

# Grace Notes

Newsletter of Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia

Rector's Reflections

## A Season for the Spirit

More than 25 years ago, Martin Smith wrote a book of Lenten devotions with the title, "*A Season for the Spirit*." I've used the book and always recommend it as a good "companion" for the 40 days of Lent. We will keep 27 of these 40 Lenten days this March, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 1. The Sundays in March (and during all the weeks of Lent) are not counted as part of the 40-day discipline.

For many years, Martin has been one of our speakers during the Lenten Monday night program and he'll return again on the 27<sup>th</sup> to help us consider the theme, "Transform," one of the "5 Marks of Love" that is our focus this Lent on both Monday nights and with the workbook and online resources available to us.

Lent is, indeed, a very special season for the Spirit to work in and through us. Martin's book suggests we use the days in Lent to pray with the Scriptures. Using Bible passages and stories, we can enter into self-reflection, "soaking" ourselves in the presence of the Lord. Martin writes, "Prayer is like cooking. You have to collect and combine the stuff of your own experience and put it over the flame."

This practice of prayer is sometimes linked to "Ignatian Spirituality." St. Ignatius Loyola (1495-1556) was the founder of the Jesuits in 1534. He wrote out a series of spiritual "exercises" to help people deepen their relationship with God. And to this day, this practice of reflective prayer using scripture has been the center of retreats and daily prayer time. One source reports that Ignatius Loyola "trusted feelings" and "human desires. He believed that our deepest desire is to return to God's love."

I hope Lent will be a season for your spirit to grow into the love of the Holy Spirit. As we think about Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, during his last week, and the final hours on the Cross, may we see God's love at work in our lives as well.

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

March 2017

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## Worship Schedule

### Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist Rite I..... 7:30 am  
Child Care..... 8:45 am–12:45 pm  
Children’s Chapel..... 8:50 am–9:30 am  
La Santa Eucaristía..... 9:00 am  
Choral Eucharist Rite II..... 9:00 am  
Christian Ed classes ..... 10:15 am  
Choral Eucharist Rite I..... 11:15 am  
Holy Eucharist Rite II ..... 5:00 pm

### Weekday Schedule thru Feb. 28

Tuesdays, Rite II with healing... 6:30 pm

### Weekday Schedule beginning March 1

Mondays, Rite II ..... 6:30 pm  
Tuesdays  
Confessions..... 5:45 to 6:15 pm  
Rite II with healing..... 6:30 pm  
Wednesdays, Rite I..... 7:30 am  
Thursdays Rite II ..... 12:15 pm  
Fridays  
Confessions..... 11:30 am to Noon  
Stations of the Cross  
with Rite I ..... 12:15 pm

## 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 March 15 for the April 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, Kristine Hesse, June Huber, Teresa Preston, and Amy Medrick.

## March Adult Forums

### March 5: 5 Marks of Love Introduction

Week one of our six-week Lenten study on the 5 Marks of Love. A full description of the study can be found in this issue of *Grace Notes*.

### March 12: Convention Report

On January 26-28, Father Malm, Mother Leslie Steffensen, June Huber (President of Region IV, Alexandria Episcopal Churches), Barry Joyner and Jean Reed (Grace Church delegates to Convention), and Char Rusnak (Episcopal Church Delegate to UN Commission on Women) joined more than 600 clergy, lay delegates, spouses, and other invited guests at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston for the Diocese of Virginia’s 222nd Annual Convention—Walk in Love. Plan now to join Barry and Jean at the Adult Forum on March 12 for their report on this exciting, spirit-filled event in the life of the church. The report will include Bishop Johnston’s pastoral address, the keynote address by the Bishop of Atlanta, “Stories of the Diocese,” and other convention activities, and where God is leading us as we live our Baptismal Vows in the Diocese and in Grace Church.

### March 19: Holy Land Presentation

Kelly Gable and John and Anne Boris will present stories and pictures from their travels to the Holy Land late last year.

