

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

The Way of the Cross

Lent and Easter this year fall extremely late in the calendar with Ash Wednesday on March 9 and the Day of Resurrection on April 24. I always look forward to our celebrations of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. This year we are adding back to the schedule the Monday 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist, which precedes our dinner and program. Monday nights in Lent are a wonderful opportunity for our parish family to come together for worship, fellowship and education.

We're also adding back the Friday 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist, which begins with the Stations of the Cross. The wooden hangings on the two side walls of the Nave are beautifully crafted. Each one has a verb title that describes Our Lord's last hours of life. We use "The Way of the Cross," a devotional booklet, as we move from station to station. The 14 stations include 8 from the Gospel records of the Passion and 6 from Church tradition.

In some ways I've already experienced "The Way of the Cross" and the reality of Easter. My step-father's recent death had for me and my family the feel of the way of the cross. We walked with Perry through several "stations" including: failing health and physical suffering, scans and biopsies, malignancy diagnosis, hospitalization, hospice residency, death. All this took place very quickly, less than the 40 days of Lent before Easter.

We had a wonderful celebration of Perry's life on "Super Bowl Sunday," which, of course, for all of us, is first and foremost, the Day of Resurrection. I'm very excited this year (because of Perry) to look forward to our Lenten "way of the cross" and our celebrations of Jesus' victory over death at Easter.

I hope and pray that our liturgies and programs at Grace Church help each one of us to live fully into the experience of Christ's Passion and Glory. We never know when or how God will bring each one of us first to the cross and, then, to the empty tomb.

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

March 2011

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite I 7:30 am
 Child Care 8:45 am – 12:45 pm
 La Santa Eucaristia 9:00 am
 Choral Eucharist Rite II 9:00 am
 Christian Ed classes 10:15 am
 Choral Eucharist Rite I 11:15 am
 Holy Eucharist Rite II 5:00 pm

Weekday Eucharist through March 8

Tuesdays, Rite II with healing 6:30 pm
 Wednesdays, Rite I 7:00 am
 Thursdays, Rite I 12:15 pm

Weekday Eucharist Beginning March 10

Mondays, Rite II 6:30 pm
 Tuesdays, Rite II with healing 6:30 pm
 Wednesdays, Rite I 7:00 am
 Thursdays, Rite I 12:15 pm
 Fridays, Rite II with
 Stations of the Cross 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 preceeding month. The next *Grace Notes* deadline: March 15th for the April issue.

Articles should be submitted by e-mail to grace.notes@gracealex.org. All articles are subject to editing. Grace Church’s newsletter team includes Doug Prince (editor), Beth Wiggers, Amy Barron, Gary Carter, Kristine Hesse and June Huber.

From the Assistant Rector

WINE AND SPIRIT

Recently, I learned that I like red wines. I really never have been much of a “winey,” and in fact until quite recently, I really didn’t drink socially at all. I was a true teetotaler, except for the wine at the Eucharist of course. However, last fall, my wife and I went on a wine tasting tour near Charlottesville and got to see the wine making process, which was fascinating. In the process we sampled some terrific wines as well. And perhaps this new appreciation accompanies a general mellowing in me, from an all-or-nothing disposition of my youth and early adulthood, to allowing myself an occasional glass. Well, since then, I’ve generally enjoyed some wine when we have company and opened a bottle for hospitality’s sake.

Last night, we had a truly exceptional Cabernet Sauvignon, given to us by a friend (a fellow priest) and his wife not long ago. The deep darkness of its cranberry hue, the full bodied and earthy flavors and sublime aromas were intoxicating (if you’ll forgive the pun). This was an amazing wine, bottled in 2006, and yet was still about \$20 (kind of our cut off for what we’ll pay for such things).¹

They say a little wine gladdens the heart (see Ps. 104:15 in BCP). And there is something very satisfying about sharing a good wine with friends, much like the joy of sharing a well prepared meal. Such gathering around an exquisite meal, or a well aged wine, is reflective of that other meal for which we gather every Sunday, with those whom we love, the Eucharist. That feast too features wine. Of course, the wine of the Eucharist is more satisfying and spiritually nourishing than any other wine in the world.

The wine we use at Grace Church, before the consecration, is quite fine, but not in any way extraordinary. It is a Taylor Tawny Port. Ports, originally from Portugal, are typically slightly higher in alcoholic content, and have been stopped earlier in the fermentation process to retain their sugars, thus their sweeter flavor. However, after the consecration, this typical port is quite different, isn’t it?

