

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

February 2010

## Rector's Reflections

### Christ and the Cross

In a sermon for the First Sunday in Advent, I used the following quote by Richard Niebuhr, who criticized a feel-good brand of American religion devoid of challenges and problems by saying it peddled the idea that “a God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

I thought of this famous quote again recently after attending a meeting with residents from the James Bland public housing neighborhood not far from the Braddock Road Metro Station. They had been forced to move out of their homes (where many of them had lived for more than 40 years) during the Christmas season in the first phase of redevelopment planned by Alexandria city officials, specifically the Housing Authority.

Even our Mayor was quoted in the Washington Post, saying “You just don’t treat people as cattle.” Five phases are planned over the next five years. Hundreds of people will be moved out and this neighborhood on the northern fringe of Old Town will be changed dramatically.

This displacement illustrates how the cross is a reality for those who live with social injustice, poverty, illness and powerlessness. During February we start our annual walk to the cross, this season we know as Lent (a name which actually comes from an Old English word meaning “spring”). Every Friday we will walk the 14 Stations of the Cross mounted on the side walls of the Nave. Every Sunday liturgy will begin acknowledging that the Lord forgives our sins.

The cross stands in judgment over all human sin and evil. Many people make a special rule for keeping Lent. These lifestyle and spiritual changes can help us know the power of Christ’s suffering on the cross. Without the reality of the cross we can not experience the joy and promise of Easter.

Please review the invitation to a “holy” Lent in the Book of Common Prayer on page 264. Ash Wednesday is February 17. At Grace Church we proclaim Christ with a cross.

*Grace, Peace and Love,*  
—The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

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# Worship Schedule

## Sunday Schedule

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

## Weekday Eucharist

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

## Grace Church is:

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

## About Grace Notes

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

# The Land of High Mountains

Haiti – the very name brings to my mind scenes of total devastation and suffering. The earthquake of January 12 and its aftermath will remain in my memory. Even now, a week later, relief workers are still struggling to get to Haiti and life saving equipment and supplies are delayed. The people wail and cry out for deliverance. The images of death and suffering on the television are almost too much to bear. The earthquake destroyed so much: homes and schools, apartment buildings and government ministries, burying residents and workers, adults and children in broken concrete and cinder blocks.

On the Thursday before the earthquake, I was at Virginia Seminary meeting with the Rev. Joseph Constant. Fr. Constant operates the Micah Project, a program that provides an education and nutritious meals to more than 150 street children in Haiti. We were discussing the possibility of a mission team from Grace Church going to Haiti either this Summer or next. We spoke about our Grace team leading a Vacation Bible School program or perhaps English classes for the children. As always, Fr. Constant had joy in his eyes when he spoke of the children, and you can see how much he admires them. I met two of the three Haitian seminarians currently at VTS as well, and invited them to come and visit us here at Grace Church.

The earthquake, of course, changed everything. However, my hope is that we will still send a mission to Haiti. Perhaps an advance team this Summer with a full team going next. The needs of the people to whom we go may have changed and the focus of the mission may have to change, but I believe the essential element remains the same. We go to bear Christ to others, and we go to encounter Christ in others.

Signs of hope emerged almost immediately after the earthquake. Countries around the globe, realizing the enormity of the crisis, pledged their support and began to mobilize people and resources. They have pledged large sums for rebuilding. I heard from parishioners that their employers were matching their pledges of support, to organizations like the Red Cross (by up to 200%), and that Marriott had given half a million dollars in support of Haiti.

Everyone to whom I spoke had the deep desire to respond in some tangible way. Within days of the earthquake, the Lorentz family learned from a *Washington Post* article that the Embassy of Haiti was collecting toiletries and other relief supplies to prepare emergency kits. They passed the word through their Beverly Hills community in Alexandria and by the following Sunday had collected sixteen boxes of supplies, which they delivered to the Embassy after services that day. Our vestry is a sign of faith and solidarity also dedicated the loose plate offerings from all the services on the two Sundays following the earthquake to Episcopal Relief and Development's Haiti Relief Fund.

