

Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

November 2011

Rector's Reflections

Time Change

Time changes in November. We change our clocks, falling back an hour on November 6 to end "Daylight Saving Time." The days continue to get shorter.

Time changes as we celebrate All Saints' Sunday on the first Sunday in November (also the 6th). We remember and give thanks for all the saints, known and unknown. Through the timelessness of the Holy Eucharist, we live in communion with people of faith from "*ages past*."

Each month at our Tuesday night Requiem, we remember all the "souls" who are the "saints" known to us on the anniversary of their deaths. This includes family members, parishioners and friends. We also remember the "saints" who have died recently in the armed forces serving our nation. All Souls' Day (2nd) and Veterans' Day (11th) remind us that in physical death "*life is changed, not ended...*" Time does change as we recognize God's eternal Kingdom.

It is the Kingdom we celebrate on Christ the King Sunday (20th). We proclaim that we are "citizens" of Christ's Kingdom through our baptism and life in the Church. Faithful stewards and devoted disciples make the most of the time given to help build God's Kingdom of justice, forgiveness, peace and love on this earth.

Thanksgiving Day (24th) is a time to give thanks for all God gives us. Time changes as we remember the past – for our nation, for ourselves. Time changes relationships, family, and even the membership of Grace Church. Our choral, festival Eucharist at 10:00 am on Thanksgiving Day is a kind of homecoming, celebrating the changing times, the changing lives we have experienced.

November ends with the beginning of the new liturgical year on Advent Sunday (27th). It's time again to prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. Preparation is such a natural discipline, yet always invites challenge and change.

Perhaps the wonderful hymn, "*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come...*" (#680) could be our meditation for this month of November. Time is like "*an ever rolling stream*." God is "*our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home...*"

Grace, peace and love,
—The Rev. Robert H. Malm, Rector

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1.....7:30 am
Child Care8:45 am–12:45 pm
La Santa Eucaristía9:00 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 29:00 am
Christian Ed classes 10:15 am
Choral Eucharist Rite 1 11:15 am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 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 15th of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is November 15th for the December/January 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, Heather Hurley, Lee Meeks, Sarah Schultz and Beth Wiggers.

From the Associate Rector

A Different Kind of Stewardship

We've talked a lot about stewardship lately, and it is right and meet that we should do so, as the Church needs all Christians to take their responsibility for supporting the Church, and its mission, seriously. After all, we (you and I) are the Church, and the length of our outreach, the manner in which we maintain and care for our places of worship, our ability to grow and respond to the needs of the poor, widow, orphan and stranger in the land, is directly related with how well we provide for that mission.

There is another kind of stewardship, which while getting more support in recent years, still remains underappreciated, and that is our stewardship of creation. Here at Grace Church we have made significant advances as stewards of creation. We recycle a lot of paper, plastic, cans, etc. We have an organic garden that provides fresh produce for our food pantry. We compost our flower and plant debris. The school has provided nice notices near most of our light switches reminding folks to turn them off when not in use. And we started using mugs in place of Styrofoam cups for some of our coffee hours recently. These are all laudable efforts and the Environmental Committee is applauded for these successes. Yet, something is still missing: a mindfulness and true appreciation of our unique role.

Our call to be stewards of God's creation comes right at the beginning of the Hebrew Bible (see Genesis 1:27-28). Made in God's own image, unlike any other creature, and with reason and skills that supersede those of all others, mankind is also tasked with having "dominion," that is a God-like dominion over all the rest of creation. That dominion means protection and provision for the creatures of this world. It means being a blessing to them, beyond just blessing them on St. Francis Day (though that is very important). The high calling of humanity as stewards is twofold. In one direction, we offer loving care and provision to creation, as noted above. In the other direction, we offer to God (on behalf of all creation), thanks and praise (see Eucharistic Prayer D), because we are the only creatures especially equipped to do so. I wonder how many appreciate that they are giving God praise on behalf of all of creation, in our worship on Sunday or in their daily prayers.

