



Monthly Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church
July / August 2019

Grace Notes

Rector's Reflection
Building

“Each builder must choose with care how to build...”

St. Paul was a 1st century builder of community, the Body of Christ, the Church. As we read Acts and Paul’s letters, we learn of his skill in building community. “According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it... that foundation is Jesus Christ...” (1 Cor. 3:10-15)

Recently I arrived at church at 7:00 a.m. on a Wednesday for the 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. As I drove into our parking lot, I saw a huge crane, lifting a piece of the new HVAC equipment up and over the Merrow Hall roof. What a sight! After the Eucharist, I went out to see all the work and take some photos.

This summer, we are fully engaged in replacing our HVAC system for all our building except the church proper and the undercroft rooms. We hope and plan for all the work to be finished by mid-August so we can return to our schoolrooms and offices well before the start of our school year in early September.

We are building on the foundation others have laid. And we are preparing for our own future, for the generations that will follow us at Grace. This is exciting and challenging.

The challenge goes beyond the temporary displacement and minor confusion we are currently experiencing. The challenge will come soon as we prepare for a 2020 budget to include over \$70,000 in debt payments to cover the loan we took out for our share of the project. Thankfully, Grace Episcopal School is sharing 50% of the cost with us.

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Worship Schedule

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite I..... 7:30 am
Child Care 10:15 am–11:45 am
La Santa Eucaristía 9:00 am
Choral Eucharist* 10:30 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II..... 5:00 pm

Weekday Schedule

Tuesdays, Rite II with healing 6:30 pm
Wednesdays, Rite I 7:30 am
Thursdays* 12:15 pm

*Alternating Rite I and Rite II weekly

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 August 15 for the September issue. Articles should be submitted by e-mail to grace.notes@gracealex.org. All articles are subject to editing.

Grace Church’s newsletter team includes Amy Barron, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Teresa Preston, and Amy Medrick.

Rector’s Reflections continued from Page 1

Our future depends on our building in the present—building a strong, healthy community of faithful believers who will pray, work and give to extend the work of Jesus Christ. Each one of us has a job to do; each one of us is a builder. Jesus is depending upon us to build his Church in our day and time.

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

Sign up for Shrine Mont 2019!

“Again I say rejoice!” This exhortation from Philippians 4:6 is the theme for the 2019 Grace Church getaway at Shrine Mont in the Shenandoah Valley on September 6-8. Those who have enjoyed Shrine Mont before know that the weekend has a lot to offer all ages, whether you’re looking for a chance to unwind, good conversation, games, a party, a spiritual experience, or all of the above. Amy Medrick and Beth Calaman have designed an online form that should make signing up via the Grace Church website quick and easy, starting July 1. (Filling out a paper form and paying by check will also remain an option). If you have any questions, and especially if you’re unfamiliar with Shrine Mont and would like to learn more, 2019 Shrine Mont Coordinators Anne and John Boris or 2020 Shrine Mont Coordinators Jennifer and Bill Eckel would love to hear from you. Next stop, Orkney Springs!

John Boris

Pentecost



Grace Church is:

A center for worship and fellowship

A school for discipleship and stewardship

A community for healing and outreach

From the Associate Rector



Dear Grace family,

How exciting it is to be back here at Grace! I moved to Alexandria on June 25th and began work in the office (the choir room, for now) on Monday, July 1st. My first official Sunday will be July 7th, both at La Gracia and at the 10:30 service. So much has happened since I left here in May of 2017 as a seminarian, but now I can say – it's so great to be home!

I am honored to be doing ministry together with you all here in this place. We have so many good things in store for us as a parish in the coming years, and we have a dedicated and talented staff that is ready to take on any challenge that comes our way. Grace Church is a beacon of light for so many in this community, and our ministries will only continue to flourish and grow in the coming years. Thanks be to God!

Please feel free to stop by the choir room to say hello or email me anytime. My email address is: JRoberson@gracealex.org.

Blessings,

Father Jason

Invite, Welcome and Connect

The week of June 10th I attended the Invite, Welcome and Connect Conference in Sewanee, Tennessee. IWC is the brainchild of Mary Parmer, following 10 years of experience in newcomer ministry at St. Stephen's in Beaumont, Texas. The main idea of the IWC is to spread the Gospel through hospitality: over 150 Episcopal clergy, lay staff and members from across the country and in Canada filled the lecture halls of The University of the South to learn the tricks of the evangelism trade!

The good news is that Grace Church does evangelism well. We are a welcoming and warm parish and systems are already in place to track newcomers when they visit, and connect with them in the days and weeks following. However, there is always room to improve and ministry areas to focus on as we fine tune the ministry of Invite, Welcome and Connect!

