

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

March 2013

## Mystery

Through the years I've not used the Rosary as a means of prayer. One parish I served before coming to Grace Church had a Rosary Prayer group that met every Monday night. Yet I have always been fascinated with the traditional groupings of the 20 "mysteries" used with the Rosary beads in prayer. There are four: the "Joyful" mysteries, the "Luminous" mysteries, the "Sorrowful" mysteries and the "Glorious" mysteries. Each grouping has five Gospel (or traditional) accounts to use for meditation and reflection.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter are seasons that help us consider the mysteries of God, of Jesus, of life, of sin, of evil, of death, of resurrection, of eternity. Albert Einstein believed that the human experience of mystery and fear led to religion. The month ahead might not be filled with too much mystery or fear for some of us, but this is our season to consider the very heart of the Christian Faith – the Passion and Glory of Christ.

Our prayers and hymns in the liturgies push us deeper into considering the love of God in Christ. The scripture readings and the sermons (hopefully) bring the mystery into our own time, our own lives. Life and death, love and hate, light and darkness, courage and betrayal are not just themes we consider in Holy Week. Rather Holy Week is a powerful and dramatic summary of what we experience week by week, year by year.

I pray that each of us will wrestle with the questions, the mysteries of life and love. C. S. Lewis said of Christian mysteries, "They are bigger on the inside than on the outside." The weeks ahead can help us to get inside...inside our hopes and fears, inside our love, inside God.

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

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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 Schedule

Mondays, Rite II ..... 6:30 pm  
Tuesdays  
Confessions ..... 5:45 – 6:15 pm  
Rite II with healing..... 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays, Rite I .....7:00 am  
Thursdays, Rite I..... 12:15 pm  
Fridays  
Confessions ..... 11:30 am to Noon  
Stations of the Cross  
with 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is March 15, 2013 for the April 2013 issue. Articles should be submitted by e-mail to [grace.notes@gracealex.org](mailto:grace.notes@gracealex.org). All articles are subject to editing.

Grace Church's newsletter team includes Amy Barron, Gary Carter, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Lee Meeks, Sarah Schultz and Beth Wiggers.

## From the Assistant to the Rector

On the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, I did an adult forum entitled, *On Confession*. I wondered if a better title would have been “Confession 101” or “Confessions for Dummies” because I want to erase the discomfort or unease the thought of private confession gives to most Protestants. I want to make a case for the art of one-on-one confession.

I experienced my first confession this past Advent season as a Deacon. The parishioner arrived at the appointed time and we took our places on either side of the altar rail in the sanctuary. The liturgy for *The Reconciliation of a Penitent* is brief (BCP pp. 447-448.) I found it to be a beautiful and holy moment between the penitent and the clergy. My heart felt joyful when I said, “go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.” I think I felt joy because in this moment, the penitent had been able to give up burdens that were weighing down their journey of faith and I was invited to do the same. I was invited to share in their journey and act as a cheerleader to encourage them as they went back into the world, forgiven.

Sin is persistent and pervasive in our lives. I think we are held back from confession because we sometimes fail to see how sin holds us back from the full joy of our relationship with God. Sin keeps us from loving ourselves fully because we are diminished by it. Coming to confession allows us to re-orient ourselves to trust God with these problems that plague us. Sin can be thought of as the shadow side of the blessings God has intended for us. Pride is a twisted version of loving ourselves; envy is not celebrating love for our neighbors; covetousness is when we try to selfishly grab and hold onto our blessings; anger is a misplaced sense of justice; lust is when we fail to honor the dignity of others in the fullness of love; gluttony is not trusting in God's abundance for us; sloth is abusing God's gift to us of the Sabbath and not using our spiritual gifts to benefit others. All of these sinful states creep up on us and keep us from deep and honest relationships with one another and with God.

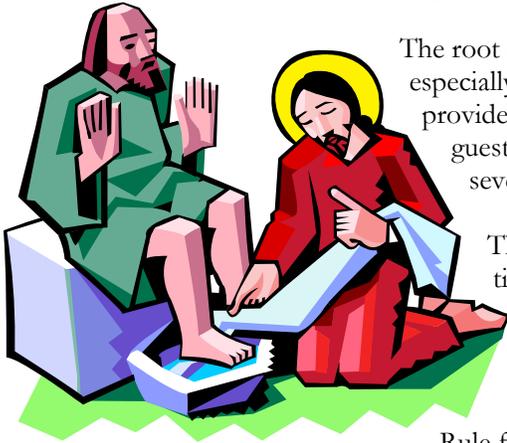
Consider taking an inventory of your life and the areas where you might have persistently broken relationships because of these shadow sins. If you think it might be helpful, write them onto a list and bring them to one of the scheduled confession times or make a private appointment with either Father Bob or me. We are here to listen and to help you let go of these shadows that hold you back from living into a full life of faith this Lenten Season.

