

Please Pray For...

Parishioners... Mary, Michael, Jimmy, Joyce, Lisa, Michael, Dick, Martha, Liz, Nate, Easter, Thomas, Bette, Jack, Sherrie

Family and friends... Tina, Carol, Matthew, Sherrel, Pepper, Jack, Cecilia, Tom, Jeanne, Spencer, Ella, Lori, Jennifer, Margaret, Joan, Rob, Richard, Denise, John, Gayle, Steve, Patty, Bobby, Caitlin, Bibsy, Wally and his family, Tina, Jack, Megan, Dottie, Lavonia, John, Ann, Scott, Larry, Sue, Nate, Cynthia, Jack, Sarah, Dominic, Maureen, Josie, Eileen, Meredith, Atelia, Yvonne, Kimberly, Sheila, Maria, Kathy, Jim, Jack, Bud, Max, Bill, Ella, Shannon, Chris, Neal, Alec, Darrie, Tammy, Alice, Sandra, Vicky, Russ

Requiescat in Pace ... all those killed in acts of terror and the wars around the world.

Those serving in Afghanistan or Iraq and all others at risk, including, Alex Ford, Andy Lopez, Eric and Karen Coulson, and Claire Eudy. Pray for healing for US troops wounded as casualties of war and their caregivers.

Others who are overseas serving the Church or our nation, or studying, including Lit and Mary Carol Tazewell, Maggie Eckel, Andrew Boyd and Audra Kreger, the Scudi family, Mike and Kim Bomberger, Chris, Maggie and Eddy Corlett, Virginia Robinson, the Pattarini family, Evan and Kim Cannell

Those travelling: Joe and Claudine Donovan

Those in assisted living: Shirley, Jorge, Joan, Clare, Tom, Fr. Jack, Kathleen, Jim

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Trinity, Charlottesville; St. Luke's, Simeon; St. James' Mt. Vernon; Meade Memorial, Alexandria; Santa Maria, Falls Church.

In the parish The Board and staff of Grace Episcopal School, **Patricia Culbreth**, Head of School and John Berry, School Board Chair.

Those with birthdays this week:

11 Juliet Carr, Alexander Everett, Lindsay Howard

13 Isabella Giacomo, Lucio Ovando

14 Mike Stancil, Mary Carol Tazewell, Lucy Waskowicz

15 Peter Eckel, Eric Traynham, Greg Whitlow

16 John Sweeney

17 Mary Fox, Mary Hix, Nasya Khanna, Charles Saphos,
Sophie van der Sluis

Notes for Today

Greenery on the Altar

The greenery arrangements on the Altar today are given to the glory of God and in Thanksgiving by the Altar Guild.

Adult Forum Series with Senior Seminarian Jason Roberson

Explore the use of Scripture in several rites of the *Book of Common Prayer*. We will meet in the St. John Room.

The Inquirers Class

The Inquirers Class will be meeting in the Nave with Father Malm. This week we will take a tour of the church.

Confessions in Advent

During this season of preparation and reflection it is our practice at Grace Church to offer times for individual confession with a priest. The clergy will be available in the Church at the altar rail on Tuesdays at 5:45 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. before the daily Eucharists. You may also call and make an appointment. A guide, "How to Make Your Confession," is available in the track rack in the Narthex and on the credenza in the Commons.

Restoring Needed Funding

Last year, the vestry was forced to cut our Outreach budget, which we use to help those in need, by more than \$6,500. Your generous contribution to this year's pledge drive would help us restore those funds, and perhaps even increase them! So far we have 179 pledges and are moving closer to our goal of 250. Please fill out a pledge card or pledge online at www.gracealex.org/pledge.

Invitation to Serve

The Vestry is seeking candidates to begin serving in January 2017. We are electing five members for three-year terms, two members for two-year terms, and two members for one-year terms. Vestry candidates must be confirmed members, in good standing, who are "known to the Treasurer." If you are interested or if you know someone to suggest as a nominee, please contact a member of the senior class (Bill Eckel, Jeff Chiow, Easter Thompson, Lina Dobbs, or Bill Malone).

