

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

Reading and Meditating

Recently my fifth grade religion class presented me with a small pocket-size *Holy Bible* with a "desert camouflage" color cover. Students from Grace Episcopal School visited the Chapel at the Pentagon and were given Bibles distributed by the Gideon's to the military. Most of us have seen Gideon Bibles in hotel and hospital rooms. I didn't know the Gideon's also distribute Bibles to the military, to students and to prisons.

The preface contains these words, "*The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers... Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy... It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully...*"

One of the disciplines of Lent is "*reading and meditating on God's holy Word...*" (BCP, p. 265). I've been reading John's Gospel with my fifth graders. I always hope it will become their favorite, since it is mine! But I do want them to remember the seven "*signs of glory*" and the seven "*I am...*" statements Jesus proclaims. In the Lenten Sunday cycle of readings for the first two out of three years, John's Gospel is read seven out of ten Sundays.

Episcopalians are not always known for their love and study of the *Bible*. I hope that is not true of us at Grace. If we love and value our worship, then we proclaim the importance of Holy Scripture. If we see our work as a "*school of discipleship and stewardship*," then the Word of God is our primary text. If we hope to be a "*community for healing and outreach*," then we know the mission imperatives found in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

I'll treasure my "new" *Bible*, hoping our fifth graders and all of us will continue to grow in our understanding of "*the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation...*"

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

March 2012

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1.....7:30 am
Child Care8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristía9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 29:00 am
Christian Ed classes 10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 1 11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 5:00 pm

Weekday Schedule

Mondays, Rite II 6:30 pm
Tuesdays,
Confessions 5:45 pm–6:15 pm
Rite II with healing..... 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite I7:00 am
Thursdays, Rite I..... 12:15 pm
Fridays,
Confessions.....11:30 am–Noon
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. The deadline for submitting copy is midnight on the 15th of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is 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 Amy Barron, Gary Carter, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Heather Hurley, Lee Meeks, Sarah Schultz and Beth Wiggers.

Rector's Cross Awarded

It has been a tradition since 1990 for Fr. Malm to present a symbolic Rector's Cross at the annual parish meeting to an individual, a couple or a group in thanksgiving for devoted service to Grace Church. The names of past recipients are placed on a plaque that hangs outside the rector's office. In 1990, Fr. Malm's first annual meeting with us, it was presented to the late Lew Wood as he retired after many years as treasurer. Lew was a young acolyte when Grace Church was on Patrick Street!

This year, Fr. Malm introduced his choice by naming **The Office Volunteers**, a usually unseen group of faithful workers. These women, under the capable leadership of the coordinator, Georgiana Greely, are of great assistance to Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Wiggers, the parish administrator and the associate administrator. The office volunteers' duties range from answering the telephone and folding and stuffing bulletins to watering plants and tidying the pews and racks in the church, with many more duties in between.

Volunteers who were recognized on January 29 are: Dorothy Bakke, Khacki Berry, Puddy Blunden, Ruth Corlett, Lisa Doelp, Mary Fox, Wanda Fraser, Rose Hall, Margaret Hillsman, June Huber, Cynthia Puskar, Lucy-Lee Reed, Barbara Sherlock, Patt Sullivan-Perry, Elly Vogtmann and, of course, Georgiana.

When Georgiana was asked for some information about office volunteer duties, she stressed two lines in the Standard Office Volunteer Procedures handbook—do what needs to be done and solve as many problems as you can. These sound like good rules of life for all of us at Grace Church.

Linda Waskowicz

Vestry Elected

During the annual parish meeting held on January 29, Grace parishioners elected the new vestry class that will serve through 2014. The new executive committee has also been named.

Vestry Class of 2014

John Berry
Elizabeth Legere
Erica McFarquhar
Mai-Lan Smith
Kemp Williams
Alternates: Lynn Rohrs, Lisa Medley

Kelly Gable was elected to fill a one-year term in the Class of 2012.

Executive Committee:

Senior Warden: Robby Schrum
Junior Warden: Amy Barron
Treasurer: Erica McFarquhar
Register: Lisa Bellantoni
Member-at-Large: Theresa Lewallen

When Grace Came Calling

I have experienced Pentecost several times in my life, two of them very recently. Each time the Holy Spirit has washed over me and everyone else around me, filling and flooding us with a sure and complete sense that we all are one with the One who made us. It is hard to describe the experience; the closest I can come is to call it Pentecost, like tongues of flame without the heat, with rivers of joy all around.



