please consider making even a small donation. Home made goodies individually wrapped, small silly toys, hand sanitizer, cough drops, packs of tissues — whatever YOU would have liked to receive as a homesick stressed out student or soldier. Save your Sunday comics for packing. Contact pastoral.care@gracealex.org for more information.

— Nancy Robinson and Alison Campbell

Graceful Worship: The Organ

Given the recent completion and blessing of our new organ, I thought we might want to know a bit more about the instrument itself, in general, without getting technical.

The organ is one of the oldest musical instruments in the Western musical tradition, dating from the time of Ctesibius of Alexandria (285–222 BCE) who is credited with the invention of the hydraulis, a water organ that is considered by some to be the precursor of the modern pipe organ. By around the eighth century it overcame early associations with gladiatorial combat and gradually assumed a prominent place in the liturgy of the western church.

The pipe organ is the grandest musical instrument in size and scope, and has existed in its current form since the 14th century. Along with the clock, it was considered one of the most complex human-made creations before the Industrial Revolution. Pipe organs range in size from a single short keyboard to huge instruments which can have over 10,000 pipes.

Most organs are played in Christian and Reform Jewish religious services. The introduction of church organs is traditionally attributed to Pope Vitalian in the seventh century. Due to its ability to simultaneously provide a musical foundation below the vocal register, support in the vocal register, and increased brightness above the vocal register, the organ is ideally suited to accompany human voices. Today's church organ is likely to be a pipe organ, a digital or electronic organ, or a combination of pipes and electronics. Other types of organs include chamber, theater, reed and chord.

— June Huber

Grace Anew Update _____

The fruits of the Grace Anew Capital Campaign are very evident, as we rejoice in the installation of the organ. Less obvious—but essential to the long term viability of the physical plant—are the completion of repairs and replacement work on the roofs, and major improvements to the HVAC system. Your pledges and payments to Grace Anew make possible all of these projects.

\$1.3 Million was pledged to Grace Anew. Some parishioners and friends made one-time payments to this goal while others made pledges for one, two or

three years. No matter the amount or duration of your pledge, all are an indication of support and hope for the future of Grace Episcopal Church. As final payments for the organ come due and borrowing is at its peak, please consider timely payment of your pledge and/or additional donations to the campaign. The economic conditions deem it difficult for some to fulfill their pledge, while others may increase the amount pledged, or make additional one-time gifts.

For all generosity we give thanks.

— Mary Hix

Parish Notes

Thanksgiving Services

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:00 am and a Festival Eucharist at 10:00 am on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.

TNT Events

Sunday November 8, 6:00 - 9:00 pm: Free movie and discussion night in the St. Luke Room, showing *Whale Rider*. According to Fr. Patrick: "This is an incredible movie! You'll laugh, you'll cry, it is better than *Cats!* You'll want to see it again and again." The 2003 film (winner of several international film awards and nominated for an Oscar) is about triumph over the adversity of cultural and gender stereotypes, but is about so much more. Prophecy, calling, faith, courage, love, it's got it all! PG-13. Childcare will be provided in the nursery and pizza and drinks served.

Sunday November 22, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm: Thanksgiving basket delivery.

Please help us serve families in need this holiday season. Stop by the tower entrance before or after church to pick up a storage tub and then deliver it to the assigned address. Tubs are heavy, so plan to work in pairs if possible. All strong arms and backs appreciated.

Celebrating All Saints Day at Grace

All Saints is a day to remember those who are no longer with us, or those who lived out their faith in a way that we can model, with the joy of knowing that we will join them "in the company of heaven" as God has promised. During the 9:00 am service on Sunday, November 1, the children will distribute crosses they have made to all parishioners. We invite everyone to write the name of a loved one who has passed away on a cross, which is a symbol of our faith.

This is a wonderful way for us as a community to teach our children not to be afraid of death. It is also an opportunity for adults to embrace their place in the communion of saints. These crosses will then be collected at the end of the service to create a display outside of Grace, so that we also engage and remind our neighbors that we are all welcome into God's Eternal Kingdom.

Tanzania Follow-up

Before Father Yohana returned home, Father Malm announced the establishment of a purse that would hopefully fund a car for him to support his life and work in Tanzania. Donations are always accepted (just put Yohana purse in the memo line). Also there is discussion in the works about a spring fundraiser for the cause. Stay tuned for more details!

Parents Forum

On Sunday November 8 at 10:15 am in the St. Mark's room, we will have our Parents Forum to discuss the upcoming holidays with a special emphasis on Advent. Everyone is welcome to share their tips on how to make the holidays less hectic and more holy!