### March 26: Human Rights in El Salvador and Central America

Please join seminarian Jason Roberson for the 10:15 a.m. Adult Forum on Sunday, March 26, to discuss gang-related violence, forced displacement, and human rights violations in El Salvador and the “Northern Triangle” of Central America. Jason will share pictures and reflections from his recent trip to El Salvador with VTS and Foundation Cristosal.

## Music Notes



As we journey through this penitential season of Lent, music will shift to reflect the more somber and solemn character of the Lenten Sunday liturgies. For instance, the organ voluntaries will be meditative, and the closing voluntary, in particular, will be much quieter than usual, and similar in mood to the opening voluntary. Hopefully this will cause those leaving the church to leave in a contemplative state that is consistent with Lenten inner soul-searching. Also, during liturgies there will be no organ improvisations to fill in any dead time. There is no opening hymn during Lenten Sunday Eucharists, and the psalms that are sung at the 11:15 a.m. Eucharist will be plainsong instead of Simplified Anglican Chant. The reasoning behind all of these changes is that music serves as a handmaid to the liturgy, so as our Lenten liturgies see some slight alterations, the music follows suit in order to paint a musical picture of this season of penitence.

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### Marcel Dupré's *Le Chemin de la Croix*

Join us on Friday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. for *Le Chemin de la Croix* by French organist-composer Marcel Dupré. The Stations of the Cross has been a devotional tool for centuries, its beauty inspiring poets and musicians alike. Marcel Dupré's celebrated musical commentaries on the stations were first improvised in concert in alternation with stanzas of French poet Paul Claudel's "*Le Chemin de la Croix*," and later Dupré wrote them down, creating one of the masterpieces of music for the pipe organ. The entire cycle will be played by organists Josh Boyd, Aaron Tan, Richard Newman, and Jeremy David Tarrant, with Claudel's poems interspersed and read by Wendy Wilmer. Suggested donation at the door: \$10 (adults), \$5 (students and seniors). All monies collected directly benefit the Music Fund.

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### Choral Evensong

Our Lenten Choral Evensong will be on Sunday, March 26 at 5:00 p.m. Please invite your friends to both the concert on Friday and Evensong on this weekend.

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### Easter Brass

Holy Week and Easter are perhaps the most musically rich times of the liturgical year. But to provide for special instrumental music at Easter, we rely solely on the Music Fund—not on the church budget. The total sum of our Easter morning brass and timpani will cost \$2,650. If having brass is meaningful to you and you are able, please consider making a donation of any amount to the Music Fund to help defray this cost. Please help me meet my goal of getting at least 150 regular contributors to this fund. I bid you all a holy Lent.

*Richard Newman*

## 5 Marks of Love A Monday Night Lenten Series

In this six-week series, we will examine and reflect on the ways in which God's Life and God's Mission express themselves in and through us. Inspired by the Anglican "Marks of Mission," we will look for signs of God's presence and activity in our lives, in our communities, and in the world around us. Each week, we will explore one of the "Marks," allowing our speakers to use their different backgrounds and expertise to help us reflect on what God is doing in our lives and in our world.

We are "Living Life Marked as Christ's Own," and because Christ's life is expressed in and through us, we have a responsibility to

Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. (TELL)

Teach, baptize, and nurture new believers. (TEACH)

Respond to human need by loving service. (TEND)

Transform unjust structures, challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation. (TRANSFORM)

Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (TREASURE)

This six-week study will begin on Sunday, March 5 during the forum hour. This will replace the Parent Forum, normally scheduled for the first Sunday of the month and is open to all who are interested in learning about the series. Even if you are unable to participate in the Monday night studies, feel free to come and pick up a workbook and listen to the introduction. The Brothers of SSJE and VTS have made a daily email and video that anyone can access. The daily email and video can be found at [www.5marksoflove.org](http://www.5marksoflove.org).