There has been much debate throughout the ages about how it is different. St. Thomas Aquinas would say that while this still looks like wine, and tastes like wine, it is no longer wine, those are just the “accidents” that remain. The former wine is now the blood of Christ, and its “wineness” no longer exists. It has been transubstantiated. Martin Luther would demur. He’d say, “No. It is Christ’s blood, Christ is present in this sacrament, but it still retains its wineness.” This could be described as a consubstantiation. Then there are the memorialists who say this simply is wine and the presence of Christ is merely symbolic. We drink it in “memory” of Christ’s sacrifice for us, the spilling of his blood. Anglican theologian, Richard Hooker would probably say, “it is wine, but for the one who receives it with faith, it is the blood of Christ.” This position has come to be known as a receptionist theology.

(Continued on page 6)

Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday Service Schedule

Wednesday, March 9, Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent in the Church year. Plan to attend one of our services as you prepare to observe a Holy Lent. All services will include the imposition of ashes.

7:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:00 am	Grace School Chapel
12:00 noon	Holy Eucharist with Hymns
6:00 pm	Children's Liturgy and Holy Eucharist
7:30 pm	Choral Eucharist
7:30 pm	La Santa Eucaristía

Note: **The Children's service** is 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 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.

Weekday Observances in Lent

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

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

Graceful Worship

The Roots of How We Worship (Part 5)

Since at least the 1970s, Anglo-Catholicism has been dividing into two camps, along a fault line which can be traced back to Bishop Charles Gore's writings in the latter part of the 19th century. In 1890 he edited and published *Lux Mundi*, a series of essays by different writers who wanted to bring the Anglican Church into a better relationship with modern scientific and historical knowledge. In his own essays he expressed the belief that Biblical and archaeological studies and scientific discoveries had made it necessary for the Church to re-examine—and perhaps restate—some of its traditional doctrines and practices.

The Oxford Movement had been inspired in the first place by a rejection of liberalism and latitudinarianism in favor of the traditional faith of the "Church Catholic," defined by the teachings of the Church Fathers and the common doctrines of the historical eastern and western Christian churches. Until the 1970's, most Anglo-Catholics rejected liberalizing development such as the conferral of holy orders on women. Present-day "traditionalist" Anglo-Catholics seek to maintain tradition, and often ally themselves with Evangelicals to defend traditional teachings. The main organization in the Church of England that opposes the ordination of women and liberal views on homosexuality, "Forward in Faith," is largely composed of Anglo-Catholics.

Gore's work, however, paved the way for an alternative form of Anglo-Catholicism, influenced by liberal theology. As a result, many Anglo-Catholics accept the ordination of women, the use of inclusive language in Bible translations and the liturgy, and progressive attitudes toward homosexuality. These Anglicans often refer to themselves as "Liberal Catholics." The more "progressive" or "liberal" style of Anglo-Catholicism is represented by "Affirming Catholicism."

Some traditionalist Anglo-Catholics have left—and continue to leave—official Anglicanism to form "continuing Anglican churches" such as the Traditional Anglican Communion (formed in 1991). Others have left Anglicanism altogether for the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox churches, in the belief that liberal doctrinal innovations in the Anglican churches have resulted in Anglicanism no longer being a true branch of the "Church Catholic."

—June Huber

Welcome Missy Greene to Family Ministries

Missy Greene is a student at Virginia Theological Seminary, pursuing a Masters of Theological Studies with a focus in Christian Education. She is a 2007 graduate of Penn State University with a degree in Elementary and Kindergarten Education. She spent two years teaching pre-kindergarten before attending seminary. From the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, she has been active in diocesan events since the second grade, serving in a variety of roles. Missy will spend her time at Grace Church observing and helping during Sunday School, as well as working with and learning from Julie Simonton in her role as Assistant for Family Ministries. After graduating in May, Missy looks forward to returning to Northwestern PA for a job in Youth and Family Ministry.

—Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries



Chili Bowl a Piping Hot Success!

Expert chefs from 12 organizations at Grace Church, as well as a festive crowd of well over 150 people, convened for Grace Church's annual Chili Bowl on Sunday evening, January 30. The event was a rousing success—no one left hungry!

The generosity of Grace's parishioners was on display, as the Chili Bowl raised more than \$3,000 for the church's many important programs.