I have been deeply moved by the generous and prayerful response of the people of Grace Church for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. I've also been moved by the tenacious faith of the people of Haiti, who persevere despite the most incredible suffering. We are the body of Christ in the world. When one part of that body suffers, the whole suffers. Though there is crucifixion in the world, so is their resurrection. Life has conquered death, and I know that our beloved in Haiti will know the joy of resurrection.

—The Rev. Patrick T. Crerar, Assistant Rector

# Senior Warden's Report

As my last note to you I'd like to recap our past year and give thanks to the faithful community that is Grace Church. Together we have accomplished great things as we serve God, our parish, our community and the world.

Major work on our physical plant in 2009 saw the completion and refurbishments of the new choir loft and the installation and dedication of our new DiGennaro-Hart organ on October 29 with Bishop David Jones presiding.

Our new HVAC system featuring two smaller and more efficient boilers was completed in early fall and has already proved to be an energy efficient system which will result in lower expenditures for heating and cooling. Individual thermostats in the classrooms in Merrow Hall were also installed during this process allowing each room to control individual temperatures

As we end the year we have received 75% of the pledges for this campaign and have made a much smaller draw against our line of credit at Burke & Herbert Bank than originally anticipated. Future work on the building might include exploration of a new sound system for the nave as preliminary work begins on requirements for a new system.

Thanks to a combination of generous giving and careful management of our funds we will end the year with a balanced budget. The staff position was filled in September when we welcomed Julie Simonton, our Assistant for Family Ministries, to Grace. We have also monitored all program spending and have enjoyed some reduction in utility costs as a result of our new boilers.

Our mission to the world was reflected in two fully-formed mission trips, one to Iowa in May and a second to New Orleans in July. A third exploratory mission trip to Tanzania in August allowed three parishioners to visit Fr. Yohanna, our seminarian, and report on specific needs and ways in which we can help him and his diocese.

The capacity for caring and fellowship by Grace Church was stretched this year with the illness and death of several long-time and deeply loved parishioners. We learned about wonderful new electronic ways of sharing news about those in our community with serious and life-threatening illnesses via *Caring Bridge*. Scheduling for meals, trips to the doctor or for treatment and other services has been immeasurably assisted by the *Helping Hands* website.

Our relationship with Grace Episcopal School is stronger and closer than ever. This year we celebrate with them the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their founding. We are moving into ways to demonstrate our concern and respect for our physical environment as we strive to become a greener and more sensitive user of earth's resources.

I have been honored to serve this year as your Senior Warden. I give thanks for the many, many people who work together in love and community to make Grace the caring and holy place it is. I also give thanks to the Vestry who has worked with diligence and care and to all of you who provide support and energy and talent to make us what we are.

—Peace and blessings - Anne Caputo

## Children's Ministries

Hold the Pickles, Hold the Lettuce ...

As we head toward hoagie making and think about the layers of tasty fixins' that get squished inside the hoagie roll, it's striking how much every day can be like one of these sandwiches.

Some days are bold and spicy and we fill our hours with peppered salami and jalapeños. Lots of time we choose these ingredients and feel excited and inspired by the choices. Other times someone inserts these ingredients without our consent...and we wind up with heartburn and belches.

Some days are cool and quiet like honey ham with mozzarella cheese. Again, we often choose to have a calm day. Other times, though, the day is just plain out boring and bland regardless of what or who we try to add and spice it up.

So what to do? Stuff more layers in...toss some aside? Maybe the answer is not in the cold cuts, condiments, and of

course, the order in which they're layered—but in the bread that sandwiches them all together.

If we choose soft bread, it can get even more gooey and messy, but if we go with bread that is firm and substantial everything in the middle is held together. Be mindful of this as you begin your day, looking forward to the gottas and wanna...and as you end your day, reflecting on the did-its and shouldas. How did the ingredients nourish you? And how was it held together?

—Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries

**Ash Wednesday Service for Children:**

On February 17 there will be a service at 6:00 pm designed for children and those who enjoy worshipping with them to observe Ash Wednesday. The service will include the imposition of ashes as well as Holy Eucharist and a child-friendly

(Continued on page 7)

Dear Grace Church:

What a joy it was to get to preach my first sermon in my home parish on the First Sunday after the Epiphany. I am very grateful to our rector for giving me the opportunity and to each of you for being so supportive—and forgiving. What I learned most during the process is how much energy I get from preaching. This is a good thing, as I hope to be able to do a lot more of it, both in a seminarian field education setting during the next two years, and beyond. Perhaps at some point I'll get to preach at Grace Church again, so you can see if I am making progress.

Last semester I took a number of courses, and just as papers were coming due and finals were upon me, I received a lovely care package from Grace Church's pastoral care program. It contained a large number of very useful items, among them a cold compress, snacks, and (my personal favorite) a rubber-ducky nativity scene. Thank you all for this bit of love; I want you to know that it was especially appreciated.

Early in February I begin a new semester—my second—at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). I will be continuing classes in New Testament, systematic theology, Greek, and church history, and will be beginning coursework in Christian ethics. I have felt your many prayers these past six months, and I hope that you will continue them!

I have been especially grateful this past semester that fellow parishioner David Crosby is also at VTS. Not only is he wise beyond measure, he is a good fellow traveler on this spiritual journey.

—Jo Belser, VTS Master of Divinity  
Class of 2012

Graceful Worship:

## Candlemas

Candlemas, or the Feast of the Presentation, commemorates the purification of Mary and the presentation of Christ in the temple (Luke 2:22-39). It came to be known as the Candle Mass because a procession with lighted candles, commemorating Christ's entrance into the temple, is the distinctive rite. After an antiphon, during which the candles held by the people are lighted, there is a procession into the church. During the procession to the church, the Nunc Dimittis is sung. In some churches, a priest blesses beeswax candles with an aspergillum for use throughout the year, some of which may be distributed to parishioners for use in their homes.

Egeria, writing around 380 AD, attests to a feast of the Presentation in the Jerusalem Church that was kept on February 14 by a procession to the Constantinian Basilica of the Resurrection. The feast had no proper name at this point; it was simply called the "40th day after Epiphany." In regions where Christ's birth was celebrated on December 25, the feast began to be celebrated on February 2. In 542, the Emperor Justinian introduced the feast to the Eastern Roman Empire in thanksgiving for the end to a great pestilence afflicting the city of Constantinople. Pope Sergius (687-701) introduced the procession to the Candlemas service. The blessing of candles did not come into common use until the 11th century.

Candlemas was also the day when some cultures predicted weather patterns. Farmers believed that the remainder of winter would be the opposite of whatever the weather was like on Candlemas. An old English song goes:

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Come winter, have another flight;  
If Candlemas bring clouds and rain,  
Go winter, and come not again.*

If the sun cast a shadow on Candlemas, more winter was on the way; if there was no shadow, winter was thought to be ending soon. This practice led to the folklore behind Groundhog Day, which falls on Candlemas.

—June Huber

# Parish Notes

## Celebrate 50 Years of Grace!

As the highlight event of Grace School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, the Parents Association is sponsoring the Grace Episcopal School Gala and Auction on Saturday, February 6 at 6:00 pm in the Merrow Hall Auditorium.

Main Event Caterers will once again provide fantastic food and refreshments. You may bid on an assortment of wonderful items in both live and silent auctions and enter a raffle for a \$3000 shopping spree at Tiffany's. Everyone will receive a very special parting gift for attending.

Gala tickets are \$75 per person. Raffle tickets are \$50, and you need not be present to win. All tickets are available in the school office. For further information, please call (703) 549-5067 or email the school office, [office@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:office@graceschoolalex.org).

## Welcome Reverend Seidman

The Rev. Kim Seidman serves as a clergy resident at Christ Church Alexandria as part of the clergy residency program. Funded by the Lilly Endowment, the program is two-year commitment that equips the newly ordained with leadership skills in parish ministry before accepting a longer-term call. Her desire to broaden her experience with a different kind of liturgy brings her to Grace, where she will participate on occasion in our weekday eucharists. Kim is from the Diocese of Northwest Texas and received her theological education at Emory University and VTS. She is married to Raj Chitikila, an analyst for the Government Accountability Office.

