

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

## Start Up!

September is start-up month. The new school year begins. Sports teams open new seasons. At Grace we return to our full Sunday schedule on September 14 with the two Choral Eucharists at 9:00 and 11:15 am, and the Christian Education/fellowship hour in between.

The month begins with our Shrine Mont weekend and ends with our celebrations for Founders' Day. We have many visitors and newcomers come on Sundays, hoping to find a church home. So we all need to be alert and welcoming.

Each start-up September brings special blessings and opportunities. I know how much I anticipated last September's beginning since it was the start for our youngest child's senior year in college. For the first time in 32 years, Leslie and I do not have a child starting the school year! Now we look forward to James' working and living close by in DC.

This September will be a time of new beginnings for our Director of Music, Richard Newman. We are so excited to have him join our staff. Please introduce yourself to Richard and welcome him to Grace Church.

Chris Byrnes begins her final year as Head of Grace Episcopal School. The Search Committee is well underway with Mary Hix chairing the committee. The new amphitheater is ready and we hope to have the opening GES Chapel service there on Friday, September 12. Join us at 9:00 am if you can.

Lastly, our Transition Committee chaired by Ruth Corlett will be helping us move into the future after the departure of our Parish Administrator, Charlotte Wright. I'm confident we will plan wisely for our future administrative needs.

All of this reminds me of one of my favorite hymns written by John Keble, a leader of the Oxford Movement in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Read each of the verses. I especially like the second verse:

*New mercies each returning day,  
around us hover while we pray;  
new perils past, new sins forgiven,  
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.  
(The Hymnal 1982, #10)*

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

September 2014

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## Worship Schedule

### Sunday Schedule thru Sept. 7th

Holy Eucharist Rite I ..... 7:30 am  
Child Care ..... 9:45 am–11:30 am  
Children’s Chapel..... 9:50 am–10:30 am  
Choral Eucharist\* ..... 10:00 am  
Holy Eucharist Rite II..... 5:00 pm

### Sunday Schedule beginning Sept. 14th

Holy Eucharist Rite I ..... 7:30 am  
Child Care ..... 8:45 am–12:45 pm  
Children’s Chapel..... 8:50 am–9:30 am  
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/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 Sept. 15, 2014 for the October 2014 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

This August, an important survey done in the spring came to light. A press release came into my mailbox from the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria’s Childhood Obesity Action Network (A-COAN) about the report titled, *Toward an End to Hunger in Alexandria*. The report states, “The bottom line is that thousands of Alexandrians, perhaps as many as one in five, live in households struggling to make ends meet. Unfortunately, when it comes to deciding what bills to pay, some of these families are forced to reduce what they spend on food. This, in turn, increases the probability that the household is food insecure, bringing with it the risk of negative health and developmental outcomes.” This is surprising news to me. One in five people in our community may not be able to get food on the table for three nutritious meals today.

How can Grace be a part of the solution? The theme for this year’s Shrine Mont retreat for Grace is, “My cup runneth over,” a wonderful image of the abundance of blessing God bestows on his people. This brings me to my question for us as a community:

What are we prepared to do with OUR abundance of BLESSING?

What does it mean to be so blessed? I believe our blessing is not meant to be squandered, for us to simply feel satisfied. God’s blessing is meant to glorify Him, not us. Being blessed means that God has given to us all we need so that we can build his Kingdom. We are the nourished, the strong, the joyful. Our Christian response to this abundance is to give thanks and then look for opportunities to be a blessing to others.

Grace church has a food pantry that helps families make ends meet each month, one nutritious bagful at a time. We do a lot, but maybe we could do more by working with others who also want to be a part of the solution. September is “Hunger Awareness Month” in the city of Alexandria. Faith communities and non-profits which are active in the city have joined together to form a “Hunger-Free Alexandria” coalition. Grace and these partners will celebrate all we do now and raise awareness about all we hope to do in the future to build a city where no one goes hungry. Strong families and healthy children who develop to their full potential will build a stronger community for all of us to enjoy. We are blessed—let’s share the blessing so our whole community’s cup “runneth over” too!

Please mark your calendar to come celebrate and have family-friendly fun while standing up for a “Hunger-free Alexandria!”