(Continued on page 3)

From the Parish Library

Our newest books are: *Heaven is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of his Trip to Heaven and Back*; *Jesus is my All in All: Praying with the "Saint of Calcutta"* by Mother Teresa; *Good Grief: 50th Anniversary Edition*; *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*; and *Believe: The Words and Inspirations of Desmond Tutu*.

A special thanks to the donor of the framed miniature print of Jan van Eyck's, *The Annunciation*.

Look for Our QR Code

A Quick Response Code (QR) is a two-dimensional barcode that can be used for adding a web link to a printed page. When you scan the code with a smartphone, the QR reader takes you directly to the website. We now have a QR that takes you directly to OUR website. Can you find it on this copy of Grace Notes? Anyone who wants to add it to a brochure, flyer or poster should contact June Huber at june.huber@gracealex.org.

God has gifted me with a garden. I tend it throughout the year. It feeds me and it feeds my family with fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. On occasion, I've given garden surplus to the food pantry. When the year turns, I am thankful for the coming of spring for it means a return to digging, planting and the nourishing that this plot of land gives my soul.

The garden attracts bugs and wildlife of all sorts. This year the wildlife included deer. The deer devoured anything that was green and didn't particularly care if it grew back. Are we like that with our care of the environment? Are we using up our resources and not caring about what comes back? We stand in danger of losing the North Polar ice cap. When it is gone, how do we get it back?



I don't know if I can change how the deer behave, but I know I can think hard about using up resources. Recently, I came back from a long weekend away and I noticed some withered zinnias from the garden on the dining room table. My first thought was to dump them in the trash. I wondered at other ways to reuse and recycle them. There is my compost pile where, over time, the seeds and

faded blooms return to the garden as soil. Then, I thought of another way. I collected the blossoms and scattered the seeds! Zinnia seeds are small, take root quickly and grow easily. They blow on the breezes and land in other gardens.

Zinnias might be like our own attempts at conservation, or maybe our faith. We can be cautious and throw our blooms away or we can share the seeds and allow them to spread. We can find ways to share and reuse what we no longer want. We can recycle and pass on. As we consider our stewardship of all things, we can think about taking it in new and different directions. Scatter some seeds of conservation around. Use, reduce and recycle. Watch and see where it grows.

—Jennifer Eckel

A Different Kind of Stewardship *(continued from page 2)*

As we look around the world, we have to wonder how seriously we take our role as stewards of God's creation. From over-fished oceans, global climate change, loss of habitats and species, to just plain old pollution, the evidence seems to be less than encouraging. St. Paul is right when he writes "creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God" (Rom 8:19). Yes, the created order groans for deliverance from our subjugation, abuse and exploitation. The creatures of God yearn to celebrate the day when we, the children of God, the only ones with Godlike dominion, will live into our high calling, as protectors and providers to the world given into our care.¹

It would be good to hear more often the question, "which of these options is better for the environment?" We would do well to make the environmental impact of our decisions, both in our lives and in the Church, a higher priority rather than somewhere lower on the list of our decision criteria. There are various aspects to many of the decisions we make, such as economic, stylistic, functionality, and lifecycle. Why isn't environmental, the first or nearly the first, when it comes to what we drive, what we eat, how we live, and how we live as the Body of Christ?

I am yours in Christ,
—The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Associate Rector

¹See N.T. Wright's *Surprised by Hope*

A Generous Pastoral Response

Discerning our ministry for the blessing of same gender relationships continues. Another adult forum will be held on November 20 at 10:15 am in the St. Luke Room to discuss biblical and theological considerations. The clergy have made available their own reflections. (Copies can be found on the website or at the church, on the credenza in the Commons outside the parish office.)

The Discernment Committee continues to meet monthly and welcomes any and all concerns, questions and input from parishioners. Committee members include Howell Medley, Deborah Crabtree, Chad Eckles, Cindy Ikard, Jane Rosman and Ashby Rushing.

