

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

## The Beauty of Holiness

Our Suffragan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. David Jones, hopes to use a photograph of Grace Church for the front of his 2011 Christmas Card. Bishop Jones has often come to our liturgies during Christmas and Epiphany. He knows the beauty we experience during these holy seasons, the gift of Jesus born for us and the manifestation of God's love for us.

We have several Christmas photographs of the High Altar and Nave front. We have photographs of the Crèche. We even have several photographs of the church exterior after some huge snow storms. One Christmas, the national magazine, *The Living Church*, printed a photograph of our decorated Nave and High Altar. I don't know which picture the Bishop will select, but I'm thankful he so appreciates Grace Church.

Photographs are so important for us all. They capture special moments in time; people, places and events we don't want to forget. I'm so impressed by our group of parish photographers, under Frank Waskowicz's leadership, who give us an ever-changing collage of photographs, mounted in the foyer as you enter Merrow Hall from the parking lot. These wonderful pictures tell stories of our parish life. They bear witness to the Holy Spirit working through each one of us.

The next two months move us through the first three seasons of sacred time beginning the liturgical year – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany. Our corporate worship helps us to tell the story of Christ's coming, Incarnation, and Manifestation to all the world. Each Sunday liturgy is a "snapshot" of Christ's life and our life in Christ.

May the Holy Days of December and January fill you with the love, joy and peace of Jesus Christ. Our clergy and lay staff send you our warmest greetings and continuing prayers for all of God's blessings.

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

Dec-Jan 2011/12

## Inside this Issue

From the Associate Rector.....	2
Parish Library .....	2
Widow's Mite.....	3
Friday's at Grace .....	3
Vestry Election.....	4
2012 Spiritual Retreat .....	4
Haiti Micah Run.....	6
Graceful Worship.....	7
St. Clement's Shelter.....	7
Announcements/Register.....	8
Connections.....	9
Stewardship.....	9
GES News .....	10
Music Update.....	11
Junior Warden's Report .....	12
Evangelism.....	12
Adult Education.....	13
Birthdays.....	14
Parish Staff.....	14
Growing at Grace .....	15
Christmas Schedule.....	16

*GOD'S*  
*Grace*  
**FOR ALL**

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
1855-2005

## Worship Schedule

### Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite 1.....7:30 am  
Child Care.....8:45 am–12:45 pm  
La Santa Eucaristía.....9:00 am  
Choral Eucharist Rite 2 .....9:00 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

The next *Grace Notes* deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> for the February issue. Articles should be submitted by e-mail to [grace.notes@gracealex.org](mailto:grace.notes@gracealex.org). All articles are subject to editing.

Grace Church's newsletter team includes Amy Barron, Gary Carter, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Heather Hurley, Lee Meeks, Sarah Schultz and Beth Wiggers.

## From the Associate Rector

"And the Word became flesh and  
lived among us..."

Are there more meaningful words than these in this holy season? Of course, you recognize these words from the prologue to John's gospel. In some ways, if people of other traditions were to ask us, "Just what do you Episcopalians believe anyway?" We could point them to our creeds (Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian) but we could also respond simply with this phrase, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us." As the Rev. Richard Schmidt argues, in his book *Glorious Companions*: "For many Christians, the central event was Christ's death on the cross for the sins of the world. The Roman Catholic Church and most Protestant churches are Good Friday churches. Other Christians see the resurrection of Christ, signifying his victory over Satan and sin, as the central event. The Eastern Orthodox are Easter churches. A third group focuses on Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit as the chief event. These are the Pentecostal churches. Anglicans...focus on the incarnation of the Son of God, the Word made flesh. Anglican churches are Christmas churches." (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2002, pg. xiv)

Certainly, we do celebrate with the Orthodox, Easter and Christ's victory. Certainly we do mark with heartfelt sorrow, with other denominations, the great sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross. Our Eucharistic liturgies recall both of these events to our minds, an act of holy recollection. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on and throughout Pentecost. All of these are included in our liturgical calendar. But Schmidt does have a point about the emphasis in our tradition on the Incarnation.

The great theologian and former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple (1881-1944), was deeply influenced by the Incarnation. He wrote that in Jesus Christ, God took flesh and dwelt among us, and as a consequence "the personality of every man and woman is sacred" (*Holy Women, Holy Men*, 668). This sense of the sacred in every person, because God has joined Godself to humanity in Jesus Christ, is captured in our baptismal promises "to seek and serve Christ in all persons," to "strive for justice," and in our promise to "respect the dignity of every human being" (BCP, 305).

(Continued on page 3)

## Grace Church Library

For the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the Parish Library has 32 non-fiction books, 8 fiction books, 5 juvenile books and 2 DVDs to add to your study of Our Lord's birth. Titles include a CD, *The Birth of Christ - A Christmas Cantata* and books such as: *The Gift: Seven Meditations on the Events Surrounding Jesus' Birth*; *Advent: Worship and Activities for Families*; *On the Way to Bethlehem*; and *Meditations on Mary*. Two of the kids' books are *Christmas A to Z - Every Letter Tells a Story* and *The Christmas Story*. The entire Advent and Christmas Reading List is in the parish library. Many of these books will be on the carts in the library, the St. Mark Room and outside of The Merrow Hall Auditorium. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

—Wendy Cummings

### Fridays at Grace

Our next event will be a “pops” organ program with our good friend, Tim Smith on Friday, February 3, 2012 at 7:30 pm. The featured work on the program will be Tim’s own transcription of Camille Saint-Saëns’ beloved “Carnival of the Animals” complete with the Ogden Nash poems read by a celebrity guest. Also on the program will be James Hewitt’s “Battle of Trenton” with human “supertitles” just like at the opera! This one-hour program will be full of fun; please join us.

