

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

## 65 Years!

After 90 years in the original Grace Church on South Patrick Street, our congregation decided to move and to build a new Church, and later, a large educational building to house a Day School. This was a bold decision for a congregation numbering only 151 parishioners! The Bishop and Standing Committee approved the sale of the property (for \$58,000) and the purchase of the land on Russell Road.

To pay for the new Church building the parish took on a substantial loan, secured by parishioners who used their own homes as collateral. The first service was held on October 24, 1948 and the Bishop dedicated the new Church on December 5, 1948.

For 65 years we have been blessed by this sacred space. Day by day, year by year, the Holy Eucharist has been celebrated; thousands have been baptized, married and buried from our nave and sanctuary.

It is our privilege and responsibility to care for this place where we know the "beauty of holiness." The 1995 addition and the expansion of the loft and new organ in 2010 have, in a way, "completed" this magnificent worship space.

October is our season of Saints and Stewardship. You will hear a lot about both—culminating in the ingathering of our financial pledges to support the parish for 2014 on All Saints Sunday, November 3.

We have been entrusted with our Church, School and property. May we make the sacrifices necessary and share the generosity of our gifts for the coming year 2014, and, also, for the next 65 years on Russell Road.

Please consider making a gift to the Grace Trust in thanksgiving for this special anniversary.

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

October 2013

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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

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

\*Alternating Rite I and Rite II weekly

### 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/Aug and Dec/Jan issues. The deadline for submitting copy is midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceeding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is October 15 for the November 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, Teresa Preston, Sarah Schultz and Beth Wiggers.

## From the Assistant to the Rector

We are just over one month away from the mission trip to Haiti. The team is definitely beginning to feel the “butterflies” of excitement and nervousness as our departure date of November 9 gets closer. I am excited for the team members for whom this is their first time to go on such a trip. They are taking a big step in their faith, reaching out toward new places and people in the name of Christ. For those of us who have been to Haiti or other places before, we deepen our faith as we experience anew the Holy Spirit in action.

As the team travels in Haiti, readings from the Letter of James will frame our days. James calls Christians to an active demonstration of faith through caring for those in need by actually doing something about it. Making a strong case for action, the author of the letter writes:

*If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill’, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*

*But someone will say, ‘You have faith and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead. (James 2:15-18, 26)*

The work of Grace church in Haiti is well defined: we support the Haiti Micah Project (HMP). This trip will deepen that important connection and commitment to this essential ministry in the impoverished Central Plateau. When one child in Haiti is taken out of a hopeless situation and given food, clothing, education, and, for some, even a home, then we have put our faith into action. Grace is not just supporting one child, but over the years of our engagement with HMP we have supported one hundred. The team will bring back those stories to the parish, witnesses to the very live faith of Grace Church at work in the world!

Please consider how you can support your Haiti Mission Team with your prayers and donations. The team members are: Alexandra Barr, Jane Barr, Peregrine Enger, Tracy Enger, Mary Ann Ryan, Kemp Williams, Karen Wires and me.

*Peace,  
Mother Leslie*

October Events	
Date	Event
5	<b>Diocesan Youth Day of Service</b> (10:00 am-2:00 pm, St. Thomas, McLean) <b>Founders' Day Cabaret</b> (5:30 pm; childcare available 5:00 pm-7:30 pm)
6	<b>St. Francis Sunday</b> <b>Grace Episcopal School Sunday</b> (9:00 am); Followed by Reception <b>Blessing of the Animals</b> (4:00 pm) <b>Youth Sunday Evening Fellowship</b> (5:30 pm)
14	<b>Columbus Day:</b> Church Office & School Closed
15	<b>Submissions due from parish programs and activities for proposed 2014 budget</b>
20	<b>Celebrating 65th Anniversary of Grace Church on Russell Road</b> ( <i>Dedication of a Church</i> ) <b>Evensong</b> , Holy Communion follows (5:00 pm)
22	<b>Grace Episcopal School Walkathon for the Homeless</b>
24	<b>Grace Episcopal School Golf Tournament</b> (2:00 pm)
26	<b>Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk</b> (8:00 am)
27	<b>Youth Sunday</b> (9:00 am) <b>Family Fun Night: Halloween Party</b> (6:00-8:00 pm)

## Alexandria Walk to Fight Breast Cancer

Mark your calendars because it's that time again. The 2013 Alexandria Walk to Fight Breast Cancer will start at 8:00 am on October 26 at the Patent and Trademark Office. Participants have the option of either the 1.5K, 3.5K or 5K walk or run. All proceeds from the Walk benefit the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk Fund at Inova Alexandria Hospital, which provides mammograms to uninsured women and men or to those in financial need. Since the Walk's inception in 1994 by our fellow parishioner (and former City Manager) Vola Lawson, over 7,000 women have been helped due to the generous support of sponsors, walkers and their pledges. Grace Church, one of the sponsors, will field the usual team of "Grace-full Walkers" under the leadership of June Huber and Brad Bergmann. Go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/TheWalk> to register or make a donation.