Peace,  
Mother Leslie

# Graceful Worship: Foot Washing on Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, at 7:30 pm, Grace Church celebrates the Liturgy of the Day, including the Holy Eucharist, and also some parishioners wash the feet of some other parishioners. Why do we do this and what does it signify?

The word “Maundy” is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning “command”—the same Latin root as in our word “mandatory.” This is a reference to Christ’s commandment made at the Last Supper when Jesus washed His disciples’ feet as an act of humility. In John 13:1–17, Jesus washes the disciples’ feet and instructs them, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”



The root of this practice can be found in the hospitality customs of ancient civilizations, especially where sandals were normal footwear in dry and dusty places. A host would provide water for guests to wash their feet, provide a servant to wash the feet of the guests, or even serve the guests by washing their feet himself. This is mentioned in several places in the Old Testament.

The Bible records washing of the saints’ feet being practiced by widows during the time of the apostles in I Timothy 5:10, and foot washing appears to have continued in the early centuries of Christianity. For example, Tertullian (ca. A.D. 145–220) mentions the practice in his *De Corona*, but gives no details as to who practiced it or how it was practiced. It is mentioned by the Council of Elvira (A.D. 300), and is even referenced by Augustine (ca. A.D. 400). St. Benedict’s

Rule for the Benedictine Order (A.D. 529) prescribed “hospitality foot washing in addition to a communal foot washing for humility.” The practice was well-established in the Roman church by the 8th century. Evidence for foot washing on Maundy Thursday goes back to the twelfth century, when “the pope washed the feet of twelve sub-deacons after his Mass and of thirteen poor men after his dinner.” At one time, many European monarchs also performed foot washing in their royal courts on Maundy Thursday, a practice continued by the Austro-Hungarian Emperor and the King of Spain up to the beginning of the 20th century.

The practice was a meaningful part of the 16th century radical reformation. Foot washing was often “rediscovered” or “restored” by Protestants in revivals of religion in which the participants tried to recreate the faith and practice of the apostolic era which they believed had been abandoned or lost.

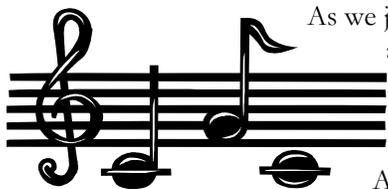
By the way, at Grace Church the rector gets to decide who will be the “wash-ers” and who will be the “wash-ees” in any given year.

*June Huber*

## Sign up for Maundy Thursday Prayer Watch

A sign-up chart will be hanging in the Narthex by Sunday, March 17, for the Prayer Watch that takes place each year beginning after the Maundy Thursday liturgy and ending at 6:30 am on Good Friday (March 28-29). The prayer watch is in answer to the admonition by Jesus at Gethsemane: “So, could you not watch with me for one hour?” The high school acolytes also watch through the night in pairs, coming down from their “sleep over” in Merrow Hall Auditorium each hour.

## Music at Grace



As we journey through this penitential season of Lent, music will shift to reflect the more somber and solemn character of the Lenten Sunday liturgies. For instance, the organ voluntaries will be meditative, and the closing voluntary, in particular, will be much quieter than usual, and similar in mood to the opening voluntary. Hopefully this will cause those leaving the church to leave in a contemplative state that is consistent with Lenten inner soul-searching.

Also, during liturgies there will be no organ improvisations (or “holy filler”—as one parishioner calls it!) to fill in any dead time. There is no opening hymn during Lenten Sunday Eucharists, and the psalms that are sung at the 11:15 am Eucharist will be plainsong instead of Simplified Anglican Chant. The reasoning behind all of these changes is that music serves as a handmaid to the liturgy, so as our Lenten liturgies see some slight alterations, the music follows suit in order to paint a musical picture of this season of penitence.

During Holy Week, I hope you can join us for the usual service of Choral Tenebrae at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 27. On Good Friday, there will be a small representation from the Adult Choir to lead the congregational hymn singing. In keeping with an ancient tradition of the Church, the organ will remain silent from the final hymn on Maundy Thursday until the first mass of Easter on Easter Eve. This means that the hymns sung on Good Friday will be done *a cappella*; however, just because no organ will be used should not keep us from singing the great Holy Week hymns with gusto! The renewed sounding of the organ with full force at the Great Vigil of Easter should be dramatic as a result. This year, there will be no brass at the Easter Vigil but instead we will have a brass quintet and timpani on Easter morning at both the 9 am and 11:15 am liturgies, with the usual *Hallelujah Chorus* at the end of each service. The St. Nicholas Choir will sing along with the Adult Choir at 9 am.