The EYC took home the prestigious People's Choice Award, attracting nearly \$800 in donations—more than any other group. Meanwhile, the Mission Committee landed a Golden Spoon as the Judges' Choice. No word from the judges on whether the Mission Committee's bread pudding pushed them over the top.

The J2A group, with their inspired and original "rotating theme," was the runaway winner of the Golden Spoon for Best Presentation. Patrons of the J2A booth could spin a wheel with potential themes—including Rock 'N Roll and Mariachi—and then watch as the J2A group quickly changed the music and put on sunglasses or pulled out maracas. J2A also finished

second in the People's Choice category, with nearly \$500 in donations.

The Choir, in addition to winning a special Golden Spoon for their inspired performance of this year's Chili Bowl Anthem, finished third in the quest for People's Choice, with nearly \$150 in donations.

A special thanks to all the competitors in this year's Chili Bowl—judges and patrons alike commented on how delicious every entry was. This year's judges—Leslie Gable, Stacey Glazier and Jeff Solsby—also deserve special recognition. And a big "thank-you" to the vestry for providing the liquid refreshment this year, and to the many folks who helped with set up and clean up.

We'll see you at next year's Chili Bowl!

—Robby Schrum, Jr.
Chili Master

Announcements

2011 Altar Guild Tea—Save the Date

Reservations will be accepted beginning at 9:00 am on Monday, March 7, for the 12th Annual Altar Guild Tea at Grace Church that will be held on Saturday, May 7, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium. The theme will be *A Royal Wedding*, with table settings that celebrate our elegant theme. Guests will be seated at 2:00 in the Sanctuary for a program presented by Kelly Gable, “The Royal History of Tea Making.” 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 \$35. 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. Please circle March 7 on your calendar to call the church office at (703) 549-1980 to make your reservations.

Spring Forward

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 6. Be sure to set your clocks ahead so you will be on time for church.

Christian Education Sundays in March

Programs for all ages take place during the education hour, 10:15 to 11:00 am, on Sundays during the academic year.

Sunday School for children and youth: Check the signs posted near the elevator in Merrow Hall for room locations.

The **Adult Forum** meets in the Auditorium on the third floor of Merrow Hall. All are invited. Upcoming forums include:

March 6 and 13: *Centering Prayer I and II*, led by Seminarian Elizabeth Locher

March 20: *Sacred Smoke*, led by Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries, and parishioner June Huber

March 27: *Stations of the Cross and the Art of Lament*, led by sculptor, Peggy Parker

April 3 (meeting jointly with the Parent Forum): *Teaching Children How to Pray*, led by the Rev. Heather Van Deventer and the Rev Dr. David Gortner.

The **Inquirers’ Classes** meet in the St. Mark Room on the second floor of Merrow Hall and are open to all those interested in learning more about the Christian faith and Grace Church. Classes during March include:

March 13: *The Oxford Movement and Anglo-Catholicism*

March 20: *Baptism and Confirmation*

March 27: *Easter Narratives*

Grace Church TNTers on Mission to Haiti

Joy St. John and Kendall Metz left for Haiti on February 25 as part of our Diocese’s week-long Young Adults Mission trip to Haiti. They go with our prayers (and no small number of shots!) for a work project in the town of Gonaives, returning Friday, March 4. Don’t miss hearing about their experiences at the Adult Forum on April 10.

From Grace’s Library

Did you know that Grace Church was a hospital during the Civil War? It had 75 beds. And, did you know that there was a Convalescent Camp in Alexandria also? All this and more can be found in *Prisons and Hospitals: The Photographic History of the Civil War*, which is in the Grace Church Library, call number REF/973.7/MIL. There are pictures of Grace Church and the other churches that were used as hospitals on page 234.

Vestry Elected

During the annual parish meeting held on January 30, Grace parishioners elected the new vestry class that will serve through 2013. The new executive committee was also named.

Vestry Class of 2013:

Peter Barnes

Deborah Crabtree

June Huber

Lee Meeks

Mary-Lacey Reuther

Alternates: Jeff Solsby, Kemp Williams

Executive Committee:

Senior Warden..... Howell Medley

Junior Warden Frank Waskowicz

Treasurer Erica McFarquhar

Register..... Alison Campbell

Member-at-Large Robby Schrum

Wine and Spirit *(continued from page 2)*

The Episcopal Church is influenced by both the Roman Catholic and the prevalent Reformist theologies. When we serve the consecrated wine we say the following words: “The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.” One can easily discern the commingling of these influences, the former acknowledging the “real presence” of Christ in this Sacrament that has power to heal, preserve and transform us. And, the latter calling to mind the salvific act of Christ once upon the cross for all.