—Thom Robertson

Once upon a time my family went down to the Georgia coast to visit my mother. This was roughly in the mid-90s. My oldest son (now 21) asked her if she recycled. She replied, “Oh, I don’t do that. My little bit won’t make a difference.” My son brought up the story of the widow’s mite (Mark 12:41-44) and how she did her little bit, because it always matters. My mother got a very surprised look on her face, and my son got a hug. My mother did begin to recycle. My son had jolted her out of her complacency.

Recently, we’ve seen a lot of willingness to look the other way and the expectation that someone else will do it. Someone else will do what is right. Where the environment is concerned, it is time for us all to become like the widow and put forth our mite.

As Christians, we are not a complacent people. We take action. Consider the early evangelists. Empowered by their faith, they went forth with very little and spread the word. The abolitionists preached about ending slavery and in our own time, we have the Civil Rights’ movement, led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Who remembers that the “Letter from Birmingham Jail” was written in opposition to what an Episcopal Bishop urged? We’ve seen or presumed to believe that the actions of one man could have stopped a predator in his tracks. It is time to ask ourselves what we can do as individuals. We must have faith that our actions can and do make a difference. Christianity is about

moving forward in faith and acting for justice. Here are some holiday activities that can make a difference:

- Use the comics to wrap your gifts. Or try old maps. Make the recipient guess where the map leads.
- Assess whether it’s time to recycle your Christmas lights. LED lights can save up to 90% on electricity costs over traditional lights. Home Depot recently sponsored a recycling program.
- Send e-cards.
- Consider giving a gift that means something to the sick, the poor, the friendless and the needy. Consider Heifer International ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)) or Habitat for Humanity. There are many charities that will send a card to someone and announce that a gift was given on behalf of the recipient.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### “And the Word Became Flesh and Lived Among Us...” *(Continued from page 2)*

Personally, I have never belonged to any other church that is brought to its knees, as we are every Sunday, at the mystery of the “Incarnatus” in the Nicene Creed. As we pray “by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man,” we reverently bend our knees, adoring in heart and soul our King and our God, born of human flesh, very man, yet very God. It is good that we kneel. For if we truly pondered the mystery as we spoke those words, we’d likely stagger like a drunkard.

We kneel, too, when we arrive at that fourteenth verse of John’s prologue, which is the title of this article, whenever we read it in the Christmas season. For a moment we are silent in this otherwise frenetic season. For a moment, we are still before God, totally his. Mary’s submission becomes our own. Though John’s prologue never mentions Mary or Joseph, shepherds or angels, they are all there in a sense, as are we, amazed and silent, as the Word of God becomes flesh. And as St. John writes to us in his wonderful prologue, “all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God” (John 1:12). And so we are, children of God, holy and united to God in the incarnation.

*I wish you and yours a Holy Christmas and blessed new year,  
—The Rev. Patrick Crerar, Associate Rector*

## Vestry Election - Hear the Call

The Vestry is a continuous deliberative body that—along with the clergy—has overall responsibility for directing, supporting and funding Grace Church and its mission inside and outside the parish. Fifteen members serve overlapping three-year terms. Each year, one class retires as a new class of five members is elected at our Annual Meeting in January. To serve on the Vestry, a parishioner must be active, pledging (or otherwise known to the Treasurer) and a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church.

The outgoing Vestry Class of 2011—Alison Campbell, Rich Kelly, Howell Medley and Frank Waskowicz—are currently recruiting parishioners to stand for membership in the Class of 2014. If you feel called to serve and don't want to wait, reach out to one of us. I can be reached at [howell.medley@gracealex.org](mailto:howell.medley@gracealex.org).

—Howell Medley

### The Widow's Mite (Continued from page 3)

- Use soy candles instead of those made from petroleum.
- Consider gifts of fair trade food. Bishop's coffee from Episcopal Relief & Development is one choice, but there are many foods that meet agreed upon environmental, labor and developmental standards. Look for the Fair Trade Symbol.
- Visit [thehungersite.com](http://thehungersite.com). I found Christmas ornaments made from recycled motherboards.
- Properly recycle your old electronics. Contact [Turtlewings.com](http://Turtlewings.com) for recycling information in this area. Best Buy also recycles electronics.
- Move away from using paper products at your parties. As we've seen with our coffee mugs, we can keep items out of our landfills and reuse other things economically.
- When family and friends ask why you save this, recycle that, buy local or organic, tell them about the widow's mite. It's a great way to spread the Word.

—Jennifer Eckel

## 2012 Spiritual Retreat

The theme of our 2012 spiritual retreat is, *Heart to Heart Intimacy and the Mystical Core of the Gospel*. Father Martin says, "In this day of reflection and prayer we will heed to the voice of Christian Martyrs recalling us to the personal adventure of intimacy with God. Christianity is not a message or a set of beliefs but an experience. Join us as we learn to experience what we already possess—closeness to the Heart of God."

Spiritual retreats are an integral part of many religious communities: Christian, Buddhist and Sufi (Islamic). Among different religious communities, the meaning of a spiritual retreat can vary.



Historically, retreats are popular in Christian churches and were established in today's form by Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556), and incorporated into his *Spiritual Exercises*. Pope Pius XI in 1922 made St. Ignatius the patron saint of spiritual retreats. Today, many Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians participate in and organize spiritual retreats each year, as is becoming a tradition at Grace Church.

