

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

"Surprised by Joy"

C. S. Lewis was a 31-year-old professor of philosophy and English literature at Oxford when he "gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed..." Although he had been raised in a Christian family, by the age of 15 he had stopped believing and had become an atheist. At 19, he served in the British Army during World War I and was wounded during trench warfare in France.

As a young man, Lewis viewed religion as a chore and a duty. He later wrote that he was "angry with God for not existing..." since "had God designed the world, it would not be a world so frail and faulty..." Lewis writes about his conversion in his book, *Surprised by Joy*. In what would be considered a "God-incidence," Lewis, a life-long bachelor, late in life fell in love and married a divorced American, Joy Gresham, who died of cancer just four years after their marriage.

We used a number of C. S. Lewis meditations for Lent this year. We have many of Lewis' books in our parish library. I have a book of daily readings from his "classical works." I especially think of his quote as we celebrate this Easter season. "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen, not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else."

By Jesus' risen life we "see everything else." I think of this as we move through the 50 days of Easter toward Pentecost. I also think of how we are "surprised by joy..." in so many ways, especially when facing suffering and death, as Lewis did with his wife's cancer and his own illness and death.

My father died early on the Monday in Holy Week. I spoke with him last on the phone Palm Sunday evening and he still had hope and a wonderful sense of humor. His health had failed since November, just after he celebrated his 89th birthday. His care since early January alternated between the hospital and an assisted living facility. I was blessed to visit him three times this winter, once with my sister and once with my son, James.

Easter, our faith in Christ and in God's everlasting love, help us to see; to see joy, to see peace, to see love. I hope and I pray that in the weeks and months ahead we will all be surprised by joy.

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

May 2015

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

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, Alternates between
Rite I and Rite II 12:15 pm

Grace Church is:

A center for worship and fellowship

A school for discipleship and
stewardship

A community for healing and
outreach

About Grace Notes

Grace Notes is published 10 times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia – monthly except for combined July/August and December/January issues. The deadline for submitting copy is midnight on the 15th of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is May 15, 2015 for the June 2015 issue. Articles should be submitted by e-mail to grace.notes@gracealex.org. All articles are subject to editing.

Grace Church’s newsletter team includes Amy Barron, Gary Carter, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Teresa Preston, Sarah Schultz, and Beth Wiggers.

From the Assistant to the Rector

I am sure you have heard the phrase for the month of March that says, “in like a lion, out like a lamb.” It describes the temperamental and often unpredictable weather as we come into spring by fits and starts. I think this May we should say, “in with alleluias and out with tongues and flames.” Perhaps that is not as catchy, but I think it is descriptive. We will soon end our celebration of the 50 days of Easter and turn our liturgical and scriptural story toward the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We have celebrated Easter, the on-going feast that takes us beyond the egg hunt and chocolates. Sometimes I feel this seasonal change is as if God is telling us, “Okay, the party is over. You must now take your gift and leave the building.” Now it is time to ask ourselves, “What do we *do* with the news of resurrection?”

The Apostles took the message out into the world, despite the seats of power that threatened to stop them. They quickly learned that with God and aided by the Holy Spirit, the Gospel could not be stopped. Their lives were immediately affected by the Gospel and they were propelled to the far corners of the world as witnesses to the resurrection. The Gospel affected every aspect of their life on Earth.

What does it mean to our daily lives? Our answer is the same as it was for the apostles: “proclaim the resurrection now in the world and with Christ in the future.” What does that look like for you? What opportunities to live in the Kingdom does Jesus hold before you? Each person has a unique set of gifts to offer this world that desperately needs to hear about Jesus. I hope that the experience of Pentecost fills you with joy and energy to take the message of love to your community and to the world.

Peace,
The Rev. Leslie Nunez Steffensen

Pilgrimage to Turkey

The Rev. Oran Warder, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, is organizing a pilgrimage to Turkey to follow in the footsteps of St. Paul. The tour will take place from April 22 to May 7, 2016. They have opened this opportunity up to all of the parishes that make up our region. The price range is expected to be \$3700-\$4200 per person. The tour guide will be in Alexandria in July to talk about the tour. If you are interested, contact Lesley Markham at 571-218-8131 or markhamlesley@hotmail.com.

A Note from Mother Elizabeth "Spring Cleaning"

I should begin this by confessing that I have never been someone who experiences the urge to do "spring cleaning" as the weather gets warm. However, I do understand the urge to fling open the windows and let the fresh air in when that air is finally not so chilly, and perhaps that's the first step.