Holy Week and Easter are perhaps the most musically rich times of the liturgical year. But to provide for special instrumental music at Easter, we rely solely on the Music Fund—not on the church budget. The total sum of our Easter morning brass and timpani will cost \$2,650, so if you would like to contribute something financially to the Music Fund to help allay this cost, that would be most welcome. Blessings for a holy Lent and a joyful Easter.

*Kyle Babin*

## From the Parish Register

### Baptisms

- ✚ Neal Schuyler Anderson, son of Schuyler and Lauren Anderson
- ✚ Blythe Su Davis, daughter of Keith and Sheng Han Davis
- ✚ Eliana Lee Fair, daughter of Christopher and Kathryn Fair
- ✚ Charlotte Grace Noren, daughter of Emily Paige Noren

### Blessing of a Covenanted Relationship

- ✚ Eric Bonetti and Michael Smith

### Burial

- ✚ Isabella Grace Nannini, daughter of Michael and Brandy Nannini, sister of Anthony Nannini

### Transfer Out

- ✚ Lisa Sprague to St. John's Lafayette Square, Washington, D.C.

# Another Record-Setting Chili Bowl



The 2013 Grace Church Chili Bowl, held Sunday, January 29, featured entries from no less than 10 groups at Grace Church. A huge crowd of professional and amateur tasters made sure not to leave any chili behind!

This year's attendees deserve congratulations and thanks for contributing more money than ever before. The Chili Bowl raised \$3,720.91 for Grace's general fund—besting last year's record total by more than \$500!

La Gracia blew away the competition for the People's Choice Award, taking in more than \$1,300. EYC was second, with over \$650 in donations. And third prize went to the Outreach/Mission, with about \$300 in donations.

TNT claimed the Judges' Choice Award for its carnivore Zombie Chili. And Rite 13 took the prize for Best Presentation, with its Apocalyptic Chili. The youth and their sponsors donned war paint and unveiled an elaborate display that impressed judges and attendees alike.



Rite 13 withstood a spirited charge for the Best Presentation Golden Spoon from the Choir, with its stirring rendition of "Down to the River to Pray"—chili-style.



A huge round of applause for all this year's contestants in the Chili Bowl. And thanks go out to this year's judges—Lisa Bellantoni, Joy St. John, and Bill Malone—as well as the many folks who helped with set-up and clean-up.

It's never too early to start perfecting your recipe for next year's Chili Bowl. See you next year!

*Robby Schrum*



# March Forum Schedule

## **Sundays, March 3 & 17 @ 10:15 am—*Two Part Gospel of Luke Scripture Series***

Join Seminarian Christopher Adams for an engaging journey into the Gospel of Luke.

## **Sunday, March 3 @ 10:15 am—*Mourning Well with Children: “Why Did You Have to Die?”***

Whether a child asks this about their goldfish or their grandfather, it is an important question. Talking about death and dying is difficult, but doesn't have to be. Death is a part of life, and as Christians, we know that death does not have the last word. But how do we talk about this with our children whether they are three or thirteen or twenty-three? Join the Rev. Valerie J. Hayes at this month's parent forum to hear more, talk together and learn how to grieve well. Mother Hayes is an Episcopal priest and hospital chaplain. With a focus on pediatric chaplaincy, Mother Hayes currently works at the Clinical Research Center at NIH. She has worked with pediatric and adult patients of all ages and stages and with their families. She knows that death and grief are part of life and very important to our emotional and spiritual development. She is also mom to two teenage sons, a dog, and a very aged cat.

## **Sunday, March 10 @ 10:15 am—*Walking the Camino de Santiago***

The Camino de Santiago is a long spiritual pilgrimage route across Spain, walked by Christians for over 1,000 years. Come hear what it's like to walk it from the Rev. Corry Weierbach, who completed her Camino last June.

## **Sunday, March 24 @ 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!

## **Sunday, March 31 @ 10:15 am—*Easter Egg Hunt and Parish Coffee Hour***

Sponsored by Rite 13! Enjoy the simple joy of church fellowship and a traditional Easter egg hunt.

## *Inquirers' Classes in March*

March 3: The Oxford Movement & Anglo-Catholicism (Library)

March 10: Holy Week Devotions

March 17: Easter Narratives

March 24: No Classes (Palm Sunday): Palm-cross and other crafts (Auditorium)

March 30: Easter Eve: Confirmation at the Great Vigil

## *Cleve Corlett Steps Down as President of Region IV*

At the end of the Annual Diocesan Council meeting in late January, Cleve Corlett completed a three-year term as president of Region IV. Serving from January 2010 through January 2013, Cleve was instrumental in helping the region to examine its purpose and effectiveness, and focus on current issues facing the diocese and our city. When asked to comment on his term as president, he said, "It's been an honor and a privilege." He is succeeded by Beth Wiggers from Resurrection (and our own Administrative Associate), who will serve as president until January 2016.

