

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

Easter Change

John Henry Newman (1801-90) joined with Edward Pusey and John Keble to lead the Oxford Movement in the mid 19th century. This movement, beginning in Oxford, England, influenced the growth of the Church throughout the Anglican Communion. Our own parish developed our tradition of worship following this renewal movement early in our history. Pusey is pictured in one of our stained glass windows.

Newman decided change wasn't coming fast enough to the Church of England, so he converted to Roman Catholicism in 1845 and in 1879 he became a Cardinal. Many U.S. college Roman Catholic chaplaincy centers are named after him.

In the review of a new book about Newman, *A Hero of the Church*, the author writes that Newman believed that *"the concepts and intuitions that shape human history are dynamic, not inert. Great ideas interact with changing times and cultures, retain in their distinctive thrust and direction, yet adapting so as to preserve and develop that energy in different circumstances."*

Newman, himself, wrote, *"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often..."*

Easter is our holy season of change. How does Christ's resurrection change us? The Church? The world? Perhaps, transformation is a better word than change.

Newman's life and work remind us that change is not something to fear. Rather we should embrace and celebrate change, transformation.

*Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

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

May 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 Eucaristía.....	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

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

The deadline for submitting copy is midnight on the 15th of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is May 15th for the June 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), Amy Barron, Gary Carter, Kristine Hesse, June Huber and Beth Wiggers.

From the Assistant Rector

A Season of Resurrection



We find ourselves in that season of resurrection and Easter joy. This joy is shared around the world and now especially among seventeen children who probably have not known any sense of resurrection joy in a long time, perhaps ever. All of us recall the terrible earthquake in Haiti on January 12, 2010. Since then, you surely have witnessed the continued suffering of the Haitian people, as they struggle to rebuild, in a sense rise again from the terrible death and destruction of that day.

A small orphanage and feeding program in Mirebalais, about 60 km north and east of Port-Au-Prince, served some 150 street children daily before the quake. However, it was quickly expanded to 400-500 children daily, as the number of hungry children streaming out of the capital increased dramatically following the disastrous quake. This program, the Haiti Micah Project (HMP), started by my friend and Episcopal priest, the Rev. Joseph Constant, has been incredibly dedicated to these children.

As a parish, we sponsor ten children at HMP, providing for their food, tuition and school uniforms. The pictures of these beautiful children are displayed year round in our St. Luke Room on the third floor. An additional seven children are sponsored by individuals in the parish. During Christmastide, we collected school supplies for the children at HMP. Grace Episcopal School has collected school supplies and soccer balls for the children. And most recently, the vestry approved \$5,000 to be sent to HMP for a well and water treatment program. Regrettably, the water in Mirebalais is contaminated by cholera. Our funds, matched dollar for dollar by Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, will ensure that the children at HMP have clean and safe water to drink.

These are all signs of resurrection life arising in a situation that previously appeared quite hopeless. This life sustaining water from the well will be a symbol of the hope of resurrection that springs forth in the heart of the faithful. Yet, we are far from realizing a true and full resurrection in Haiti.

During the month of May, in the foyer near the glass doors, you will see pictures of other children at HMP who are in dire need of sponsorship. You'll have the opportunity to sponsor a child (just \$300/year) or make a donation to be combined with others to sponsor a child. We've been very blessed by our Haiti Team, including Karen Wires and Mary Ann Ryan, who have dedicated many hours, prayers and much effort in support of the children at HMP. I hope that you will join in our efforts to ensure that all God's children know a sense of resurrection and new life.

— The Rev. Patrick T. Crerar, Assistant Rector



Concert on Saturday, May 14

CONVIVIUM, a small a cappella group specializing in Renaissance and contemporary repertoire, will present a concert in the nave on Saturday, May 14, at 7:30 pm. Established in 1985, Convivium has performed across the Washington metropolitan area, including appearances at the Kennedy Center, The Lyceum, Christ Church in Alexandria, Dumbarton United Methodist Church, Wesley Theological Seminary and the U.S. Botanic Garden. Convivium singers have performed with groups including Carmina, the Cathedral Choral Society, the Choral Arts Society of Washington, the Alexandria Choral Society, Musikanten, the Fairfax Choral Society, the Paul Hill Chorale, the Ron Freeman Chorale, Bel Cantanti Opera and Cantate Chamber Singers.