You’ll note that just before the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest adds a little water to the chalice and to the flagon, containing the wine to be consecrated. Perhaps you’ve wondered about that. There are at least two explanations. The first is found in scripture, specifically John’s gospel, “the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out” (Jn 19:34). Another and related reason is that the water represents the Holy Spirit,² the Spirit that descended upon Christ in his own baptism, the Spirit that Christ breathed upon his apostles, and the very Spirit we invoke during the Eucharistic Prayer that God would send to “bless and sanctify” this simple wine that it may be the blood of Christ. Some theologians would argue in fact that it is the Spirit’s role in the consecration: to bind that which is eternal and of God, to that which is material (simple bread and simple wine).

More could obviously be said about the uniqueness of the consecrated wine and its meaning, power and purpose. Suffice here to say that we receive it with joy. We receive this wine with hope and faith, that Christ would enter our bodies through this Sacrament and transform us. And no ordinary wine can do that.

¹ Incidentally, if you’re interested, the wine was Three Saints, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2006, from Santa Ynez, CA.

² See Eugene Rogers, *After the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: William Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005).

*I am yours in Christ,
—The Rev. Patrick T. Crerar, Assistant Rector*

Music Notes

Calling all Singers!

There are empty seats in the choir gallery during both Sunday choral services. Anyone interested in joining a choir is encouraged to speak to Thom Robertson, Director of Music. The ability to read music is advantageous but not necessary; all that is required is a love of singing and a willingness to be a regular attendee of rehearsals and Sunday services. Plan your Lenten discipline now—instead of giving up something for Lent, take on a role in the choir for Lent and Easter!

Happy Birthday, Bach!



Sunday afternoon, March 20 at 3:00 pm, Thom Robertson will be joined by three of his students to present an all-Bach program to celebrate Johann Sebastian Bach’s 326th birthday. Two of the students are Grace Church youth: Eva Lorentz and Nicholas Smoot, and the third student works with the Di Gennaro-Hart Organ Company (in fact he worked on our new instrument). The featured work on the program will be Bach’s well-known Passacaglia in C Minor, plus other favorites. Come to hear glorious music and to support the future of organ playing!

—Thom Robertson, Director of Music

March Birthdays

3/1	Eugene Alford	3/8	Ada Rairigh	3/21	Taylor Ballenger
3/1	Yanira Rodriguez	3/8	Eddi Rairigh	3/21	Madison Busker
3/1	Peter Zuidema	3/9	Scott Knudsen	3/22	Kathleen Arthur
3/2	Shirley Tyler	3/9	Gregory Ruff	3/22	Dawna Gardner
3/2	Charles Kinston	3/10	Renata Kamakura	3/22	Paige Medley
	Williams	3/10	Anabel Rodriguez	3/22	Liz Rugaber
3/3	Andrew Cook	3/10	Lynn Rohrs	3/22	Ethan Woodhead
3/3	Beau Grimes	3/11	Joyce Stancil	3/23	Mia Giacomo
3/3	Vi Legere	3/11	Karen Wille	3/23	Pat Hansen
3/3	Cindy MacIntyre	3/12	Ashley Busse	3/23	Easter Thompson
3/3	Isabella Nannini	3/14	Liz Saalfeld	3/26	Lisa Doelp
3/3	Alice Russell	3/14	Mai-Lan Smith	3/26	Georgia Gillette
3/3	Tyler Smith	3/16	Michael Key	3/26	Patt Sullivan-Perry
3/3	Charles Spencer	3/16	Jean Thompson	3/26	Kathy Zucca
3/3	Jonathan Wolcott	3/17	Jeremy Barr	3/27	Simon Kupczyk
3/4	Stacey Glazier	3/17	Swep Nelson	3/28	Jo Belser
3/4	Anthony Nannini	3/18	Betsy Bamford	3/29	Amelia Bennett
3/7	Meghan Cummings	3/19	Valerie Fowler	3/30	Brad Bergmann
3/7	Chuck Dodd	3/19	Robert Schrum	3/30	Riley Butcher
3/7	Sarah Martin	3/19	Barry Smoot	3/30	Samuella Hunt
3/7	Jeannine Raymond	3/20	Barry Barr	3/30	Marianne Swearingen
3/7	John Weise	3/20	Gail Miller	3/31	Kate Schneider

Outreach to the Hungry

Grace Church volunteers support several Outreach activities which help to serve Alexandria's hungry in different ways. Parishioners are generous, contributing over \$19,000 in 2010 directly to the Food Fund.

