

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

The Grand Miracle

C.S. Lewis calls the Incarnation of Jesus Christ "The Grand Miracle." "Every other miracle prepares for this or exhibits this, or results from this." * The birth of Jesus, the Incarnation, this annual celebration we call Christmas points to the mystery, the grace, the truth that God comes to us through all time and space and becomes one of us, to teach us about love.

We sing about his Grand Miracle in our carols for Christmas. I try not to listen to much Christmas music until the last week before Christmas. Advent is a full four-week season this year since Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. The "second birth" we sing about in "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," reminds us that in celebrating Jesus' birth, we can also celebrate our birth—birth into God's love, God's truth, God's grace, God's light.

Christmas is a season for new birth. The new presents we share are symbols of the new life possible within us. What needs birth in our lives, in our world? How do we participate in this new life, this new birth? What are the pains, the challenges, the responsibilities, the joys of new birth?

At Grace Church, Christmas is a full season, more than 12 days this year since we are celebrating Epiphany on the 6th with our traditional bilingual Eucharist on Sunday, January 8, at 9:00 a.m. The visit of the three "Wise Men" marks the end of the liturgical celebrations for Christmas.

Yet there is no end to God's invitation. God, through Christ, continually calls us to new birth; to live into the Grand Miracle; to see all miracles of birth related to this miracle of birth we celebrate every year.

Our staff wishes you a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year.

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

* C. S. Lewis, *The Grand Miracle: And Other Selected Essays on Theology and Ethics from God in the Dock*

Dec 2016 – Jan 2017

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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
Wednesday, Rite I 7:00 am
Thursday, Rite I..... 12:15 pm

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 January 15 for the February 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, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Teresa Preston, Sarah Schultz and Amy Medrick.

From the Assistant to the Rector

I am always humbled when I think of the many ways that Grace Church has blessed the community that surrounds it and blessed lives around the world. Thank you to all who supported the Thanksgiving Basket Drive. You have touched hundreds of lives with your generosity and love.

This Christmas, Mission and Outreach is trying a new venture by giving through the City of Alexandria, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). DHHS has the names of hundreds of families in economic crisis this Christmas season. They put out a plea for churches and businesses to “adopt” families to buy presents for this Christmas. We will be receiving names, ages and requests from children and adults for three neighbor families. We will put up a Christmas tree with “angels” on it: paper tags with an age and gift request written on each. I hope you and your family will take an angel or two and shop for the gift, wrap it up in pretty paper, and place it under the tree. We will deliver the presents after December 18, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

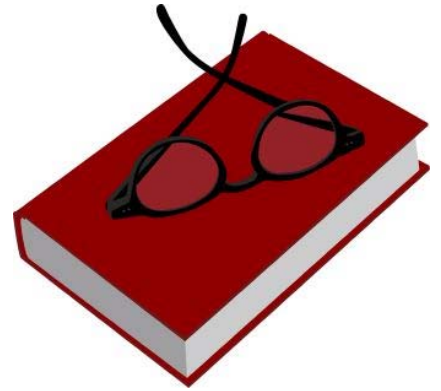
In the first two weeks of Advent, I will be on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I will be visiting the site of our Lord’s birth in Bethlehem. As I travel, I will be thinking of those events long ago and what it means to our community at Grace Church. These two places are linked over space and time by the power of the Gospel. Our lives are touched by the witness of the millions of Christians who have come before us—how the incarnation has transformed a season of darkness into one of light and hope.

I pray this season is once again filled with light and hope. There has been so much darkness this past year—but the darkness has not and shall not overcome the light. In this time of fear and nervousness, let the image of that manger in a cave and a vulnerable little baby give you strength and peace. For God so loved the world...

Peace,
The Rev. Leslie Steffensen

From the library

I am writing this as the newest member of the parish library team. I love to read. I read just about anything—history, biographies, novels, and mysteries. Wherever I go, I bring a book with me just in case I have a few spare minutes. For the past several years, I also have been listening to recorded books, first on tape and more recently on DVD. I have more books than I can count at home and I am a regular public library patron.



One significant gap in my reading, however, has been religion and theology.