Directed by Steven Beck, Convivium will be performing works by John Amner (“Come, Let’s Rejoice”), John Sheppard (“Rejoice in the Lord”), Thomas Tallis, Johannes Brahms (Motet: “O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf” and folksong arrangements), Samuel Barber, Virgil Thomson and others.

The concert is free, but donations to help defray expenses will be received. [Convivium has enjoyed having rehearsal space at Grace Church since last October.]

Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem...

The Grace Church Choral Society was joined by singers from two Maryland churches on April 10 to present Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem for choir, orchestra and organ. Fifty voices formed the chorus, including members of St. Martin’s Lutheran Church (Annapolis, MD) and Covenant United Methodist Church (Montgomery Village, MD). Tim Smith (Director of Music at St. Martin’s Lutheran) conducted the string orchestra, Thom Robertson was the organist, and Thomas Andrew (Director of Music at Covenant United Methodist) was the baritone soloist.

— Thom Robertson, Director of Music

Nets for Life

Every minute in sub-Saharan Africa a child dies from malaria, transmitted by mosquito bites as people are sleeping. Through Episcopal Relief and Development (ER-D), the Episcopal Church has committed to providing seven million insecticide-treated mosquito nets, each of which is large enough to protect three people.

The money to provide these nets is coming from individual Episcopal congregations across the country. Bishop Johnston has set a diocesan goal of raising money for twenty thousand nets, but it is the youth of the diocese who are actually organizing to raise the funds. Each net costs about twelve dollars to buy, distribute and train people to use in Africa.

At Grace, the EYC, the J2A and the 5th-6th graders will be holding fund-raisers to meet the need. For example, the EYC will be baking and selling cookies (for the next twelve months!) — twelve cookies for twelve dollars will send one net to Africa. The J2A kids have set a goal for themselves to raise money for 100 mosquito nets.

Grace youth are being leaders in this whole process. In March, Grace hosted a training/awareness/pizza session with music (Ben Joyner, Peter Eckel, Henry Tazewell) and a skit (featuring Chas Saphos and Michael Reed), with Lauren Gustafson serving as the master of ceremonies. There are plans to meet with the youth of Emmanuel on Russell Road to talk about Nets for Life. On April 12, Lauren presented the Nets for Life program to the Vestry and gained approval to do a fundraising program.

When you are asked to buy cookies, or support the J2A and 5th & 6th grade fund-raisers (and you will be asked!), know that this is something the kids are putting a lot of effort into, and the cause is very, very important.

— Eric Waskowicz

Growing @ Grace

Upcoming Opportunities for Children, Youth and Parents

Sunday, May 1 at all services, **Mite Box Ingathering**, benefitting Episcopal Relief & Development. ER-D works in partnership with the worldwide Church, ecumenical, and local organizations to save lives and strengthen communities around the world. Learn more about ER-D at www.er-d.org.

Sunday, May 1 @ 5:30 – J2A and EYC Dinner and Fellowship

We've had a busy few months! Come to relax, have fun and enjoy the evening together.

Sunday, May 22 @ 6:00 – Parish Family Fun Night: Spring Fling!

Join your Grace family for an evening of yummy food, rollicking fellowship, giddy games and fun, fun, fun! Last names A - K: drinks and desserts, L - R: main dishes, S - Z: salads and appetizers. We'll need help with set up, games and clean up, too. Sign-up sheets are available throughout the parish, or e-mail Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries.

Grace-full Moms Begin Book on "Momfulness"

We've just begun *Momfulness: Mothering with Mindfulness, Compassion, and Grace* by Denise Roy – and it's not too late to join in on the conversation! In this book, Roy combines her experience as a marriage and family therapist, a spiritual director, and a mother of five in this delightful book of meditations, a sequel to *My Monastery Is a Minivan*. *Grace-full Moms* meets in the Grace Library every Tuesday from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Child care is provided in the Grace Church nursery from 10:15 to 12:15. For more information email Julie Simonton or call her 703-549-1980. Or just show up.

Vacation Bible School: Registration Is Open

What a joy to welcome you to Vacation Bible School 2011! Our VBS will begin on Monday, July 11, and continue through Friday, July 15. Each day begins at 9:00 am and concludes at 1:00 pm for those attending half-day and at 5:00 pm for those attending full day. VBS is for everyone from age three (and potty trained) through those who have completed fifth grade. If you have completed sixth grade or beyond, we hope you will consider applying as a counselor-in-training.