The clergy are also available to meet with any who have questions or concerns. Father Malm will give a progress report to the parish in January. We hope to finish this process of discernment before Easter 2012.



Evangelism

We want to thank all of the St. Andrew's Guild members and other wonderful volunteers for braving the rain and cold to staff our booth at the *Art on the Avenue* festival in Del Ray on Saturday October 1. At times the wind and rain made it difficult to maintain control of the balloons but we made it through the day and had a lot of fun.

The raw weather only slightly dampened the crowds. We were able to distribute over 1500 balloons while greeting our neighbors, providing information on parish activities at Grace and offering dog biscuits to our four-legged friends. On such a gray day it was especially uplifting to see The Avenue brightened by the color of the Grace balloons.

We're starting preparations for the November 6 Newcomer Reception. It will be held in the Narthex after the 5:00 pm service. If you are able to assist with the event, please let us know. We'll set up beginning at 4:00 pm so that we get things arranged before the service. We are generally finished cleaning up completely by 8:00 pm.

To join the St. Andrew's Guild, sign-up at the Greeters' table in Merrow Hall or contact Theresa Lewallen (theresa.lewallen@gracealex.org) or Paul Bellantoni (paul.bellantoni@gracealex.org).

Updates on the Communications Front

I'm dating myself, but who remembers the '90's California band, "4 Non-Blondes?" Recall their '93 hit song, "What's going on?" So, what's going on in Grace Church communications? It's a support area, not very glamorous yet necessary and useful. More importantly, done well, other program areas can leverage communications to more effectively accomplish their ministries, thus enhancing the functioning of the clergy, staff, volunteers and laity. Historically, the Communications Ministry at Grace has included three teams: Web, Grace Notes and Technology. All those great teams of dedicated volunteers are alive and well.

When preparing for the recent Ministry Fair, I asked Howell Medley, our Senior Warden, to identify something fresh we could focus on in the year ahead to help recruit new members to our teams. Without hesitation, he answered, "Add PR or advertising," (we're calling it "branding") so Grace Church can be recognized as a force for good in the local area, or wherever our ministry activities take us.

At the Ministry Fair, four parishioners generously volunteered to join us: Easter Thompson (PR/Branding), David Adams (Special Projects), Colin Eger (Web Team) and June Huber (already leading the Web Team, volunteered to start putting out press releases to local media). Since then, June has sent out a couple of press releases about the upcoming Friday evening Concert Series (first one was Oct 21) and we created the "Unofficial" Grace Church twitter account.

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Updates on the Communications Front *(continued from page 4)*

If you are on twitter, please follow @GraceAlex3601, and we'll follow you back. If you want to help tweet for us, let me know and I'll send you the log-in credentials. At the time of this writing, in the first three weeks, we've tweeted (or retweeted) over 110 times, are following 1,335 people or organizations, and have 227 followers. If you have no idea what I'm talking about, or even what twitter is used for, no worries—we're organizing a "People, Churches and Social Media" information session for an upcoming Adult Forum. Please attend if you're interested in hearing about how you personally or the church can best use twitter and social media. If you're so curious you just can't wait, email me at lee.meeks@gracealex.org.

Using social media—both for internal and external purposes—is not new for our parish; we've had the Grace Church Facebook page up for quite a while. That site currently has 186 members, several of whom regularly contribute news, announcements and photos. Visit our Facebook page and ask to become a member. Once added, please feel free to contribute to the dialogue and content. Also, our web site was recently redesigned. We have a great looking web site and it is constantly being tweaked, improved and maintained. For example, we just added a video of Deacon Andrew D'Angio White's sermon from October 9th. You can link to it here: <http://tinyurl.com/4yp253f>. There is plenty to do keeping the web site current, so we're always open to comments, suggestions and help.