For those of you who can attend, the schedule for Monday nights are as follows:

- 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with hymns in the church
- 7:10 p.m. Simple supper with sandwiches and soup in Merrow Hall
- 7:40 p.m. Presentation and Program



### The Program Schedule

- March 6 "Tell" led by Santi Rodriguez, Youth Minister at Christ Church, Alexandria
- March 13 "Teach" led by the Rev. Frank Wade, retired Rector of St. Alban's Church in D.C. and current Interim Dean of Students, VTS
- March 20 "Tend" led by the Rev. Betsy Gonzalez, Chaplain of The Episcopal High School
- March 27 "Transform" led by the Rev. Martin Smith, author, and retreat leader
- April 3 "Treasure" led by Chrissie Crosby, Creative Collaborator of Christian Education

I hope you will be able to join the study, either in person or as a daily devotional at home. The season of Lent gives us the opportunity to be intentional with our study and prayer time. Let us take advantage of this gift!

*Jenni Faires*

## Announcements

### Father Pierce Klemmt to Join Staff

The Rector has called the Rev. Pierce Klemmt to join the Grace church staff as a part-time Interim Assistant. Father Klemmt will share in Sunday and weekday liturgical ministries and assist as needed with pastoral care. He will serve at Grace while we search for a full-time assistant, probably through June.

In 2014, Father Klemmt retired after 20 years as the Rector of Christ Church here in Alexandria. In addition to supply work, he was the Interim Chaplain at Goodwin House, Baileys Crossroads for several months.

Father Klemmt is a graduate of Wabash College and Berkely-Yale Divinity School. Last December, he celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. He and his wife reside in Old Town.

### Bystander Intervention Training

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301

Saturday, March 4, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Developed and widely-used on college campuses and grounded in the act of loving our neighbors as ourselves, this simple training empowers individuals to recognize “bullying” in all its forms: sexual, gender, ethnic, racial, religious, partisan. The technique demonstrates how to stand by a person in need, diffuse conflict safely, and to seek help when needed. Led by trained facilitator Tameka Bell, journalist turned community organizer, communications educator, with experience in interfaith communities. Open to the parish and the public. Registration fee \$20. Questions? Contact the Rev. Joani Peacock at [celticjlp@gmail.com](mailto:celticjlp@gmail.com). Click here to register.

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=wsh8asdab&oeidk=a07edsh8ade8df08134>

### Save The Date for the 2017 Altar Guild Tea!

The Annual Altar Guild Tea will be held this year on Saturday, May 13. Be sure to save the date so you can join us for this wonderful Grace Church tradition. More details will be announced soon.

### Youth News

On March 5, Grace is hosting 40-50 Region IV youth for a high energy and fun filled afternoon of meal packing for the organization, Rise Up Against Hunger. The event, which will take place in Merrow Hall Auditorium, is scheduled from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Our youth will need to arrive at 1:30 p.m., to help with set up, and should plan to stay through the Youth Dinner from 5:30-8:00 p.m., for an evening of decompression and reflection.

### New Website Launch

Grace’s new website is going live! The transition will start Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and may take up to 48 hours for it to be fully available. Special thanks Ben Locher and Teresa Preston and the rest of the Web Team for their time and hard work. Be prepared to be amazed!

## Lenten Retreat Offered by Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Blessing and Grace: Finding Hope in Troubled Times

March 31-April 2, 2017

Holy Cross Abbey, Berryville, Virginia

If you are seeking to give yourself strength for any challenges, this retreat will be a weekend of hearing meditative music based on resistance traditions, scripture, prayer, silence, and reflection. Come join us. Be refreshed by fellowship, language, and love.

Chrissie Crosby, wife of the Rev. David M. Crosby, will lead this retreat at Holy Cross Abbey near Berryville, Virginia on the weekend of March 31-April 2. Chrissie is a perpetual student of the Bible, holds an MA in Biblical Interpretation from Virginia Theological Seminary, and a certificate in Theology and the Arts from Wesley Theological Seminary.