This year's VBS will again be in partnership with Christ Church, Alexandria, and will take place at Grace Episcopal Church. Our curriculum will focus on the Beatitudes and will include music, worship, art, drama, storytelling, film, cooking – and SO much more.

We are having a lot of fun preparing this VBS program and are delighted to share it with you and your children. As you might imagine, we offer many opportunities for family and care-givers to participate in VBS, too. Our expectation is that you will find at least one, if not several ways to volunteer and contribute to VBS 2011 being a joyful success. We look forward to your vital support of this exciting ministry.

Registration is open – space is limited so sign up as soon as possible at <http://www.gracealex.org/Events/EventView.asp?EventID=11459>.

Jolyn Knapp, Family Ministry Coordinator at Christ Church, Alexandria, joins me in warmly welcoming you to our VBS family.



Faithfully yours,
—Julie Simonton, Assistant for Family Ministries

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

Give a Helping Hand to Haiti



The Vestry and Mission Team at Grace Church invite parishioners to participate in the Sponsor-A-Child Program of the Haiti Micah Project. On Sunday, May 1, a three-week effort to raise money to help the over 240 children who have no sponsors in the program will begin.

The Sponsor-A-Child program supports the existing feeding/education and residential program at HMP. Before the earthquake, approximately 150 children were being served by HMP. After the earthquake, well over 400 children arrived at the HMP doorstep for help, many coming from Port-au-Prince. It now requires a minimum of \$10,000 a month just to meet the basic needs of food, shelter, clothing, medicine and education provided by the St. Peter's Episcopal School. Each sponsor will receive an individual photo of the child and will have opportunities for periodic communication through pictures, letters and gift giving. The Haiti Micah Project meets the basic needs for all the children to develop physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

What the Sponsor-A-Child program encourages is the direct relationship with an individual child that communicates to them that they are special, and that we, as sponsors, care about them as individuals. As one would anticipate, concerns are rising about the trauma that these children have already suffered in their young lives. Many have lost their parents or loved ones. Although many are extremely resilient under the circumstances, a sponsored relationship can offer additional emotional support and a sense of love and caring.

The funding campaign offers two options for donating:

Option 1 allows parishioners to donate money with a check to Grace Church. All donations are tax deductible. Once each \$300 increment is accumulated, Grace Church will be able to sponsor a new child. As many of you know, last year the Outreach Committee began sponsorships of 10 children with money budgeted from Grace Church funds allocated by the Vestry. We now want to increase the number of children we currently support. Grace will receive a picture of any children we support and children and adult parishioners may communicate through a drawing, craft project or letter and may send gifts for birthdays and holidays. Currently photos of the 10 children sponsored by Grace are on the wall in the St. Luke Room, so stop by after coffee and meet them!

Option 2 enables an individual or family to Sponsor-A-Child by donating \$300 for one year. This option allows for a more direct relationship with the child. Money may be paid annually or monthly (\$25) and is completely tax deductible. HMP is a 501(c)3 organization.

See the pictures of 4 year old Lovelie, her former home before she arrived at HMP in 2006 and her new home in the orphanage. One picture is worth a thousand words.

For additional information about HMP, contact any subcommittee members: Mary Ann Ryan, Lynn Rohrs, Tania Wilkes, Don Wills and Karen Wires or members of the Outreach Committee.

—Karen Wires

From the Parish Register at Easter

Baptisms

Nicholas Henry Zola Rischard, son of Jim and Christina Peck

Jack Matthew Spitzer, son of Matthew and Megan Spitzer

Catalina Isabella Velasquez, daughter of Jovani Velasquez and Rosy Elena Ortiz

Confirmations

Todd Odmund Egaas

Bibi A. Hatim

Julia R. McClung

James R. Peck

Daniel Thomas Plunkett

Nicholas Allan Smoot

Joy St. John

Ruth C. Young



Receptions

Andrew William Chriss

Jennifer April Chriss

Christina Zola Peck

Pamela Nazaruk Valenzuela

Karen Navratil Wires

Reaffirmations

Leigh van Rij Egaas

Jennifer Elizabeth Long

Barry W. Smoot, Jr.