Here are my thoughts that I jotted down throughout the conference and the days following, of ways to grow Grace through the ministry of evangelism, using the core principles of IWC:

- Invite
 - Who have you invited to church recently? One of our Vestry members shared the story of her contact with a co-worker and how talking about her friends and connections at Grace turned into an invitation to church.
 - Another member shares the Wednesday RoundUp or Weekly Enews with friends in the neighborhood that he knows are looking for a church.
- ★ If each member invited one person to church, imagine what an impact that would make!
- Welcome
 - Would you be willing to serve on our Evangelism Committee? We have a small but mighty committee that coordinates the Newcomer Receptions and follows up with new visitors. This is a big job that requires people power!
- ★ The spiritual gift of hospitality is a gift to be shared. We need you in this vital area of ministry to bolster and boost the incredibly important work of welcoming new people to our church! Contact Jenni Faires (jenni.faires@gracealex.org) or Jean Reed, Vestry Chair of Evangelism (jeandreed@verizon.net) to join our team.
- Connect
 - If there is one area to focus on in 2019, this would be the place. Once a visitor or new member comes to Grace, who do they connect with? Foyers, Coffee Hours, joining the

choir are a few avenues for connection, but our goal should be to build upon our tried and true programs and continue to seek new ministry opportunities that reach different age groups and audiences.

- ★ This summer, the staff will be studying our current ministries and looking for needs that are not currently being met.

Stay tuned during the month of August. Father Jason Roberson, our new Associate Rector, and I will be working together this summer, specifically in evangelism. Father Jason has had success with IWC at his former parish in South Carolina and I am looking forward to hearing his experiences as we grow this very important ministry at Grace!

Jenni Faires

Senior Sermons on Youth Sunday June 2, 2019



Music Notes

Summer Choir

Grace Church has moved into the more relaxed summer schedule and the choirs have taken a break from their weekly schedule. Instead of having weekly evening rehearsals, interested singers are encouraged to come to the Choir Room at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays to prepare a simple anthem to be sung later that morning at the 10:30 a.m. service. This is a good chance for people not presently singing to give choir a try; you'll find that the gallery gives you a different perspective on the liturgy.

The Summer Choir schedule goes through September 1.

Hymn Histories for July 14

390, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty": In August, 1978 a survey of congregations across the country was sponsored by the Standing Commission on Church Music to ascertain the use of materials in the then-current *Hymnal 1940*, this hymn was rated as one of those used most often. Although its popularity came as no great surprise, it was an item of real news to many when they discovered that the hymn did

not enter the Episcopal Hymnal until the 1940 edition. These words were written by Joachim Neander and first published in Bremen in 1680. The tune LOBE DEN HERREN occurs in a wide variety of forms, which suggest that it has folk song origins. It has been published in various forms since about 1665. By approximately 1700, the tune had evolved to its present form.

660, "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee": This text, by Washington Gladden, was originally published in the magazine *Sunday Afternoon*, of which he was editor, in 1879. Gladden selected the English tune MARYTON as his "authorized" tune for the hymn.

304, "I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord": These words were written in 1968 by the contemporary English hymn writer the Rev. Brian Wren. The text was originally written to sum up a series of sermons on the Eucharist. The tune LAND OF REST was first published in *The Christian Harp* (Pittsburgh, 1832), a collection of shaped-note tunes collected by Methodist Minister, Samuel Wakefield. In this first publication, the tune was

named LONGING FOR HOME and was published with the words, "O Land of Rest, for thee I sigh!" The tune next appeared in *Church Harmony* (Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, 1841) where its name was changed to LAND OF REST. The tune first appeared in our hymnal in *The Hymnal 1940* where it was set with the words, "Jerusalem, My Happy Home" (#620 in our present hymnal).

376, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee": Henry van Dyke wrote the words to the hymn on a visit to Williams College in 1907. The Berkshire Mountains were his inspiration. These words were written to go with Beethoven's tune ODE TO JOY which is part of the final movement of the master's 9th symphony.

*Richard Newman
Director of Music*

New Software for the Church

Along with all of our HVAC renovations, Grace is also doing some updating of our computer systems. As you walk around in the building, you might see cables hanging from the ceiling as we pull new wires through to increase the speed of our computers and upgrade our wi-fi capabilities as we move into the program year. In addition to that, the parish office is switching to a new church management software called Breeze. I think it will be a great benefit to the congregation.

