

Announcements for November 24, 2019

Please Pray For...

Parishioners: Michael, Richard, Tina, Bette, Susan, Frank, Katherine, Will, Easter, Douglas, Christine, Rosemary Claire, Linda, Denise, Yolanda, Claudine

Family and friends: Pepper, Cathy, Martha, George, Amanda, Kara, Hatch, Andy and Mia, Don, Rt Rev Carl, Virginia, Michael, Denis, Michael

Requiescat in Pace: those killed in acts of terror and war around the world.

Those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq or Syria and all others at risk: including Chuck DeHoag, and 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, Virginia Robinson, the Pattarini family, Melissa and Edi Jurkovic, with daughters Elena, Ana, Mia and Olivia, Chris Slattery, Christopher and Marjorie Corlett, Eric and Karen Coulson.

Those in assisted living: Jorge, Joan, Clare, Tom, Rose, Audrey, Jim, Dabney, Dorothy, Margaret, Vi, Muriel, Mary, Alice, Neal, Betty, Jane, Polly

Those travelling: Jane Weaver

The Diocese of Virginia Prayer Cycle: Piedmont Parish, Madison

The Anglican Prayer Cycle: The Falkland Islands / Las Islas Malvinas (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury) and **The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton**, Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands

Grace Episcopal Church Prayer Cycle: The Rev. Michael B. Guy, Sr., Interim Rector, as he begins his time with us at Grace.

Those with birthdays this week:

- 24 Holly Bray, Susie Saffelle, Elly Vogtmann
- 25 Christina Iovino, Benjamin Joyner, Katherine Zeigler
- 26 Lisle Bean
- 27 Sean Harris
- 28 Joey Portillo, Joe Reeder
- 30 Todd Egaas, Elizabeth Imphong, Julie Mills Cizek

Contact the Parish Office with your prayer requests or submit them on the website at: <http://bit.ly/Grace-Prayer>. Requests will be removed after 4 weeks unless renewed.

Welcome our New Interim Rector

Join us in a festive Coffee Hour following the 9:00 & 11:15 am services as we welcome Father Michael to Grace. Both Coffee Hours will be held in Merrow Hall Auditorium.

A Prayer for Our Search Process

Almighty and gracious God, be with us and guide us; open our hearts and minds, and teach us. Fill us with wisdom and an awareness of your vision as we seek a new rector for Grace Church. Grant continued grace and commitment to those who will be called to serve as members of the search committee, that they may become faithful companions to each other, to the vestry, and to this

parish. Grant us an adventurous spirit, willing to attempt new tasks and embrace new ways, and make us ever mindful of the need to listen to your still, small voice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Today

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the glory of God by Betty Mills in thanksgiving for the 18th birthday of her daughter, Julie Mills Cizek, and by Mike Hughes in honor of the birthday of Susan Saffelle.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving baskets are being delivered today! Thank you to all who have donated food, money or time. We will provide seasonal food and gift cards for approximately 90 families in our surrounding community.

Parish News

Last Call for the Parish Directory

We will be going to print this week with the current parish directory. The office volunteers have been busy calling around to make sure that we have current information and we've been accepting photos, hard copy and digital, to upload into the Breeze symptom. Printed copies will be made available on December 1st!

If you'd like to put your photo in the directory, you have three options:

- Upload it in the family section of Breeze
- Scan and email it to the office (parish.office@gracealex.org)
- Drop off a photo with your name on the back to the parish office.

Christmas Flowers

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 and enclose a donation of \$50 or visit gracealex.org and complete the online Flower Donation form if you'd prefer to pay online.

New Photo Wall

Check out our updated photo wall featuring Halloween activities, our very healthy youth program, the blessing of the animals, and a golf outing involving a former President -- among other things.

Stewardship

Pledge Season Continues!

A big thank you to all the individuals and families who have already made their pledge for 2020. We have currently received 108 pledges for a total of \$ 430,864. If you are still prayerfully considering your yearly gift, you may return your card to the church office by mail or drop it in the offering plate in the coming weeks. Online pledge forms are also available through the gracealex.org website at <http://bit.ly/Grace-Pledge>.

A note about the 2020 Pledge Cards.

Each pledge card contains a question pertaining to the publication of names following the pledge campaign. To clarify, this question is to help the Stewardship team better understand the congregation's needs as we all strive to fund the parish budget. Pledging names will not be posted at the end of this Stewardship campaign, and in no case are we considering posting dollar

amounts; but posting names is under consideration for future campaigns as we are continuously looking for creative ways to say thank you!

Have you completed your pledged giving for your 2019 contribution?