Sunday, September 21, 12:00 pm–5:00 pm

Fairlington Presbyterian Church

3846 King Street

Alexandria, VA 22302

(Just west of the Bradlee Shopping Center)

*Continued on page 4*

## A Word from Mother Elizabeth Too Busy to Hear?

The school year has begun. The church program year has begun. Summer vacations are over and work tasks are ramping up. It is a busy time of year!

When I am really busy, I find that my thoughts start to race as I mentally juggle tasks and to-do lists. The amazing thing is sometimes we may not even notice the way our minds get filled up with thoughts and tasks and confusion when we are busy. And even when we recognize how frenzied our thoughts have become, it's not always easy to find a way to pause and re-center ourselves.

I was reading the story of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) for our Tuesday 6:30 pm service yesterday, and I suddenly had a rush of sympathy for those two disciples fleeing Jerusalem on the Sunday after the Crucifixion. They were leaving the city with their hopes and expectations about Jesus the Messiah all crushed. And their minds must have been racing with confusion and consternation. I imagine they ran over and over the same questions: "How could this have happened?" "What do I do now?" "What will my friends back home think of me when I come slinking back?"

They were confused and preoccupied and perplexed. And they were so busy with their concerns and their questions that they didn't notice who was walking with them when Jesus joined them on the road. They found the apparent stranger interesting, as he talked with them about the prophecies of the Messiah in Scripture. But they didn't get it—they didn't really hear or perceive what was happening—that Jesus was there among them.

It wasn't until late that night, as they paused for a shared meal and prayer, and Jesus blessed and broke the bread in a hauntingly familiar way, that they finally made the connection. They saw Jesus before them. And then they realized what they had been hearing all afternoon. They asked each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening Scripture to us?"

All that afternoon they had been too preoccupied with their worries and concerns and busyness to really hear Jesus' words—to really listen. But then Jesus invited them into a moment of stillness and peace when he broke bread with them, and finally they found room to quiet their hearts and minds and really experience the present moment. And when they did, they finally heard the voice of God.

My prayer for all of us in this busy season is that we may find moments to pause and really hear and be present with each other and with God. This may be around the dinner table in the evening. Or during worship on Sunday morning. Or perhaps at one of Grace's weekday services on Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning or Thursday at lunch time. We need those pauses—for rest and refreshment and reconnection with each other and with God. And God is yearning to reach us in such moments and remind us of His constant presence and constant love.

*In Christ,  
Elizabeth Locher  
Assistant for Parish Life and Family Ministries*

Our neighbor churches are joining together to prepare a festival of family activities, music, local food trucks, and fun!

The report is available on the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria's website, [www.healthieralexandria.org](http://www.healthieralexandria.org). To learn more about the report, or to get connected with the Partnership, email [HealthierAlexandria@alexandriava.gov](mailto:HealthierAlexandria@alexandriava.gov).

*Peace,  
The Rev. Leslie Nuñez Steffensen*

## Grace School opens its 55th Year

Open House for all classes is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, from 9 am-noon. The school year begins on Wednesday, September 3. This year our opening chapel service takes place on Friday, September 12. I invite all parishioners and families to join us that morning at 9 am in the new Amphitheater for the dedication of this fabulous new space for the School and Church. This is an important welcoming service for new and returning families as we join together with the faculty and clergy for the school year.

New faculty and staff for the 2014–2015 school year includes: Anne Hedley, Preschool Assistant; Julie Dwyer and Gayle Fogelman, Jr, Kindergarten Assistants; Cara Donley, Kindergarten Teacher; and Craig Lawlor, Building and Maintenance Supervisor. Mary Kate Holland will be the lead teacher for Preschool (formerly Jr. Kindergarten Assistant) and Sharon Nicholson will be assuming the P.E./Health position in addition to her Computer Teacher/Technology Coordinator position.

I would like to thank the retiring School Board members who dedicated their time and talents to the school. The School is extremely thankful to the following for their service to the School: Katherine McCarron, Parents Association President; Rob Cheron, Early Childhood Representative; Rick Eudy, Parish Representative and Sandy Tinkham, Community Representative.