Region IV of the Diocese of Virginia consists of the eight parishes in Alexandria, and exists to serve those parishes and to be served, in turn, by those same parishes. The eight parishes, each of which makes a donation based on the size of their parish, support the Region financially. Region IV officers manage and coordinate the activities of the Region, and meet with representatives of the eight parishes on a regular basis as the Region IV Council. Meetings are open to all interested persons. For additional information, go to the Region IV website at <http://region4.thediocese.net>.

*June Huber*

## 2013 Monday Lenten Study



### Discerning the Word



... BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MINDS, SO THAT YOU  
MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD—WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

ROMANS 12.2

Our culture of intellectual pursuit can become overwhelming. Choosing which books to read, which classes to attend, which degrees to attain, and which decisions to make often keep us in a scramble to feel current and relevant. We gather social and headline news moment by moment in our instantly connected lives, but then what do we do with it to nurture our life in Christ? How do we keep from “conforming to the world” and instead become “transformed” in the renewing of our minds in our modern world?

**Come inside. Be renewed and be transformed by God’s perfect wisdom among us!**

#### March 4 Discerning the Word: Mission is not an Option with the Rt. Rev. David C. Jones

God calls each of us to respond to his love for us. That response is how each of us reflects that love into the world around us. The call to service and mission is unique, celebrating our diversity of spiritual gifts. It is a shared call in that it embraces all our lives. The joy is living into the call and letting it inform our perception of God’s grace in the world and how we respond in loving action.

*The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones was ordained Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia on June 24, 1995, at the Washington National Cathedral. Bishop Jones retired in January 2012. He is the 907th bishop ordained in succession to Samuel Seabury, the first bishop in the Episcopal Church in the United States.*



#### March 11 Discerning the Word through Friendship with the Rev. Martin Smith



What are the graces found in friendship? How does the kind of intimacy that friendship opens up reveal the workings of the Holy Spirit and exposes the cost of love? Join us for an exploration of this wonderful dimension of human experience, drawing on insights from the Christian spiritual tradition, including the teaching of St. Aelred of Rievaulx, an English monk.

*Father Martin Smith recently retired from his position as Senior Associate Rector at St. Columba’s Washington to devote himself to his ministry of writing, teaching and leading retreats. He devoted special study at Oxford to the theme of friendship in the writings of Aelred, a 12<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian abbot and theologian.*

## March 18 Discerning the Word without Borders with the Rev. Dr. Helen Jacobi

Scripture repeatedly calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Yet as we experience the world, our understanding of scripture shifts and our ability to love wholly is changed. How do the boundaries and expectations we erect limit our encounters with Christ himself?

*The Reverend Dr. Helen Jacobi was the first woman to be appointed Dean of a Cathedral (Waiapu Anglican Cathedral, Napier, New Zealand in May 2004). She has credentials in theology, social work, and congregational development. In 2010 she graduated with a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Seabury Western, Chicago, USA. She is a scholar in residence at VTS pursuing research in preaching. Her husband Stephen is also in Washington as a Fulbright Scholar at Georgetown University.*



**Each session 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 Merrow Hall Auditorium. The programs begin at 7:45 pm and end at 8:45 pm. Children from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will gather with members from the Mission and Outreach Committee for a mission and outreach activity each evening at 7:40 in the St. John Room.**

## The Rector's Cross

A brass plate with a new name will soon be added to the large plaque hanging outside the rector's office—that of **Gary Carter**. A symbolic Rector's Cross was presented to Gary at the recent annual meeting in January and the brass plate on the plaque will join those of individuals, couples or groups that have made a difference in the life of Grace Church as a whole or to individuals in the parish. Fr. Malm began the tradition of presenting the Rector's Cross in 1990 at his first annual meeting at Grace Church.

Gary, the father of two grown daughters, Emma and Liz, has served as junior warden, lay eucharistic minister, adult acolyte, Sunday school teacher, acolyte trainer, food pantry coordinator and lay reader. Currently, he is a devoted, hard-working member of the Fellowship Committee and can be found in the kitchen before, during and after every reception in the auditorium.

After over 20 years of working at the National Geographic Society, Gary was led to change careers when he experienced caring for two people close to him with terminal illness. After refresher courses at NOVA, Gary attended and graduated from Marymount University *summa cum laude* with a BSN, and recently completed a clinical nurse residency in the Emergency Department at Washington Hospital Center.