The retreat begins Friday afternoon, March 31, shortly before the evening meal and will end after the noon meal Sunday, April 2. For more information on the monastery, see its website at: <https://www.virginiatrappists.org/about/>.

The \$350.00 registration fee includes all materials, comfortable accommodations, individual rooms each with a bathroom, and all meals. Following Holy Cross Abbey policy, we may not be able to accommodate retreat reservations received after March 2. Registration is limited to 15 people.

Those interested can look for more information at [http://www.icoh.net/.../2017\\_Lenten\\_Retreat\\_Registration\\_form...](http://www.icoh.net/.../2017_Lenten_Retreat_Registration_form...) or contact the Rev. David Crosby directly at [dcrosby@icoh.net](mailto:dcrosby@icoh.net) with your email address and he will forward you registration materials.



## From the Library

Last month I suggested that a good Lenten discipline for those so inclined was reading something with a generally Christian theme or with a somewhat more specific Lenten theme. As we move closer to Easter, let me suggest an even more specific Lenten focus, namely Holy Week. As you might expect, the parish library has a number of volumes pertaining specifically to the period beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing through Easter Sunday.

In looking through our collection, several books attracted my attention. The first, *The Scriptures, the Cross & the Power of God: Reflections for Holy Week*, is a collection of distinct meditations for each day of Holy Week. The author is Tom Wright, the Bishop of Durham, of the Church of England, the author of the popular “... For Everyman” series of commentaries on the books of the New Testament (e.g., “Mark for Everyman” or “John for Everyman”).

A second book, *A Crucified Christ in Holy Week: Essays on the Four Gospel Narratives* by the well-known theologian Raymond Brown, is a condensed version (about 70 pages) of his exhaustive 1,600 page commentary, *Death of the Messiah*. This compact version consists of a separate essay on each gospel account of the Passion from the particular vantage point of the gospel writer.

For a change of perspective, we also have *The Day Christ Died* by Jim Bishop, an hour-by-hour narrative of the events of Good Friday. The author describes this work as a practical approach from a journalistic historian’s viewpoint rather than that of a theologian. The book also contains interesting background material on the different cultures of the Jews and the Romans.

All three of these books are written for the non-theologians among us, and can be easily read in a short period of time – perhaps Holy Week. Stop by the library after church on Sunday and poke around. As always, the library has many more volumes on this subject. Chances are good you will find something of interest to you.

Jay O’Malley

## Grace Episcopal School

We hope our Grace Parishioners consider Grace School for the 2017-2018 school year. Our mission is to educate the whole child, and we are able to build the kind of foundation on which a child can be a success for the rest of his/her life. We focus on traditional core subjects and build very strong readers, writers and mathematicians. However, we also expose our students to a variety of “extras” to include PE, music, computers, Spanish and library. We focus on fundamentals and allow for experiences so that a child entering middle school has a firm foundation and can then go in a direction of interest—a middle school with STEM or performing arts or dual language immersion.

All this learning is done in a small, nurturing community that is strengthened by our ties to the church. With our strong Episcopal connection, we can share the importance of our character keys in a Christian setting. Our students are held to the high standards of honesty, respect, responsibility, compassion and courage. We are a community that cares and we joyfully celebrate that community every Friday at our chapel service and in school-wide service projects like Tom the Turkey, and the Bountiful Basket food collection for the food pantry.

We also embrace the importance of play for young children. Our back campus has playground equipment appropriate for our youngest through 5th grade. Our turf field is a favorite spot for PE classes and recess games of capture the flag or soccer. A healthy child is a happy child; we recognize the benefit of free play to encourage imagination and collaboration. You just have to visit the sandbox to see chemistry in action or take a hike up the nature trail to the wooden platform to learn all kinds of complicated games of chase!