## Stephen Ministry

Have you ever wondered how our priests keep up with all of the pastoral needs of our congregation? They manage it with the help of our Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one lay pastoral ministry that provides one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. They are trained in an extensive course that equips them to provide high-quality, confidential care to people who are hurting. I have been a Stephen Minister for over thirteen years and a Stephen Leader for ten. I can honestly say that I have received more blessing and grace from my relationships with my care receivers than I have given. Speak to any Stephen Minister and they will say the same.

As I transition out of my role as Stephen Leader, I am looking for anyone who feels drawn to Stephen Ministry. I hope to start a class sometime in late spring. If anyone wants to learn more about this extraordinary ministry, please contact me at [cindy.diehl@gracealex.org](mailto:cindy.diehl@gracealex.org) or Mother Leslie. “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

*Cindy Diehl*

## Library: What Do You Think?

The library team is gathering feedback on the Grace library, the lovely room with the fireplace located just left of Father Malm’s office. Questions we are considering include:

- How does the library serve your needs?
- What do you use it for?
- What titles would you like to see on the shelves?
- Do you like the hallway displays?
- Is there anything new you’d like to see?

If you have comments for these or other library related questions, please provide your answers to: [margaret.will@gracealex.org](mailto:margaret.will@gracealex.org), [brad.bergmann@gracealex.org](mailto:brad.bergmann@gracealex.org), or [katie.zeigler@gracealex.org](mailto:katie.zeigler@gracealex.org).

## Music at Grace

Most of you have probably heard the expression, “Those who sing, pray twice.” Our *Book of Common Prayer* speaks of artists and church musicians who “perfect the praises offered by [God’s] people on earth” (p. 819). The ministry of a church musician, especially a choir member, is an awesome responsibility. For many worshippers, music is a primary medium through which they glimpse the extraordinary and incomprehensible beauty found on the other side of the veil. Participating in such creation of beauty, which we greatly value as incarnational Christians, is the source of much joy for church musicians, whether choir members or choir directors or instrumentalists.

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*Music...Continued from previous page*

Does the prospect of such joy and fulfillment appeal to you? Do you have musical gifts that you long to share with others? Have you thought about joining a choir at Grace Church but perhaps been too busy to make the commitment or even too shy or afraid to give it a try? Well, I invite you to give another thought to participating in the Grace Church music ministry. It might be more of a possibility than you previously would have imagined. And your gifts are needed! Won't you consider lending your voice and talent to perfecting God's praises here on earth? For more information or even simply to chat about this possibility, please contact me ([kyle.babin@gracealex.org](mailto:kyle.babin@gracealex.org) or 703-549-1980, ext. 128).

And please join us on Sunday, October 20, for Choral Evensong at 5 pm (followed by Holy Eucharist), as we celebrate sixty-five years on Russell Road! This year, our rehearsals for Evensongs will always be on the two Saturday mornings preceding Evensong (this month, October 12 and 19) from 10 am to noon. I hope that this new schedule might encourage some of you to sing who can't commit to a full yearly choir schedule. To sing for any of our upcoming Evensongs, please let me know.

*Kyle Babin*

## Graceful Worship: Our Lectionary



A lectionary is a table of readings from Scripture appointed to be read at public worship. Both Hebrew and Christian lectionaries developed over long periods of time. Typically, a lectionary will go through the scriptures in a logical pattern, and also include selections which were chosen for their appropriateness to particular occasions. Within Christianity, the use of pre-assigned, scheduled readings from the scriptures can be traced back to the early church, and seems to have been inherited from Judaism. Not all of the Christian Church used the same lectionary and, throughout history, many varying lectionaries have been used in different parts of the Christian world. Until the Second Vatican Council, most Western Christians used a lectionary that repeated on a one-year basis.

The 1969 Lectionary developed by the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II provided for a three-year cycle of Sunday readings. This Roman lectionary provided the basis for the lectionary in our 1979 edition of *The Book of Common Prayer*, as well as for lectionaries developed by many other denominations.