Spring is such a season of new birth and new beginnings. That's why Easter fits so well into this time of year, when new Christians experience the new birth of baptism and all of us discover again the new life of Resurrection.

And so I think this season (meteorological and liturgical) inspires us to seek fresh air, new life, and fresh beginnings. For some of us, that does take the form of spring cleaning. For others, it inspires us to go work in our gardens. Perhaps we feel moved to start some new project, or new practice.

I think all this fresh air is an invitation for our spiritual lives as well. Perhaps our practices in Lent helped us see places in our souls that needed some cleaning up, or were getting musty from disuse. Perhaps the new breath of life at Easter is whispering new ideas to us about how we might look at our lives, or how we might serve God and others.

Whether we clean anything or not, spring is a time of fresh starts and transformation; so I invite you to think about whether transformation in your life is needed, or welcome, or inevitable, and embrace this opportunity for fresh air.

In Christ,
Elizabeth Locher



Instructed Eucharist – May 10

Our Liturgy Moment series will conclude for the year with a special Instructed Eucharist during the 9 am service on Sunday, May 10. On this day, the service itself will include pauses to reflect on the liturgy, and clergy will take questions as we move through worship. Please join us for this special chance to learn about our worship and get all your questions answered!

Newcomer Reception – May 17

If you are a newcomer, feel like a newcomer, or are ready to re-engage with ministries at Grace, please join us the evening of Sunday, May 17 for a newcomer welcome reception immediately following the 5:00 pm Eucharist. We will gather in the narthex at the back of the church. Enjoy good food and good company! For more information or to let us know you plan to come, please contact Dorothy Daniel at dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org.

“The Truth Will Set You Free”

The next time you’re in the new narthex (the one with the coat closet), take a good look at the circular rose window. The design looks like a compass, and the Greek words “*Veritas vos Liberabit*” are part of the design. What’s that all about?

The “compass rose,” first appearing on maps and charts in the 1300’s, was used to indicate the directions of the winds. What you’re looking at in our window is the Compass Rose that identifies those who belong to the worldwide Anglican Communion. It was designed in 1954 by the late Canon Edward West of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York for the Second International Anglican Congress in Minneapolis. It was modernized in 1988, and the new design was laid into the floor of Canterbury Cathedral in England. It was dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, at the final Eucharist of the Lambeth Conference. A similar Compass Rose was dedicated in our own National Cathedral in Washington, DC, in 1990 to encourage worldwide use. Our window at Grace Church was made by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia and dedicated October 22, 2000.



At the center of the design is the Cross of St George, a reminder of the origins of the Anglican Communion, and a link unifying the past to the Communion today. Encircling the cross is a band bearing Jesus’ words, “The Truth will set you free” (John 8:32). It’s written in the original New Testament Greek, the traditional language of scholarship within the Anglican Communion. From the band radiate the points of the compass. The compass symbolizes the worldwide spread of the Anglican Church. At the top of the shield, at the North, is a mitre, the symbol of the episcopacy and apostolic order at the heart of all churches that are part of the Anglican Communion.

“The truth will set you free” is a common saying in academia, and many universities use this as their motto for obvious reasons. But Jesus’ statement has nothing to do with classroom learning. In fact, he speaks of a higher form of knowledge than what can be learned in a classroom.

Jesus had just finished a speech at the temple where he outlined differences between himself and his listeners. “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins” (John 8:23–24). The result of Jesus’ message was that “even as he spoke, many believed in him.” “Then Jesus begins to speak just to those who had believed. He said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples’” (John 8:31). True discipleship is more than intellectual agreement; those who are “really” followers of Christ will “hold to” his Word. They will not only accept his teachings as truth, but they will also obey his teachings.

Verse 32 begins with, “Then you will know the truth.” “You” refers to those who are true disciples of Jesus. The truth Jesus’ disciples receive brings with it freedom. Jesus continues, “And the truth will set you free.” At that point in history, the Jews were under the rule of the Roman government. Even though Rome gave them a lot of autonomy, they were very aware of the Roman presence around them in the form of soldiers, governors and appointed kings. When Jesus said the truth would set them free, however, he was not talking about political freedom (though the following

verses indicate that's how the Jews took it). Jesus provides the best commentary for His own statement in verse 34. Jesus explains, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." Being a slave to sin is the ultimate bondage.