Grace Notes has also gone through some changes—some obvious, such as sending out Grace Notes electronically, and some behind the scenes. Doug Prince retired after 3 years at the helm and Sarah Schultz has taken his place. Where Doug was also editor, Sarah likes layout work and Amy Barron likes editing work...so Amy and Sarah will split these key duties. And of course, we are always looking for content contributors. Contact Sarah at grace.notes@gracealex.org. Many thanks are in order for Doug Prince's recently ended 3-year reign as Grace Notes editor. When you see him, be sure to thank him.

Some additional updates:

Heather Hurley has reluctantly turned over the reins as Non-Vestry Coordinator for the Communications Ministry. Of course, she is not abandoning us; she is just making her commitment a little more manageable. For all she does, all of us in the Communications Ministry are very grateful.

Kristine Hesse, Technology Team lead, has agreed to step in as Non-Vestry Coordinator for Communications. She is well suited for the job as she preceded me as the Vestry Coordinator for Communications. Welcome and thanks to Kristine for filling this role.

We have begun putting together our 2012 budget submissions for all four of our activity areas: Web, Technology, Grace Notes and PR/Branding in order to find the best way to achieve the most support and visibility for the church using the least amount of money. If you have ideas or suggestions regarding communications activities you'd like to see at Grace Church, please let either Kristine or me know.

We are working with Evangelism, the Property Committee and the Junior Warden to improve external and internal signage for the Church.

If you need the WiFi password when on church property, please ask one of us for it or check with Beth or Charlotte in the Church office.

I'll start writing regularly, so that's all till next month. Please feel free to email me at lee.meeks@gracealex.org with questions, comments or issues you have with the Grace Church Communications Ministry. You can reach specific activity areas by email: web.team@gracealex.org, grace.notes@gracealex.org, technology.team@gracealex.org and pr.team@gracealex.org.

*Peace,
—Lee Meeks,
Vestry Coordinator for Communications*

Team from Northern Virginia Churches Travels to Haiti

In mid-September, I had the privilege to travel to Mirebalais, Haiti with Karen Wires and Pierre Shostal, a parishioner from Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill. The Rev. Joseph Constant led our four-day trip where we witnessed firsthand the work being done by the Haiti Micah Project (HMP) as well as by The Episcopal Church in that region. Our primary purpose was to witness the dedication of a new well and water purification system that had recently been installed, thanks in part to funds from our two congregations and a Mustard Seed grant from the diocese of Virginia, obtained by Mary Ann Ryan.

As your deacon, I was honored to represent Grace Church in this important ministry of service to the poorest nation in our hemisphere. The difference that Grace's contributions make to the community in Mirebalais was incredible. From the moment we drove up to the Micah Project, we saw kids playing with soccer balls donated by Grace Episcopal School. At the HMP feeding program, we saw children that Grace helps to support with food, clothing and education. At the orphanage, we saw children rescued from a life of indescribable poverty and given shelter and a home. In this season of stewardship, it can be easy to forget that "Mission/Outreach" is more than a line item in a budget. I can assure you that for the children of the Haiti Micah project, it is far more.



Throughout the trip, I was struck by two things: first, the utter lack of infrastructure in the places we visited. There is very little government oversight or coordination of relief efforts, and public services are spotty at best. When we first arrived, we drove through Port-au-Prince and saw the ruins of the Episcopal cathedral as well as the presidential palace. Dotted throughout the city (most notably across from the palace) are tent cities where thousands of people have been living since the earthquake over a year ago. The difficulties that Haiti faced before the earthquake have been compounded by an utter decimation of what little infrastructure existed.

The other prominent thing that I noticed that gave me a great deal of hope was the work the Church is doing. There are over 100 congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, served by fewer than 40 priests. Yet each of these congregations supports a school, a clinic, or both. In fact, when the time comes for a building project, the school is built before the worship space. Every church, once established, immediately begins to plant others. In an era of decreasing church attendance and a shrinking, aging population of Episcopalians in the US, it is a source of inspiration to see mission-focused churches growing and thriving.