## Grace Environmental Committee

### General Convention and Climate Change

At the 2009 General Convention, the Episcopal Church became the first major denomination to endorse the Genesis Covenant, multi-faith effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in ten years.

The Genesis Covenant grew from an interfaith conference in 2007, when the Right Reverend Steven Charleston, Dean of the Cambridge Divinity School and former Bishop of Alaska, asked "If we, who are people of faith, do not act to save this planet, who will do it for us? Who are we waiting for?"

Pilot programs have begun in the Diocese of Olympia. They have created a task force consisting of six parishes who are developing a workable, cost-effective plan to accomplish the goals of the covenant. For more information, visit [www.genesis covenant.org](http://www.genesis covenant.org).

At Grace, the Environmental Committee welcomes your input on ways we can support the covenant in the church and in our homes. We are sponsoring a special forum on February 28 presented by Pascale Maslin of Energy Efficiency Experts ([www.energyefficiencyexperts.com](http://www.energyefficiencyexperts.com)). Ms. Maslin is a scientist and former resident of Arizona's biosphere. She co-founded the Cool Capital Challenge, a pledge campaign to reduce metro DC's carbon dioxide emissions by more than one billion pounds. She will talk about home energy audits and ways you can reduce your carbon footprint.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

— Jennifer Eckel

## 2010 Altar Guild Tea – Save the Date

Reservations will be accepted beginning at 9:00 am on Monday, March 1, for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Altar Guild Tea at Grace Church to be held on Saturday May 1, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium. The theme will be "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party", with table settings that include hats and all things "Alice in Wonderland." Guests will be seated at 2:00 pm in the nave for a program to be announced. The tea service will follow with freshly brewed English tea, elegant savory tea sandwiches, scones with jam and clotted cream, and a variety of delicious sweets. Individual tickets are \$30. Proceeds will benefit the Grace General Fund. Seating is limited and in past years tickets have sold out quickly. We will maintain a waiting list to fill any cancellations. Don't be late for a very important date! Circle March 1 on your calendar to call the church office (703) 549-1980 to make your reservations.

—Anne Caputo, Denise Bean, Charlie Iovino

## Connections. . .

**Gary Carter** is now a full-time student at NOVA (five courses each quarter!), taking the prerequisites leading to his entry into an accelerated RN and Bachelor of Nursing program at a one of our local universities. He's enthusiastic about the arduous and exciting journey he's embarking on.

**James Malm** signed a letter of intent this past fall to play lacrosse at Johns Hopkins University. He is a senior at Woodberry Forest School where he has been a two-year varsity midfielder and earned All-Prep honors as a junior. His dad played varsity lacrosse at University of North Carolina. James also played football at Woodberry and was named to the All-State team for all private schools in Virginia.

News about two of **David and Karen Hoppe's** children: **Geoff** completed his master's degree in English at University of Virginia last May, and moved to Dallas,

Texas where he has begun studies leading to a PhD focusing on 20<sup>th</sup> century American poetry. **Katie**, after five years of work in the government, is now a teaching assistant as well as a full-time student working towards her master's degree in Anthropology at Catholic University. Her hope is to eventually earn a PhD in Archeology, concentrating on origins of Christianity.

**Sarah Barker Richey** and her husband, **Michael**, are happily ensconced in their new home in Raphine, Virginia, not far from Lexington. Michael, retired from UPS, has rediscovered running and reading, as well as recently shoveling snow from their one-tenth-of-a-mile driveway on a two-and-a-half acre lot. Both are active in their new church: Sarah sings (of course) in the choir, as well as with the Rockbridge County choral society and a chamber group. She has a part-time job in a circa-1750

*(Continued on page 8)*

## February Birthdays

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



# Music Notes

## Vesper Organ Recitals

During February there will be two excellent opportunities for you to experience our new organ in concert; you'll hear music that might not ever be played during a Sunday morning service. On Sunday, February 14 at 6:00 pm, Douglas Beck will present the next in our series of Vesper Recitals. These programs only last 45 minutes, but are a great way to hear how another organist uses the resources of the organ. Douglas Beck is Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Old Town.