Pentecost is how I experienced Andrew White's ordination at Grace Church on January 21. Andrew was so filled with joy that it was contagious. Pentecost is how I experienced the service at Holy Cross in Dunn Loring on February 4 in which our Bishop Shannon celebrated and blessed the relationship that Lenore Funkhouser and I began over 24 years ago. As I told a friend after the event, "I now know what ontological change is!" An ontological change fundamentally alters one's being. Such change happens when we accept the love with which God bathes us, and in turn become a willing channel of sharing God's love with others.

I look forward to another ontological change, this time on June 2 when—God willing, our Bishop approving, and the people consenting—five of my colleagues and I are scheduled to be ordained to the transitional diaconate. (I am delighted that two of these colleagues are David Crosby and Elizabeth Locher.) The event will be at St. Andrew's in Burke; plan to come and experience Pentecost anew with us there.

Jo Belser

Spiritual Retreat—March 3 A Day to Reflect and Renew

It's far too easy to get caught up in our day-to-day activities and lose focus on our spiritual lives. Take time to re-establish that focus at our 2012 spiritual retreat, which takes place Saturday, March 3, in Merrow Hall Auditorium from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Father Martin Smith will lead us to consider the theme, *Heart to Heart: Intimacy and the Mystical Core of the Gospel*.

Still haven't signed up? Register online at www.gracealex.org. The cost is \$35 and includes breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available; please speak to a member of the clergy for scholarship information.

Inquirers' Classes during March

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 4: *Lent, Preparing for Easter* (The class will meet in the Library this week, so that the Parent Forum may meet in the St. Mark Room.)
- ❖ March 11: *Episcopal Polity and Practice*
- ❖ March 18: *Holy Week Devotions*
- ❖ March 25: *Easter Narratives*

On April 1, Palm Sunday, there will be no classes. Everyone is invited to an Intergenerational Event during the education hour, including the making of palm crosses and other crafts focused on Holy Week.

Graceful Worship: Travels among the “People of the Book” (Part 2)

Last month’s cultural comparisons were fun, but now I’ll get a bit more serious and look at some of the spiritual similarities among Jews, Christians and Muslims.

All three religions are monotheistic (for Christians the One God is Trinitarian). The universe was created by a single being that has absolute control over creation (omnipotence) as well as perfect and complete knowledge of it (omniscience). Believers may have different concepts of God’s nature, pray to God in different languages and call God by different names – *Yahweh*, *Allah* or God – but they are all speaking about one unique being.

All three believe that God provides us with basic rules to live by, and a rational mind to apply those rules to everyday life. They abhor murder, the arbitrary killing of innocent people. They believe that God wants us to tell the truth and not take from others what rightfully belongs to them. We are to respect the dignity of every person and help those who are not capable of helping themselves, such as widows, orphans and the poor. All three believe in the Golden Rule: doing to others what we wish others to do to us. And all promote modesty, moderation and honest work.

All three believe that prophets have been inspired by God to deliver messages to humankind, share a belief in angels and demons, and agree that the future will bring about God’s unchallenged rule and unconditional bliss for all who will live with God in Paradise.

All three set aside one day each week for worship: for Muslims it’s Friday, for Jews it’s Saturday and for most Christians it’s Sunday.

(Continued on page 8)

Connections

From the Virginia Theological Seminary newsletter: “**The Rev. Anne Turner**, assistant to the rector of St. Mary’s in Arlington, is the recipient of the seminary’s 2012 John Hines Preaching Award. The award is given annually to the outstanding preaching entry where a prophetic voice is central within the sermon.” Anne tells us that being so honored means she is to preach at a seminary community service, which could be an intimidating prospect. As our deacon and former assistant, as well as the speaker at our Founder’s Day dinner last fall, Anne and her family will always remain friends of Grace Church, and we are delighted to congratulate her on this award.