Every six weeks, Grace Church distributes about 350 "Brown Bag" lunches to the homeless, working poor and unemployed in Alexandria. Each week of service about 25 volunteers help by making sandwiches at home and serving the lunches at Meade Memorial Church. Last year, the Food Fund provided \$1,421 for additional lunch elements (fruit, snacks, soup or lemonade and paper products).

On the first Friday of every month, 12 "Meals-on-Wheels" volunteers deliver cold lunches and hot dinners to approximately 70 of our less-mobile neighbors.

Once a month, the Outreach Committee, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and the Grace School Parents Association take turns preparing and serving a hot dinner to residents of the Carpenter's Shelter. The Food Fund reimbursed costs of \$240 for some supplies, and other supplies were donated.

The Food Pantry is the biggest beneficiary of the Food Fund. Three times a week, a pool of 19 volunteers distributes emergency food supplies to families and individuals referred by the Alexandria Department of Human Services and other relief agencies. Last year 2,156 people received food. The Food Fund supplied \$9,597 for food purchased from the Capital Area Food Bank and for other food and supplies not available from CAFB. Additional food items are available at no cost from USDA programs. Families with children also received a total of \$9,625 in grocery store vouchers for milk and other perishables not supplied by the food pantry.

New volunteers are always needed and welcome. For more information on the Brown Bag program, contact Mary Fox; for Meals on Wheels, contact Stu Perry; and for the Food Pantry, Barbara Sherlock.

Monday Nights in Lent

Join us on Monday nights, March 14 through April 10, for programs for grade-school children and youth and adults. Each Monday night begins with the Holy Eucharist in the Church at 6:30 pm, followed by a simple soup supper, hosted by one of our parish organizations, in the Merrow Hall Auditorium. The program for adults and youth in grades 6 through 12 begins at 7:45 pm and ends at 8:45 pm. All are invited.

A movie series for grade-school children will begin immediately after the simple supper (location to be announced). No child care will be provided for younger children.

Lenten Series for Adults and Youth: Discerning our Spiritual Gifts

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [1 Corinthians 12:5-7]

This year's five-week series offers an opportunity to both reflect on the gifts that God creates in each of us and to consider how we might carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world through them. Guided by facilitators from the laity, the ordained priesthood and the monastic tradition, we will explore how we might name, embrace and incorporate these gifts of the Spirit in our daily practices.

Here's a bit about our facilitators:

Cary Gray Kelly is a layperson who has worked as a leadership coach and consultant to the non-profit community. Cary is a frequent speaker at congregational, diocesan, and national church events. She serves on the board of the consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes and is a life-long Alexandrian. Cary will lead our conversations on March 14 and March 21.

Kathleen Henderson Staudt works as a teacher, poet and spiritual director at a number of institutions in the DC area. Her teaching focuses in various ways on writing, poetry, Spirituality and Christian vocation and ministry—especially from the point of view of the laity. Through classes and retreats, she encourages people to explore their inner lives, engage their creativity, and reflect on their beliefs about God, vocation, and how we can discern and pursue new ways to transform our broken world. Kathy will lead our conversation on March 28.

The Rev. Dr. Francis (Frank) H. Wade, who was Grace Church's guest speaker at our 2005 sesquicentennial dinner and at our 2008 Founders' Day dinner, is a retired Episcopal Priest and former Rector of St. Alban's Church on the grounds of the National Cathedral. Following his retirement, he also served as an adjunct faculty member at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Father Wade topic will be *How the Gifts of God are Wrapped: Grace, Covenants, Vows and Promises*.

The Rev. Martin Smith, who is returning to Grace for the fifth consecutive Lenten series, is a noted author and the Theologian in Residence at St. Columba's Church, Washington, DC. Fr. Smith was a member of the Society of St. John the Evangelist for many years and served as Superior until 2006. He is a gifted writer, speaker and retreat leader. His lifelong interest is forging a contemporary spirituality that is in dialogue with tradition and he loves the questions posed by new knowledge and the challenges of post-modern life.