Christmas Pageant Today at 5 p.m.

Needing a little Christmas spirit? The Christmas Pageant will surely put you in the holiday mood! Godly Play - 3rd grade, please remain in the Nave following the 9:00 service for rehearsal. Those with speaking parts, please be in the Nave at 2:30 for rehearsal. Godly Play - 3rd grade, please be in your Sunday school classroom at 4 p.m.

Cookies!

Following the pageant, join us in Merrow Hall for pizza and cookies. Please bring a tray of your favorite Christmas cookie to share. If you are not able to come to the pageant, but are willing to bring cookies, you may leave your tray (labeled with your name on the tray) in the kitchen

during any of the coffee hours.

Be an Angel for a Family in Need

Help bring some smiles to children in need this holiday season by purchasing gifts for the children taking part in our Angel Tree collection. The Angel Tree is in the Commons and is covered in requests. During Coffee Hour, take the opportunity to take one or more angel requests from the tree and then go purchase the gifts described on it. Wrap the gift and attach the tag to the request. Gifts should be left in the Parish office or the bin by the office door by December 18.

Upcoming Events

2016 Contributions

In order to have your pledges and other contributions recorded for 2016, they must be received in the office by December 31 or postmarked December 31.

Save the Date: Grace at the Movies, Tuesday, January 10

Watch and discuss the film "Love and Mercy." The film starts at promptly at 6:30 p.m. RSVP by January 2 to elisabeth.graham@gracealex.org.

#AWAKEN GRACE February 3-5, Richmond, VA

Join youth from around the Diocese for the first annual conference for spiritual formation. Limited spaces and application required. If your 9-12th grader is interested, contact Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org for more information. Cost: \$80.

Gifts at the Creche

Through the Christmas season, we will collect gifts of unwrapped school and craft supplies for the children in the International Academy at TC Williams High School in Alexandria. Most of these children have come here from other countries, often times after traumatic, even life-threatening events.

Help at Grace and Beyond

Tutors Needed

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium Book Buddies program is seeking volunteers for the several schools. Training, lesson plans and materials and support are provided. To register to tutor, visit www.alexandriatutors.org. For any questions please contact atc@opmh.org or 703-549-6670, ext 119.

The Calendar for the Week

Sunday, Dec 11

- 8:30 a.m. Library open (8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) and when church is open
- 8:45 a.m. Childcare for children 6 weeks through 2 years
(until 12:30 p.m.) — Nursery
- 9:00 a.m. Children's Chapel — St. Nicholas Room
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Forum – St. John Room,
- 10:15 a.m. Inquirers Class – Nave
- 11:15 a.m. Children's Chapel — St. Nicholas Room
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 p.m. Community of Hope International — St. Mark Room

Monday, Dec. 12

- Brown Bag Lunch Program Monday through Friday
- 6:30 a.m. Strength and Flexibility Class — Auditorium
- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry (until 3:00 p.m.)
- 6:30 p.m. Education for Ministry — St. John Room

Tuesday, Dec. 13

- 1:00 p.m. Food Pantry open (until 3:00 p.m.)
- 4:15 p.m. Boys and Girls Choir Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Confession – Lady Altar
- 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers — Lady Altar
- 7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting -- Auditorium

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Ember Day

- 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist — Lady Altar
- 4:30 p.m. Yoga Class
- 7:00 p.m. AA District 1 — St. Luke Room
- 8:00 p.m. AA and Al-Anon — St. Luke Room and Auditorium

Thursday, Dec. 15

- 11:30 a.m. Confession – Lady Altar
- 12:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist — Lady Altar
- 4:15 p.m. Boys and Girls Choir
- 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir

Friday, Dec. 16

- 10:00 a.m. GES Christmas Program. Dismissal following program.
- 6:30 p.m. Food Pantry
- 8:30 p.m. AA — Auditorium

Saturday, Dec. 17

- 9:00 a.m. Altar Guild — Sacristy and Nave