(Continued on page 5)

## 2012 Spiritual Retreat (Continued from page 4)

For Christians, a retreat can be defined in the most simplistic terms as a definite time, from a few hours in length to that of a month, spent in time away from one's normal life for the purpose of reconnecting, traditionally in prayer, with God. The practice of leaving one's daily life for an indefinite time to connect on a deeper level with God, whether in the desert as with the Desert Fathers, or in a monastery such as The Society of St. John the Evangelist, is as old as Christianity itself. The practice of spending a shorter, specified time away with God is a more modern phenomenon dating from the 1520's and St. Francis of Loyola's composition of the *Spiritual Exercises*.

Meditative retreats are an important aspect of Sufism, the "mystical path to Islam." *A Journey to the Lord of Power*, a book by the Sufi teacher, Ibn Arabi, published over 700 years ago, is a guide to this inner journey. Sufi retreats or spiritual khalwa implies an act of total self-abandonment in desire for the divine presence. The literal meaning of khalwa is seclusion or retreat. In complete seclusion, the Sufi continuously repeats the name of God as the highest form of dhikr (remembrance of God meditation). The Sufis base the khalwa period on the 40 days Allah had appointed for Musa (Moses) as a fasting period before speaking to Him, as mentioned in different chapters of the Qur'an.

In the Buddhist tradition, a retreat can either be a time of solitude or community experience. Some retreats are held in silence while during others, there may be a great deal of conversation depending on the understanding and accepted practices of the host facility and/or the individual participant. Buddhist retreats are often held in rural or remote locations, either privately or at a retreat center such as a monastery. Retreats for advanced practitioners may be undertaken in darkness. Spiritual retreats allow time for reflection, prayer and meditation. They are considered essential in Buddhism, having been a common practice since the Vassa, or rainy season retreat and established by the founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, the Supreme Buddha. In Zen Buddhism, retreats are known as sesshin.

As there are a variety of gifts and a variety of talents, there are also a variety of opinions. Opinions of attendees at the 2011 Grace Church retreat are reflective of these diverse views:

"I need the time away from distractions and more inspirational messages."  
"I would attend another retreat for renewal, refreshment, and 'tuning' up my relationship with God and fellow man and woman."  
"It is important to take time to reflect and to set aside a day for reflection."  
"We need time to put things in proper perspective."  
"For me, to be informed, pushed and stretched."  
"Retreats are a good way to center oneself."  
"They bring people together, enlighten us, and make us better people."

What better gift to yourself than to enrich yourself by attending a day-long spiritual retreat. Experience refreshment, renewal and a time to meditate in a quiet place.

You may register either online or at Coffee Hour between services. Remember to SAVE THE DATE – March 3 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm in Merrow Hall Auditorium.

–Don Wills  
Retreat Committee

## Haiti Micah Run

The first annual Haiti Micah Project (HMP) Run for the Kids, held on Sunday, October 30 at Episcopal High School, was a success beyond our imaginations. The number of registrants, which totaled 140, surprised those familiar with run organizations. The runners and walkers were an inspiration to those less athletically inclined. Although the winners may have been experienced, there were many participants who were not used to spending a Sunday afternoon running or walking a 5K event. The beautiful, cool weather was made to order. Since it was a cross-country run, and the weather the day before muddied up the trail, many wore mud as a sign of pride and accomplishment.



Addresses of participants included members of Grace Church, some local churches and residents from DC, Maryland, California, New Jersey and New York. Young and old (people and dogs) livened up the spirit by wearing Halloween costumes. Students from Episcopal High School did face painting. Kids jumped and slid on the moon bounce castle. Members of the Grace Church youth groups served food donated by The Hard Times Cafe. Those who needed a stretch and massage were provided a free opportunity at the massage tent! Haitian crafts were sold.

Haiti Micah Project volunteers provided information about the history of HMP. Their current goal is to build an 80-bed orphanage to replace a 21-bed rental home, which costs \$1,200 per month in rent. This will allow future contributions to support the vital needs of many more children in the project. All proceeds from the event were donated to the HMP Alma Bishop Orphanage fund. Although the final tabulation has not been finalized, money from the run itself brought in around \$3,500. In addition to the monetary benefit, the run spread information about Haiti Micah Project to a new group within the Northern Virginia Running Community.



This event would not have taken place without the generous contributions of our Sponsors: Living Waters International, Burke and Herbert Bank, Hard Times Cafe, Child and Family Counseling Group, Trinity Church Arlington, Ten Thousand Villages and MOMS Organic Market. We thank Julie Simonton from Grace Family Ministries for her support with children's activities; Deborah Crabtree, our official event photographer; Rev. Patrick Crerar and Rev. Robert Malm for suggesting that the Mission team from Grace Outreach pursue such an event; Rev. Deacon Mary Beth Emerson; Service to Serve Haiti; Banana Banner (Banners with Appeal!); DC Timing; Metro Run and Walk; Pacers; and of course, Rev. Gideon Pollack and the Cross Country and Athletic staff at Episcopal High School. We look forward to holding the second annual run next year. Please go to the Grace Church website photo gallery to see more photos of the event.

*–Karen Wires*

## Graceful Worship: All May, Some Should, None Must

Opportunities for making a private confession at Grace Church are scheduled and publicized during Advent and Lent. I'm sure that we've all seen it in the Sunday Bulletin, but only some of us have ever taken advantage of the opportunity.

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops and Priests of the Church, the responsibility to oversee the reconciliation of penitents (John 20:19-23). John reminds all Christians in his first epistle that *"if we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:8-9). As Christians, we are all called to be penitents and make use of the Church's ministry of reconciliation.