When Wendy Cummings asked me to assume her duties in the parish library, I came face to face with the fact that I had been missing out on a wealth of really interesting subjects. I knew, of course, that the parish had a library, but I had never really looked closely at the book collection itself. I quickly discovered that about half the collection consists of weighty reference material for the serious theological student and for the clergy, not necessarily for me. However, I found that over half of the material is quite readable for me and therefore for the general parish. We have books about the Episcopal Church and the wider church. Our collection includes the histories of Christianity and biographies of the Saints. We have comparative religion books, too. If you have ever wanted to know more about Judaism or Islam, for example, we have the books you need. We cover a wide range of topics—angels, Christian education, stewardship, and worship. Want something else? We have religious novels and medieval mysteries. The library shelves also contain a number of human psychology and self-help books covering such topics as caregiving, death, grief, parenting and counseling. We also have a growing selection of DVDs of classic and modern movies and lecture series as well.

We add to our collection every year to keep current with popular or otherwise important books that may interest parish members. In this regard, I would welcome your suggestions if there are particular topics or specific books you would like to see in our collection. We are also fortunate to receive donations of used books from parishioners who want to share their reading experiences with the rest of us.

I plan to broaden my reading in 2017 to include as many of these materials as I can. I urge you all to browse the shelves. The library is centrally located, checkout is easy and the time you can keep a book is flexible (no late fees or fines). If you like to read, the library probably has something for you.

-Jay O'Malley

A Different Approach to Advent

By the time you receive this newsletter, the “holiday season” will be in full swing. Virtually every retail establishment will display some version of holiday decoration. Many of them will advertise **CHRISTMAS SALE/25% OFF!** or something of the sort. Christmas music will be on the radio, non-stop on a few stations. The mad rush will have begun to purchase and wrap Christmas gifts and send them by mail to far-away loved ones; to select, write and mail Christmas cards; to make plans for traveling to visit family; to decide just whom to invite to Christmas dinner... you can fill in the rest. I get exhausted just writing about it.

By the way, Advent has just started (on November 27, in case you missed it). For many of us, Advent seems to get pushed to the side by the worldliness of the holiday season. If we would like it to be different this year, there’s time to try a different approach to Advent. It doesn’t require us to stop doing all the other things—although slowing down, reducing “to-do lists,” and taking the occasional deep breath would benefit us all. Instead, it suggests that we change our focus a little.

The word “advent” is from the Latin for “coming,” and it refers to the coming of the Christ child. Advent is a time of preparation—not for the holiday spectacle, but for the almost-incredible appearance of God on earth, in human form. Advent is a time of watching, waiting, anticipating. If we want to participate in this more fully, there are several ways we might do it, as individuals or with our family members.

- We can wait to “start Christmas.” When do we normally set up our Christmas tree and decorations? Do we set them up during Advent, or wait until Christmas? We might consider delaying the Christmas decorations until the end of Advent. We are often so quick to rush from season to season that we miss the blessings of the actual moment we are in.
- We can worship often. We can make a special effort to be present each Sunday during Advent. When there are additional worship services (such as Advent Lessons and Carols), we might try to attend so that we can worship in different ways. We might even stretch so far as to add one of the “dailies” to our schedule during Advent. (Warning, this can be addictive.)
- We can say an Advent prayer every day. This can replace our usual grace-at-mealtime, be included in nightly prayer, or be said at another chosen time. The Advent Collects in our *Book of Common Prayer* (pp. 159-160 or pp. 211-212) are one possibility.
- Another option for us is to read different parts of the Advent and Christmas stories, and different versions in different chapters of our Bible. Or we can check out a book about Advent from our church library. I found *Advent: The Days Before Christmas*, by Paul Lindberg and *Advent—Worship and Activities for Families*, by Margaret Huffman.
- We can make an Advent wreath for our home. There should be four candles on the wreath, each representing one week of Advent. We should place it in a visible spot where the family gathers. Light it during evening prayer or at meal times. Light one candle the first week, two the second week, etc.