Karen and I shared many of our experiences at the Adult Forum on October 9. We are happy to talk more about this trip, which has proven to be transformative for each of us. Karen can be reached at karen.wires@gracealex.org, and I can be reached at deacon@gracealex.org. Joseph Constant will preach at 9 and 11:15 as well as lead a forum, on November 13.

—Deacon Andrew D'Angio White

Grace Church Celebrates Founders' Day Dinner

The 156th anniversary of the founding of Grace Church was celebrated in grand style in the Merrow Hall auditorium the evening of Saturday, September 24. Over 110 people gathered in the beautifully decorated room. The combined efforts of the Stewardship and Fellowship committees and the Vestry produced a happy and stylish occasion.

Father Patrick gave the blessing following a lively period of fellowship with fine hors d'oeuvres, passed around by our youth, and excellent libations. Grace Church's master chefs offered wonderful food—enough to fill two long buffets and a giant dessert table.



Peter Barnes, Stewardship Committee Vestry Chair and Master of Ceremonies, introduced the entertainment—a “Shrine Mont Follies” reprise. Eleanor Reed, Follies director, read the minutes of the “Annual Meeting” (held this year at Shrine Mont), punctuated with songs from the show, sung by Follies veteran performers and accompanied by the Follies Orchestra: Susan Merritt Nelsen on piano and Halina Banas-Jones on accordion. A special guest, Broom Face, was introduced. Broom Face was the popular winner in the “Vestry” election at Shrine Mont and now has his own Facebook page!

Father Malm introduced the evening's guest speaker, the Reverend Anne Turner, Assistant to the Rector at St. Mary's Church Arlington and former Associate Rector at Grace. Her stirring talk, “Sharing Our Gifts”—the theme of this year's Grace Church stewardship program and Annual Pledge Campaign—is available on the credenza in the Commons outside the parish office; in the tract rack in the Nave; and is posted on the parish web site, www.gracealex.org.

After Father Malm gave the benediction, the combined forces of Fellowship, Stewardship, and Vestry, joined by other attendees, made quick work of clean-up and reset the Auditorium for the next day's La Gracia service.

Many have voiced their opinions that this was both a fine fellowship occasion and a blessing-filled start to Grace Church's Annual Pledge Campaign and the celebration of Founders' Day at all services of Holy Communion on Sunday, September 25.

—Gracie,
Your “Grace Notes” Social Correspondent

Graceful Worship: Giving Thanks

Through the ages, many cultures have observed feasts and prayers of thanksgiving for harvests. Although they also had other historical connections, the Jewish spring festivals of Passover and Weeks (Pentecost) were in part celebrations of spring harvests, and the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles was related to the autumn harvest. In medieval and early modern Europe, including England, there were various local harvest festivals. In 1862, the Convocation of Canterbury apparently issued a form of service for an autumn harvest festival (although I couldn't find it).

In the early history of America, English explorers and colonists gave thanks in many places and ways. When English explorer Martin Frobisher arrived in Newfoundland in 1578, he established a service of thanksgiving. In Virginia, there was a celebration of thanksgiving at Berkeley Hundred on December 4, 1619 (over a year before the Pilgrims arrived in Massachusetts). Of course, the case in Massachusetts in 1621 was a dramatic case of survival, and it was propagated and publicized by New Englanders. At the time of Independence, this New England practice was promoted by the Continental Congress. A few years later, the first American Book of Common Prayer of 1789 included a Thanksgiving Day Office entitled "*A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the fruits of the earth, and all the other blessings of his merciful Providence; to be used yearly on the First Thursday in November, or on such other day as shall be appointed by the Civil Authority.*" Parts of this office are still included in the current BCP.

Over the years, Canadian Anglicans and others have also developed forms for harvest thanksgiving. Since 1957, Thanksgiving Day has been celebrated in Canada on the second Monday in October.