It is Fr. Malm's belief that Gary is living the prayer "...send us into the world in peace...[with] strength and courage to love and serve...with gladness and singleness of heart..."



*Linda Waskowicz*

# Progress at the Haiti Micah Project



*HMP children in their school uniforms.*

It has been three years since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. News about Haiti has been discouraging for the most part, although pockets of hope can be found. Haiti Micah Project (HMP) has seen recent and significant improvements on three fronts. A piece of land has been offered to HMP from Father Constant's aunt. It includes a partially completed building that can be used for the vocational training program currently being developed. Situated on a new, well-constructed road that goes to the new Partners in Health Hospital, it is close to other buildings that HMP uses. Money for tools has been donated and \$50,000 is now being raised to finish the first floor so that the training center can expand.

Secondly, HMP has been approved by USAID, a monumental accomplishment. This approval enables HMP to go to charities involved in Haiti and request aid. Through a couple parishioners at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, HMP has connected with Samaritan's Purse. In January they delivered 183 bags of rice (25 kg), 150 bags of corn meal (25 kg), 1 bag of white sugar (50 kg), and 22 gal of cooking oil. This large food donation will have a positive impact on how HMP can use their funds, since the cost of food will ease up and money can be redirected toward educating the 400 children.

HMP thanks the Grace volunteers who helped get out their first Christmas appeal letter. Because of the generosity shown by these volunteers and donors, money was raised to cover food costs and preschool education will be a much-needed new focus. A very generous donation was also given to HMP that will be directed toward college funding of eligible students.

*Karen Wires*

*In clothes sewn by volunteers and brought by a mission team.*



*In front of the orphanage*



*With Jim Snowe, from Immanuel Church on the Hill, at the daily feeding program for 400 children*

## 2013 Altar Guild Tea – Save the Date

Reservations will be accepted beginning at 9:00 am on Monday, March 11, for the **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Altar Guild Tea** at Grace Church to be held on Saturday, May 11, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium. The theme will be “Fifty Shades of Earl Grey,” with table settings that include china bordered in grey or platinum bands or featuring flowers with touches of grey. Guests will be seated at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary for a musical program and 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 Music 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 11 on your calendar to call the church office at (703) 549-1980 to make your reservations.



*Co - Chairs  
Anne Caputo, Denise Bean and Ashby Rushing*

# New Email System

Have you been wondering why we've gone to the trouble of changing our email system? For those of you that receive the occasional "all" email concerning Grace Notes or other parish announcements, you probably were not aware of any issues.

For Beth Wiggers in the office and all the program coordinators who send messages to large groups however, those emails often generated "bounce backs" numbering fifty or more each time, depending on the size of the group and the email addresses being used. These bounce backs meant that the system did not deliver those emails to a particular recipient and a message was sent back to the sender, explaining the reason for non-delivery. Beth and others dealt with this situation daily for almost two years while we struggled to find a system that was hosted off-site and could support the way we do email. Our old system was out-of-date and it was not cost effective to replace hardware and software that would have to be maintained. With the help of our IT consultant, we were able to learn about Google Apps for non-profits and we were accepted by Google to host our email for free. May I repeat FREE!

The downside of Google is that it requires the user, you, to activate the account that has been set up, rather than having it created by Beth. This will help Beth devote more time to her many other duties, as well as not having to deal with all of the bounce-backs. Jay Legere set up the system and is also maintaining the various lists for the time being. Alison Campbell helps with administration of the system and is assisting in the migration.

We have been monitoring the previous email addresses and as of last check, only 152 people out of 523 have activated their accounts. To set up your email account, contact the office for the temporary password; then, go to [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com), and enter your user name [firstname.lastname]@gracealex.org and the temporary password. Click the sign-in button, and accept the terms. You can then change your password to one of your choosing, and you are all set. To learn how to forward your email to another account or your mobile device, see our website for instructions (bottom of left side panel under Grace Email Migration for various how-to documents).



In the near future, we will attempt to contact parishioners that the staff identify as active members, but who have not activated their accounts, and purging addresses of those who are not active. If you wish to keep receiving emails, please follow the directions above.

Questions? Problems? Contact [jay.legere@gracealex.org](mailto:jay.legere@gracealex.org); [alison.campbell@gracealex.org](mailto:alison.campbell@gracealex.org) or [kristine.hesse@gracealex.org](mailto:kristine.hesse@gracealex.org).

*Kristine Hesse*

## Grace Episcopal School

Many thanks to the many parishioners who joined the school community to celebrate at our Mardi Gras Gala and Auction on February 9. In addition, the generosity of the parishioners through their donations was remarkable—thank you very, very much! All those who attended can attest to the transformation of the auditorium to a Mardi Gras night, thanks to a generous parent and his event lighting company. Bidding was fierce and competitive for all the items, both silent and live. Teresa Payne and Katherine McCarron, co-chairs of the event, were dedicated and committed fundraisers. 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, which was repeated by others throughout the evening was, "It's all for the students!"—they thank you, too!