Continued on Page 5

- We can listen to sacred music. Pick up some CDs or download Advent music and play it on the way to work or school, or during the drive home, or during dinner. If we like to sing, we can ask our Music Director if we might join the choir during Advent.
- Can we consider confession? We might read Reconciliation of a Penitent, (BCP pp. 447-452). It's not as scary as we thought? We can give it a try when it is offered during Advent. It's a wonderful way to feel "clean clear through" in preparation for Christmas.
- We can think less about ourselves and more about the others around us. The holidays are a hungry and/or lonely time for a lot of people. Are there people in our neighborhood, church, or other parts of our lives that don't have family around to celebrate with? We can reach out and see if they want to join our family dinner. We can offer to visit nursing homes or shut-ins during Advent, or volunteer to deliver Meals-on-Wheels, or make sandwiches for the Brown Bag Lunch Program. We can become someone's "secret Santa."

These are just a few suggestions. If we plan to try one, start with good enthusiasm, and then neglect (or forget) to follow through, we should be kind to ourselves. We're not perfect. Our plans and good intentions sometimes give way to the reality of schedules and obligations. Fear not! Christ comes to us, whether we prepare for Him or we don't.

June Huber

A Thanksgiving Miracle!

Thank you to the generous families of Grace Church who played a part in the Thanksgiving Miracle. This year, after my plea for donations, we brought in 68 Thanksgiving baskets and blessed hundreds of people in the community with food and gift cards. **Our in-gathering was worth nearly \$9,000.** Thank you especially to all who came and helped organize and distribute the baskets to our neighbors. Rosy Ortiz, Sally Schneider, and Rich Kelly did a beautiful job ensuring that all who came through our doors with food to give, and those who came to receive, were warmly welcomed. A big thank-you, too, to Helen Ortiz and her grandfather, Mario Ortiz, who helped with every aspect of the day. There were various angels who stopped by to help—you know who you are! May God continue to bless us and continue to make us a blessing upon our corner of the world!

*Peace,
Mother Leslie*



Music



You are invited to join us for Advent Lessons and Carols on December 4 at 5:00 p.m. Highlights include two movements from Handel's *Messiah* and the ever popular, "E'en so Lord Jesus," by Paul Manz. The composer wrote this intensely moving piece in 1953, at a time when his three-year-old son was critically ill. Of all the pieces the choir will sing during the service, Manz's text from Revelation encapsulates the whole Advent journey from darkness into light. Works by Elgar, Stanford, and "The Midnight Cry," from *The Southern Harmony* fill out the rest of the service. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated immediately following the closing voluntary.

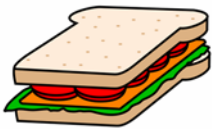
The holidays are always rich with music and we are blessed to have hard-working choirs to offer the music to the greater glory of God. Aside from the various services with special music and instrumentalists on Christmas Eve, we will have music for strings, choir, and organ on the Feast of Candlemas, January 29 at 11:15 a.m.

Have you contributed to the Music Fund recently? The various instrumentalists at Christmas and other feast days are funded solely by the Music Fund, which is not part of the church's operating budget. If all Grace Church members contributed only \$5 a month, we would be able to start a concert series in addition to providing first-rate music during the holidays. My goal is for at least 150 people to give in 2017. Will you be one of those people? Please write Music Fund in the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate on Sundays. It is also possible to set up a recurring contribution online. For more information, email me at richard.newman@gracealex.org.



--Richard Newman

A Primer: How to make Brown Bag Sandwiches

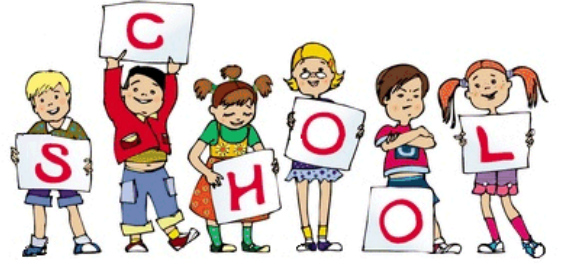


There was a little confusion in October as to how these sandwiches are made and packed. Please only use turkey or chicken and whole wheat bread. Each sandwich should have three slices of meat and two slices of cheese and should be individually placed in plastic bags—either envelope or zip-lock style, not those with ties. The larger bread bags nicely hold 10 wrapped sandwiches.