As we mentioned last fall, **Chrissie Crosby** and **Mary Carol Tazewell** are in the first year of a newly instituted Master of Divinity program at VTS. Candidates in this program can specialize in one of several areas—education, biblical studies (Chrissie), and Mary Carol’s choice: interdisciplinary study of religion. The Tazewells leave in June for several years in Pretoria, South Africa, and Mary Carol is looking forward to this next year as a time to absorb what she has learned in what she terms, “this wonderful year at seminary.” She plans to return to finish her course work in the fall of 2013, when her daughter Page begins college, and then go back to Pretoria to work on her “capstone project,” hopefully on Christian ethics within the religious culture of South Africa. She looks forward to graduation in 2014. And we look forward to the Tazewells eventual return to our area and Grace Church.

In a recent *Fortune Magazine* online article focusing on the “how and why” of employment for Generation Y, mention is made of the fact that the military is the top employer of this age group (18 to 29). The accompanying photograph in the article is of two naval officers looking out to sea aboard ship. One of the two is recently commissioned **Claire Eudy**.

Please share news of yourself or your family with dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org or linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org. You can also send information by regular mail.

LIBRARY 101



When you read a really great book, do you want to share it with others?

Based on the enthusiasm at the Book Forum in February, we would like to have parishioners, children, clergy and staff share their experiences with the books they are reading. Write up a few paragraphs about the book and how it impacted your life and email it to julie.simonton@gracealex.org or wendy.cummings@gracealex.org for inclusion in Grace Notes. We look forward to hearing about your favorites.



What is the process for donating a book to the Grace Parish Library?

Bring the book to the church library any day of the week. Place into the book one of the yellow slips on the desk that says it is a donation to the library. If you would like a receipt for your taxes, write your name and email address on the reverse of the yellow slip and you will receive an email acknowledgement for your donation. If you have many books to donate, note the number of books you are donating on one yellow slip along with your name and email address. If you want to know if the library already has a copy of the book you are donating, check the book catalog in the library or online. If you donate a book that we already have or we feel is not appropriate for our shelves, we can return it to you, if you let us know that is what you want us to do. If you give us no instructions, we will save the duplicate books for our next book giveaway.



How do I check out library materials?

Write your name, phone number or email address and the date on the white book card that is in the pocket in the back of the book. Place the book card into the card box that says "Place Book Cards Here."



How long can I keep a parish library book?

Books can be checked out for 4 weeks. DVDs can be checked out for one week. You may renew books unless someone else is waiting for them.



Where should I return library materials?

No matter where you checked out your book, please return it to the straw basket in the library.

Any questions, suggestions or comments about the library? Contact wendy.cummings@gracealex.org, brad.bergmann@gracealex.org or margaret.will@gracealex.org.

VOICE Fights for Affordable Housing in Alexandria

Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement (VOICE) is a broad-based, non-partisan, multi-racial, multi-faith, citizens' power organization, rooted in local congregations and other voluntary associations. The organization was started by an interdenominational group of Northern Virginia clergy who were looking for an organized way to address social justice issues. Grace Episcopal Church, along with 13 other Alexandria area and 29 other Fairfax and Prince William County area houses of worship and community organizations are VOICE members.

Since its founding, VOICE priorities have been affordable housing, dental care for needy adults, and English-as-a-second language classes. In Alexandria, VOICE was successful in ensuring that the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority provided safe and habitable living conditions for the residents of the James Bland Housing Project, and ensuring that those residents who had to be relocated due to the area's redevelopment were treated with justice and equity.

(Continued on page 9)

Save the Date(s)!



Save the Date(s)!

2012 Altar Guild Tea Saturday, May 12

Reservations will be accepted beginning at 9:00 am on Monday, March 12, for the 12th Annual Altar Guild Tea at Grace Church, to be held on Saturday, May 12, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium. The theme will be “Downton Abbey,” with table settings that include dainty, flowered china and unique period centerpieces. Guests will be seated at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary, for a program focused on both “Upstairs” and “Downstairs” in an English manor house before, during and after World War I. 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 Church 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 miss this annual celebration of tea and all things English. Circle March 12 on your calendar to call the church office at (703) 549-1980, to make your reservations. The co-chairs are Anne Caputo, Denise Bean and Ashby Rushing.

J2A Fundraiser Saturday, April 21

Save the Date! Save Your Stuff! The J2A will host a fundraising auction on Saturday, April 21, 2012. All proceeds will support the Summer 2012, J2A pilgrimage to England.