The sacramental rite titled "The Reconciliation of a Penitent," commonly called "confession," is an important part of our heritage as Episcopalians. Sacramental confession to a priest is a required discipline in some churches (such as the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic), but this has not been the case in the churches of the Anglican Communion since the Reformation. An Anglican watchword in reference to the use of sacramental confession has been, *"All may, some should, none must,"* but this resulted in an unintentional neglect and ignorance of penance within Anglicanism. Confession and absolution remained a component part of corporate worship, particularly at services of the Holy Eucharist, but private (or "auricular") confession fell into disuse until the rise of Anglo-Catholicism in the 19th century. It became more widely accepted within mainstream Anglicanism in the second half of the 20th century.

In our current Book of Common Prayer (1979), a clear attempt has been made to rectify the situation of neglect and ignorance in the matter of sacramental confession — as well as to meet a longstanding need — by providing directions and forms for the Reconciliation of a Penitent (BCP, pp. 446-452). The same Prayer Book, exhorting Episcopalians to the devout reception of Holy Communion, encourages us to go to *"a discreet and understanding priest"* for the specific help and comfort of penance — *"to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon and the strengthening of your faith."* (BCP, p. 317)

Confession can be heard anytime and anywhere. It can even be heard by another Christian lay person, although under those circumstances a declaration of forgiveness is provided instead of a pronouncement of absolution. Confession is most commonly heard either in a traditional confessional box or, as at Grace Church, in a private meeting with the priest. The priest sits in the sanctuary, just inside the communion rail, facing toward the altar and away from the penitent. Following the confession of sins and the assignment of penance, the priest makes the pronouncement of absolution. The seal of the confessional, as with Roman Catholicism, is a moral absolute, and any confessor who divulges information revealed in confession is subject to deposition and removal from office.

Grace Church has published "Guidelines for Confession" that are intended to help you make a faithful confession. They can be found in the tract rack or on our website under the menu item "How To." Maybe, this Advent, it's time...

—June Huber

### Saint Clement's Shelter

Who are the men that spend the night at the Saint Clement overflow winter shelter? You might see one on the bus or metro every day. Or maybe one works at the local grocery store. Some of them are employed part-time or full time. Or maybe the disheveled man you frequently see in the local library is a shelter resident. Some of them are chronically unemployed. They vary in age, race, education, and religion. They are, in many ways, just like us except that they are, at the moment, homeless.

Every winter for the past dozen years or so, the congregation of The Church of Saint Clement has offered its sanctuary every night from January through mid-March to house homeless men for the night. The men are referred from Carpenter's Shelter and usually number from eight to fifteen people.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## St. Clement's Shelter *(Continued from page 7)*

Since the ministry began, Grace Church has supported the program at Saint Clement in two ways: by supplying two-person teams of volunteers who spend the night at the shelter and by providing funding through our outreach budget. Very soon, we will again be seeking individuals willing to fill one of two shifts (7:30 pm to midnight or midnight to 6:30 am). The duties are minimal, the clients are pre-screened, and you have lots of time to get to know your volunteer partner or catch up on your reading.

Both men and women over age 21 are invited to participate in this ministry. In early December, you will see reminders in the bulletin and there will be a sign-up sheet posted inside the parking lot entrance.

*—Kevin Sherlock*

## Girl Scouts at Grace

brown·ie (n.):

1. a tiny, fanciful, good-natured brown elf who secretly helps at night with household chores.
2. a small, chewy, cakelike cookie, usually made with chocolate.
3. a member of the junior division of the Girl Scouts or the Girl Guides, being a girl in the 2nd or 3rd grade and between 7 and 9 years old.

On most Friday afternoons in the St. Luke's room, passersby will hear a singing, chatting, creating, playing and laughing group of girls during their Brownie Girl Scout meeting.

*(Continued on Page 11)*

## Parish Announcements

### Cookie Sale Report

The second Grace Church Youth NetsforLife Cookie Sale collected \$963, bringing the total contributions to \$2,019. This corresponds to 168 treated Malaria nets being bought and an estimated 504 lives saved. Thanks to all for your support.

### Need a "Grace-ful" Christmas Gift?

Copies of the Grace Church Cookbook make a wonderful Christmas gift for family and friends. Purchase copies at \$15.00 each in the Parish Office during normal office hours (Monday–Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm).

### Outreach Opportunity

On the last Saturday of each month, except November and December (when it occurs on the second Saturday of December; this year December 10) ALEXandrians INVolved Ecumenically (ALIVE!) operates a food distribution center at The Church of the Resurrection (next to Goodwin House Alexandria). It starts at 8:30 am and ends around 11:30 am. We pack bags of food and distribute them to about two hundred needy families. It's a great way to help our community. Please join us on December 10 to help distribute non-perishable groceries, fresh produce and eggs, and the always popular Christmas turkeys. If you have questions, please email [khacki.berry@gracealex.org](mailto:khacki.berry@gracealex.org).

### Christmas Gifts for Children

During the Christmas season, we will once again be collecting donations of school supplies for children in need. Baskets will be placed near the crèche to receive offerings, which may be brought any time from the first service on Christmas Eve through Epiphany (January 6). This year all donations will be given to the Haiti Micah Project.

## Parish Register

### Baptisms:

- ❖ Fabian Garcia Alvarenga, son of Christian Garcia and Camila Alvarenga
- ❖ Cooper MacLean Johnson, son of Jay Johnson and Jennifer MacLean
- ❖ Thomas Parnell McElwain, son of Peter and Sarah McElwain
- ❖ Graham Jack Murchison, son of Chad and Brittany Murchison

### Marriage:

- ❖ Melissa Katherine Shoemaker and Edi Jurkovic

### Transfer in:

- ❖ Kathryn Brittany Smith, baptized member, from St. Peter's Church, Washington, D.C.