Our next Brown Bag Lunch week is December 12–16. This is a difficult week for everybody, but food needs don't take a holiday. There is a sign-up sheet on the Outreach bulletin board for both servers and sandwich makers. If you would rather, you can e-mail linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org. Either way, your help is received with gratitude.

-Linda Waskowicz

Grace Episcopal ...



Thanks to so many parishioners and school board members who attended our Boot Scootin' Boogie Gala! The event was a great success, and all proceeds from this year's event will support field trips, cultural programs and assemblies, and technology.

Grace School is launching its new admissions cycle for the 2017-2018 school year. We all know that our best referrals come from school and church families! Please tell your friends about Grace Episcopal School, where every child is "filled with Grace" and is nurtured to reach their full potential. For more information, please contact our Director of Admissions, Mrs. Benita Cathey, at admissions@graceschoolalex.org.

Like the church, the Grace School mission embraces our service to others, and we can live the words of St. Francis: "For it is in giving that we receive." We are proud of our third grade for holding a shoe drive for those in need. The entire school collected food items to build "Tom the Turkey" to support the Grace Church Food Pantry before the Thanksgiving holiday. In December and January, a "Mitten Tree" will allow our students the ability to give warm gloves and mittens to those who need them in these cold months.

Working in partnership, we can be proud of the outreach we accomplish. Grace School wishes all the Grace parishioners a very blessed Advent Season.

*Patti Culbreth
Head of School*

Grace at the ☒



Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the St. Mark Room

Come and join a group of parishioners in watching, and then discussing, the film *Love and Mercy*, based on the compelling memoir by Brian Williams, the genius behind the Beach Boys' music.

We will gather at 6:00 p.m. for a film showing beginning at 6:30 p.m. sharp. On this first occasion, Elisabeth Graham will help lead the discussion. Please bring a brown-bag lunch that can be eaten without making crunching noises and whatever you like to drink. Elisabeth and John Graham will provide some fruit, hard cheese, and crackers for the post-movie discussion.

If you intend to come, *please let Elisabeth know by January 2, 2017*, as the room will need to be set up in advance: elisabeth.graham@gracealex.org.

-Elisabeth Graham



United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Our own Grace parishioner, Char Rusnak, has been selected by Presiding Bishop Curry to be one of twenty Episcopal delegates to the UN Commission on the Status of Women from March 13-24, 2017. This year the Priority Theme is Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work. The Episcopal Church will focus on initiatives to: 1) increase access to education for women and girls; 2) support gender equality by working against gender-based violence and supporting socioeconomic benefits such as equal pay, childcare, maternity leave, and women in senior leadership, and; 3) program and finance projects supporting marginalized personnel including migrants, refugees, minorities and those with disabilities.

The Episcopal Church has non-voting delegates, so Char and the other delegates will be advocating the official Church position on these issues to the voting representatives of the member states and identifying ways the Episcopal Church (and Grace, Region IV, and the Diocese of Virginia) can support these goals. Since the delegation selections were recently announced, Char is just starting to learn about these positions and her role on the delegation. By the time she speaks at the Forum on February 5, she will have a little more to tell you. She is eager to hear your thoughts about how Grace may be able to support these initiatives. You can contact her at Char.Rusnak@gracealex.org.

Attendance at the UN meeting is just part of her obligations; she is also responsible for communicating about the Commission and helping to support the priorities upon her return. Char is excited about the opportunity to help empower women and if you'd like to help support her and the UN efforts, she is holding fundraisers to cover program costs and travel expenses. Activities planned include a Happy Hour at Fiona's in Kingstowne, on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, from 5-8 p.m.; Paint it Forward on January 11, 2017, at Wine and Design on Belle View Blvd.; a dinner at Hard Times Cafe (TBD); and Char has started a "Go Fund Me" site.

- ❖ UN Women Website - www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw61-2017
- ❖ National Episcopal Delegation Announcement - www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/provincial-and-episcopal-delegates-named-march-2017-united-nations-commission-status
- ❖ Paint it Forward - (Password is Fundraiser) www.wineanddesign.com/calendars/event.php?id=46297
- ❖ Go Fund Me - www.gofundme.com/2yz1vbg?pc=sms_sf_co2876_v1

Dear Grace Parishioners,

It is with a grateful heart that I thank Judy Willard and the Grace Outreach Committee for their generous \$2,000 donation toward Hurricane Matthew Relief in Haiti. The worst hit areas were in the southern "claw" and the breadbasket of Haiti. Virtually all buildings were leveled and those concrete buildings that still stand are being used as shelters, along with caves in the area. The agricultural economy has been decimated. Over 13,000 women are scheduled to give birth in the next 90 days. For much of the mountain areas, some people have still not been rescued or located.