I imagine that your Thanksgiving Day celebration, like mine, usually involves eating too much food around a big table with family and friends. However, before we sit down this year to overindulge, let's remember to give God thanks for all things, and especially for the products of the land which sustain and enrich our lives. "**Now thank we all our God...**" (Hymn 422).

—June Huber

Adult Formation during November

10:15 – 11:00 am each Sunday morning

Adult Forums

- ❖ *November 6:* Our Theme for the Year: Faith Journey: Invite, Inspire, Transform, led by Chrissie Crosby
- ❖ *November 13:* Haiti Micah Project Update, led by Father Joseph Constant
- ❖ *November 20:* "Generous Pastoral Response" Follow-up, led by Father Malm and the Discernment Committee

Inquirers' Classes

- ❖ *November 6:* The Bible
- ❖ *November 13:* The Gospels
- ❖ *November 20:* The Church Year

Parent Forum

- ❖ *November 6:* Meet the Parents!

Fellowship Sunday (11/27): No Classes

- ❖ *November 27:* Advent wreath making





Meals for Growing Families

Have you noticed all the new babies at Grace? Who is feeding all those sleep-deprived parents? You are! “Nurturing a Parent” (NAP), provides meals to families adjusting to a new child. This ministry could use your support. To join (and be alerted via email when a baby arrives), go to:

www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/622941/

Our motto is: cook when you can, take a pass when you're too busy, so I encourage you to sign-up even if you only want to participate rarely. No time to cook, but you'd like to help make young families feel welcome at Grace? Please consider a monetary donation. For just \$17 NAP will arrange a delicious, fresh meal, ready for the freezer. We'll even deliver it for you to the hungry family! Please email sarah.schultz@gracealex.org if you have questions or would like to make a donation.

Parish Announcements

UTO Ingathering

The United Thank Offering (UTO) ingathering will take place on Sunday, November 20, at all services. As we anticipate Thanksgiving and its bounty, let us contemplate the blessings we have received and share graciously with those who are in need.

Thanksgiving Services

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:00 am and a Festival Eucharist at 10:00 am on Thanksgiving Day, November 24.

Meet the Parents!

All Grace parents are invited to gather during forum hour on Sunday, November 6, for fellowship, food and the opportunity to chat with the kind folks you often pass as you escort your children to Sunday School.

Fall Back

The change from Daylight Saving Time to Eastern Standard Time takes place the first weekend in November. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5, and get an extra hour of sleep Sunday morning.

Register Information

Baptism: Mary Clayton Tucker, daughter of Ginny and David Tucker, brother of Bobby Tucker

Requiem Eucharist: John David Thompson, husband of the late Lynn Thompson, father of Jean Thompson, grandfather of Matt and David Centers

Connections . . .

For fifteen days in September, **Travis Thompson**, son of Dick and Easter Thompson, followed in the footsteps of Marco Polo's 5,500-mile trek on the Silk Road in China. (See the photo soon on our foyer wall of Travis on The Great Wall.) Travis, a May graduate of William & Mary, is employed as a Resident Assistant at IES/Beijing Foreign Studies University, where he is studying Mandarin.

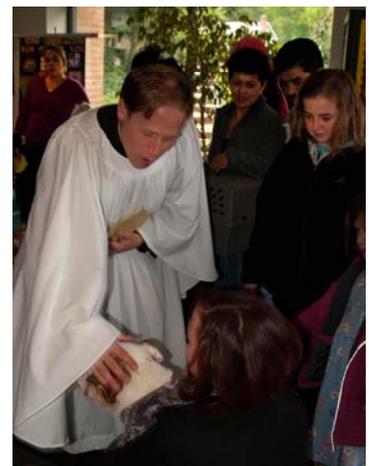
David Crosby is no longer the only Crosby attending VTS. **Chrissie** is pursuing an MA in Biblical Interpretation, with expected graduation in May 2013. She is quite clear that she is NOT following in David's footsteps. Her hope is to build an artistic portfolio (drawing, painting, liturgical vestments, poetry, drama and photography) and a Christian formation portfolio (classes, retreats, games and the like). David is in his senior year and continues his field education at St. George's in the District. Chrissie lists one major change in their pattern of living—having to forego attendance at Redskins games. Only TV!