From the Library

Next time you are in the parish library, check out the magazine and newspaper rack. We have copies of *The Biblical Archaeology Review* (thanks to the Corletts for this contribution), *The Episcopal News Monthly*, *The Living Church*, *News from The Hill/VTS* with an article about the chapel fire, *The Anglican Digest*, *Grace Notes*, plus other things that will keep you up-to-date on the news of our local, national and international church.

The Use of Incense

In a short “Graceful Worship” article of April 2007 entitled “Holy Smoke!” Michelle Cox wrote a little bit about the use of incense at Grace Church. I hope you will permit me to share some additional information that I uncovered when preparing for a recent Adult Forum of the same title. My advice to those of you who attended the Forum is to move on to something you haven’t heard (or read) before.

What exactly is incense? The simplest definition: it is something that you burn that smells good and creates smoke. There are two main types: indirect-burning and direct-burning. Direct-burning incense is lit directly by a flame, leaving a glowing ember that smolders and releases its fragrance. Examples are incense or “joss” sticks, cones and pyramids. Sandalwood has always been a popular fragrance (especially for those of us who fondly remember the 1960s and 70s). Indirect-burning incense (like the one we use at Grace) is not capable of burning on its own, and requires a separate heat source. The heat is traditionally provided by charcoal or glowing embers. The best known of the indirect-burning type are frankincense and myrrh, because of their frequent mention in the Bible.

Frankincense and myrrh are both resins (dried tree sap) that come from trees common to Saudi Arabia and Somalia. (Jeremiah 6:20 references “incense from Sheba.”) The way that people collect the sap is similar to the way people collect rubber-tree sap or pine-tree sap. Cutting the tree’s bark causes the sap to ooze out of the cut. The sap used to create both frankincense and myrrh comes slowly and is allowed to dry on the tree. The hardened sap is collected and used. (If you want to learn more, see the excellent 3D IMAX film *Arabia* currently playing at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.)

Why do people of many religions use incense in worship? Because it is a symbol of our prayers rising up to God. It is also symbolic of spiritual cleansing, or making something holy.

The use of incense dates back to biblical times and may have originated in Sumerian and Babylonian cultures, where the resins of these aromatic trees were imported from the Arabian and Somali coasts to be used in religious ceremonies. It was also used by the Pharaohs to counteract unpleasant odors, drive away demons and honor their gods. The Babylonians used incense while offering prayers to divining oracles.

“Ketoret” (also known as “HaKetoret” or holy incense) was the incense offered on a specialized altar of incense in Jerusalem during the times of the Tabernacle and the first and second Temple period. Exodus 30:34-38 describes the following recipe:

“The Lord said to Moses: Take sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum, sweet spices with pure frankincense (an equal part of each), and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy; and you shall beat some of it into powder, and put part of it before the covenant in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you; it shall be for you most holy. When you make incense according to this composition, you shall not make it for yourselves; it shall be regarded by you as holy to the Lord. Whoever makes any like it to use as perfume shall be cut off from the people.”

There are 105 references to incense in the Old Testament: 16 in Exodus; 19 in Leviticus and Numbers; 35 in the historical books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles; two in Psalms; and 33 in the books of the prophets. There are only three in the New Testament: in Matthew when frankincense and myrrh are offered to Jesus by the Three Kings; in Luke when Zacharias burns incense in the temple and is told that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son (John the Baptist); and in Revelation when an angel offers incense in a golden censer.

In the Bible, “sweet incense” is the good and holy stuff, usually burned at an “altar of incense.” (A construction guide for this altar is provided in Exodus 37.) “Strange incense” or “strange fire” is either the wrong recipe or is incense offered to pagan gods, and is sometimes referred to as “burning incense in high places,” with the allusion that those high places were believed to be the homes of pagan gods.

No one seems to be sure exactly when the use of incense in the Christian church started. During the first four centuries there is no evidence of its use. But its common employment in the Temple and the references to it in the New Testament suggest an



early familiarity with it in Christian worship. The Liturgies of St. James and St. Mark, which in their present form are not older than the fifth century, refer to its use at the Sacred Mysteries. A Roman “ordo” (order of service) of the seventh century mentions that it was used in the procession of the bishop to the altar and on Good Friday. In the Roman Church, censuring of the Gospel of the Mass appeared very early: at the Offertory in the 11th century and at the Introit in the 12th century; at the Benedictus and Magnificat of the canonical Hours about the 13th century; and, in connection with the Elevation and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the 14th century.