Our *Common Lectionary*, published in 1983, was a joint project of several American and Canadian denominations, developed out of a concern for the unity of the church and a desire for a common experience of Scripture. It was intended as a harmonization of the many different denominational approaches to the three-year lectionary.

In June 2006, the 75th General Convention directed that the *Revised Common Lectionary* replace the *Book of Common Prayer* lectionary "effective the First Sunday of Advent 2007; with the provision for continued use of the previous Lectionary for purposes of orderly transition, with the permission of the ecclesiastical authority, until the First Sunday of Advent 2010."

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## *Graceful Worship...Continued from previous page*

The *Revised Common Lectionary*, published in 1992 and officially adopted by The Episcopal Church in 2006, takes into account constructive criticism of the *Common Lectionary* based on the evaluation of its trial use and, like the current prayer-book lectionary, is a three-year cycle of Sunday Eucharistic readings in which Matthew, Mark, and Luke are read in successive years with some material from John read in each year.

During the “long green season” after Pentecost, there are two tracks each week for Old Testament readings. Within each track, there is a Psalm chosen to accompany the particular lesson. The *Revised Common Lectionary* allows us to make use of either of these tracks, but once a track has been selected, it should be followed through to the end of the Pentecost season, rather than jumping back and forth between the two strands. The first track of Old Testament readings follows major stories and themes, read mostly continuously from week to week. In Year A we begin with Genesis, in Year B we hear some of the great monarchy narratives, and in Year C we read from the later prophets. A second track of readings follows the Roman Catholic tradition of thematically pairing the Old Testament reading with the Gospel reading, often typologically—a sort of foretelling of Jesus Christ’s life and ministry, if you will. This second track is almost identical to our previous Book of Common Prayer lectionary. Within each track there may be additional readings, complementary to the standard reading; these may be used with the standard reading, or in place of it.

*June Huber*

## Grace Episcopal School News

On Sunday, October 6, the Grace Episcopal Church will observe **Episcopal Schools Celebration** at the 9 am service. The theme for the celebration this year is, “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me.” We invite all parishioners to come celebrate with the Grace Episcopal School students, their families and faculty at the service. The Rev. Dr. Roger Bowen will be the preacher for the service and will conduct a forum showing his slides of the Haiti Micah Project. Rev. Bowen was a Peace Corps volunteer in Tonga, a private school chaplain and head of school. In his “retirement,” he is the coordinator for all partnerships between schools and churches in Haiti with schools and churches in the U.S. He was awarded the John D. Verdery Award for service to the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) and Episcopal schools at the NAES Biennial Conference in 2012. Come be a witness to our families’ commitment to the Episcopal Church’s mission.

**Fore!** On October 24, the Grace Episcopal School Parents Association is sponsoring their Golf Tournament at The Courses at Andrews Air Force Base. For more information, please contact Laura Fortsch, Director of Development ([development@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:development@graceschoolalex.org)), or Claudia Kostel ([claudiakostel@yahoo.com](mailto:claudiakostel@yahoo.com)). Registration begins at 12:45 pm with a 2 pm start. Even if you are not a golfer, please consider attending the dinner reception that evening after the golf event.



Chris Stegmaier Byrnes  
Head of School

*Outpouring of school supplies and reading books collected at the GES opening chapel and donated to Haiti Micah Project on September 13*

## Senior Warden Report

When my mother-in-law, longtime parishioner Shirley Shaw Carroll, passed away in August at age 82, I witnessed once again how wonderful and amazing our church is. She went to be with the Lord on a Thursday night. By the following Tuesday morning, more than 300 people were celebrating her life with our family at a joyful Requiem Eucharist at Grace. It took time, talent and treasure to pull it off. Our church office devoted hours getting the service organized. Busy parishioners took time off from work or time out of their schedules to serve as LEMs and ushers. Altar Guild members worked behind the scenes to make sure the nave and altar were prepared and adorned. Kyle Babin's music soared above the pews. Our clergy, Father Malm and Mother Steffensen, lead the celebration with the love and support that we love them for (we cannot count the number of times they visited Mom at the hospital in her last days). Father Malm's homily captured her sparkling, loving personality and her legacy as only a priest who truly knew a parishioner can. At the reception afterwards, many friends told us it was one of the most beautiful services they'd ever attended; more than one added that they were so moved and impressed that they were considering joining our church!