I welcome the new School Board members who joined the board in July. Those new to the School Board for 2014–2015 are: Heath Huff, Parents Association President; Julia McClung, Parish Representative; David Halsted, Early Childhood Representative; and Mary Hanrahan, Community Representative. They join returning School Board members: June Huber (Chair), John Berry (Vice Chair), Mary Hix (Treasurer), Jona Gilliam (Secretary), Jason Gray, Heather Hurley, Bob Malm, Trisha Miller, Leo Ribeiro, and Jonathan Wolcott.

The School Board, Faculty, Staff and I look forward to the coming school year!

*Chris Stegmaier Byrnes  
Head of School*

## Thank You from Kyle Babin

There are so many things to thank you for. First, I'm wholeheartedly thankful for the lovely send-off on July 20—for the flowers, cake, food, and fellowship. I really appreciate the generous purse you presented to me; please know that it will be extremely helpful to me as I transition to being a student once again, especially in New York City! Second, thanks for the beautiful framed drawing of the crucifix above the high altar. I always like to have a cross with corpus somewhere in my dwelling, and I will proudly display it in my room at General. It will always be a reminder of my two years at Grace Church, as well as of the beautiful building itself. Thanks for the framed pictures of me with the Boys and Girls Choir. I will SO miss working with them; I will always cherish my time with those amazing young children. And, finally, thank you for the love and support you showed me in my nearly two years at Grace Church. I certainly grew as a person, and I could not have asked for better preparation as I discerned a call to ordained ministry, saw that call affirmed in community, and prepared to start seminary.

Please stay in touch. I would love to hear from you. You will be in my prayers and thoughts, and God bless you all.

*Gratefully, in Christ,  
Kyle Babin*

## Ferial Days

I recently went to a Wednesday morning Holy Eucharist on a day marked as “Feria.” I knew that the word was Latin for “free” but that’s all I knew. Father Malm suggested that I do the research and write about it. So here we are.

According to the online Episcopal Library, a feria is “an ordinary weekday in the liturgical calendar, a day that is neither a feast nor a fast. A ferial day is understood as an extension of the preceding Sunday. The collect and proper readings for the Sunday eucharist are used in weekday celebrations of the eucharist unless otherwise provided.” Well, that was useful information, but I wanted to know more so I kept hunting.

I learned that a feria was a day in Ancient Rome when people, especially the slaves, were not required to work, and when there were no court sessions. The “feriae publicae” were legal holidays that were either “stativae” (fixed, recurring regularly, such as the Saturnalia), “conceptivae” (movable) or “imperativae” (appointed for special occasions).

In earlier days of Christianity, the faithful were obliged to attend mass on the feriae instituted by the Church. These assemblies gradually led to market gatherings which the English called “fairs.” They were fixed on saints' days (e.g., St. Bartholomew Fair in London).

In the pre-1960 Roman Catholic Church, ferias were divided into major and minor. The major ferias, which required at least a commemoration even on the highest feast days, were the ferias of Advent and Lent, the Ember days, and the Monday of Rogation week; all others were called minor.

*June Huber*

## From the Library

Did you know that the “valley of the shadow of death” is not merely a metaphor? Known today as Wadi Qilt, it is located in the Judean Desert and is the site of the Monastery of St. George of Koziba. This is only one of the many fascinating tidbits about the Holy Land that are revealed in *Jesus—A Pilgrimage* [232 MAR] by James Martin.

This book takes us on a journey through Jesus' life via a combination of insights from historical Jesus studies; up-to-date Scripture scholarship, spiritual reflections about the Christ of faith and colorful vignettes describing the author's travels in the Holy Land, visiting important sites in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Father Martin's descriptions of the places he visited help us to picture what first-century Galilee and Judea must have been like for Jesus and those around Him. This sense of 'being there' reveals nuances in the Gospel parables and teachings that we might have missed in the past. *Jesus—A Pilgrimage* is a multifaceted guidebook—a travel guide, a religious guide, a prayer guide and a guide for deepening our relationship with Jesus.

The library has several dozen books—both fiction and non-fiction—whose focus is illuminating the life and teachings of Jesus. Many of these books are currently on display outside of Merrow Hall auditorium or on the cart in the library. Or check out the listings in the *Looking For Something to Read?* binder in the library anytime.