The first step is the initial rollout. We have sent invitations to “Create Your Grace Episcopal Church Account” to those who we have current email addresses for and some parishioners have already logged on and created their logins and passwords. At this point, all parishioners will have access to is their personal profile and their giving information. This will allow you to:

- Update your personal information – address, email, phone numbers and to mark any of those private that you don’t want to appear in the directory.
- Upload a photo of yourself.
- Check your giving - Did you register for Shrine Mont? Check your giving to see if we’ve received your payment. You can’t find your quarterly statement and want to check how you are doing on your pledge? You can do that too!

As we move forward with Breeze, we will be adding additional features to your account. This fall, we hope to introduce an online directory which will allow members to be able to view contact information for other parishioners as long as the parishioner has not marked that information as private. This software will also allow us to print out our own photo directories using the photos that you have uploaded or given to the office to scan and add if you need help.

Do you need to have an email address to have an account? No. If we don’t have an email for you and you want to be able to login, contact me at the parish office (703.549.1980) and I will set you up with a login and temporary password for you to change the first time you login to the system.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 703.549.1980 or at parish.administrator@gracealex.org.

Amy Medrick

Marta Conway's Ordination June 9, 2019 and
First Festival Eucharist, June 10, 2019



Announcements

Mission Trip Coming UP!

Grace is sending out its 2019 mission team on Sunday July 7. Our first mission team went to New York City in 2004. Since 2006, our EYC-adult teams have gone on mission every year. Go Grace! This year our team will go to Sampson County, North Carolina. This rural area was flooded heavily from last fall's hurricanes.

While we do help families return to their homes, the ones whose lives are changed the most are our EYC youth. Don't miss their stories at an adult forum this fall.

Backpack/Supply Drive for Alexandria City Public Schools

Grace Church will be a public collection site for the school supply drive set to begin July 15. Be on the lookout for plastic bins to drop your backpacks or school supplies in the commons area by the main office.

Last year, our children and youth volunteered during the packing days to help stuff over 2000 backpacks with supplies for needy K-12 students in the Alexandria City school system. This year, we will offer the same volunteer opportunities for our children and youth on

- Wednesday, August 14 from 2-5 p.m.
- Thursday, August 15 from 10-1 p.m.

Please email Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org if you would like your child to participate.

Summer Giving

Don't forget to download the Tithe.ly App on iPhone or Android and set up regular giving throughout the summer months. Typically, churches experience a drop in giving during the summer months, which leads to a stressful fall as we make up the difference.

There are three ways to give when you are out of town or on vacation:

- Recurring payments from your bank account (fee free for user and the church)
- Recurring payments through the website (https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/158826)
- Download the Tithe.ly App on your iPhone or Android

Blessing of the Backpacks and Churchwide Picnic

The 2019-2020 school year is quickly approaching! We would like to recognize the teachers of our Sunday School and Grace Episcopal School as well as our parishioners who are teachers or students on August 25 at the 10:30 a.m. service with a special Blessing of the Backpacks. Each student and teacher will receive a special tag for their backpack or tote of choice as a daily reminder of the prayers from the Grace community that they carry with them each day.

Following the service, we will celebrate summer with our church-wide picnic. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy a lunchtime opportunity of fellowship and fun. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided.

Stroller Parking

We have had lots of new babies born in the last several months! On Sunday, August 11 at 9:30 a.m., we invite all our new parents and babies to an informal breakfast gathering prior to the 10:30 a.m. service. Light breakfast fare, coffee and juice will be available as we take this opportunity to meet each other and all the new babies that have arrived in the recent weeks. Please RSVP to Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org.

Boys and Girls Choir

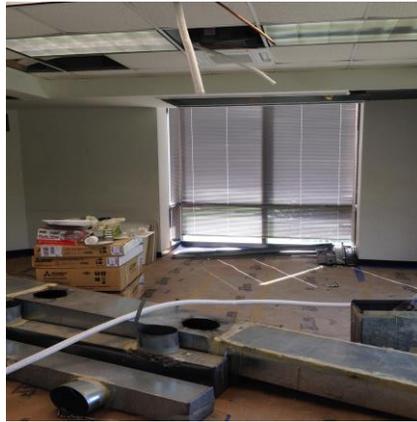
Does your child love to sing? Are you interested in gifting your child with the lifelong benefits of a solid foundation of a musical education? You may have even heard the children sing at Evensong, the Christmas Pageant or during the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist twice a month.

August is registration month and auditions will be held the week of August 26-30, so now is the time to consider if your child is ready to join! Children must be proficient readers and commit to rehearsals twice a week. In addition, the Boys and Girls Choir sings at two morning services per month. If you are interested in learning more or setting up a time for

Forum Ideas/Suggestions

Do you have any great ideas for the Adult Forum for the next program year? If so, we would love to hear them! Email Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org or Khacki Berry at khacki.berry@gracealex.org with any suggestions.