Vacation Bible School July 9–13

Vacation Bible School will take place July 9–13, 2012. Children three years old through those who have completed 4th grade are welcome to half-day (9 am-1pm) or full-day (9am-5 pm) VBS. Youth who have completed 5th grade through 12th grade are invited to join in the summer fun as junior and senior counselors. All adults should mark their calendars to volunteer for a morning ... or for the week! More details coming soon

...and one cancellation

The Choral Evensong scheduled for March 4 at St. Paul’s Church, Rock Creek Parish (DC) has been cancelled.

Chili Bowl Heats Up Grace

Expert chefs from 13 organizations at Grace Church—as well as a huge crowd of professional and amateur tasters—convened for Grace Church's annual Chili Bowl on Sunday evening, January 29. The event was a rousing success. With no less than 20 chilis to choose from, it's safe to say that everyone found one they liked. Those in attendance were more generous than ever. The Chili Bowl raised \$3,218.75 for the Church's general fund—a new record!



The winner of the prestigious People's Choice Award was the EYC, which received more than \$650 in donations. The Alleluia Singers were the runner-up, with more than \$354. Rite 13 finished just behind them, with just over \$347.

Meanwhile, the Judges' Choice Award went to E-Squared—a joint entry by the Evangelism and Education Committees. A surprise ingredient—chocolate!—really made their chili stand out.

The Alleluia Singers' entry—OCCUPY CHILI—fended off all competitors to secure the nod for Best Presentation. Members of the 9:00 am choir—and some of the kids in attendance, too—took turns sleeping in a tent near the booth and led raucous chants to entice folks to taste their chili.



A huge "THANK YOU" to all those who competed in this year's Chili Bowl—judges and patrons alike commented on how delicious all the entries were. This year's judges—retiring vestry members Howell Medley, Frank Waskowicz and Alison Campbell—also deserve special recognition. And sincere gratitude to the vestry for running the Saloon and to the many folks who helped with set-up and clean-up.

See you at next year's Chili Bowl!

Robby Schrum

Graceful Worship... (Continued from page 4)

All three recognize Jesus Christ, but in different ways. Christians believe he was the Son of God who died and rose again for the salvation of humankind. Muslims believe he was a prophet, sent by Allah and born of the Virgin Mary. Most Jews view Jesus as an ordinary Jew, not the Messiah or a divine person, but respect many of his teachings.

All three have become subdivided into different groups: the Jews into Orthodox, Conservative and Reform; the Christians into Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant (with the latter two further subdivided); and the Muslims into *Sunni* and *Shi'a*.

All three have important positions of leadership, although Judaism and Islam don't have "clergy" as we think of them.

- Judaism doesn't have a leadership hierarchy. Since the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem, the religious leaders of Judaism have been *rabbis* (teachers), scholars in Jewish law, who can act as judges in rabbinical court. A *rabbi* obtains *semicha* (rabbinic ordination) after completing a program in Jewish law. Both men and women can become *rabbis* in Reform and Conservative Judaism, and even in some Orthodox congregations. *Rabbis* are not intermediaries between God and humans, but function as advisors and counselors to the congregation. The leadership of a Jewish congregation is, in fact, in the hands of the laity. The president of a synagogue is its actual leader and any adult Jew (or male adult Jew in Orthodox congregations) can lead prayer services.
- The *Sunni* branch of Islam doesn't have a leadership hierarchy, and the *Shi'a* branch does. The nearest Islamic analogue to a priest or rabbi is called an *imam* (leader), who leads congregational prayer and preaches the *khutba* (sermon) at congregational prayer on Friday. He (or she, if the congregation is solely female) may be elected by the local community, or appointed by an outside authority. (There is a current controversy among Muslims regarding the circumstances in which women may act as *imams*.) *Imams* are not ordained. The only requirement for appointment as an *imam* is recognition as someone of sufficient learning and virtue to perform both duties on a regular basis, and to instruct the congregation in the basics of Islam. An *imam* has no religious authority or special position in a religious sense. His/her opinions might be valuable to the congregation because of his knowledge of religious matters, but an *imam's* view of religious matters isn't binding, infallible or absolute. The *Shi'a* branch of Islam has *ayatollahs*, similar in rank to Bishops in Christianity. An *ayatollah* can teach in *hawzas* (schools of higher learning) according to his specialty, can act as a reference for religious questions and can act as a judge.
- Some parts of the Christian church have a leadership hierarchy (Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Anglican, etc.) based upon "apostolic succession," and others don't. In most (but not all) cases, Christian clergy are ordained and set apart for specific ministry in religious rites. In sacramental churches, they are empowered to administer the sacraments (the Eucharist, baptism, marriage, etc.). Women can be ordained as clergy in some, but not all forms of Christianity.