The freedom Jesus offers is a spiritual freedom from the bondage of sin. He continues with an analogy: "Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever." The people would have probably understood Jesus to mean that they were not members of God's family, despite their being descendants of Abraham, because they were slaves to sin. If they were to become disciples of Jesus, they would know the truth of their condition and the truth about Christ, and Jesus would set them free. Believers would be freed from their bondage and brought into the family of God.

June Huber

Evangelism

Think back to your first day in a new church, whether it was Grace or somewhere else. What was it like for you to enter into a place where everyone seemed to know everyone else and you were the odd man out? What was it like wondering if you were sitting in someone's favorite pew and didn't know it? When you passed the peace, how did it feel? Do you think they really meant it when they clasped your hand and said, "The peace of the Lord"? Did you go back? What happened that caused you to return? Or if you didn't go back, what didn't happen that caused you to keep looking?



Every new person that enters Grace Church has exactly those feelings. Are you one of the people that reaches out to new people to make them welcome? Do you invite them to coffee hour? Do you find out their names and make sure the clergy or the Vestry greeter knows they are new? Do you talk to them or their children? If you do any of those things, evangelism is what you are doing and the Evangelism Committee would like to encourage you. No one knows more than you how wonderfully warm our formal worship service can be. Do you hand a prayer book or hymnal to someone who seems a little lost? Don't be afraid to reach out. You are the one on the inside. Welcome them in. After all, it is their house of prayer as well as ours and we rejoice to share it with whoever walks through the door. So reach out and rejoice.

Lorna Worley

Grace Episcopal School

Springtime is here, and the School's annual campaign for the Scholarship/Financial Aid program is underway. The Spring Performance to Benefit Financial Aid is one of the most significant sources of revenue for the financial aid funds our school makes available to qualified students. Grace Episcopal School's financial aid program enables us to enroll a highly qualified, motivated, and socio-economically diverse student body regardless of family financial resources. All need-based financial aid is determined by the School and Student Services for Financial Aid (SSS) of Princeton, New Jersey. On average, GES awards financial aid to 10% to 15% of our students. The awards range from 5% to 90% of the total tuition. Requests for financial aid more than doubled for the 2015-2016 school year. Last year, parishioners were very generous with their donations—we hope we can count on you again this year!

Information about ways to support this campaign should have arrived to you by mail recently. However, if we missed you, simply send donations to the school office with the notation in the memo line, "Spring Program/Financial Aid" (checks payable to Grace Episcopal School). We are also selling raffle tickets for the Grand Prize of \$1000 in cash. You could be the lucky winner, and again, all proceeds from the raffle sale go directly to the financial aid program. If you have any questions about making a gift, please contact our Development Director, Laura Fortsch, at 703-549-5067.

I invite all parishioners to the Grandparents and Special Friends Tea on Friday, May 15 in the new narthex directly after the school chapel service at 9:00 am. The Spring Performance takes place after the tea in the Auditorium at 10:30 am. I hope to see you at all of these events!

The School is still accepting applications for our Preschool Program (must be age 3 by August 31), as well as certain grades for the 2015-2016 school year. For details, please contact Benita Cathey at the Admissions Office at 703-549-5067 or visit www.graceschoolalex.org.

Chris Stegmaier Byrnes
Head of School

PYM 8th Grade Shrine Mont Weekend – May 15-17

The Diocese of Virginia is hosting its annual 8th grade retreat weekend at Shrine Mont this May from **Friday, May 15 to Sunday, May 17**. Registration is now open! Registration is \$150 per student and scholarships are available. Anyone looking for a scholarship can contact Mother Elizabeth at family.ministries@gracealex.org. Registration forms can be found on the Diocese of Virginia's Parish Youth Ministries blog: <http://diovayouth.wordpress.com/forms-and-brochures/> and should be passed along to Mother Elizabeth.

We are also looking for adult chaperones to join the group—please contact Mother Elizabeth (family.ministries@gracealex.org) if you are interested.

From the Library

Do you like biographies? The Parish Library has over 100 biographies including books about Terry Waite, Pontius Pilate, Samuel Seabury, Bede, Saint Godric of Finchale and Moses. Here are descriptions of some of them:

Truth Be Told by Lucinda Bassett is a memoir of abuse, anxiety, depression, success, suicide and survival. Her story is “relatable, transforming and inspiring.” Her strength and faith are a lesson to us all (call no. BIO/BAS).