HVAC PROGRESS



Grace Episcopal School

Happy summer to our Grace Community! We ended the school year with a wonderful celebration of our fifth grade graduates. At the special ceremony celebrated by Father Malm, each student shared his/her legacy speech, which reminisced about the many gifts of a Grace education. Next fall, our graduates will attend St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, St. Rita's Catholic School, The Basilica School of St. Mary, Holton-Arms School and Holy Trinity School. The foundation students received will undoubtedly secure their success in middle school.

The school also joins the church in our shared need for facility flexibility this summer. Classrooms and school offices were packed up and moved for storage to Merrow Hall Auditorium or to the storage unit in the back playground area in early June. We look forward to the removal of the heat registers in each classroom and the new HVAC cartridge in every classroom ceiling. To be cool in summer and warm in winter will be a delight and create a perfect environment for learning. Many thanks to the church community for sharing the St. Matthew Room to allow for our school summer office. We all look forward to a successful ending to this important facility improvement.

As we look forward to the 2019-2020 school year, we ask our Grace community to spread the word of Grace School. Our best candidates come from church and school referrals, and we still have limited openings for the new school year. If you know a family who might be interested, please ask them to contact Amanda Hungerford, Director of Admissions, admissions@graceschoolalex.org. We believe every child should Begin with Grace!

Patti Culbreth



Spiritual Direction

For the past two years, I've spent one weekend each month at a retreat center called Richmond Hill with sixteen fellow students, pursuing a course of study preparing me to be a spiritual director. On Sunday June 9, I graduated. It was Mother Leslie Steffensen who nudged me in this direction, and I owe her a big debt of thanks. Before the six months that preceded the beginning of my study, I knew nothing about spiritual direction. I'm going to assume that you know as little as I did, so let me explain what spiritual direction is—and isn't.

Spiritual direction has very deep roots. The Gospels describe Jesus serving as a spiritual guide to his disciples. The Book of Acts describes Ananias helping Paul to grow in his newfound belief. Paul's letters describe him as mentoring both Timothy and Titus. And tradition tells us that John the Evangelist tutored Polycarp, the 2nd-century bishop of Smyrna.

Fourth century theologian John Cassian provided some of the earliest recorded guidelines on the Christian practice of spiritual direction—he introduced mentoring in the monasteries, where each novice was put under the care of an older monk. Benedict of Nursia integrated Cassian's guidelines into what we now know as the Rule of Saint Benedict.

Although I've earned a certificate as a spiritual director, I won't be directing anyone to do anything. Instead, I like to think of myself as a "spiritual companion." I hope I can be with some people as they try to deepen their relationship with God, to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. A person seeking direction shares stories of his or her encounters with God, or how he or she is cultivating a life that's attuned to spiritual things. I'll listen and probably ask questions to help the person in his or her process of reflection and spiritual growth. And we'll both invite the Holy Spirit to be with us during our times together.

Spiritual direction is more specifically focused than the

ministry of "pastoral care." And it isn't the same thing as psychological therapy because it addresses the spirit, rather than the mind and the emotions. The lines of demarcation, however, are blurred in both cases. If, after talking with someone, I think that person would benefit from talking with a priest or a counselor (or anyone else, for that matter), I'll suggest it. All conversations will be totally confidential, and I won't advertise to another living soul the names of people I might be meeting with at any given point in time.

Meetings will typically be for one hour each month in the Grace Church library, although the location, length and frequency are flexible. I might suggest specific readings or spiritual exercises between meetings, but I hope it will never seem like "homework." I'm grateful that God has given me the opportunity to learn and practice this ministry. If you think you might be interested, now or at some time in the future, let me know and we'll invite the Holy Spirit to help us explore the answer together.

From the Library

This month I am writing about a book I just finished reading and will be passing along as the newest addition to our parish library. While spending a few days in Richmond several weeks ago, I came across an item in the weekly bulletin of the church we were attending recommending a new historical novel about the life of St. Paul, *The Damascus Road* by Jay Parini. The rector of the church had said he could not put the book down once he started reading. I have always found Paul to be a puzzling but fascinating figure, so, based on the recommendation, I bought the book—conveniently offered for sale at the church coffee hour—and it became my first summer read.

The author, a poet, novelist, and biographer who

teaches at Middlebury College, explains that in writing this novel he “hoped to imagine what it was like for Paul and his fellow missionary Luke to live and move around the Roman world in the early to middle years of the first century.” He wanted to explore how Paul’s world must have looked and smelled, how the people talked, and what religious currents shaped their thinking. I think he succeeded, drawing upon his poet’s soul, novelist’s imagination, and biographer’s instinct for seeking out contextual explanations for his subject’s character.