All three believe that God requires repentance and atonement.

- For Jews, *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement) is the culmination of the ten penitential days that begin the Jewish religious year. Although Jews are taught to be penitent every day, the first ten days of the year are a focused time announced by the prophet Isaiah. Repentance and atonement absolve Jews only from sins committed against God; absolution from sins against another person can happen only when restitution has been made and the pardon of the offended party has been obtained.
- The Arabic word *tawbah* (repentance) literally means "to return." For Muslims it refers to the act of leaving what *Allah* has prohibited and returning to what *Allah* has commanded. Muslims believe that the only source for forgiveness is *Allah*, who is infinitely merciful.
- In Christianity, acts of repentance do not earn God's forgiveness from sin; rather, forgiveness is given as a gift of God's grace to those who sincerely ask for it. The forty days of Lent are focused on penitential preparation through prayer, penance, repentance, alms-giving and self-denial. Christian priests are empowered to grant absolution to those who have confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness. (Both Jews and Muslims deny the authority of men to listen to another person's confessions and then pronounce him forgiven of his sin.)

I hope you're not tired of this subject yet, because next month I'll talk about similarities in rituals and practices. Until then.....

June Huber

VOICE...*(continued from page 5)*

Although it is a young organization, VOICE has gained a reputation for organizing tenants to address housing code violations and improve their living conditions in Alexandria and Fairfax County. But there is more that needs to be done and your brothers and sisters in Christ need your help.

In Alexandria, affordable housing is and continues to be a critical issue—one that has only gotten worse in the midst of the current economic situation. Since 2000, Alexandria has lost over 10,000 units of affordable housing due to rent increases and redevelopment, while demand for affordable housing is increasing. In order to meet this need, there must be an aggressive citizen effort to preserve and expand affordable housing. In 2012, VOICE is building a diverse, non-partisan citizen constituency to protect and expand affordable housing in the City of Alexandria. Now VOICE leaders want to build a broad-based constituency of organizations strong enough to preserve and build affordable housing in the City of Alexandria. VOICE is organizing meetings and forums to hear from those who are most impacted.

The next VOICE affordable housing meeting is planned to take place on February 28, 2012. The meeting may be hosted at Grace Church. As of the deadline for *Grace Notes* articles, the details were not yet finalized.

For more information on how you can become involved with VOICE and be a part of preserving and expanding Alexandria area affordable housing, contact Michael Jones.

Michael S. Jones

March Birthdays

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

Growing @ Grace



Upcoming Opportunities for Children, Youth and Parents

Shrine Mont summer camps registration is open! Visit www.thediocese.net and click on “Youth and Camps” for more information.

Monday, Feb 27—Monday, March 25 @ 6:30 pm—our Lenten Evening Series begins. Join us on Mondays in Lent for 6:30 pm worship, 7:15 pm simple supper, and 7:45 pm programs for children, youth and adults. Children will enjoy a movie series, J2A will attend confirmation classes and adults will spend the evening with saints and mystics. See our website and flyers for more information about this special time at Grace for worship, fellowship and reflection.

Sunday, March 4 @ 5:30 pm—Youth Dinner and Fellowship
Because of our Easter schedule, we won't have another gathering until May ... so come on out!

Saturday, March 17 @ 10 am-2 pm—PYM Spring Youth Day of Service
Meet at St. Andrew's/Arlington for a diocesan youth project and lunch. Contact julie.simonton@gracealex.org for registration information.

Looking Ahead ...

Sunday, April 1 @ 10:15 am—Palm Sunday Intergenerational Event
Join your parish family for fellowship and crafts in Merrow Hall auditorium. Learn how to fold your palms into crosses, make butterflies and so much more!