*Ex Libris*

## Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry continues to support our community. In August, we served 137 families with a full bag of food items and a \$10 voucher to use for perishables at the local Foodway. That's an average month for us. We can only provide this level of support to the hungry in our community thanks to the many generous financial donations of parishioners. Thank you one and all!

The parish volunteers who greet the families, disburse the food items and fill the bags for the next group are the heart and soul of the Food Pantry. We recently welcomed three new volunteers to our staff of 22. We strive to have two volunteers present each time the Food Pantry is open: Monday and Tuesday from 1-3 pm; and Friday from 6:30-7:30 pm.

There is one other group to thank—the volunteers who do the literal heavy-lifting to put our bi-weekly deliveries (of 700 pounds!) on the shelves. It takes a parish team to keep our Food Pantry going!

*John Berry*



## Food Pantry

### *Women's Retreat*

Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

@ Grace Church

Led by Chrissy Crosby

Save the date and watch for more details this fall!

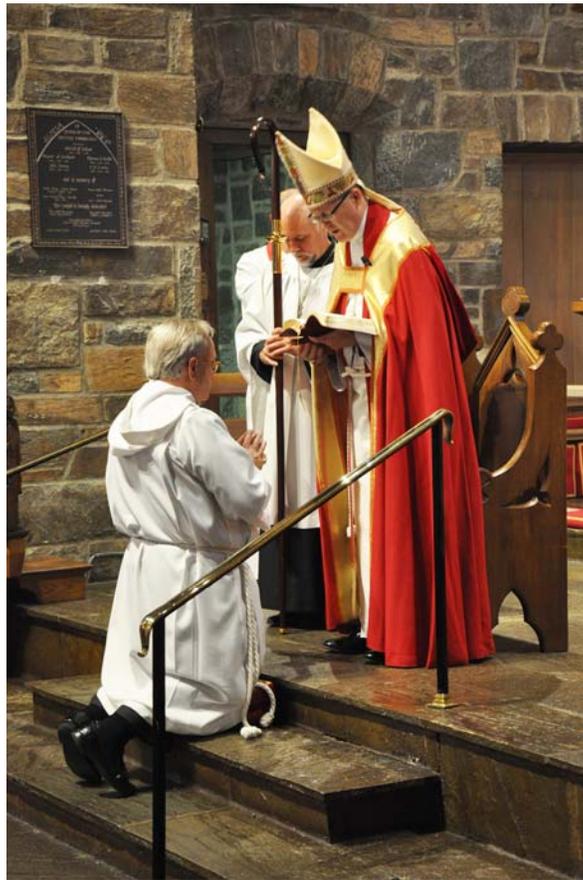
Registration will begin October 1<sup>st</sup>

Contact Mo. Steffensen if you'd like to join the organizing team

Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons  
Bernie Schroeder  
August 2, 2014



The Long and Winding Road – a ten year journey



Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston  
Fulfills a calling

## Fall Events for Children, Youth and Families



Friday, September 5 - Sunday, September 7

- Grace Church Shrine Mont Weekend

Sunday, September 14 - 9 am and 11:15 am  
Services Resume

- 10:15 am - Sunday School Registration

Sunday, September 21

- 9 am - Teacher and Youth Sponsor Commissioning
- 10:15 am - Sunday School Classes Begin

Saturday, October 4

- Diocese of Virginia Youth Day of Service

Sunday, October 5 - Grace School Sunday

- 10:15 am- Reception in Amphitheater - No Sunday School
- 5:30 pm - Youth Sunday Evening Fellowship

Sunday, October 12

- 6 pm - Grace Church Movie Night

Sunday, October 26

- 9 am - Youth Sunday
- 6-8 pm - Halloween Family Fun Night

Sunday, November 2

- 10:15 am - Parent Forum
- 5:30 pm - Youth Sunday Evening Fellowship

Friday, November 7 - Sunday, November 9

- Diocese of Virginia Senior High Shrine Mont Weekend

Sunday, November 30

- 10:15 am - Intergenerational Advent Day - No Sunday School

## From the Parish Register

### Baptisms

- ✚ Harper Reese Dubsy, daughter of Brian and Sara Dubsy, sister of Abigail Louise Dubsy and Callen Lamb Dubsy, granddaughter of Tricia Bamford, great-granddaughter of Joy Lamb
- ✚ Connor Alan Fettig, son of Zachary and Nicole Fettig
- ✚ Sean Joseph Groves, son of Brett and Meghan Groves, grandson of Jay and Suzanne O'Malley

### Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons

- ✚ Bernie Schroeder, by the Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, Bishop of Virginia

### New Baptized Parishioners and Transfers In

- ✚ Kristie Jo Pichler, transferred from St. Peter's Church, Cazenovia, New York
- ✚ Christopher Pichler, per evidence of baptism

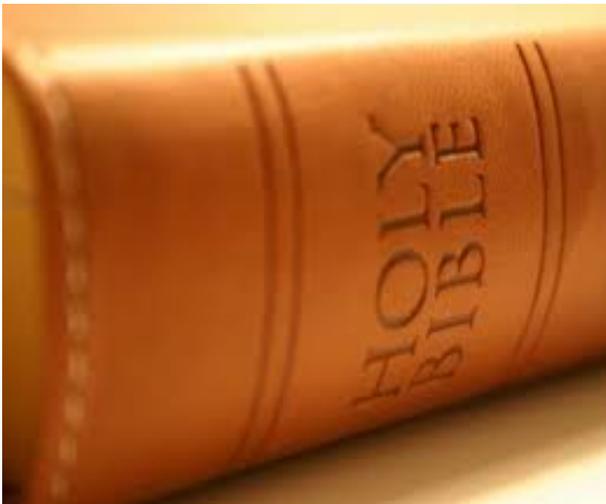
### Requiem Eucharist and Burial

- ✚ Martha McKecknie Mills, mother of Betty Mills, grandmother of Julie Mills Cizek

### Marriage

- ✚ Piers Spencer and Elisabeth Bursley

## Are you interested in beginning a Bible Study group?



Responses to the Christian Formation survey showed that many parishioners are interested in Bible Study programs here at Grace. If you are interested in attending a regular Bible study or would like to help lead a Bible Study, please contact Mother Elizabeth at [elizabeth.locher@gracealex.org](mailto:elizabeth.locher@gracealex.org).

Bible Study groups might meet on Sundays or weekdays, study the Sunday lectionary or work through books of Scripture, and require or not require preparation, so please indicate your preferences. We will work to connect and equip people to begin Bible Study groups with similar interests and preferences.

# Haiti Micah News

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Dear Grace Church,

On behalf of Haiti Micah Project Sponsor a Child Program, I want to thank you for your wonderful generosity and continued faith and trust in the work being done in our feeding/education program and orphanage. Each year your response is such a blessing to us and I am forever grateful. HMP will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2015 and Grace Church has played a significant role in our history and in our ability to grow and meet the daily needs of over 500 children. Your enthusiasm and hopefulness demonstrate a strong commitment from donors who each year inspire new supporters. You have proven to be “doers of the Word and not merely hearers.” The faith of Grace Church in its mission to the poorest of the poor will alter the course of their lives. Together we are making a difference in each child’s life.

Faithfully yours,



The Rev. Joseph M. Constant  
President, Haiti Micah Project

Thank you Grace Church!

Our 2014 Haiti Micah Project (HMP) Child Sponsorship event was a huge success! We are now sponsoring 79 Haiti Micah children! After the 2013 trip to Haiti, the mission team was able to share many stories about the bright and charming HMP children. We were delighted to report that they are receiving loving care and a solid education thanks to the Haiti Micah Project. There really is every reason to be hopeful about their futures. Thank you for all you are doing to support the Haiti Micah children.