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. 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!

*(Continued on page 11)*



*The Rev. Jo Belser celebrated Holy Eucharist at Grace Church for the first time at 5:00 pm on Sunday, January 13. Father Malm assisted, Mike Jones served as Lay Eucharistic Minister and Jean Reed as Acolyte.*

*GES... (Continued from page 10)*

On March 4, the school will celebrate Read Across America, a celebration of Dr. Seuss' March birthday. We are collecting "lovingly used" children's books for the Haiti Micah library. 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. Mary Ann Ryan will be joining us for an assembly that day when the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will perform a very special play in keeping with the theme, "Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat." Won't you please join us for the performance at 10 am? 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" being offered, such as robotics and yoga. For additional information, please contact Alison Kindler, Camp Director, at [ecdirector@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:ecdirector@graceschoolalex.org).

Grace School will be closed for spring break on March 22-April 2. Have a very blessed Easter!

*Chris Byrnes*

## Stewardship Is: Planned Giving at Grace Episcopal Church

*To give away money is an easy matter and in any man's power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and when, and for what purpose and how is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter.*

*Aristotle*

Remembering that everything we have in our life is given to us by God, we have an opportunity to acknowledge our gratitude for the past and to courageously support Grace Church through gifts from designated giving and estate planning. These gifts allow us to express our faith and thanks to God long after we have departed this Earth. Opportunities for planned giving are an integral part of our stewardship at Grace Church. And today's tax and estate planning laws offer many methods for helping our church continue its mission, worship and programs for years to come.

Some of the more popular planned giving options available to families and individuals for remembering the church are:

*(Continued on page 12)*

- **Outright Gifts** of cash or appreciated assets, including stock and real estate. Donating appreciated securities, in particular, can avoid capital gains taxes and provide the donor with significant tax deductions with no outlay of cash. For gifts of stock, the church has an account with a brokerage firm to handle transfers, and can also provide the services of a notary for documents.
- **Stream of Payment Plans** such as charitable remainder trusts and annuities allow a donor to receive ongoing income from donated assets, which transfer outright to the church at the donor's death.
- **Other Arrangements** include a gift to the church through life insurance.
- **Designated Giving** allows a donor to give in honor of a loved one, through the church Memorial Fund and through specific naming opportunities. The Grace Church Trust provides a vehicle for planned giving to Grace Church through a general endowment fund established in memory of those who labored so diligently to establish, maintain and operate Grace Church; in gratitude for those who unselfishly gave and those who continue to give of their time, talent and wealth; with the hope that those who follow will continue the work of Grace Church; and to provide funds for this ongoing community of faith. Gifts and bequests to Grace Church in excess of \$1,000.00 (not including annual pledges and contributions made during any service, unless specifically designated by the donor), are transferred to the Grace Trust.

Please consult an attorney or financial advisor for more information on these and other giving strategies. The Stewardship Committee has resources available to assist in estate planning and planned giving. For names of members you can contact for confidential help or information, contact Jean Reed or another member of the stewardship committee directly. The Diocese of Virginia also publishes *A Guide to Creative Planned Giving Arrangement*, which you can obtain through the church office or from the Stewardship Committee.

*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity... (1 Corinthians 13:13)*

*Jean Reed*

## Highlights from the Diocesan Council

The Council meeting was held January 24-26, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Reston Hotel, and its theme was "Setting God's Table." Jane Rosman and June Huber represented Grace Church.

Bishop Shannon Johnston's pastoral address focused on the good results that can follow from the debate of people with differing opinions. "Engaging questions and differences actually makes us stronger and more confident in our own faith and corrects us when need be." He went on to candidly discuss his "unlikely" friendship with the Rev. Tory Baucum, who is now Rector of Truro Church. "In a remarkable convergence of experience, we both had a strong feeling that we were being called together, and that simply talking and listening to each other was somehow very important for reasons we couldn't define. We talked about our experiences of ministry, theological influences, family, movies, books, and what-not—and yes, about our own differing beliefs and practices and the division between our two Church bodies."

Suffragan Bishop Susan Goff reported on the progress of the Dayspring initiative and the status of our 35 mission congregations. In her meditations, she reminded us that "Christ has no body on this earth but ours." Assistant Bishop Ted Gulick spoke "from his heart" about Shrine Mont Camps.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Clif Christopher, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and president of Horizons Stewardship Company. In his lively and engaging presentations, he shared his suggestions for increasing fiscal stewardship: true belief in the mission of the church; sharing personal and life-changing stories; the need for church leadership to set an example; and exhibiting fiscal responsibility.