Children's Lenten Movie Series: Popcorn Theology

Come and explore how Hollywood takes the Bible to the animated silver screen through *Joseph: King of Dreams*—starring Ben Affleck and Mark Hamill, *The Prince of Egypt*—starring Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes, and the ever-popular *VeggieTales: The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*. The series is geared toward grade school kids.

—Julie Simonton and Beth Wiggers

School News

Grace Episcopal School is gearing up for a wonderful event on Saturday, March 5. The school will hold their Auction/Gala in the Merrow Hall Auditorium. The common areas of the building and the auditorium will be transformed into the "Rainforest." We invite you to purchase your tickets (\$85/ticket) in the next couple days and join us. Come bid on the many items that have been donated by area businesses and parents. Stop by the school lobby and see some of the wonderful items on the auction block. In addition, in conjunction with the Auction, the Auction Committee is also selling raffle tickets for a \$3000 Tiffany's gift certificate. Each raffle ticket is \$50 or 3 for \$125. If you would like to purchase a ticket to the event or a raffle ticket, don't delay and stop by the school office; call the office at 703-549-5067 or email office@graceschoolalex.org. We look forward to you joining us!

A Letter from Father Yohana

From 2007-2009, Father Yohana Mtokambali, from the Diocese of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, studied at Virginia Theological Seminary while doing his field work with us at Grace Church. He hosted three missionaries from Grace Church on his return. They visited churches, diocesan programs and a health clinic, noting the distances and travel difficulties Father Yohana faced in carrying out his ministry in this sprawling city. In April 2010, we raised funds through a silent auction to support Father Yohana's work through the purchase of a car. We recently received this communication from him:

To all members of Grace Church,

I greet you in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been an honor to know you. When I am writing this email, I can picture you with your smiles and the way you made Sabby and me comfortable amongst you. To culminate it all, by making it possible for supporting my ministry and family with a car that we never dreamt of having. With your support it will be possible.

But I have not yet bought the car, for another blessing has interrupted my plans. By the grace of God I have received a scholarship to study for a PhD at the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa. Your money is still safe and unspent. My PhD will focus on the Old Testament and my dissertation will be on reading the book of Ruth in the Tanzanian eye.

My intention is not to use your money in this endeavor. I have talked with Sabina my wife and she has given me permission to go by myself. Once my studies are over, my plans are to return to Tanzania and continue to teach and work in a parish. Our daughter Joan will be in grade two when I return, and Sabina will begin her studies then.

The idea of buying the car still stands, and I will do that when I have finished my doctorate. That was what the money was for, and I am sticking to that.

*With all love and affection for the people of Grace Church,
—Father Yohana Mtokambali*

Sharing Our Gifts: The Good News

How did you become an Episcopalian? When did you become a Christian and why do you continue to be one? Who or what brought you to Grace Church? If you don't have to go to church, why do you?

Occasionally someone in our life comes right out and asks us one of these questions and we are given, at that moment, an opening to share our faith journey and the good news of God's infinite Love. Most times, we are more likely to need to listen attentively for the right opening. Or we might wade into a faith conversation in a different way—by joyfully discussing our volunteer work at Grace Church, gratefully describing one of our favorite programs, or the activities we enjoy. We can use one of these “easier” avenues to invite a friend to church.

In her book, *The Heartbeat of God: Finding the Sacred in the Middle of Everything*, Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori states that one of the most effective evangelism tools is creating spaces where people can ask significant questions without fear. Bishop Schori is referring to physical spaces outside of the church building and has many suggestions for how to do this. The Evangelism Committee will explore some of these ideas in the upcoming months.

Lent offers us a different sort of space for evangelism. Lent provides a spiritual space that can offer the right opening for a significant conversation with someone who is seeking a new or different relationship with God. During Lent, we seek to have our hearts and ears attuned to the Spirit. In the quiet of Lent, we can offer the spiritual space for others to ask significant questions, and we can make the love of Christ and the hospitality of Grace Church even more visible to a friend. Although any time is a good time to invite a friend to join you at Grace, perhaps this Lent will be the right time for each of us to “be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace” and bring a friend to Christ (quote is from the hymn *Go Forth for God* by J.R. Peacey).