Haiti Micah Project (HMP) is located in central Haiti. The children and staff are well, but the winds and rain destroyed our meager kitchen. In one month, HMP raised nearly \$46,000. Half of all donations will be given to Episcopal leaders in the southwestern area to distribute directly to the people. The other half of the donations will be used to build a new kitchen next to the vocational training center property and pay for the increase in food costs.

Hurricane Matthew has once again set back recovery for Haiti, which is still suffering from the effects of the 2010 earthquake. The country is beset with political instability, an inflated currency, and earlier food shortages from a drought. The hurricane has compounded the food shortage, since the planting season is in November and seeds and tools have been ruined.

Currently the cost of salt has tripled because the manufacturing plant was destroyed by the hurricane. The costs of other food are sure to follow. Mirebalais is seeing Haitians coming to the Central Plateau, where HMP is located, and if history repeats itself, they do not return to their former homes.

I have been asked by many: How can God allow such repeated devastation? Where is God for Haiti? As people of faith, we recognize the Spirit of Christ working through His people. Few can work directly with those needing life-saving support, but we can work to keep our hearts open and make our own contribution of prayers, monitoring the news, and financial contributions.

Thank you again for your continued response to the plight of the Haitian people.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Joseph Constant

Observe "Advent in Reverse!" AND help the Food Pantry

We're all familiar with Advent Calendars. Who doesn't like to count DOWN the days until Christmas by opening each day's flap to reveal a picture that helps us get ready for the birth of Baby Jesus.

Well, here's a fun way to count UP the days until Christmas and help those in need: "Advent in Reverse!" On Sunday, November 27, during the Advent Intergenerational Event, Food Pantry tote bags will be handed out so you can put an item IN the bag for each day of Advent. Don't need another tote bag? Well, you can still participate in "Advent in Reverse!" by filling your own bags with needed items.

If you were traveling for Thanksgiving and missed getting a tote bag on the 27th, don't worry, we have more!

Contact Jenni Faires (jenni.faires@gracealex.org) or Judy Willard (judy.willard@gracealex.org) and you, too, can count UP the days until Christmas and keep the pantry shelves stocked. During the Christmas season, bring your filled tote bags to the Food Pantry and we'll add the items to our Bonus Shelves for distribution.



The Food Pantry Bonus Shelves give our clients something extra to supplement the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB)/USDA food in the bags we hand out. Since the CAFB doesn't supply non-food items, our pantry Bonus Shelves offer much-appreciated supplies for house, home and hygiene.

Remember, just like your home pantry, the Grace Church Food Pantry needs to be re-stocked regularly.

Items that are especially appreciated are:

- Diapers (all sizes up to pull-ups) and other kid-related items (baby powder, lotion, shampoo, etc.)
- Toiletries (shampoo, soap, lotions, toothbrushes—adult and child—and other dental care items, etc.)
- Cleaning supplies (liquid dish soap, sponges, laundry detergent, etc.)
- Non-perishable foods (dried beans, rice, cooking oil, corn meal, canned meats and fish, cereal, oatmeal, jams and jellies, etc.)

Thank you for participating in "Advent in Reverse!" Your contributions help those in need in our Alexandria Community.

-Judy Willard

Christ commanded His followers to go and make disciples of all the world. The mission of our evangelism program is “to encourage Grace Church members to share their faith in Christ with those who do not know Him, and to welcome those who turn to Grace Church hoping to find Him in our midst.”



In furtherance of this mission, we ask that at coffee hour you wear your name tag. It will help newcomers to make a connection. The name tags are housed in a rack in the hallway outside of The Merrow Hall Auditorium and in the refreshment closet in the commons area. If you need a name tag, please let us know and we will get you one.