## Connections . . .

**Claire Eudy**, daughter of **Rick** and **Valerie**, is now a navy ensign stationed in San Diego. Claire is about to be deployed, along with a contingent of marines and their equipment, on an amphibious dock landing ship and will probably be overseas until early next summer. In May, she graduated from The Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey, with a bachelor's degree in naval engineering and a master's in ocean engineering. After 12 weeks in Officer Candidate School, Claire is now based in San Diego for the next couple of years, after which she hopes to come east to Nuclear Power School in Charleston, followed by duty aboard a nuclear aircraft carrier.

Congratulations to **Gary Carter**, who will graduate from nursing school at Marymount University next May and has just been inducted into the National Nursing Honor Society!

**The Rev. Rosemari Sullivan** recently retired as rector of St. Paul's Church, Rock Creek Parish in Washington, where she has served for the past five years. A long-time friend of Grace Church, Rosemari was our first woman seminarian and then our first woman priest assistant. Now retired from parish ministry, she is able to devote more time to her liaison activities between the Presiding Bishop's office and the Diocese of Haiti. Rosemari's official title is "special coordinator for the Haiti team." She and her fellow coordinator, Father Constant at Virginia Theological Seminary, work closely with the leaders of the Diocese of Haiti. Addressing the myriad needs of the people of Haiti sounds overwhelming, but Rosemari, who is in and out of Haiti several times a year, is upbeat and optimistic about this intensive cooperative effort of the national church and the Diocese of Haiti.

**The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly**, our Grace Church seminarian from 2007 to 2009, has accepted a call as rector of St. Margaret's Church, Plainview, New York, in the Diocese of Long Island. Her first Sunday in her new parish is December 11, and for those of us who keep in touch with Jennifer and Scott, their new address is 1000 Washington Street, Plainview, NY 11803.

Please share news of yourself or your family with [dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org](mailto:dorothy.daniel@gracealex.org) or [linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org](mailto:linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org).

## Stewardship Annual Pledge Campaign 2011: Sharing Our Gifts

As of November 14, 229 Grace Church families and individuals have pledged a total of \$726,122.56 for support of God's work through Grace Church in 2012. The generous giving that we've seen thus far in the annual pledge campaign is exciting, not only for the potential it holds for increased parish programs, mission, and outreach, but more importantly because it reflects the Grace of God working among us and the commitment of the members of Grace Church to the ministry and mission to which God calls us as individuals, as a parish, and as a diocese.

Members of the vestry began follow-up telephone calls on November 16 to parishioners and friends of Grace Church whose pledges had not been received as of November 15. If you have not yet made your pledge for 2012, we ask that you prayerfully consider what your commitment will be. Then complete a pledge card, and place it in the offering plate next Sunday or mail it to the parish office. You can also pledge online by following the instructions under "Pledge Form" on the Grace Church website at [www.gracealex.org](http://www.gracealex.org).

God gives us many opportunities for stewardship at Grace Church – returning to Him a portion of the many gifts he has given freely to each of us; "Sharing Our Gifts" to support the many ways in which we minister to one another, the community, the diocese and the world, and proclaiming and spreading the Kingdom of Christ.

*(Continued on Page 10)*



## Grace Episcopal School

During the past two months, Grace Episcopal School students took part in many wonderful outreach activities for our community. In mid-October, every student walked for the homeless. Each student walked for the required 15 minutes after an enthusiastic warm-up. All the proceeds for their walk were donated to Alive! House. Just before Thanksgiving, the students had a “canstruction” project and produced Bountiful Tom Turkey using hundreds of boxes of cereal and hundreds of cans of food—see photo. The finished project was all donated to the Grace Church food pantry after it was disassembled.

In December, families are asked to donate gift cards to N Street Mission. The N Street Mission supports women on their journeys out of homelessness. Coming in January, school families will be donating mittens, gloves and hats. These will be “decorating” our Mitten Tree and later donated to a local preschool for children less fortunate. If any parishioners would be interested in donating to the Mitten Tree, please feel free to place your donations on the tree. Many thanks to Jeremy Flachs, GESPA Outreach Coordinator, and Sarah Marshall, GES faculty coordinator, for coordination of these projects. These are just a few of the many, many wonderful and meaningful outreach projects we do at the school to give back to our community.

The school will be hosting another Admissions Open House on Thursday, January 19 from 9:30-11:30 am. For further information, please call Debra Busker, Director of Admissions, at (703) 549-5067, ext. 115. Please pass this information on to others who may be interested!

—Chris Stegmaier Byrnes,  
Head of School

### Stewardship... *(Continued from page 9)*

Your response to God's Grace – the commitment of your time, your talent, and your financial pledge – are important because of what that response makes possible; both in your own life and in our lives together in that part of the Body of Christ known as Grace Church, as the Vestry begins to build the parish budget for 2012.

Please join us as we follow the example of faithful servants and courageous stewards who have witnessed to God's Grace for over 156 years: Sharing Our Gifts.

—Peter Barnes and Jean Reed  
Stewardship Co-Chairs

## Director of Music to Retire

In mid-November, Thom Robertson, our Director of Music since 2002 announced his plans to retire in 2012. Father Malm sent the following e-mail to the parish:

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Grace Church,

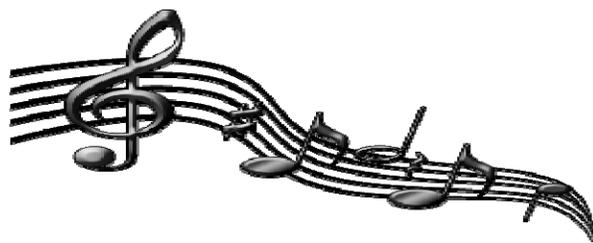
Recently, Thom Robertson, our Director of Music since 2002, shared with me his intention to retire in 2012. Thom has served Grace Church with devotion and dedication for more than nine years. Our music ministries and choirs have excelled under his leadership.