Advent Wreath Workshop

Join us on Sunday, November 29 in Merrow Hall auditorium at 10:00 am for an intergenerational event to start the season of Advent and the new Church year! There will something for everyone, but if you would like to make an wreath with fresh greenery, please sign up!

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the nursery, so please sign up by Sunday November 8 so that we order enough for everyone.

UTO Ingathering

November 22, 2009 is the Sunday set aside for Grace Church to express our blessings with the United Thank offering. The ingathering will take place at all services. Please be generous—the need is greater than ever.

Mission Teams

The 2009 Mission Teams presented their reports and slide shows to the parish during two recent coffee hours. The Tanzania team of Theresa Lewallen, Cindy Diehl and Eleanor Reed told a powerful story of the grinding poverty they saw and warm welcome they received in Dar es Salaam, under the thoughtful care of Father Yohana (our former seminarian) and his fellow clergy. They expressed their hope of raising enough funds to purchase an automobile to allow Fr. Yohana to serve his parish spread over an area larger than Arlington County.

The Cedar Falls Team of Karen and John Wires and Kevin Sherlock (Brian Lamson was away) recounted their work for the Diocese of Iowa to restore apartments in a former motel for homeless families and a gift of \$1500 from our Diocese for tools to support reconstruction projects throughout the severely flooded area.

Our mixed adult and youth team, 15 strong, that went to New Orleans, presented their work in rebuilding two homes and supporting the summer camp at the first-ever Episcopal Church in the Lower 9th Ward. Khacki Berry, Marty Clark (a recent newcomer to Grace) and three fine youths, Brendan and Noelle Smoot and Heather Kelly, spoke with great sincerity of the transforming experience of serving and helping others in need.

—*The Mission Teams*

Dear Grace Church:

I am writing to thank you for the financial assistance that you provided last month to help with my seminary education. I received a check on the day that I had paid my first-semester bill and was in a bit of "sticker shock," so the reminder of the love and support of my home parish was greatly welcome and helpful. Your financial support allowed me to purchase textbooks for the semester, for which I also am extremely grateful, as well as the reminder that it provided of God's overflowing abundance and provision. I am absolutely delighted to be at seminary pursuing a Master in Divinity degree; it is such a privilege to be able to spend this time learning more about God and our faith, and to be one of Grace's two "ambassadors" at Virginia Theological Seminary.



—Jo Belser

November Birthdays

11/1	Laura Bellantoni	11/11	Philip Hall	11/19	Corinne Solsby
11/1	Kathie Burgess	11/11	Michael Madigan	11/19	Logan Solsby
11/1	Mark Busse	11/12	Kathleen Burch	11/20	Andrew Alford
11/1	Sarah Low	11/12	Maxine Meeks	11/20	Benjamin Henderson
11/1	Michael Plunkett	11/12	Madeline Wolcott	11/22	Jerry May
11/2	Angus Walsh	11/12	Anne Zuidema	11/22	Ryan Reyes
11/3	Stuart Latta	11/14	Cindy Young	11/23	Olivia Lawton
11/3	Caroline Sweet	11/15	Ashley Alvarenga	11/24	Holly Bray
11/3	Alex Willson	11/15	Derin Baird	11/24	Ola Legg
11/4	Bob Blunden	11/15	Jennifer Eckel	11/24	Elly Vogtmann
11/4	Bette Yancey	11/15	Malcolm Eckel	11/25	Blanca Flores
11/6	Walter Davis	11/15	Thomas Howard	11/25	Christina Iovino
11/6	Judy Micklish	11/15	Jeff McQuilkin	11/25	Ben Joyner
11/6	Jennifer Pease	11/16	Christopher Hayden	11/25	Jim Rubin
11/6	Ray Peters	11/16	Douglas Prince	11/25	Katie Zeigler
11/6	Carol Schroeder	11/17	Denise Bean	11/26	Lisle Bean
11/7	Amy Barron	11/17	Patrick Crerar	11/26	Stephen Boris
11/7	Grace Gnorski	11/17	Blaise Lamson	11/28	Geovanny Portillo
11/7	Mia Howard	11/17	Joanne Lukens	11/28	Joe Reeder
11/8	Kate Jerde	11/17	Richard Thompson	11/28	Anna Sherlock
11/8	Michael Richey	11/18	Mickey Craven	11/29	Joy Lamb
11/8	Daniel Sherlock	11/18	Nick King	11/29	Marilyn Sosa
11/8	Barbara Simmons	11/18	Jonathan Lorentz	11/30	Davey Centers
11/9	Lieu Hazelwood	11/19	Andrea Baumann	11/30	Liz Imphong
11/9	Dabney Holloway	11/19	Joyce Gillum	11/30	Cindy Long
11/10	Patricia Ridgely	11/19	Brett Mellish	11/30	Julie Mills-Cizek
11/10	Alexis Wood	11/19	Grace Pattarini	11/30	Christa Warner
11/11	Amanda Fowler				



Music Notes

If this gets to you early, you still have time to plan on attending the inaugural concert by Thom Robertson on Monday, November 2 at 8:00 pm. If not, make plans now to attend all the other events planned to celebrate the new organ.