Worship, outreach, and ministry programs are all budgeted for the whole year relying on parishioners to fulfill their annual pledge amounts, and we have been careful with our expenses. While additional giving to special funds or occasions is always appreciated, your annual pledge is the critical financial structure supporting our mission. If you have questions about your year-to-date totals, please call the church office. Then please complete your 2019 pledge now to make sure we finish this year on budget.

This Week, November 25-30

Thanksgiving Week

The office will be closed from Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29. There will be a 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist on Thanksgiving morning.

Next Week December 1 - 7

December 1: Adult Forum

There will be no Sunday school or Adult Forum as we gather together in Merrow Hall Auditorium to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season. There will be Advent wreath making and crafts as well as devotional materials available for the season. If you did not pre-order the materials for an advent wreath, you may still make one for your family on a first come first served basis. Cost of each wreath is \$25.

December 1: Youth Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Next week is our Youth Christmas Party in Springfield from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. For more information, check the Wednesday RoundUp. Have you been visiting and want your youth involved? Contact Jenni Faires at Jenni.Faires@gracealex.org for more information

December 1: Card Signing (Auditorium)

We will be signing Advent cards for our College and Grad Students, Military, Diplomats and others serving Abroad, and parishioners on our prayer list during the 9:00 and 11:15 coffee hours. Make sure your homesick loved one doesn't miss out on a little encouragement from Grace: send their updated name, mailing address and email to Nancy.robinson@gracealex.org. We even scan and email signed cards to those stationed in remote locations. If you can help set up on Saturday, November 30, let Nancy know.

December 1: Annual Photo Sale

Be sure to stop by the foyer between services to look through all of the wonderful photos that Frank Waskowicz has taken throughout the year. These beautiful matted photos make great Christmas gifts and the proceeds are donated to Grace Church.

December 1: First Sunday with the Angel Tree

Beginning December 1, there will be a Christmas tree on the third floor with gift requests from some of the La Gracia families. Please sign up for one or more of the cards. Return the wrapped presents (with the tag attached) by December 19.

December 7: Only Two Weeks to Go to the Holiday Bazaar!

Begin your holiday shopping with local crafters and vendors at our Holiday Bazaar! Take advantage of the variety of unique gift items including jewelry, accessories, toys, fabric arts, home

and holiday decor, and more. The Bazaar will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All proceeds from the rental of vendor space and the raffle items go to the Food Pantry. Bring up to 3 non-perishable food items to exchange for raffle tickets! Volunteer to welcome and direct guests by contacting Cor (holidaybazaar.grace@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events

December 8: Advent Lessons and Carols

Advent Lessons and Carols will be sung by the Boys and Girls Choir and the Adult Choir on December 8 at 5:00 p.m. Music from *The Southern Harmony* and Handel's beloved masterpiece *Messiah*. Festive hymns for the season will also be sung. The service concludes with Holy Communion Rite I.

December 8: Reception Honoring Father Michael Guy

Following Advent Lessons and Carols, we invite you to a reception in Merrow Hall Auditorium honoring our new interim rector, Father Michael Guy. Drinks will be served from 6-6:30 pm with heavy hors d'oeuvres from 6:30-7:30.

December 15: Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant is quickly approaching! Jenni Faires is looking for volunteers! Anyone willing to help out in this special production, please contact Jenni at jenni.faires@gracealex.org.

In Our Community

Helping Others Without Leaving Home!

The Card Ministry reaches out to members of our community who have cause for celebration, for concern, reasons to mourn, and those with reason to rejoice. A piece of mail can lift someone's spirit. We need card writers for those everyday events – births and baptisms, weddings and anniversaries, illnesses and condolences. Cards are provided and can be mailed from the church at Grace's expense (though using one's own cards and stamps is an option). If this might interest you, or if you have any questions, contact John Boris at 703-941-3222 or borisjj@hotmail.com.

Hungry during the Holidays

While 90 Thanksgiving Baskets are being given out this morning, the work of the food pantry isn't done. Help us to make sure that the clients who come to us this week have what they need to have a nice Thanksgiving.

Food items: Dried Beans, Tortillas, Jam or Jelly, Fruit Snacks, Bagged Onions, Potatoes, Apples and Oranges

Toiletries: Soap, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Toilet Paper, Feminine Hygiene Products

Cleaning Supplies: Laundry Detergent, All Purpose Cleaner, Paper Towels, Dish Soap

Grocery Bags: The Food Pantry always needs clean, non-torn, grocery bags w/handles (Trader Joe's, Harris Teeter, MoM's & Whole Foods).