Another parishioner, **Mary Carol Tazewell**, is in the Master's program at the Seminary. You can read about her journey next month.

We've received a wonderful e-mail from **Tania Wilkes** who is living and working in Kabul, Afghanistan, where her primary role is as a telecommunications advisor for the Ministry of Communications and IT. She works directly for the US Embassy, NATO, USAID, NGOs and the US military. Tania, not one to sit still, is helping a women's basketball team at American University–Kabul. She writes, "We don't have hoops and the balls are a little flat, but the ladies have heart and a desire to learn." Tania attends a church on base that is "very different but spiritually fulfilling." There she participates in packaging clothing and other supplies for the locals living in refugee camps and writes that Grace can send children's clothing or school and health supplies to her and she can donate them through the chapel. Her address is: HG ISAF/C16/TAT, APO AE 093356. Her last paragraph reads, "Mostly what I have learned is that people are people and just want a way to survive and grow no matter their origin. I have heard incredible stories of threats and near-death experiences from the Afghans. . . They seem to have quite a resiliency to find a way to survive after 30 years of war. Many could leave but they stay to try to make things better. What an incredible gift to have been a part of this if even for just a few months." Tania will return to the U.S. in late November or early December.

Please share news about yourself or your family with dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org or linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org.

Blessing of the Animals St. Francis Day



November Birthdays

11/01	Laura Bellantoni	11/17	Patrick Crerar
11/01	Kathie Burgess	11/17	Blaise Lamson
11/01	Mark Busse	11/17	Joanne Lukens
11/01	Sarah Low	11/17	Richard Thompson
11/01	Michael Plunkett	11/18	Mickey Craven
11/02	Angus Walsh	11/18	Jonathan Lorentz
11/03	Stuart Latta	11/19	Andrea Baumann
11/03	Caroline Sweet	11/19	Joyce Gillum
11/03	Alex Willson	11/19	Serena Lambeth
11/04	Bob Blunden	11/19	Brett Mellish
11/04	Bette Yancey	11/19	Grace Pattarini
11/06	Walter Davis	11/19	Corinne Solsby
11/06	Judy Micklish	11/20	Andrew Alford
11/06	Jennifer Pease	11/20	Benjamin Henderson
11/06	Ray Peters	11/21	Malcolm Eckel
11/06	Carol Schroeder	11/22	Ryan Reyes
11/07	Amy Barron	11/23	Olivia Lawton
11/07	Mia Howard	11/23	Leo Ribeiro
11/08	Daniel Sherlock	11/24	Holly Bray
11/08	Barbara Simmons	11/24	Ola Legg
11/09	Lieu Hazelwood	11/24	Elly Vogtmann
11/09	Dabney Holloway	11/25	Christina Iovino
11/10	Patricia Ridgely	11/25	Ben Joyner
11/10	Alexis Wood	11/25	Jim Rubin
11/11	Amanda Fowler	11/25	Katie Zeigler
11/11	Philip Hall	11/26	Lisle Bean
11/11	Michael Madigan	11/26	Stephen Boris
11/12	Maxine Meeks	11/28	Geovanny Portillo
11/12	Madeline Wolcott	11/28	Joe Reeder
11/12	Anne Zuidema	11/28	Anna Sherlock
11/13	Jim Peck	11/29	Joy Lamb
11/14	Cindy Young	11/29	Landon Rockhold
11/15	Ashley Alvarenga	11/29	Logan Solsby
11/15	Derin Baird	11/29	Marilyn Sosa
11/15	Jennifer Eckel	11/30	Davey Centers
11/15	Thomas Howard	11/30	Julie Cizek
11/15	Jeff McQuilkin	11/30	Todd Egaas
11/16	Christopher Hayden	11/30	Liz Imphong
11/16	Douglas Prince	11/30	Cindy Long
11/17	Denise Bean	11/30	Christa Warner