This was Grace Church in action. It is what Grace does best, with consistent excellence, love, care and compassion—through its clergy, parishioners and programs, it ministers to, comforts and succors all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or other adversity. Services like Shirley's are just one manifestation of the work and mission our church carries out in our Lord's name—all you have to do is sit through a service, flip through our bulletin, walk through our school, go on a mission trip or open the door to our food pantry to see just a few of the many others.

As we commence our annual stewardship pledge campaign, please reflect prayerfully on all of this and consider increasing your financial support for Grace for 2014, and if you have not pledged before, please pledge. We need your support more than ever, to help increase our service and support for our parish, our community and our world.

*Peter Barnes*

### Parish Register

#### Baptisms:

- ✚ Ruby Mae Lepak, daughter of Jessica and Joel Lepak, sister of Ada
- ✚ Dev Raj and Jai Isaac Gaidhane, children of Anirudha Gaidhane and Zareen Isaac

#### New members per evidence of baptism:

- ✚ Meredith and John Green
- ✚ Jack Whitely

#### Transfer in:

- ✚ Vanessa and John Havener from St. Paul's, York, AZ

#### Transfers out:

- ✚ Georgiana and John Greely to Trinity Church, Upperville, VA
- ✚ Virginia Tucker and daughter Mary Clayton, to Christ Church, Alexandria, VA

#### Blessing of a civil marriage:

- ✚ Allen (A.J.) Dunn and Kara Hutton

## 65 Years, 65 Stories

This fall we celebrate Grace Church's 65th anniversary of moving to Russell Road. Grace Notes commemorates this exciting anniversary and our wonderful parish stories by asking a monthly question and publishing 65 answers/stories from the parish across the year. Whether you were at Grace in 1948 or just joined last week, we hope you will participate and share your unique story of what Grace means to you! Check the Sunday bulletin or Facebook for more information about participating.

*Question 2: What's your favorite (physical) part of Grace church? Is it a particular part of the building or a specific stained glass window? Why is it so meaningful to you?*

### *#6—from David Adams*

The first time I came to Grace, I went away thinking that the architecture of the church was cold. This impression was due, I think, to the fact that I was not used to a sanctuary being gray stone. However, soon after I became a parishioner in 1988, I realized what a great gift the architect had given in his design. Why? Because when you walk into the church your attention is immediately drawn to the altar and to the beautiful crucifix above it, reminding you of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our redemption and the perpetual remembrance of that sacrifice at the altar. The physical structure of Grace church provides a continuing reminder of the love that is the cornerstone of our faith. In the years I have worshiped at Grace, I have had the opportunity to see the living out of that love in many ways. When I soon move to another part of the country, I shall miss the beauty of the church building, but I shall equally miss the love and compassion I have seen and experienced myself in this community of faith.

### *#7—from Jonathan Doelp*

During my 4<sup>th</sup> year of Education for Ministry, I came to appreciate the wisdom and theology of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. His window is 3<sup>rd</sup> from the front on the Epistle side. During the winter months, when the sun is low on the horizon, it shines through his golden mitre and lights up the burning heart underneath.

Augustine lived in a turbulent time of great transition. The Goths invaded the Empire and finally sacked Rome in 410. Augustine traveled to Milan, and came under the positive influence of Bishop Ambrose and was baptized by him. In the years that followed, Augustine developed much of our Christian theology. The Trinity was codified by him. That third piece, "the Holy Spirit," provides much grist for the cerebral mill.

*Confessions* was his most important work. His thesis on time is quite revealing. When asked "What was God doing before he made heaven and earth?" he responded, "He was getting hell ready for people who inquisitively peer into deep matters." He also spoke of friendship. "Friendship is love. Love is friendship. They are intertwined."

### *#8—from Barbara Morris*

The moment I walked into Grace Church 35 years ago, I was struck by the beauty of the stonework. Surprisingly, instead of a cold, barren atmosphere, the stones radiated a warm and protective atmosphere, due, perhaps, to the glow of shimmering candles and soft light through the stained glass.

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*65 Years, 65 Stories...Continued from previous page*

In the years since then, the stone has often reminded me of Jesus saying to Peter, "...you are Peter and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it." In times of distress, as I kneel in prayer, I recall a favorite hymn, "Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee..."

As an usher sitting in the narthex with a view down the center aisle, I often imagine all the feet that have trod those shiny, worn stones—from Bishops to homeless men and women and to my Grace church friends who faithfully worship in this beautiful, comforting, rock-solid House of God.