Friday, April 6 @ 6:00 pm—Children's Good Friday Service
Our Good Friday service for children is an interactive liturgy for children, parents and anyone who enjoys *vibrant* worship. All are welcome to participate in the Story of the Garden and walk the Stations of the Cross.

Saturday, April 7 @ 10:00 am—J2Aers are the Grace Easter Bunny!
Join your fellow J2Aers in Merrow Hall to prepare for Sunday's Easter Egg Hunt. We'll dye eggs and assemble Easter bags for all the Grace and La Gracia kiddies. Come for the fun!!!

Sunday, April 8 @ 10:15 am—EASTER EGG HUNT! Enjoy the simple joy of church fellowship and a traditional Easter egg hunt in Merrow Hall Auditorium.

Friday, April 13 to Sunday, April 15—PYM Senior High Weekend at Shrine Mont
Join senior high youth from around the diocese in the mountains! Registration is already open, so contact julie.simonton@gracealex.org to sign up.

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

Grace School Gala

Many thanks to the many parishioners who joined the school community to celebrate the “Meet Me in the Moonlight” Gala/Auction on February 11. In addition, the generosity of the parishioners in donations was remarkable—thank you very, very much! All that attended can attest to the transformation of the auditorium to a starry, moonlit night thanks to a generous parent and his event lighting company (photo by GES official photographer, Susie Ellis). Bidding was fierce and competitive for all the items both silent and live. Andrea Duvall and Kara Walsh, co-chairs of the event, were extremely good “smart” fundraisers and netted the highest profit for a school auction ever! Final figures will be reported in the April Grace Notes. Many, many thanks to the entire Grace community for making this event so successful! My mantra, repeated by others for the evening, was “It’s all for the students!”—they thank you!



National Pig Day, Thursday, March 1, is celebrated by all the students and staff at Grace School. As many of you know, Mrs. Byrnes loves and collects pigs—her “unofficial” mascot of the school. Each student is given a snout to wear for the day, they are allowed to wear pink or pig tails, etc. and pig snacks are distributed to all. Please come by the school office that day and see the huge menagerie of pig items collected by the Head on display. Also, drop by for a pig snack and snout, if you like! The students participate in pig-themed activities across the curriculum on this day and everyone LOVES pigs on March 1—I hope you all enjoy National Pig Day, too!

On March 2, the school will celebrate Read Across America, Dr. Seuss’ birthday. We are collecting “lovingly used” children’s books for Books Across America donations. Please sort through your children’s bookshelves and drop any children’s books in the orange bin outside the school lobby. Please be sure they are in good condition without any torn covers or pages. A representative from Books Across America will be joining us for an assembly that day when the 4th and 5th grade students will perform their rendition of “The Lorax.” Won’t you please join us for the performance at 10am? The Cat in the Hat will also be on hand at that time (Alum and parent Alum, Carol Skiba).

Any parishioner child who is interested in our summer camp program is encouraged to pick up a summer camp flyer off the church credenza outside the church offices or on the desk outside the school office. In addition to June Jamboree, there are several “specialty” camps, such as robotics, yoga, etc. being offered. For additional information please contact, Alison Kindler, Camp Director, at ecdirector@graceschoolalex.org.

Grace School will be closed for spring break on March 23-March 30.

Chris Byrnes

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, March 19 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** the way you would like it to appear in the Easter flower 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 _____

Spring Forward!



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM on Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday so you aren't late for church!



Parish Staff

Robert Malm Rector
 (rector@gracealex.org)
 Andrew D'Angio White..... Assistant to the 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 2012

Amy Barron..... Junior Warden
 Lisa Bellantoni Register
 Kelly Gable
 Theresa Lewallen Member-at-Large
 Robby SchrumSenior Warden

Class of 2013

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

Class of 2014

John Berry
 Elizabeth Legere
 Erica McFarquhar..... Treasurer
 Mai-Lan Smith
 Kemp Williams

Alternates

Lynn Rohrs
 Lisa Medley

Non-Vestry Coordinators

Kristine Hesse..... Communications
 Nancy Lorentz Education
 Paul Bellatoni Evangelism
 Gary Carter..... Fellowship
 Patt Sullivan-Perry Pastoral Care
 Jean Reed Stewardship
 Joy St. John..... TNT
 Chad Eckles..... Worship