—Theresa Lewallen

Welcoming Newcomers

The Evangelism Committee will welcome newcomers and recent visitors at a Mardi Gras reception on Sunday, March 6, at 6:00 pm, in the church narthex. If you are new to Grace Church and would like to attend, please call the office at 703-549-1980. Please let us know if you will need child care.

Junior Warden's Report

Last year at this time we'd expended almost all of our outdoor maintenance funds. This year—so far—has been very good to us. Keep your fingers crossed.

It's been a relatively quiet period indoors as well. A small flood on the ground floor of Merrow Hall, overflowing coffee pots, and a fire inspection that identified a faulty alarm were minor events. They serve to remind us that our physical plant requires continuous care, and thoughtful planning to maintain its purpose as it turns 62. If a piece of equipment has a useful life of 10 years, we should be putting away money each year in preparation for its replacement. We have not been doing that. Otto Wolff and his Property Committee are assessing our future needs as a basis for determining the desirable size of the Capital Improvement Fund. The fund stands at \$49,000 today, but that is only a fraction of the bill we will likely incur over the next decade.

Near-term capital improvements receiving careful attention are (1) a sound system in the Nave of the church, (2) window replacement in the Merrow Hall, and (3) a reserve of \$12,000 to cover potential loss of a critical air handling or cooling unit.

Many thanks to the numerous volunteer efforts that are on-going or soon to occur: the generous contribution of a commercial dish washer and repair of the ovens in the kitchen, operable outdoor light fixtures for the church sign and Narthex entryway, refinishing the exterior of doors into the library and narthex, installation of a second handrail outside the church entrance, and caulking around doors.

There's always room for more helping hands. If you are interested, even on a very limited basis, please give me a call.

—Frank Waskowicz, Junior Warden

Eco-Notes

"I want to walk as a child of light, I want to follow Jesus." We as Christians are taken with the notion of Light. "Jesus is the light of the world," from the Gospel of John. The notion of light as goodness suffuses the *Bible* and our liturgy. Consider then its opposite, the dark. The darkness of our fall, the picture of hell as a dark place, and "when we had fallen into sin and death," God through Christ turns and saves us.

But now consider modern light. Modern light comes to us through the generation of electricity. We rely on the dark substance, coal, that when burned generates electricity that is transmitted to our homes. Coal is carbon that long ago was made with light energy. Coal comes to us through God and as we know: "All things come of thee, Oh Lord" and they are good, but can there be too much goodness? As we burn coal to generate electricity we send pollutants into the air. Coal mining destroys mountains and pollutes streams with runoff. Mountain reclamation cannot completely restore what came to us through God.

When we gather at Shrine Mont we enjoy the dark, almost as much as the sun. We relish the sight of the stars across the Milky Way. We anticipate the faith journey of an after-dark hike to the cross. At Shrine Mont our rooms and cabins have minimal electric light, yet no one complains. We enjoy roughing it, and feeling close to nature. Let's bring that feeling home.

We on the Environmental Committee closely monitor the electricity used at Grace Church. In our quest to reduce our carbon footprint we give ourselves "bonus points" for the declining use of electricity because of its association with coal. How can we reduce our own use of electricity this Lent? We can turn off the TV, the game cube and the treadmill and take long walks enjoying the "beauty of holiness." We can truly walk in the light.

—Jennifer Eckel

Growing @ Grace

Upcoming Opportunities for Children, Youth and Parents

Sunday, March 6 @ 10:15 am – Parent’s Forum: A Conversation about Bullying, with Dr. Lynn Turner in the St. Mark Room. Come and enjoy our new Percolate Your Faith! Coffee bar.

Sunday, March 6 @ 5:30 pm – Youth Dinner and Program

With all the Chili Bowl and Hoagie-Making activities, it’s been a while since we’ve just had a simple evening together for dinner, fun and fellowship. Come to wind down and reconnect.

Tuesday, March 8 @ 6:00 pm, J2A hosts the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! Be there or be a burned flapjack!!!

Wednesday, March 9 @ 6:00 pm – Children’s Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist

Saturday, March 12 @ 10:00 am – Parish Youth Ministry (PYM) Spring Day of Service. Come spend the day with diocesan youth learning about “mission” and its great value to our diocese while working together on a community service project. Trinity Church, Arlington. \$15 per youth.