Dunstan, Saint and Statesman by Douglas Dales is the story of St. Dunstan’s reformation of the monasteries in the late 900’s and his 28-year term as the Archbishop of Canterbury. One of the stained glass windows in Grace Church is of St. Dunstan (call no. BIO/DUN).

Queen Margaret of Scotland by Eileen Dunlop tells how a girl who was raised in exile in Europe and who wanted to be a nun became queen of Scotland, the wife of Malcolm III and the mother of three kings. One of her sons was also a saint. St. Margaret is the only female figure on our pulpit in Grace Church (call no. BIO/MAR).

Life of Evelyn Underhill by Margaret Cropper details how Underhill became the first woman to lecture on religion at Oxford University; how she became an Anglican, instead of a Roman Catholic; how she became a spiritual advisor to clergy and lay people and how she led retreats at least four times a year and still managed to write books about mysticism, worship and poetry (call no. BIO/UND).

Fifteen books in the library include the biographies of more than one saint. They are called “collective biographies.” Try *Saints for Dummies* (235.2/TEI), *Heroes of the Faith* (PB/B), *The Oxford Dictionary of Saints* (235/FAR) and *Treasury of Women Saints* (BIO/BC/SAINTS).

We also have fictional biographies such as the story of John Ames, a Congregationalist minister, who writes about his life for his young son. The book is called *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson and it won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 2004 National Book Critics Circle Award. President Obama lists it on his Facebook page as one of his favorite books (call no. FIC/ROB).

Wendy Cummings

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Registration CLOSES May 22

Please be aware that registration for our 2015 Vacation Bible School—*Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid* will close on May 22. VBS will run **Sunday, June 28 (5-7 pm) and Monday to Thursday, June 29-July 2 (9 am to noon)** at Grace Church for 3-year-olds through 5th graders. Our program is capped at 100 campers and could fill up before May 22, so please do register as soon as possible.

The registration fee is \$50 for church and Grace School members, \$60 for non-members and \$10 for youth counselors. Volunteers are also welcome and encouraged to register! If you have any questions about Vacation Bible School, please contact Sarah Schramm at sarah.s.schramm@gmail.com.



Meet Rachel Shows

Rachel Shows, a Middler at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS), will be spending eight weeks with Grace Church this summer (starting Sunday, May 17) as an intern in the Mid-Atlantic Parish Training Program.

Rachel is originally from Montgomery, Alabama, but has called Virginia home for the last six years. While in college at Shenandoah University, she discovered a church home at Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester, which became her sending parish. For the last year and a half, Rachel has enjoyed working toward her Masters of Divinity at VTS. She had the wonderful opportunity to serve as a hospital chaplain last summer at INOVA Mt. Vernon through the Clinical Pastoral Education program. During the school year, her field education parish is Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, but this summer she is looking forward to spending eight weeks with Grace, getting to explore different ministry opportunities.

In her free time, Rachel enjoys reading new fiction books, singing, playing with her cat, running and spending time with her boyfriend and fellow seminarian, James. She is excited to get to meet you!

“Praying in Common”

May 2015 Forums

- May 3 [Common Life: Archiving the History of Grace Church](#)
 - with Frank Waskowicz
 - St. John Room
- [Parent Forum: Teens and Pre-Teens](#)
 - St. Mark Room
- May 10 [Liturgy Moment: Instructed Eucharist](#)
 - Nave
- May 17 [The Anglican Communion - with Mo. Leslie](#)
 - St. John Room
- May 24 NONE - Pentecost Sunday Fellowship
- May 31 [Supporting our Common Life: Planned Giving](#)
 - with the Stewardship Committee
 - St. John Room

From the Parish Register

AT THE VIGIL, Easter Eve, April 4, 2015

Baptisms

- Sarah Calvert
- Lucy Minerva Waskowicz

J2A Confirmations

- Isabella Catherine Giacomo
- Savannah Lynn Hall
- Elizabeth Anne Imphong
- Nikolai V. Karamyshev
- Shannon Marie Kelly
- Paige Foster Medley
- Nathan Theodore Moore
- Connor Matthew Murphy
- Grace Elizabeth Pattarini
- Michael Davis Plunkett
- Sophia Patricia Vassallo
- Lucy Minerva Waskowicz
- Merrin Elizabeth Winkel