I certainly understand Thom's desire to make a change at this time in his life. A career as a full-time parish Music Director is challenging and exhausting.

I will consult with our Wardens and Personnel Committee. Together we will plan for our future, presumably naming a Search Committee to help me call our next Director of Music. Thom and I will decide upon the actual date of his retirement from Grace Church after the upcoming holidays.

Meanwhile, we can all hold Thom in our prayers as he works toward the conclusion of his ministry with us and as he looks forward with great anticipation for what will come next.

*Grace, peace and love,  
--The Rev. Robert H. Malm*



### Girl Scouts at Grace *(Continued from page 8)*

The troop has 12 members from Grace Episcopal School and some local Alexandria public schools.

The girls in the troop have been together for over four years, beginning in the Daisy troop at Grace when they were in Kindergarten. They earn patches and "Try-It" badges through a wide variety of personal interest, community, character and service activities. The Brownies also enjoy camping, marching in local parades and visiting the Baltimore Aquarium for a sleepover with the sharks. The Girl Scouts USA program will celebrate its 100th birthday in the spring of 2012, and as part of the celebration, our Brownie troop is sharing postcards with other Girl Scout and Girl Guide troops in the United States and around the world.

Beginning in January, the Brownie Girl Scouts will be selling everybody's favorite... Girl Scout COOKIES! Please look for these smiling girls in Merrow Hall Auditorium in between church services on Sunday mornings.

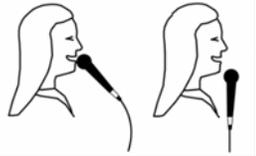
If you would like to learn more about our Brownie troop or Girl Scouts in general, please contact the leaders [alison.smith@gracealex.org](mailto:alison.smith@gracealex.org) or [natalie.page@gracealex.org](mailto:natalie.page@gracealex.org).

*—Yours in Scouting,  
Alison Smith*

## Junior Warden's Report

**Sound System** By now, you may have experienced our new sound system. There are speakers in the nave, in the altar area, under the choir loft and in the new narthex. Microphones are located on the altar and at the lectern on the Epistle side. There are lapel mikes that the celebrant and/or preacher can wear, and two hand-held mikes that can be used by those reading the Prayers of the People in the aisle, or for special events that occur in the crossing. We're still working on being comfortable with its use.

With the fixed gooseneck mike at the lectern, it is best to point the mike don't have to get close to the mike; it is unidirectional and will pick up your



The hand-held mikes are a little trickier. You hold mouth—just like you see in the picture at left. each mike. Directions are posted on top of the black to work with you if you have concerns about using



toward your mouth. You voice quite well.

the mike close to your Volume can be preset for sound box. I'll be happy the system.

**Storage** We've begun to clear out the storage area under the new narthex. Thirteen boxes of our old china have been removed and put up for sale at an auction. Junk, including old electronic gear, paint, etc. is slowly being discarded. The plan is to move the file cabinets into a line outside of the secured choir storage area, and to construct a comparable secure site for the Altar Guild along the far wall. When the effort is complete, there will be well-defined areas dedicated to the School, the Choir, the parish office and the Altar Guild.

We plan to mark four temporary storage areas in the center of the open area. They will be identified by tape and the letters: A, B, C and D on the floor. Use of those spaces will be through arrangement with the parish office. Items stored there will be clearly marked. Items left without prior arrangement with the office will be discarded.

*Respectfully,  
—Frank Waskowicz, Junior Warden*

### Evangelism

"Welcome!"

"How long have you been coming to Grace?"

"My neighbor invited us and we like the programs that you have for kids."

"I'm new to the neighborhood and was looking for a high church."

"I was curious about the Episcopal Church and found your website. I came one Sunday and have been coming back since."

"Can you tell me how to volunteer? I want to get involved."

The sound of lively conversations resonated throughout the Narthex during the newcomer reception on the evening of Sunday, November 6. Hosted by the St. Andrew's Guild, the reception gave newcomers and visitors the opportunity to meet each other and to talk with members of the clergy, staff and parishioners. Guests and hosts shared their faith stories and how they found their way to Grace Church.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Evangelism *(Continued from page 12)*

Our attractive and user-friendly website was mentioned by many as their first point of contact in their search for a church. An invitation to Grace by a friend was also an important factor in people taking the step to visit.

The St. Andrew's Guild hosts newcomer events throughout the program year. At each one, we hear that our worship services, programs and warm hospitality bring people back to Grace Church.

November's reception was the last one for 2011. Stay tuned for information about the first one of 2012. Let us know if you'd like to participate in welcoming visitors in a formal way. For more information, contact [theresa.lewallen@gracealex.org](mailto:theresa.lewallen@gracealex.org) or [paul.bellantoni@gracealex.org](mailto:paul.bellantoni@gracealex.org). We'll be glad to have you participate.

If formal participation isn't for you right now, join in extending the welcome to visitors and newcomers each time you are at church. Introduce yourself, begin a conversation, suggest that they sign the guest book. The small effort you make may be a key reason that a visitor becomes a new member of Grace Church.

—Theresa Levallen

## Adult Education in December and January

### Forums

#### **12/4: “A Forum on Saint Nicholas!”**

Come to the Saint Luke Room Sunday 4 December at 10:15 and learn more about the beloved Saint. Lucy-Lee Reed will show selected special items from her collection and talk about the importance of Saint Nicholas in Advent and in our understanding of gift giving at Christmas. Be on the watch at 9 and 11:15 services for an important related event and take a look in the Narthex from 27 November to 9 December to see the full collection display of Saint Nicholas representations and literature.