Mondays: March 14 – April 11 – Popcorn Theology

Come and explore how Hollywood takes the Bible to the animated silver screen through *Joseph: King of Dreams*—starring Ben Affleck and Mark Hamill, *The Prince of Egypt*—starring Val Kilmer and Ralph Fiennes, and the ever-popular *Veggie Tales: The Pirates Who Don’t Do Anything*. The series is geared toward grade school kids and will begin immediately after the simple supper.

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, April 3 @ 10:15 am – Parent Forum: Teaching Children How to Pray, with The Rev. Heather Van Deventer and The Rev. Dr. David Gortner. Heather and David are educators, priests and parents of two prayerful daughters. Come for a conversation about nurturing a prayerful life for yourself and your family.

April 1 – 3 @ SHRINE MONT! – Parish Youth Ministry (PYM) Senior High Weekend. Keynote speakers are youth leaders from the Diocese of Christ the King in South Africa!!! Go out for loads of jam-packed fun and inspiration. \$150 per person (scholarships available through the Diocese).

Contact family.ministries@gracealex.org for information on all things children, youth, and parents.

Coffee Bar & Parent Forums: Percolate Your Faith!

Do you enjoy the taste of the coffee at a local coffee pub on Sunday mornings? Save your cash for the offering plate and enjoy a tasty cup in the St. Mark Room the first Sunday of March. Contact family.ministries@gracealex.org for more information or to volunteer to host this fun new offering.

Children’s Chapel NEEDS YOU...

Attendance is bub-bub-ba-bubblin’ over and we need to schedule volunteer parents or parishioners each Sunday to help! Please sign up in the St. Nicholas Room or contact family.ministries@gracealex.com to assist with shepherding this important ministry.

Vacation Bible School: Registration Opens March 15

Vacation Bible School is July 11-15 at Grace Episcopal Church! We are again working in cooperation with Christ Church, Alexandria and plan to offer half-day and full-day options. Mark the calendar for your kids—and for you, too. We need many hands available to make this important summer ministry a success. Plan to join us! For more information, contact family.ministries@gracealex.org.

—Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries

Connections. . .

Good news, especially for **Barry Barr**. The Rev. Jane Barr will complete her ministry as Interim Rector of St. James Church in Woodstock, Vermont on March 6. Jane will be returning to our diocese where she will become the Chaplain at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads in mid-March.

Advanced degrees awarded to Grace Church scholars:

- **Margaret Eckel**, daughter of **Bill** and **Jennifer**, has earned her Master of Arts degree with distinction in Creative Writing and Publishing from Kingston University in the UK. She lives in London.
- **Ashby Rushing** is now Dr. Rushing, having received her Doctorate of Education with a specialty in Curriculum and Instruction, conferred by George Washington University. Ashby did this while being wife to Colin and mother to Rachel and teaching seventh grade English at Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington.

Please feel free to either e-mail or call us with "all your news that's fit to print": **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.

From the Parish Register

Baptism:

William Douglas Holland, son of David and Katherine Holland

Transfers in:

Jennifer Boyd Chriss as a baptized member, from St. Genevieve's R.C. Church, Chicago

Julia Lopez Slattery as a confirmed member from Christ Church, Los Altos, California

Burial:

Joseph Cheevers, husband of Christine Cheevers

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
family.ministries@gracealex.org	
Charlotte Payne Wright	Parish Administrator
parish.administrator@gracealex.org	
Beth Wiggers.....	Administrative Associate
parish.office@gracealex.org	
Noelle Smoot	Children's Chapel Coordinator
childrens.chapel@gracealex.org	
Pedro Hernandez	Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2011

Alison Campbell.....	Register
Rich Kelly.....	Youth
Erica McFarquhar	Treasurer
Howell Medley.....	Senior Warden
Frank Waskowicz	Junior Warden

Class of 2012

Amy Barron	Fellowship
Lisa Bellantoni	Education
Theresa Lewallen.....	Evangelism
Robby Schrum.....	Member-at-Large
Sharon Steele	Outreach

Class of 2013

Peter Barnes
Deborah Crabtree
June Huber
Lee Meeks
Mary-Lacey Reuther

Alternates

Jeff Solsby
Kemp Williams

Easter Flower Request

You are invited to participate in decorating the church with beautiful Easter flowers. Please complete this form and return it no later than Monday, April 4, with a check for \$35.00 to the parish office or place it in the Sunday offering. Make your check payable to Grace Episcopal Church and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

Please circle one

of the choices below and print the remainder of the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Easter 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).

Envelope Number _____