Others confirmed

- Sarah Calvert
- Wolfgang Calvert

Received

- Sean Patrick Myers

Reaffirmed

- Nancy J. Rawlings

OTHER THAN AT THE VIGIL

Baptism

- Carter Robert Kuch, son of Justin and Tara Kuch

Confirmation at St Paul's, Alexandria, for Grace Church

- Jared Smith

Marriage

- Joseph Andrew Welsh, Jr. and Kristen R. Brown

Death

- June Ward, wife of Carl Seward

Spring Events for Children, Youth, and Families

Saturday, May 2

- - **6 pm: J2A Pilgrimage Auction**

Sunday, May 3

- - **10:15 am: Parent Forum: Teens and Pre-teens**
- - **5:30 pm – Youth Dinner**

Sunday, May 10

- - **9 am: Instructed Eucharist**

Friday, May 15 – Sunday, May 17

- - **PYM 8th Grade Shrine Mont Trip**

Sunday, June 7

- - **9 am: Youth Sunday**
Graduating Senior Recognition
Sunday School Teacher Recognition
- - **10:15 am: Last day of Sunday School**
- - **Noon: Youth Fellowship – Nats Game**

Holy Week and Easter 2015



May Birthdays

05/01 Emma Meeks	05/18 Cheryl Barnes
05/01 Richard Wilmer	05/18 Gary Carter
05/02 Max Bryan	05/19 Martha Bethea
05/02 Hayden Laboy	05/19 Amanda Chandler
05/04 Mary Blouin	05/19 Jackson Fray
05/04 Claire Schwentke	05/19 Jan Wolff
05/04 Melissa Woodhead	05/20 Mike Barron
05/05 James Burkhalter	05/20 John Berry
05/05 Virginia Chandler	05/21 Camila Alvarenga
05/05 Katie Kilbride	05/21 Frank Carroll
05/05 Jeff Lipsky	05/21 Anna Gabbert
05/05 Andrea Santos	05/22 Alison Campbell
05/06 Emery Morales	05/22 Chip Fowler
05/06 Christian Portillo	05/23 Thomas Crabtree
05/07 Aiden Guernsey	05/23 Amelia Cronin
05/07 Claire Guernsey	05/23 Joe Donovan
05/08 Jared Smith	05/24 Eleanor Cooper
05/08 Ruth Young	05/24 Madelyn Curry
05/09 Vylma Khanna	05/25 Duke Chiow
05/10 Amanda Ruff	05/25 Jeffery Chiow
05/11 Madeleine Doherty	05/25 Ramee Gentry
05/11 Gabriella Lipsky	05/25 Stewart Hall
05/11 Skitsi Rein	05/25 Walter Lukens
05/11 Lee Meeks	05/25 Kevin Martin
05/12 Meghan Groves	05/25 Dan Pattarini
05/12 Reginald Jones	05/26 Nancy Davis
05/12 Meg Whelpley	05/26 Nicholas Pattarini
05/13 Nina Pfeiffer	05/26 Christina Peck
05/13 Cynthia Shen	05/27 Fiona Brown
05/13 Christine Washington	05/27 Raymond Curry
05/14 Ben Locher	05/27 Doug Miller
05/14 Evelyn Ovando	05/28 Daniel Plunkett
05/14 Caleigh Warner	05/28 Michael Reed
05/15 Caroline Jamison	05/28 Ashby Rushing
05/15 Erin Kelly	05/29 William Holland
05/15 Debbie Schultz	05/29 Victoria Portillo
05/16 Halina Banas-Jones	05/29 Noah Yerkes
05/16 Mike Dobbs	05/30 Yolonda Brawley
05/17 Lois Hatch	05/30 Heather Kelly
05/17 Sonia Hernandez	05/31 Earl Durand
05/17 Magnolia Lipsky	05/31 Hudson Palmby



Parish Staff

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

Vestry

Class of 2015

Eric Bonetti	..... Member at Large
Lisa Medley	..... Senior Warden
Mary Ann Ryan	..... Register
Eric Waskowicz	..... Junior Warden
Jan Wolff	..... School Board

Class of 2016

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

Class of 2017

John Boris	..... Pastoral Care
Colby Gustafson	..... Outreach
Kate Madigan	..... Education
Leo Ribeiro	..... TNT
Lorna Worley	..... Evangelism

Alternates

John Metz	.....
Judy Willard	..... Youth

Non-Vestry Program Coordinators

Tracey Enger	..... Outreach
Gary Carter	..... Fellowship
Chad Eckles	..... Worship
Kristine Hesse	..... Communications
Rich Kelly	..... Youth
Cindy MacIntyre	..... Evangelism
Lucy Tschetter	..... TNT