“Censing” is the act of imparting the odor of incense. The “thurible” (or censer) is held in the right hand of the “thurifer” at the height of the breast, and grasped by the chain near the cover. The left hand, holding the top of the chain, is placed on the breast. The thurible is then raised upwards to the height of the eyes, given an outward motion and slightly ascending towards the

object to be incensed, and at once brought back to the starting point. This constitutes a single swing. For a double swing the outward motion is repeated, the second movement being more pronounced than the first. The “boat” is the vessel containing the incense for immediate use, and is so called from its shape.

In the current discipline of most western churches, incense is first blessed and then used at solemn Mass, solemn blessings, processions, choral offices and absolutions for the dead. On these occasions, persons, places and things such as relics of Christ and the saints, the crucifix, the altar, the Gospel Book, coffins and remains are censed.

In earlier days, incense was also used for strictly practical reasons because it can be so strong that it obscures less desirable odors. This led to the use of incense in funeral ceremonies because the incense could smother the scent of decay. Another example of this use was the botafumiero (Italian for “smoking boat”) which, according to tradition, was installed to hide the scent of the tired, unwashed pilgrims huddled together in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. (This Spanish cathedral continues to attract tourists and website visitors with its enormous thurible. Go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QFd_55El1I to watch a surprising video.) A similar utilitarian use of incense could be found in the post-Reformation Church of England. Although the ceremonial use of incense was abandoned until the 19th century Oxford Movement, it was common to have incense burned before grand occasions, when the church would be crowded. The incense was carried about by a member of the vestry before the service in a vessel called a “perfuming pan.” It was elongated and flat, with a single long handle on one side. The perfuming pan was used because a thurible would have most likely offended the Protestant sensibilities of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Research for “Graceful Worship” articles often turns up surprising information. I learned from one website that frankincense has been shown to cause anti-depressive behavior in mice. It apparently activates the “ion channels” in the brain to alleviate anxiety and depression. So maybe it not only smells good, but also makes us feel better.

In conclusion, let me harken back to Michelle Cox’s original worship article. She wrote “The Anglican Digest once reported that churches that use incense during services are generally free of bats.” So, if we continue to use incense at Grace, we can be reasonably confident that we will never have “bats in the belfry.”

— June Huber

Bring a Friend to Church and Brunch!

Share the joy of Easter by inviting your friends to Grace Church and a special brunch hosted by the St. Andrew’s Guild on Sunday, May 15, at 10:00 am in the St. Mark Room. The St. Andrew’s Guild offers this opportunity for fellowship and food so that guests, visitors and newcomers can learn more about Grace Church. If you are a newcomer or are exploring whether to make Grace your church home, you are welcome to join us on your own. For more information, contact Theresa Lewallen (theresa.lewallen@gracealex.org; 703-768-7158) or Paul Bellantoni (paul.bellantoni@gracealex.org), Evangelism Program Coordinators.

Junior Warden's Report

We are looking into installation of a sound system in the nave. There are many occasions where a sound system would add considerably to our services by ensuring that no matter where you sat in church you will comfortably hear all presentations – events that occur at the crossing, eulogies at funerals, visiting preachers, etc. While we have excellent acoustics, some sounds just do not carry well. Jeff Solsby is a driver in organizing this effort. Our intent is to begin small with a design that will allow a variety of enhancements over time. We do have a consultant bid for \$5,000 that would cover design and guide us through construction and operation. That might be the best way to begin. At the same time we have solicited bids from contractors, and the hope is that one of these might prove both affordable and satisfactory to move directly into installation. We hope to be in a position to make a decision within the next two to three weeks.

Mike Barron, Kristine Hesse, Otto Wolff and Lisle Bean have been working with me to examine window options to replace the 60 year old, single pane, wooden windows in Merrow Hall. We hope to have sufficient numbers of proposals to allow selection of much improved windows at a reasonable cost. Our goal is to reduce recurring maintenance costs, improve the comfort level in the classrooms, provide greater safety, ease cleaning from the interior, and reduce heating and cooling costs. We have examined options ranging from repair of what we have to a variety of designs involving vinyl, fiberglass and aluminum-clad wood. This project may have to span several years, and costs will be shared with the school.