Parish Staff

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office@graceschoolalex.org	
Thom Robertson Director of Music
music.director@gracealex.org	
Julie Simonton	Assistant for Family Ministries
family.ministries@gracealex.org	
Charlotte Payne Wright	Parish Administrator
parish.administrator@gracealex.org	
Beth Wiggers Administrative Associate
parish.office@gracealex.org	
Noelle Smoot	Children's Chapel Coordinator
childrens.chapel@gracealex.org	
Pedro Hernandez Sexton

Vestry

Class of 2011

Alison Campbell	..... Register
Rich Kelly	..... Youth
Erica McFarquhar	..... Treasurer
Howell Medley	..... Senior Warden
Frank Waskowicz	..... Junior Warden
Kemp Williams	..... Outreach

Class of 2012

Amy Barron	..... Fellowship
Lisa Bellantoni	..... Education
Theresa Lewallen	..... Evangelism
Robby Schrum	..... Member-at-Large/TNT

Class of 2013

Peter Barnes	..... Stewardship
Deborah Crabtree	..... Worship
June Huber	..... School Board
Lee Meeks Communications
Mary-Lacey Reuther Pastoral Care

Alternates

Jeff Solsby School Board
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Non-Vestry Coordinators

Kristine Hesse Communications
Nancy Lorentz Education
Paul Bellatoni	..... Evangelism
Gary Carter	..... Fellowship
John Berry	..... Outreach
Patt Sullivan-Perry	..... Pastoral Care
Jean Reed	..... Stewardship
Virginia Robinson	..... TNT
Chad Eckles	..... Worship
Lisa Medley	..... Youth



We Need Your 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 \$35. 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. The deadline for notices to be included in the Christmas flower Bulletin is Monday, December 5. Questions? Call Lisa Doelp, Altar Guild Flower Chair, at 703-239-1302.

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):

Funeral & Burial Instructions

(Please return a copy to Grace Church and keep a copy with your records.)

Date: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Full Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

The person ultimately responsible for making plans for my funeral and burial is:
(Please include name, address, telephone number and relationship.)

I own a cemetery lot at: _____

Or, will likely be buried at: _____

I wish to be cremated and my ashes placed as follows:
(Please note, cremation does not affect the nature of the service or place of burial.)

The funeral home likely to be responsible for me is:

I have already made arrangements with the funeral home, as follows:

Subject to the wishes of my family, I wish to be given the following type of service:

Funeral (body present): _____
Memorial service (body not present): _____
Burial service: Rite I (BCP, p. 469): _____
Burial service: Rite II (BCP, p. 491): _____
Holy Eucharist: _____

Church:

_____ Church service with burial immediately following - for family and friends

_____ Church service with burial afterward - the latter for family only

_____ Entire service at the gravesite

_____ Other: _____

If it is possible, I would like the following clergy to officiate and/or assist at my service:

If my service is in the church, and necessitates the use of pallbearers, I would like the following persons to be invited by my family:

I would like my funeral service to include the following hymns:

Whether in church or at the graveside, please include some of the following Psalms and Lessons:

In lieu of flowers I would be grateful if my family would consider memorial gifts in my name to:

On my casket please use:

The Church's pall: _____ (Note that flowers are never placed over the pall)

The American flag: _____ (Customarily reserved for military personnel/veterans)

I am to be an organ donor, the particulars of which are known to, or recorded at:

Special requests to my church and clergy:

From the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP, p. 445)

"...all persons (are) to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

_____ Please send me information for including the Church in my will.

Signed: _____