#### **12/11: “The End of the World as We Know It”**

Many people dismiss eschatology (the study of the end times) as the stuff of Hollywood blockbusters or religious extremists. But during Advent, we hear about it all the time as we prepare both for Christ's coming at Bethlehem and for his return at the end of the ages. What does Scripture *really* say about this topic? How do we, as Episcopalians, think about the end of the world? Come and join the conversation during Adult Forum on 12/11, led by Deacon Andrew D'Angio White.

#### **12/18 “Breathe. Listen. The Lord is with you.”**

Silence invites us to grow. Listening opens us to the unexpected. Join Chrissie Crosby as she leads us

through the Advent-urous intersection of stillness, listening, and the silent mystery that is God with us. Breathe deeply. Contemplate God's voice. Invite the silent resonance to journey with you.

**1/15: “Faith Journey: The Art of Epiphany (inspire)”**—led by Anne Boris

**1/22: 2012 Budget Presentation**—led by Erica McFarquhar, Treasurer, and Howell Medley, Senior Warden

### Inquirers' Classes

12/4 A Tour of the Church

12/11 The History and Mission of Grace Church

12/18 The Two Christmas Stories

1/15 Baptism and Confirmation

1/22 The Holy Eucharist

## December and January Birthdays

12/1	Florence Binari	1/1	Judy Miller
12/1	Poppy Gardner	1/2	Mira Chiow
12/1	Homer Hunt	1/2	Jane Joyner
12/2	Elizabeth Zuidema	1/2	Brendan Smoot
12/3	Connor Beyreuther	1/3	Chris Corlett
12/3	Sloane Mebane	1/3	Yasuhiko Kamakura
12/3	Bobbie Wallace	1/3	Melanie Lund
12/4	Beck Hastings	1/3	Dina Salamanca
12/4	Kevin Plunkett	1/4	Michelle Cox
12/4	Mary Walsh	1/4	Bryce Fleming
12/6	Ben Fowler	1/4	Deborah Klaus
12/6	Reagan Hope	1/5	Dorothy Bakke
12/6	Del Hunt	1/5	Jayce Barr
12/6	Cameron Sweet	1/7	Colby Gustafson
12/6	Sam Wandler	1/7	Kaitlin Hazelwood
12/7	Lara DeMarco	1/7	Karen Hoppe
12/7	Harrison Moore	1/7	Emily Smith
12/8	Eddie DeMarco	1/7	Sydney Toler
12/8	Valerie Eudy	1/8	Wyman Howard
12/9	Deborah Crabtree	1/9	Noelle Smoot
12/9	Zoe Moore	1/10	Chipper Fowler
12/11	Will Berry	1/10	Sara Waskowicz
12/11	Juliet Carr	1/12	Suzanne Lawton
12/11	Kimberly Edgar	1/13	Margaret Smith
12/11	Alexander Everett	1/14	Anne Caputo
12/11	Lindsay Howard	1/14	Renee DeMarco
12/12	Kristina Larson	1/14	Ryan Durkin
12/13	Isabella Giacomo	1/14	Claire Falatko
12/13	Holden Jason	1/14	David McCombs
12/13	Lucio Ovando	1/14	Suzy McQuilkin
12/14	Mike Stancil	1/14	Betty Mills
12/14	Mary Carol Tazewell	1/14	Kylie Payne
12/14	Lucy Waskowicz	1/15	Dorothee Arnold
12/15	Peter Eckel	1/15	Waunetah Hall
12/15	Greg Whitlow	1/15	Luis Odria
12/16	John Greely	1/15	Aubrielyn Reeder
12/16	Elise Raymond	1/15	Peter Spencer
12/16	John Sweeney	1/15	Ava Wandler
12/17	Julia Cooper	1/16	Rose Hall
12/17	Mary Fox	1/16	Evie McCombs
12/17	Mary Lewis Hix	1/17	Caroline Legere
12/17	Charles Saphos	1/18	Cathy David
12/17	Sophie van der Sluis	1/19	Jeanette Ovando
12/18	David Dellefield	1/21	Jane Barr
12/18	Clay Everett	1/21	Tom Donelson
12/19	Mac Rein	1/22	Dorothy Daniel
12/20	Pat Edelin	1/22	Bill Eckel
12/20	Graham Murchison	1/22	Chris Kupezyk
12/20	Elizabeth Newton	1/22	Katherine Peck
12/20	Sandy Olexy	1/22	Teresa Scalzo
12/21	Holly Henderson	1/22	Alison Smith
12/22	Meghan Ames	1/23	Nat Ames
12/22	Priscilla Hanley	1/23	Suzanne O'Malley
12/23	Mary Lacey Reuther	1/24	Brennen Ruff
12/23	Constance Troyer	1/25	Lizzie Goodnow
12/24	Jack Blunden	1/25	Laura Mergens
12/25	Nicholas Ramm	1/25	Michelle Searcy
12/26	Wanda Fraser	1/25	Richard Troyer
12/26	Eva Lorentz	1/26	Cindy Ikard
12/26	Jessica Malm	1/26	Tania Shand
12/27	Keagan Sullivan	1/27	Robert Carpenter
12/27	Sam Waskowicz	1/27	Kathryn Pattarini
12/29	Norma Alvarenga	1/28	Nicholas Gentry
12/29	Stanley Borgia	1/28	Nora Gentry
12/29	Linda Durand	1/28	Lucy Medley
12/29	Brett Medley	1/29	Morgan Miller
12/29	Steven Nider	1/30	Charlie Reed
12/30	Betty Alexander	1/30	Henry Tazewell
12/30	Stephen Bagley	1/31	Jonathan Austin
12/30	Jim Di Crocco	1/31	Lisa Boci
12/30	Gabriella Everett	1/31	Anne Boris
12/31	Thomas Crabtree	1/31	Sarah Gabbert
12/31	Barbara Ramm	1/31	Robert Steele
		1/31	Sharon Steele