The school is about to undertake a project to enhance its dismissal area. The project, spearheaded by Richard Troyer for the School Board, will feature a brick walkway from the playground fence to the parking lot near where the old pad for dumpsters existed. There will be a flag pole for appropriate student ceremonies involving the US and Episcopal Church flags. The project includes a waiting area for parents, water-proofing the exterior wall of the Kindergarten room, better exterior drainage, handicapped curb access and the recovery of one to two parking spaces.

Cindy Ikard hopes to initiate a small vegetable garden to produce items for distribution through our food pantry. A location has been selected that does not impede school activities and which is sufficiently out-of-sight so it does not detract from our physical appearance.

There are a range of small jobs that are planned as the weather warms. These include a new hand rail for the front Narthex steps (Michael Mergens), refinishing outside doors (Jonathan Doelp), and outdoor caulking (Lisle Bean). Others have offered help. I have a substantial list of tasks that involve one-time commitments of two to three hours which I'd be happy to share if you are interested.



— *Frank Waskowicz*
Junior Warden

Bishop Gulick to Speak at Region IV Meeting — All are invited!

The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. “Ted” Gulick, Assistant Bishop of Virginia, will be the featured speaker at the Wednesday, May 18 meeting of Region IV, at 7:30 pm at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Region IV consists of the eight parishes in Alexandria. All parishioners are invited to attend the meeting to meet Bishop Gulick, who became Assistant Bishop of Virginia on January 1. There will be time for questions after the Bishop’s remarks.

Bishop Gulick, a native Virginian, is the retired Bishop of Kentucky. Before his election as Bishop, he served parishes in Maryland and Virginia. A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, Bishop Gulick also served as provisional Bishop of Ft. Worth after that diocese left the Episcopal Church and affiliated with a foreign province of the Anglican Communion. As such, he became the first bishop to head two dioceses simultaneously.

For further information, get in touch with Cleve Corlett, President of Region IV, at cleve.corlett@gracealex.org, or with one of Grace Church’s two delegates to Region IV: jane.rosman@gracealex.org or june.huber@gracealex.org.

May Birthdays

5/1	Emma Meeks	5/15	Walt Baumann	5/24	Eleanor Cooper
5/2	Hayden Laboy	5/15	Erin Kelly	5/24	Madelyn Curry
5/4	Mary Blouin	5/15	Eleanor Lambeth	5/25	Duke Chiow
5/4	Diane Ely	5/15	Hunter Lambeth	5/25	Jeffery Chiow
5/4	Natalie Page	5/15	Amanda Smoot	5/25	Ramee Gentry
5/4	Melissa Woodhead	5/16	Halina Banas-Jones	5/25	Walter Lukens
5/5	Virginia Chandler	5/16	Mike Dobbs	5/25	Kevin Martin
5/5	Kathryn Kilbride	5/17	Kerry Cook	5/25	Dan Pattarini
5/5	David Shaver	5/17	Lois Hatch	5/26	Nancy Davis
5/6	Christian Portillo	5/18	Justin Ames	5/26	Kathy Durkin
5/8	Jared Smith	5/18	Cheryl Barnes	5/26	Nicholas Pattarini
5/8	Emily Summers	5/18	Gary Carter	5/27	Raymond Curry
5/8	Ruth Young	5/19	Martha Bethea	5/27	Doug Miller
5/9	Vylma Khanna	5/19	Amanda Chandler	5/28	Daniel Plunkett
5/9	Lynn Poole	5/19	Jackson Fray	5/28	Michael Reed
5/10	Amanda Ruff	5/19	Jillian Martin	5/28	Julia Reeder
5/11	Lee Meeks	5/19	Jan Wolff	5/28	Ashby Rushing
5/11	Skitsi Rein	5/20	Mike Barron	5/29	Victoria Portillo
5/12	Reginald Jones	5/20	John Berry	5/30	Yolonda Brawley
5/12	Pepper Lindroth	5/21	Camilla Alvarenga	5/30	Dave Crosby
5/12	Meghan O'Malley	5/21	Frank Carroll	5/30	Heather Kelly
5/13	Georgiana Greely	5/21	Anna Gabbert	5/30	Elois King
5/13	Nina Pfeiffer	5/22	Alison Campbell	5/31	Earl Durand
5/14	Ben Locher	5/22	Chip Fowler	5/31	Hudson Palmbly
5/14	Evelyn Ovando	5/23	Thomas Crabtree		
5/14	Robert Portch	5/23	Amelia Cronin		
5/14	Caleigh Warner	5/23	Joe Donovan		
		5/23	Thomas Durkin		

Grace Notes Editor Needed

Grace Notes is looking for an editor to work with writers and other members of the Communications team. The editor solicits articles from parishioners, consolidates the submissions for proofreading, and leads the monthly planning meetings. Contact grace.notes@gracealex.org if you are interested.