## Celebrity Organ Concert

On Friday, February 26 at 8:00 pm, we will present a Celebrity Organ Concert by the French organist Christophe Mantoux. Mr. Mantoux has been the Titular Organist of the famous organ at Saint-Séverin Church in Paris since 1995. Since 1992 he has been the Professor of Organ at the Conservatoire National de Région (National Conservatory) in Strasbourg, France, with students from all over Europe as well as the United States, South America, South Korea, and Japan. His program will be all French: music by César Franck (the Choral #3 in A Minor), the first movement from Widor's Fifth Symphony, works by Jehan Alain including Litanies, and concluding with Maurice Duruflé's Suite, Opus 5. This evening will be an exciting one and we hope you'll want to attend. There is no admission charge although a free-will offering will be taken. Please share this event with all your music-loving friends!

## Join a Choir for Lent!

Instead of giving up something for Lent, why not take on an additional worthwhile endeavor? Both the Alleluia Singers and Schola have need of additional singers, and you'd also have the best seat in the house! You'd be adding your support to our weekly worship as well as being surrounded by the sounds of the new organ. For further details, contact Thom Robertson.

—Thom Robertson, Director of Music

## Children's Ministry *(Continued from page 3)*

sermon. Please join us as we begin the holy season of Lent by exploring our call as God's people in community throughout the world.

### Children's Film Series during Lent

Julie Simonton will lead a program for children in first grade and older through the Lenten season on Monday evenings beginning on February 22 at 7:00 pm. Join us for a simple supper, a movie and interesting conversations! A sign-up sheet is available in Merrow Hall as well as on the bulletin board outside the nursery.

### Godly Play Returns to Grace:

*"Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works."* (BCP, p. 308, Holy Baptism)

Godly Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that allows the youngest members of our church to explore their place in the world and their relationship with God by using their "inquiring and discerning" hearts. By engaging the five senses and using "wondering questions," the children in the Preschool and Kindergarten class will experience the stories of God through play on Sunday mornings beginning this Easter.

A Godly Play presentation will be made during the Adult Forum on March 7 so everyone can learn how to get involved or support the program with their talents. A more detailed orientation for parents and prospective leaders of the program will be held on March 14, and the first class will begin on April 11.

—Rosa Castillo, Children's Ministries Coordinator

## Parish Staff

- Robert Malm..... Rector  
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- 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
- Rich Kelly.....Youth
- Erica McFarquhar.....
- Howell Medley.....Junior Warden
- Frank Waskowicz.....Communications

### Alternate

- Margaret Will.....TNT

# Grace Notes

Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia  
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### Connections. . .

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*(Continued from page 6)*

working mill. They miss Grace Church and friends and family, but say this small town and its friendly people already make it seem like home.

Have you ever wondered why the “yard” around our parish always looks so nice? The St. Francis Guild is responsible for this, led by two hard-working gardeners: **Barbara Ramm** and **Kevin Sherlock**, with a lot of help from **Khacki Berry**, **Jack Hamilton**, **Wolf Ramm**, **Lucy-Lee Reed**, and **Liz Saalfeld**. We suspect there is always room for more “workers in our vineyard.”

Grace parishioner **Bernie Schroeder** recently graduated from Nashotah House Theological Seminary. Schroeder was one of several students involved in a pioneering two-year “distance learning” course at the Seminary, housed in Nashotah, Wisconsin. Schroeder took eight basic on-line classes in theological education and participated in a one-week residential program during each of the eight terms. His degree ceremony, pictured {to the right}, occurred on October 28, 2009.

We look forward to hearing from you with any news you’d like to share: Dorothy Daniel, [dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org](mailto:dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org) (703-524-0990) or Linda Waskowicz, [linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org](mailto:linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org) (703-836-8435).

—Dorothy Daniel and Linda Waskowicz



*Speaking in Latin, The Very Reverend Robert Munday, Dean of Nashotah House Theological Seminary, confers a Master of Arts in Ministry on Bernie Schroeder.*

February 2010