*#9—from Lorna Worley*

I have spent my life at Grace in the choir loft. Since 1985, that's where I have been most often. We re-winded the organ in 1994 with the building project. Before that, the organist would turn the organ off during the sermon because the hiss of the air flow would make it hard to hear. She had to turn it back on in time for us to sing the Creed. We stood and waited for the "Whoosh" of air that meant the organ was playable. I still hear it sometimes, even though now, with the new organ, you never hear the air until a pipe is sounded.

**NEXT MONTH:**

**Question 3: What's been one of your favorite experiences with doing mission or outreach work for Grace?**

**Please submit responses to [grace.notes@gracealex.org](mailto:grace.notes@gracealex.org) by October 15.**

# The Great Kitchen Clean-up!

The Fellowship Committee organized a Merrow Hall Kitchen clean-up on September 14. Many thanks to Deborah Crabtree, Eric Bonetti, Gary Carter, Sarah Schultz, Margaret Will, Khacki Berry, Bill Eckel, Mary Fox, Kristine Hesse, Mother Leslie Steffensen, Barbara Read and Nancy Robinson.  
Amazing, hard-working crew!



October Birthdays

10/1 Josie Battle	10/16 Michael Laemmler
10/1 Kate Lorentz	10/17 David Adams
10/1 Maggie McQueen	10/17 Kirk Logie
10/2 James Malm	10/17 Sophia Lund
10/2 Charissa Nelson	10/17 Christy Sweet
10/2 Jack Spitzer	10/17 Nicholas Winkel
10/3 Ward Morris	10/18 Mimi Barnes
10/4 Margaret Carlson	10/18 Crispin Enger
10/4 Ruth Corlett	10/18 Merrin Winkel
10/4 James Lockwood	10/19 Finlay Baird
10/5 Bill Burch	10/19 Erin Fleming
10/5 Sheng Davis	10/19 Beth Yancey
10/5 Harley Hughes	10/20 Tricia Bamford
10/6 Anne Berry	10/20 Lydia Durand
10/6 Suzanne Cooper	10/20 Christian Henel
10/6 June Huber	10/20 Jim Stancil
10/7 Anabelle Long	10/21 Lesley Kalan
10/7 Walter Moore	10/22 Jennifer Beyreuther
10/7 Wendy Murphy	10/22 Karen Lamson
10/8 Charlie Iovino	10/22 Jay Legere
10/8 Barry Joyner	10/22 Margaret Lukens
10/8 Susan Merritt Nelsen	10/23 Ava Beyreuther
10/8 Virginia Robinson	10/23 Wendy Cummings
10/9 Thomas Dunn	10/23 Nathan Gannon
10/10 Dena Battle	10/23 Jacqueline Klein
10/10 Lucille Frank	10/24 Remsen Baird
10/11 Everett Ruff	10/25 Kim Frankena
10/12 Puddy Blunden	10/25 Walker Pheil
10/13 Barbara Sherlock	10/25 Paul Rugaber
10/13 Travis Thompson	10/26 Colin Rushing
10/14 Katherine Winstead	10/27 Grace Falatko
10/15 Christina Gabbert	10/27 Paul Hanley
10/15 Laura Laemmler-Weidenfeld	10/27 William Malone
10/15 Lisa Medley	10/28 Sue Donelson
10/15 Charles Nelson	10/29 Willem Schultz
10/16 Kevin Beyreuther	10/30 Teresa Payne
10/16 Christine Cheevers	10/31 Pedro Hernandez
	10/31 Barbara Blakistone



## Parish Staff

Robert Malm..... Rector  
 ([rector@gracealex.org](mailto:rector@gracealex.org))  
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 Pedro Hernandez ..... Sexton  
 Chandler Whitman..... Seminarian  
 ([cwhitman@vts.edu](mailto:cwhitman@vts.edu))

## Vestry

### Class of 2013

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

### Class of 2014

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

### Class of 2015

Eric Bonetti..... Fellowship  
 Lisa Medley ..... Youth  
 Barbara Read ..... Pastoral Care  
 Mary Ann Ryan ..... Outreach  
 Eric Waskowicz..... Education

### Alternate

Teresa Preston ..... Communications

### Non-Vestry Coordinators

Eugene Alford ..... Stewardship  
 Gary Carter ..... Fellowship  
 Chad Eckles ..... Worship  
 Kristine Hesse..... Communications  
 Rich Kelly..... Youth  
 Nancy Lorentz ..... Education  
 Cindy MacIntyre..... Evangelism  
 Bill Malone..... Pastoral Care  
 Andrea Santos..... TNT  
 Tania Wilkes..... Outreach