*Feeling welcoming,
Lorna Worley and Cindy MacIntyre*

December 4 Parent Forum*: Tech Savvy Parenting

Billy Faires, Director of Communication at Episcopal High School, will be our speaker, leading us through the minefield of social media with our children. From internet safety to common pitfalls we make as parents when crafting family policies for technology use, Billy will help guide us through the process of raising awareness and taking a cautious, yet common sense approach to parenting in the digital age.

*Parent Forums are held in the St. Mark Room (2nd floor by the elevator).

From the Parish Register

Baptisms

November 6: Reagan Ann Cline, daughter of Jennifer Wolff Cline and Nathan Earl Cline, sister of Alex Cline, granddaughter of Otto and Jan Wolff

November 20: Amber Sofia Lopez, daughter of Yesica and Rusbin Lopez, sister of Emily Lopez, granddaughter of Francisca Guevara, cousin of Stephanie and Melanie Farciert, niece of Glenda and Fernando Farciert, and Jose Guevara and Scott Sibley.

Announcements

Christmas Baskets

As in past years, at Christmastide, baskets will be at the front of the nave to receive gifts of unwrapped school and craft supplies for needy children of Alexandria. Donations will be taken through Epiphany, January 6. All gifts will be given to the International Academy at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria.

Hypothermia Shelter 2017

The Church of St. Clement of Alexandria is once again joining with the Carpenter's Shelter to ensure that the homeless among us are safe this winter. This year, Grace Church will only be responsible for three nights of hosting the Hypothermia Shelter. Those nights will be 1/16, 2/6, and 2/27. We need four hosts each night: two hosts in the evening and two for the overnight shift. Please contact Scott Knudsen (sknudsen@earthlink.com) or Mother Steffensen (assistant.rector@gracealex.org) to volunteer.

Mark your Calendars: Chili Bowl 2017 is Sunday January 29, at 6:00 p.m.!

Get your team together to decorate a booth and to make your BEST chili recipe! Winners get a golden spoon and bragging rights for a year. Contact Mother Steffensen to sign up (assistant.rector@gracealex.org)

Adult Forums

December 4	Book of Common Prayer Forum Series: Week 2
December 11	Book of Common Prayer Forum Series: Week 3
December 18	Book of Common Prayer Forum Series: Week 4
January 8	Festive Reception and Fellowship Sunday with the Three Kings Merrow Hall Auditorium
January 15	Budget Presentation in Merrow Hall Auditorium
January 22	Annual Parish Meeting in Merrow Hall Auditorium following the 10 a.m. worship service (children's activities and nursery provided)
January 29	EYC Mission Report



Adult Forums are held in the St. John Room (3rd floor by Merrow Hall Auditorium) unless otherwise noted.

Thank You to Tom Turkey from the Food Pantry

The volunteers and clients of the Grace Church Food Pantry send a warm "Thank You!" to all our friends at Grace Episcopal School who gathered lots of much needed non-perishable food items for the pantry. From cereal to soups to PB&J, Tom Turkey and his GES pals have made sure our Bonus Shelves will be stocked during this busy season for the Food Pantry. We appreciate each and every donation. We wish you all a joyous Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Judy Willard
Vestry Coordinator, Mission & Outreach





Children's Activities in Advent and Beyond

Advent is a special time for children. The excitement builds each day as a new window is opened on the Advent calendar. Class parties and family gatherings pick up in frequency and the anticipation of Christmas morning is one of the great joys of childhood. In all the busyness of the season, however, it is easy for families to lose focus. Our lives become a blur and the baby in the manger, whose birth we celebrate and whose life changed the world, becomes an ornament we hang on the tree or figurine in the creche that sits on the mantle. In order for us to keep this

Advent season holy, Grace is offering new programming and timeless traditions for your family to find Christ in Christmas. I hope you will enjoy the worship opportunities and the fun activities as we follow the star to where the newborn babe lay. Merry Christmas!