Grace Church Mission Trip!

Our EYC and their leaders have committed to going on mission this summer. They are looking for company! They are a lot of fun, and they work hard. Never been on mission before? This could be the one!

When: Tuesday, July 5 to Sunday, July 10. We will depart from and return to Grace Church at times to be decided.

Where: Dungannon VA near the Tennessee state line in the southwestern part of our state. It's a 6 to 7 hour drive.

What: Work for the elderly and poor doing light to medium repairs on homes (many trailers) and property in this poverty stricken former mining community. A non-denominational state agency, the Dungannon Development Corporation (DDC), will select our projects.

Lodging: Men and Women's dormitories with bunk beds (need to bring a sleeping bag and air mattress to make the beds comfortable) along with hot showers.

Meals: Dinner provided by the community. Breakfast and lunch are self-serve, self-help meals.

Leadership: Provided by Grace Church adults and appointed adult and youth deacons for the day.

Transportation: Vans and cars provided by participants. If needed, we will rent additional vehicles.

Price: Estimated \$250 to cover cost of lodging, meals and gas. Price may go up if rental vehicles are needed.

All Hands Meeting: Sunday, May 15, 4:00 pm, at Grace Church. To reserve our lodging at Dungannon, we will need a deposit of \$100 from each participant.

Questions: Khacki and John Berry, 703-486-6833 or kpbjab@yahoo.com.

— *John Berry*

Grace School News

Springtime is here, and the School's annual fundraising drive for the scholarship/financial aid program is underway. The Spring Program Fundraiser for Financial Aid is one of the most significant sources of revenue for the financial aid funds our school makes available to qualified students. Grace Episcopal School's financial aid program enables us to enroll a highly qualified, motivated and diverse student body regardless of family financial resources. All need-based financial aid is determined by the School and Student Service for Financial Aid (SSS) of Princeton, New Jersey. On average, GES awards financial aid to 10% to 25% of our students. The awards range from 5% to 90% of the total tuition. Requests for financial aid doubled for the 2011-2012 school year. Your gift, now more than ever, will have a greater impact on our ability to serve our community. Last year, parishioners were very generous with their donations – we hope we can count on you again this year!

Information about donating should have arrived to you by mail recently. However, if we missed you, simply send donations to the school office with the notation in the memo line "Spring Program/Financial Aid" (checks payable to Grace Episcopal School). We are also selling raffle tickets for the Grand Prize of \$1000 in cash. You could be the lucky one, and again, profits go to the financial aid program. If you have any questions about donations, please contact our Development Director, Luanne Griffin, at 703-549-5067.

I invite all parishioners to the Grandparents and Special Friends Tea on Friday, May 20 in the new narthex starting after the school chapel service at 9:00 am. The Spring Program Performance is also taking place on Friday, May 20, in the Merrow Hall Auditorium at 10:45 am (note change of time!). I hope to see you at both of these events!

— Chris Stegmaier Byrnes, Head of School



Treasurer's Report

Current Operations

I am happy to report that three months into the calendar year, we have collected over 25% of the amounts pledged to support Grace Church through 2011. We also ran a surplus, after expenses, of just under \$40,000 for the quarter. But, there is a faint cloud in this rosy picture: while pledge income was robust in January, the income flow tapered significantly in February and March. In fact, on a monthly basis, we only had a surplus in January and actually ran deficits in February and March. So, I'm going to take this opportunity to promote our Electronic Giving program, which allows parishioners to satisfy pledges through regular check withdrawal or credit card payments. It's a great way to help ensure that all the programs (Outreach, Education, etc.) and essentials (utilities, salaries, etc.) that enrich our worship lives at Grace are consistently funded. You can locate more information on our website, or feel free to e-mail me at erica.mcfarquhar@gracealex.org.