A number of proposed resolutions were presented, discussed, amended and passed. The most vigorously debated ones were the resolutions entitled "Response to Gun Violence" and "Action to Reduce Gun Violence."

For detailed information, go to the diocesan website at [www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net).

*June Huber*

# Leaning into Shrine Mont!

Shrine Mont is coming, Shrine Mont is coming! Okay, it's 6+ months away. But, in any case, save the date: September 6 - 8, 2013.

"Come one, come all," will soon be our rallying-cry when we begin the registration process for the annual Parish Retreat weekend at the Diocesan retreat center at Shrine Mont, in Orkney Springs, VA. Normally held the first weekend after Labor Day in September, this year's retreat will be held September 6-8, 2013. Several parishioners and families happily attend every year, other parishioners or families only come once in a while, and some have never been. BUT, whatever you think you know about Shrine Mont might just be out of date, so make sure you give us a good look once registrations begins in the late spring. And till then, keep on the look-out for regular updates via Grace Notes, or on the Grace Church facebook page and on the Grace Church web site, or just by talking it up as we go along.

Maxine and I will be working closely with all the regular contributors to Shrine Mont activities, and with a few new ones, as well to make all the plans, nail down all the details, and coordinate all the activities and logistics necessary for a successful Shrine Mont weekend. In order to "lean into" another successful Shrine Mont weekend (and trust me, looking at the list of all the prior themes and at all the hard work of prior Shrine Mont coordinators is daunting!), we will kick off our planning and our communications with you now with three quick teasers:



- The Shrine Mont 2013 theme is Missions-focused. We're starting with Mark 16:15 as our tag-line: ***"Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."*** We plan to honor missions and proclaiming the word in many different ways, in many different places. We'll do this in different ways, and we'll likely start by incorporating an international prayer book, such as the New Zealand Prayer Book, which is uplifting and spiritual, and very closely linked to nature. This seems fitting given the natural surroundings in Orkney Springs.
- A brief and easy-to-complete Shrine Mont survey asking about parishioners' preferences about what we all like or don't like about retreat

weekends will soon be available online via Survey Monkey for all to complete. The link to the online survey will be posted very soon. For those who prefer paper and pencil, we'll have print copies of the survey in Merrow Hall during coffee hour and elsewhere for your convenience. Never fear, if you have never attended Shrine Mont, the survey is for you too. We want to know what we can do to make this a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

- For those of you who like your retreats more casual, or more active, or more private, or more or less church-ey; as in years' past, there will be something there for everyone. So put your game face on and keep an open mind. And, above all else, save the date and plan to join us at Shrine Mont 2013.
- Bonus teaser: I need to recruit a passel-full of kids to help with pre-Shrine Mont retreat art. If you have an art-friendly kid of most any age, let us know soon.

*Lee & Maxine Meeks  
Shrine Mont 2013 Coordinators*

# Growing @ Grace



## Upcoming Opportunities for Children, Youth and Parents

Shrine Mont summer camp registration is open! Visit [www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net) and click on “Youth and Camps” for more information.

### **Sunday, March 3 @ 10:15 am—*Mourning Well with Children: “Why Did You Have to Die?”***

Whether a child asks this about their goldfish or their grandfather, it is an important question. Talking about death and dying is difficult, but doesn't have to be. Death is a part of life, and as Christians, we know that death does not have the last word. But how do we talk about this with our children whether they are three or thirteen or twenty-three? Join the Rev. Valerie J. Hayes at this month's parent forum to hear more, talk together and learn how to grieve well.

The Rev. Valerie J. Hayes is an Episcopal priest and hospital chaplain. With a focus on pediatric chaplaincy, Mother Hayes currently works at the Clinical Research Center at NIH. She has worked with pediatric and adult patients of all ages and stages and with their families. She knows that death and grief are part of life and very important to our emotional and spiritual development. She is also mom to two teenage sons, a dog, and a very aged cat.

### **Sunday, March 3 @ 5:30 pm—*Youth Dinner and Fellowship***

We've had a busy couple of months with Chili Bowl, Hoagie Making, and Pancake supper. Come to wind down and have lots of fun!

### **Monday, March 4 – Monday, March 18—*Lenten Evening Series Continues***

Join us on Monday 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 mission series that includes learning about new missions each Monday and doing artwork for those in need. See our website and flyers for more information about this special time at Grace for worship, fellowship, and reflection.

### **Sunday, March 24 @ 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, March 29 @ 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 hearing the stones sing, the Story of the Garden, and walking the Stations of the Cross.