Mary Ann Ryan



## September Birthdays

9/1	Teresa Preston	9/18	Rosemary Falcon
9/1	Lorna Worley	9/18	Paula Fleming
9/2	Michael Heintz	9/18	Nathan Moore
9/2	Nancy Macklin	9/18	Dutch Zuidema
9/2	Logan Rockhold	9/19	Jean Harmon
9/2	Joy StJohn	9/20	Allyson Corlett
9/3	Neal Goodson	9/20	Hermann Gerber
9/4	Fiona Dowell	9/20	Susy Howard
9/4	Don Rae	9/21	Marco Ovando
9/5	Nathan Moore	9/21	Hayley Winter
9/5	Charlie Pease	9/22	Donna Hall
9/6	Peter Barnes	9/22	Jennifer Long
9/6	Blythe Davis	9/23	Janet Baker
9/7	Cathy Puskar	9/23	Michael Dombrowski
9/7	Philip Smith	9/23	Lesla Miller
9/7	David Tuma	9/23	Neille Russell
9/9	Taso Janevski	9/23	Griffin Winter
9/9	Graham Kalan	9/24	James LaSalle
9/9	Mike Reed	9/24	Rosemary Pollard
9/10	Emily LaSalle	9/24	Nick Robinson
9/11	Edward Corlett	9/25	Jamie Barr
9/11	Daisy MacIntyre	9/26	Cooper Johnson
9/12	Shae Martin	9/26	Evan Metz
9/14	Peyton Kalan	9/27	Rick Eudy
9/15	Jay O'Malley	9/27	Matthew Madigan
9/16	Mary Beyreuther	9/27	Leslie Malm
9/16	Lori Dodd	9/28	Avah Arbogast
9/16	Nancy Graves	9/28	McKinley Cronin
9/16	Elizabeth Imphong	9/28	Tracy Enger
9/16	Cole Ruff	9/28	Ken Griffin
9/16	John Wires	9/28	Bridget Spencer
9/17	Bob Malm	9/29	Arun Khanna
9/17	David Tepper	9/29	Scott Rosman

Sunday, September 21st

12:00 pm-5:00 pm

Food, music, and family fun!

A fundraising festival for a



Fairlington Presbyterian Church

3846 King Street • Alexandria, VA

Contact Mo. Steffensen for more details

### Parish Staff

Robert Malm.....	Rector
( <a href="mailto:rector@gracealex.org">rector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Leslie Steffensen .....	Assistant to the Rector
( <a href="mailto:assistant.lector@gracealex.org">assistant.lector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Elizabeth Locher.....	Assistant for Parish Life and Family Ministries
( <a href="mailto:family.ministries@gracealex.org">family.ministries@gracealex.org</a> )	
Richard Newman .....	Director of Music
( <a href="mailto:music.director@gracealex.org">music.director@gracealex.org</a> )	
Christine Byrnes .....	Head of School
( <a href="mailto:office@graceschoolalex.org">office@graceschoolalex.org</a> )	
Ruth Young .....	Children's Chapel Coordinator
( <a href="mailto:ruth.young@gracealex.org">ruth.young@gracealex.org</a> )	
Beth Wiggers.....	Office Administrator
( <a href="mailto:parish.office@gracealex.org">parish.office@gracealex.org</a> )	
Pedro Hernandez .....	Sexton
Chandler Whitman.....	Seminarian
( <a href="mailto:chandler.whitman@gracealex.org">chandler.whitman@gracealex.org</a> )	

### Vestry

Class of 2014

John Berry .....	School Board
Elizabeth Legere.....	Sr. Warden
Erica McFarquhar.....	Member at Large
Leo Ribeiro .....	School Board, TNT
Mai-Lan Smith.....	Evangelism
Kemp Williams.....	Register

Class of 2015

Eric Bonetti.....	Jr. Warden
Lisa Medley .....	Youth
Mary Ann Ryan .....	Outreach
Eric Waskowicz.....	Education

Class of 2016

Jeffrey Chiow .....	Fellowship
Lina Dobbs .....	Communications, La Gracia
Bill Eckel .....	Treasurer
Bill Malone.....	Stewardship
Easter Thompson.....	Worship

Non-Vestry Coordinators

Gary Carter .....	Fellowship
Mickey Craven .....	Education
Chad Eckles .....	Worship
Kristine Hesse.....	Communications
Rich Kelly.....	Youth
Cindy MacIntyre.....	Evangelism
Andrea Santos.....	TNT
Mike Smith .....	Pastoral Care
Tania Wilkes.....	Outreach