Here is a numerical snapshot for the quarter ending March 31, 2011:

	Income	Expenses
January	129,727	79,648
February	79,985	85,386
March	65,903	70,585
Amount pledged (as of 2/10):	\$883,073 (325 units)	
Pledge payments received:	\$255,684	
Other Income:	19,931	
Total Income:	\$275,615	
Expenses:	\$235,620	
Surplus:	\$ 39,995	

Capital Campaign

In 2010, we completed paying all Grace Anew expenses, which totaled \$1,345,755. Thank you to all who brought our pledge total to \$1,307,401 and made contributions: your payments are still coming in, bringing total contributions since we began raising funds for the Organ to \$1,290,491 as of March 31, 2011 and allowing the loan obligation to be reduced to only \$136,037. With the continued generosity of Grace Church parishioners, we could retire the entire loan before the 2012 without dipping into Reserves! If you did not have a chance to pledge, you can still earmark a contribution for Grace Anew (although it may be too late to have your name inscribed on the commemorative plaque). If you have pledged, but haven't had occasion to complete your pledge, it isn't too late to catch up.

Plate for Japan

Thanks to all who contributed to the Episcopal Relief & Development's efforts on behalf of Japan after the tsunami and ensuing troubles. Over the three weeks allotted for the loose-plate collection for ER-D, Grace Church collected just over \$2,900.00 for Japan.

— Erica McFarquhar, Treasurer

Grace College Graduates

Justin Ames graduates on May 12 from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies, Concentrations in Business and Urban Planning. Justin is the son of **Nat and Joyce Ames**.

Alexandra Barr graduates May 28 from West Virginia SOM with a degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. She has accepted a Family Medicine residency position at Peconic Bay Medical Center in Riverhead, NY. Dr. Alex is the daughter of **Barry and The Rev. Jane Barr**.

Sydney Barron is graduating Magna Cum Laude from Emory University in May, and will attend law school in the fall, probably at George Washington University. Sydney is the daughter of **Mike and Amy Barron**.

Chris Caputo is finishing NOVA and planning to go on to George Mason. Chris is the son of **Anne Caputo**.

Tim Dodd graduated from Temple University in Tokyo in December. Tim refused to leave after the earthquake, and started a new full-time job later, teaching English to (mostly) Japanese businessmen. He is working for an American man who is married to a Japanese woman. Tim is the son of **Chuck and Sherryl Dodd**.

Claire Eudy will graduate from the Stevens Institute of Technology in May 2011 with both BA and MA degrees in Naval Engineering. Claire was accepted last year into the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program, so after graduation she will report to Newport, Rhode Island to complete Officer Candidate and Surface Warfare Officer Schools. She will then serve 18 months at sea. Claire is the daughter of **Rick and Valerie Eudy** and granddaughter of **Ray and Joanne Peters**.

Ben Fowler is graduating on May 1 from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in English Literature. He will attend a follow-on program at Carnegie Mellon before heading overseas to teach English. Ben is the son of **Amanda Fowler**, and **Chip and Val Fowler**, who are serving at the Embassy in Sri Lanka.

Piers Spencer graduates in May from the University of Virginia with a BS in civil engineering. He is one of the lucky ones to already have a job with Clark Construction. He is the son of **Peter and Ashley Spencer**.

Travis Thompson graduates May 15 from the College of William and Mary with a BA in History with a French minor. He leaves for Beijing on June 4, where he'll work for IES Abroad and study Mandarin Chinese for a year. Travis is the son of **Dick and Easter Thompson**.

Andrew White, our bilingual seminarian, graduates from VTS with an MDiv in Theology on May 19.

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
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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 Hernández.....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 / TNT
Sharon Steele..... Outreach

Class of 2013

Peter Barnes Stewardship
Deborah Crabtree..... Worship
June Huber School Board
Lee Meeks.....Communications
Mary-Lacey Reuther..... Pastoral Care

Alternates

Jeff Solsby
Kemp Williams

Non-Vestry Coordinators

Heather HurleyCommunications
Nancy Lorentz Education
Paul Bellatoni Evangelism
Gary Carter.....Fellowship
John Berry Outreach
Patt Sullivan-Perry Pastoral Care
Jean Reed Stewardship
Virginia Robinson..... TNT
Chad Eckles..... Worship
Lisa Medley..... Youth