On Friday, November 6 at 8:00 pm, the Grace Church Choral Society will present—as a particular memorial to deceased members of the parish choirs—a performance of Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem, Opus 9. This choral work is one of the classics of the 20th century repertoire, and is music not to be missed. The Choral Society will be accompanied by guest organist Nathan Laube, who will also present a three-movement work for solo organ by Duruflé. Nathan is a rising star in the performance world, having recently signed with a major concert manager shortly after his 21st birthday. Don’t miss this performance.

On Sunday, November 22 at 6:00 pm, the King Street Brass Quintet joins organist Thom Robertson for Heroic Music for Organ and Brass. You’ve heard them before, but never with the added support of the new organ. If you’re a fan of brass and organ, this is for you!

Sunday, December 6 at 6:00 pm, the choirs of Grace Church will present their Annual Advent Procession. This event, with the choirs moving gradually from “darkness to light” through the nave, will literally surround you with sound. Favorites from previous years will be performed along with new music. Topped off by the sounds of the new organ, this will be a wonderful way to begin your Advent spiritual preparations.

Finally, on Sunday, December 13 at 6:00 pm, the first of our monthly Vesper Organ Concerts will be held. These events will feature local organists in a 45-minute program, and will give the community at large a chance to hear our new instrument.

—Thom Robertson, Director of Music

Connections. . .

An e-mail from Dan and Katy Pattarini tells us they are “at home” in Muscat, Oman where Dan is the Assistant Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Embassy and Katy is teaching second grade at the American International School. Grace, Nick and Amelia are enrolled in this truly international school where fellow students are from Denmark, Sweden, Nigeria, Panama, Russia, China and Dubai. For the children, the happy difference from Alexandria schools is the swimming pool that plays a big part in the PE curriculum. The Pattarinis live two blocks from the beach in a country with long, hot summers. Katy writes that the Embassy community is friendly and welcoming, but they all miss their “wonderful Grace community.” You can follow the Pattarini adventures on their blog: <http://pattarinisinoman.blogspot.com>.

And speaking of blogs, Travis Thompson, son of Dick and Easter and a junior at William & Mary, has been chosen as a student blogger. A recent New York Times article says that more and more college admission offices are recognizing that high school students are now less interested in official messages than in first-hand narratives and direct interaction with current students. . . Another college student but this time in graduate school, Maggie Eckel is at Kingston University in London working towards her Master’s degree in Creative Writing and Publishing.

(Continued on page 8)

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 Family Ministries
(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 TNT
- Margaret Will TNT

Art on the Avenue

Beautiful weather, thousands of people, hundreds of dogs, and 1600 balloons—all part of the Grace Church booth at the best street fair in America on Mt. Vernon Avenue. Supported by some 30 volunteers, we handed out balloons until we ran out and gave away cards for the Blessing of the Animals the next day—St. Francis Day. What a pleasure to see dog owners at Grace holding our card.

Grace Notes

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Connections *Continued from page 7*

Maggie is the daughter of Bill and Jennifer Eckel.

Virginia Holsinger, longtime Grace Church parishioner who died in early September and whose requiem Eucharist was celebrated in late October, was a well-known figure in the field of agricultural research. In 2000, she was inducted into the Agricultural Research Science Hall of Fame for her work with dairy products formulated for food donation to needy people worldwide. She is best known for developing the enzyme treatment that makes milk digestible by lactose-intolerant individuals. Few at Grace Church knew of her research that touched so many lives.

Please 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.

We Need Your Flower Donations! (include label above)

It's time for Christmas Flower and Greens donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decorations. If you wish to contribute to the Christmas decoration fund, please fill out the form below and enclose a donation of \$35. These forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note 'Christmas Flower Fund' on the check memo line. The deadline for notices to be included in the Christmas Flower Bulletin is Monday, December 7. Questions? Call Liz Saalfeld, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 703-425-8129.

Please circle one of the choices below and **print** the remainder of the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Christmas bulletin:

"In loving memory of" or **"In thanksgiving for"**

Given by (**print** the name or names of the donors exactly as you want them to appear).

November 2009