- **Beginning November 27, we expanded Children's Chapel to the 11:15 a.m. service, and in both Children's chapel services, we welcome children up to 8 years old to attend.** If you are a late-rising family or would simply prefer the 11:15 a.m. service, Children's Chapel will now be available for your children. Drop off begins at 11:00 a.m. and children will be returning to the service at the Peace.
- **On Sunday, December 4, during both morning worship services, our children will receive a special visit from St. Nicholas.** This is a wonderful way to introduce children to the origins of Santa Claus and receive a special treat.
- **Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m. is the annual presentation of the Christmas pageant, featuring the children and youth of this parish.** Come and enjoy this Christmas tradition at Grace. It will certainly fill the nave with the sounds of Christmas!
- **The last day of Sunday School for the year is December 18.**
- **We are adding a 3 p.m. service to our Christmas Eve schedule.** The service is still in the works, but the focus will be on younger children and their families, so that they may begin their Christmas Eve festivities a little earlier!
- **This year December 25 falls on a Sunday.** Join us for Holy Eucharist at noon to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.
- **Sunday School resumes January 15.**

-Jenni Faires



Parker Green	12/04	Priscilla Hanley	12/22	Kylie Payne	01/14
Kevin Plunkett	12/04	Constance Troyer	12/23	Dorothee Arnold	01/15
Clara Shriner	12/04	Eva Lorentz	12/26	Luis Odria	01/15
Nicholas Shriner	12/04	George Winstead	12/27	Aubrielyn Reeder	01/15
Mary Walsh	12/04	Matthew Tschetter	12/28	Peter Spencer	01/15
Jennifer Henel	12/05	Norma Alvarenga	12/29	Harper Dubsy	01/16
Cameron Sweet	12/06	Stanley Borgia	12/29	Rose Hall	01/16
Harrison Moore	12/07	Linda Durand	12/29	Caroline Legere	01/17
Valerie Eudy	12/08	Brett Medley	12/29	Cathy David	01/18
Thomas Montgomery	12/09	Steven Nider	12/29	Jeannette Ovando	01/19
Kirk Schultz	12/09	Gabriella Everett	12/30	Tom Donelson	01/21
Juliet Carr	12/11	Barbara Ramm	12/31	Dorothy Daniel	01/22
Alexander Everett	12/11	Judy Miller	01/01	Bill Eckel	01/22
Lindsay Howard	12/11	Edward Burkhalter	01/02	Chris Kupczyk	01/22
Isabella Giacomo	12/13	Mira Chiow	01/02	Katherine Peck	01/22
Lucio Ovando	12/13	Jane Joyner	01/02	Teresa Scalzo	01/22
Mike Stancil	12/14	Chris Corlett	01/03	Alison Smith	01/22
Mary Carol Tazewell	12/14	Yasuhiko Kamakura	01/03	Nat Ames	01/23
Lucy Waskowicz	12/14	Dina Salamanca	01/03	Suzanne O'Malley	01/23
Peter Eckel	12/15	Bryce Fleming	01/04	Brennen Ruff	01/24
Eric Traynham	12/15	Deborah Klaus	01/04	Charles Winstead	01/24
Greg Whitlow	12/15	Dorothy Bakke	01/05	Lizzie Goodnow	01/25
John Sweeney	12/16	Carter Kuch	01/06	Michelle Searcy	01/25
Mary Fox	12/17	Colby Gustafson	01/07	Tania Shand	01/26
Mary Lewis Hix	12/17	Karen Hoppe	01/07	Samantha Shterengarts	01/26
Nasya Khanna	12/17	Emily Smith	01/07	Robert Carpenter	01/27
Charles Saphos	12/17	Sydney Toler	01/07	Kathryn Pattarini	01/27
Sophie van der Sluis	12/17	Wyman Howard	01/08	Nicholas Gentry	01/28
Luke Carle	12/18	Kristie Pichler	01/09	Nora Gentry	01/28
David Dellefield	12/18	Sawyer Morales	01/10	Lucy Medley	01/28
Clay Everett	12/18	Sara Waskowicz	01/10	Mark Stanley	01/28
Moira Henel	12/19	Matthew Wszalek	01/11	Allison Knippen	01/29
Mac Rein Jr	12/19	Suzanne Lawton	01/12	Henry Tazewell	01/30
Diane Berry	12/20	Margaret Smith	01/13	Anne Boris	01/31
Pat Edelin	12/20	Nancy Velasquez	01/13	Carys Henel	01/31
Graham Murchison	12/20	Anne Caputo	01/14		
Holly Henderson	12/21	Suzy McQuilkin	01/14		
Wendy Wilmer	12/21	Betty Mills	01/14		

Christmas Flower Donations!