The novel follows largely the sequence of events described by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, employing both the Gospel writer Luke (Paul’s constant traveling companion) and Paul himself as co-narrators. The co-narration, often describing the same events from different

perspectives, allows the reader to reflect on the passionate actions and writings of Paul, as tempered by the cooler and more pragmatic Luke. This novel, while a vision of what might have happened, has been meticulously researched and brings to life the world of Luke and Paul, along with the sensibilities and surroundings of the men and women from the earliest Jesus movement, “The Way.”

While not exactly a “beach read,” the novel is engrossing, fast paced, and highly entertaining. I truly enjoyed it—as both a compelling work of historical fiction and as opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation of the world that shaped both Paul and Luke.

-Jay O’Malley

A Connections Reminder

As described in the June Grace Notes, the September issue will include the return of the column *Connections* featuring news about you and your family and, with permission, news about other parishioners. This can include births, marriages, awards, theatre productions involving our youth, new parishioners, parishioners being relocated, unusual travel destinations. . . .

Any information you would like to have included should be sent to linda.waskowicz@gracealex.org. The next Grace Notes deadline is August 15.

July / August Birthdays

7/1	Helen Sweeney	8/1	Spencer Foucart
7/2	Sherryl Dodd	8/1	Emily Graves
7/5	Summer Jones	8/2	Colin Enger
7/6	Isabella Nider	8/2	Heather Hurley
7/8	Mike Gentry	8/2	Amy Phillips
7/8	Kirk McPike	8/2	Wendell Thomas
7/9	Diana Kellogg	8/2	Julia Zeigler
7/9	Robert Schultz	8/3	Joanne Davis
7/10	Kimberly Broome	8/8	John Barker
7/10	Woody Torrence Jr	8/8	Kimberly Reyes
7/12	Burrell Driscoll	8/8	Bob Schrott
7/12	Greg Hoppe	8/9	Erica McFarquhar
7/14	Jeanie Kaufman	8/12	Beverly Borgia
7/15	Lina Dobbs	8/12	Claire Whitworth
7/16	Karlene Kelly	8/15	Arden Faires
7/16	Chris Rugaber	8/15	Cynthia Fors
7/17	Howell Medley	8/15	Matthew Ryder
7/18	Chrissie Crosby	8/16	Sofia Knowles
7/18	John Hall	8/21	Betsy Anderson
7/18	David Murphy	8/21	Aidan Smith
7/18	Ruth Schrott	8/21	Frank Waskowicz
7/19	Cleve Corlett	8/21	Aidan White
7/20	Ai Hang Wang	8/22	Kate Nider
7/20	Reba Winstead	8/23	Keith Giacomo
7/22	Barry Rosman	8/24	Heather Murphy
7/23	Vance Allen	8/25	Hudson Chiow
7/23	Reagan Cline	8/25	David Hoppe
7/23	Pat Moore	8/26	Andrew Smith
7/24	Mike Jones	8/26	Colin Stancil
7/25	Jean Reed	8/30	Stephen Lovell
7/28	Annie Eason	8/31	Susan Hayduchok
7/28	Julia McClung	8/31	Kate Paige
7/28	Avery Meeks	8/31	Timothy Willard
7/31	Sharon Hickok		
7/31	Stephanie Reed		

Anniversaries

7/10 Evan and Nancy Robinson
 7/14 Peter and Charlie Iovino
 7/28 Reba and George Winstead
 8/29 Mark and Diana Kellogg

Parish Staff

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 Matthew Machowski Seminarian
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Vestry

Executive Committee

Chris Kupczyk Senior Warden
 Anne Caputo Junior Warden
 Mary Stewart Treasurer
 Jennifer Long Register
 Jean Reed Member at Large

Class of 2019

Kelly Gable Youth
 Erin Kelly TNT
 Chris Kupczyk Senior Warden
 Jennifer Long School Board
 Jean Reed Evangelism

Class of 2020

Khacki Berry Christian Education
 Anne Caputo Junior Warden
 Stephen Lovell Stewardship
 Mary Stewart Treasurer
 Laura Weidenfeld Worship

Class of 2021

Paul Bellantoni School Board
 Cleve Corlett Communications
 Diana Jarrett Pastoral Care
 Jennifer Pease Outreach
 Kemp Williams Fellowship

Non-Vestry Coordinators

..... Pastoral Care
 Tracy Enger Education/Youth
 Kristine Hesse Communications
 Cindy MacIntyre Evangelism
 Lynn Rohrs Fellowship
 Judy Willard Outreach