## Parish Staff

Robert Malm.....	Rector
( <a href="mailto:rector@gracealex.org">rector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Patrick Crerar.....	Associate Rector
( <a href="mailto:associate.lector@gracealex.org">associate.lector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Andrew White .....	Assistant to the Rector
( <a href="mailto:deacon@gracealex.org">deacon@gracealex.org</a> )	
Christine Byrnes .....	Head of School
( <a href="mailto:office@graceschoolalex.org">office@graceschoolalex.org</a> )	
Thom Robertson.....	Director of Music
( <a href="mailto:music.director@gracealex.org">music.director@gracealex.org</a> )	
Julie Simonton.....	Assistant for Family Ministries
( <a href="mailto:family.ministries@gracealex.org">family.ministries@gracealex.org</a> )	
Charlotte Payne Wright.....	Parish Administrator
( <a href="mailto:parish.administrator@gracealex.org">parish.administrator@gracealex.org</a> )	
Beth Wiggers.....	Administrative Associate
( <a href="mailto:parish.office@gracealex.org">parish.office@gracealex.org</a> )	
Noelle Smoot.....	Children's Chapel Coordinator
( <a href="mailto:childrens.chapel@gracealex.org">childrens.chapel@gracealex.org</a> )	
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
-------------------	--------------

### 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

# Growing @ Grace



## Family Ministries Advent, Christmas, (and a little more!) Calendar

### *Sunday, 27 November is . . . 1 Advent: All Parish Intergenerational Event*

10:15 a.m. All-parish crafts and wreath-making to welcome Advent and celebrate the New Church Year!

### *Sunday, 4 December is . . . Advent Parent Forum: Percolating with a Saint*

10:15 a.m. Parenting @ Grace hosts the Adult Faith Formation (and Parent Forum Coffee Bar) with a study on the life of Saint Nicholas

### *Sunday, 18 December is . . . Pageant Sunday*

10:15 a.m. All ages will practice for Pageant with their Sunday School teachers

3:00 p.m. Pageanteers with speaking and leadership roles will rehearse in the church

4:00 p.m. All Pageanteers will put on costumes in their Sunday School rooms

5:00 p.m. Pageant!

6:00 p.m. Pizza Party and Cookie Reception in Merrow Hall

Please bring cookies to share . . . a good will offering will be taken at the door for the pizza

### *Saturday, 24 December is . . . Christmas Eve*

4:30 p.m. Nursery and Children's Chapel open for the 5:00 pm service

Children's Chapel will begin in the St. Nicholas room. At 4:55 the children will go to the church and sit between the front pew and the pulpit to watch the procession and to see Jesus in the manger. Children are encouraged to bring a new school supply gift to place at the manger. Gifts will be donated to the Haiti-Micah Project.

**Please note this is the only Christmas Eve Service with childcare.**

### *Sunday, 25 December is . . . Christmas Day*

12 noon Festival Eucharist

**Please note that the Nursery, Children's Chapel, and Sunday School are closed.**

### *Sunday, 1 January is . . . New Year's Day*

11:45 Nursery opens for the 12 noon service

*Children 6 weeks old through Kindergarten are welcome in the nursery.*

**Please note that Children's Chapel and Sunday School are closed.**

### *Sunday, 8 January is . . . The Baptism of Christ and Three Kings Sunday*

9:45 a.m. Nursery opens for the 10:00 Bilingual Eucharist

*Children 6 weeks to 2 years old are welcome in the nursery.*

9:50 a.m. Children's Chapel opens for the 10:00 Bilingual Eucharist

*Children 3 years old through Kindergarten are welcome to Children's Chapel.*

**Please note that Sunday School is closed. Do join us in Merrow Hall after the service for a festive potluck brunch with La Gracia and visit from the Three Kings.**

# Christmas at Grace Church 2011

## Christmas Pageant, December 18

5:00 PM ..... Carols and Children's Christmas Pageant  
followed by a pizza party and cookie exchange in the Merrow Hall Auditorium

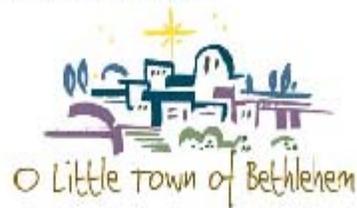
## Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 PM ..... First Eucharist of Christmas with procession to the crèche. (Prelude at 4:40 PM)  
*The Nursery will be available at 4:30 PM for children 2 years and under.*  
*Children's Chapel will also start at 4:30 for those 3 years through kindergarten.*

7:30 PM ..... Holy Eucharist (Prelude at 7:15 PM)

10:30 PM ..... Choral Prelude

11:00 PM ..... Midnight Mass of the Nativity of our Lord



## Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 AM ..... La Santa Eucaristía (in Auditorium)

12:00 NOON ..... Festival Eucharist

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

## Saint Stephen, December 26

12:00 NOON ..... Holy Eucharist

## Saint John the Evangelist, December 27

6:30 PM ..... Holy Eucharist

## The Holy Innocents, December 28

7:00 AM ..... Holy Eucharist



## Feast of the Holy Name, January 1

9:00 AM ..... La Santa Eucaristía (in Auditorium)

10:00 AM ..... Holy Eucharist

12:00 NOON ..... Choral Eucharist

*The Nursery will be available at 11:45 AM for children Kindergarten age and under.*



## The Epiphany of Christ, January 6

7:30 PM ..... Festival Eucharist