### **Saturday, March 30 @ 10:00 am—*Rite 13ers are the Grace Easter Bunny!***

Join your fellow Rite 13ers 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, March 31 @ 10:15 am—EASTER EGG HUNT**

Sponsored by Rite 13! Enjoy the simple joy of church fellowship and a traditional Easter egg hunt.

Looking Ahead ...

### **Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7—*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](mailto:julie.simonton@gracealex.org) to sign up.

Contact [family.ministries@gracealex.org](mailto:family.ministries@gracealex.org) for information on all things children, youth, and parents.

## Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter 2013

### Palm Sunday, March 24

All Palm Sunday liturgies include the blessing and distribution of palms

- 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist and dramatic reading of the Passion according to St. Luke
- 9:00 AM Choral Eucharist with procession and dramatic reading of the Passion
- 9:00 AM Liturgia de las Palmas (la Misa empezará afuera)
- 10:15 AM Intergenerational Event (palm crosses, butterflies and other symbols)
- 11:15 AM Choral Eucharist with procession and dramatic reading of the Passion
- 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist and dramatic reading of the Passion



### Monday, March 25

- 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday, March 26

- 6:30 PM Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, March 27

- 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 PM Choral Tenebrae for congregation and choir



### Maundy Thursday, March 28

- 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
- 7:00 PM Misa con lavamiento de pies
- 7:30 PM Liturgy of the Day, foot washing, procession to the Altar of Repose, stripping of the altar, Prayer Watch (continues all night).

### Good Friday, March 29

- 6:30 AM Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion according to St. John and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
- 12:00 NOON The Stations of the Cross  
Child care will be available in the nursery from 11:50 AM to 3:15 PM.
- 1:00 PM Silence
- 1:30 PM Liturgy of the Day with dramatic reading of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
- 3:00 PM Concluding Prayers
- 6:00 PM Children's Service
- 7:00 PM Misa y Vía Cruces
- 7:30 PM Tenebrae



### Holy Saturday, March 30

- 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
- 8:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter  
with service of light, lessons and collects, Holy Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist,  
The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia, Celebrant and Preacher.  
The service will be followed by a parish Agapé celebration in the Auditorium.  
Child care will not be available this evening.

### Easter Day, March 31

Festive Coffee Hour after each morning liturgy

- 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 AM Festival Eucharist
- 9:00 AM Misa y celebración
- 10:15 AM Easter Egg Hunt
- 11:15 AM Festival Eucharist
- 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist



## March Birthdays

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



## Parish Staff

Robert Malm ..... Rector  
 ([rector@gracealex.org](mailto:rector@gracealex.org))  
 Leslie Steffensen ..... Assistant to the Rector  
 ([assistant.rector@gracealex.org](mailto:assistant.rector@gracealex.org))  
 Christine Byrnes ..... Head of School  
 ([office@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:office@graceschoolalex.org))  
 Julie Simonton Assistant for Family Ministries  
 ([family.ministries@gracealex.org](mailto:family.ministries@gracealex.org))  
 Ruth Young Children's Chapel Coordinator  
 ([ruth.young@gracealex.org](mailto:ruth.young@gracealex.org))  
 Kyle Babin ..... Director of Music  
 ([music.director@gracealex.org](mailto:music.director@gracealex.org))  
 Charlotte Payne Wright Parish Administrator  
 ([parish.administrator@gracealex.org](mailto:parish.administrator@gracealex.org))  
 Beth Wiggers ..... Administrative Associate  
 ([parish.office@gracealex.org](mailto:parish.office@gracealex.org))  
 Pedro Hernandez ..... Sexton  
 Christopher Adams ..... Seminarian  
 ([christopher.adams@gracealex.org](mailto:christopher.adams@gracealex.org))

## Vestry

### Class of 2013

Peter Barnes ..... Sr. Warden  
 Deborah Crabtree ..... Jr. Warden  
 Bill Eckel .....  
 June Huber ..... School Board  
 Lee Meeks ..... Member at Large

### Class of 2014

John Berry ..... School Board  
 Elizabeth Legere .....  
 Erica McFarquhar ..... Treasurer  
 Mai-Lan Smith ..... Evangelism  
 Kemp Williams ..... Register, Worship

### Class of 2015

Eric Bonetti .....  
 Lisa Medley ..... Youth  
 Barbara Read .....  
 Mary Ann Ryan ..... Outreach  
 Eric Waskowicz .....

### Alternates

Joy St. John ..... TNT  
 Teresa Preston .....

### Non-Vestry Coordinators

Gary Carter ..... Fellowship  
 Chad Eckles ..... Worship  
 Kristine Hesse ..... Communications  
 Rich Kelly ..... Youth  
 Nancy Lorentz ..... Education  
 Cindy MacIntyre ..... Evangelism

## 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 11, 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"

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

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Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_