Please **print** your name here:

It's time for Christmas Flower and Greens donations. The Altar Guild invites you to help make Grace Church beautiful with seasonal decoration. If you wish to contribute to the Christmas decoration fund, please fill out the form below and enclose a donation of \$40. These forms may be dropped in the Sunday offering or sent directly to the church office. Please note 'Christmas Flowers' on the check memo line. **If you wish to have your offering listed in the Christmastide Booklet, the office must receive this form and payment by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 9.** Question? Contact Lisa Doelp, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 703-239-1302 or lisa.doelp@gracealex.org.

Please circle one of the choices below and **print** the remainder of the message exactly the way you would like it to appear in the Christmastide booklet:

"In loving memory of" or "In thanksgiving for"

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

CHRISTMAS AT GRACE CHURCH 2016

Christmas Pageant, December 11

5:00 P.M. ..Children's Christmas Pageant
followed by a pizza party and cookies in Merrow Hall Auditorium
Pageant participants arrive at 4:00 P.M.; youth with speaking parts at 2:30 P.M.

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 P.M. ..The Holy Eucharist with Carols
Prelude begins at 2:45 p.m.

5:00 P.M. ...Festival Eucharist with procession to the crèche
Prelude begins at 4:40 p.m.

The Nursery will be available at 4:40 P.M. for children 2 years and under. Children's Chapel will also start at 4:40 P.M. for those 3 years through kindergarten.

7:30 P.M. ..Festival Eucharist with Carols (Prelude at 7:15 PM)

10:30 P.M. .Choral Prelude

11:00 P.M....Midnight Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord



Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 A.M. ...La Santa Eucaristía (in Auditorium)

12:00 P.M. .Festival Eucharist with Carols

There is no Child Care or Children's Chapel Christmas Day

The Holy Name of Jesus, January 1

10:00 A.M...Holy Eucharist

12:00 P.M. ...Festival Eucharist with Choir

The Epiphany of Christ, January 6

12:15 P.M....Holy Eucharist with hymns

The Baptism of Christ, January 8

Fellowship Sunday: No classes

7:30 A.M. ..Holy Eucharist

9:00 A.M. ...Bilingual Celebration of the Three Kings

11:15 A.M. ...Festival Eucharist

5:00 P.M. ...Holy Eucharist



Grace Church is:
 A center for worship and
 fellowship
 A school for discipleship
 and stewardship
 A community for healing
 and outreach



Parish Staff

Robert Malm.....Rector
 (rector@gracealex.org)
 Leslie Steffensen Assistant to the Rector
 (assistant.rector@gracealex.org)
 Jenni Faires...Assistant for Parish Life and
 Family Ministries
 (family.ministries@gracealex.org)
 Richard Newman..... Director of Music
 (music.director@gracealex.org)
 Amy Medrick.....Parish Administrator
 (parish.administrator@gracealex.org)
 Beth Calaman.....Financial Administrator
 (bookkeeper@gracealex.org)
 Patti Culbreth..... Head of School
 (pculbreth@graceschoolalex.org)
 Ruth Young Children’s Chapel Coordinator
 (ruth.young@gracealex.org)
 Pedro Hernandez Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2016

Jeffrey ChiowJunior Warden
 Lina Dobbs Communications/La Gracia
 Bill Eckel..... Senior Warden
 Bill Malone..... Register
 Easter Thompson Worship

Class of 2017

John Boris..... Treasurer
 Kelly Gable..... Education
 Jennifer Long.....School Board
 Judy Willard.....Outreach/Mission
 Lorna Worley... Evangelism, Member-at-Large

Class of 2018

Rich Kelly..... Fellowship
 Chris Rugaber.....Stewardship
 Jan Wolff..... School Board

Non-Vestry Coordinators

Anne Caputo.....Pastoral Care
 Tracy EngerOutreach
 Kristine Hesse..... Communications
 Cindy MacIntyre..... Evangelism
 Lucy Tschetter TNT