And our teachers—they are the best! Our faculty is very dedicated to best practices and truly loves the children they teach. The faculty embraces learning by amassing a minimum of 16 hours of professional development each year. You will find our faculty participating in team meetings, book chats, diversity groups and wellness challenges—all to become better educators.

Small by design, Grace offers a place for your child to build a strong foundation —intellectually, spiritually, physically and socially. Grace does small in a big way! For more information, contact our Director of Admissions, Benita Cathey, at [admissions@graceschoolalex.org](mailto:admissions@graceschoolalex.org).

*Patti Culbreth  
Head of School*



Farewell to Mother Leslie - February 5, 2017



## March Birthdays

3/1	Eugene Alford	3/18	Betsy Bamford
3/1	Yanira Rodriguez	3/18	Lucy Tschetter
3/1	Peter Zuidema	3/19	Valerie Fowler
3/2	Kemp Williams	3/19	Willa Johnson
3/3	Beau Grimes	3/19	Robby Schrum
3/3	Vi Legere	3/19	Roger Valdez
3/3	Cindy MacIntyre	3/21	Taylor Ballenger
3/3	Alice Russell	3/21	Mehdi Farzad
3/3	Tyler Smith	3/21	Christopher Stuard
3/3	Jonathan Wolcott	3/22	Kathleen Arthur
3/4	A. J. Nannini	3/22	Paige Medley
3/0	Chuck Dodd	3/22	Liz Rugaber
3/7	Jack Weise	3/22	Ethan Woodhead
3/8	Ada Rairigh	3/23	Mia Giacomo
3/9	Mason Brauer	3/23	Benjamin Kupczyk
3/9	Scott Knudsen	3/23	Easter Thompson
3/9	Charlotte Noren	3/26	Lisa Doelp
3/9	Gregory Ruff	3/26	Georgia Gillette
3/9	Leslie Steffensen	3/26	Christopher Pichler
3/10	Renata Kamakura	3/26	Wesley Winkler
3/10	Sarah Martin	3/26	Kathy Zucca
3/10	Anabel Rodriguez	3/27	Simon Kupczyk
3/10	Lynn Rohrs	3/28	Kirk Steffensen
3/10	Heather Wishart-Smith	3/28	Nicolas Zola
3/11	Alessandra Nider	3/29	Amelia Bennett
3/11	Joyce Stancil	3/29	Dev Gaidhane
3/11	Karen Wille	3/29	Jai Gaidhane
3/12	Zion Khanna	3/30	Brad Bergmann
3/12	Natalie Kupezyk	3/30	Riley Butcher
3/14	Mai-Lan Smith	3/31	William Chriss
3/16	India Khanna	3/31	Audrey Gannon
3/17	Vivienne Egaas	3/31	Kate Schneider
		3/31	Madeleine Wells

## Grace Church is:

A center for worship and fellowship

A school for discipleship and  
stewardship

A community for healing and  
outreach

## Parish Staff

Robert Malm	..... Rector
( <a href="mailto:rector@gracealex.org">rector@gracealex.org</a> )	
Pierce Klemmt	..... Interim Part-time Assistant
Jenni Faires	.....
Assistant for Parish Life and Family Ministries	
( <a href="mailto:family.ministries@gracealex.org">family.ministries@gracealex.org</a> )	
Richard Newman	..... Director of Music
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Patti Culbreth	..... Head of School
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Amy Medrick	..... Parish Administrator
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Beth Calaman	..... Financial Administrator
( <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@gracealex.org">bookkeeper@gracealex.org</a> )	
Ruth Young	..... Children's Chapel Coordinator
( <a href="mailto:ruth.young@gracealex.org">ruth.young@gracealex.org</a> )	
Pedro Hernandez	..... Sexton
Jason Roberson	Seminarian ( <a href="mailto:jroberson@vts.edu">jroberson@vts.edu</a> )
William Campbell	..... Seminarian
( <a href="mailto:wcampbell1@vts.edu">wcampbell1@vts.edu</a> )	

## Vestry

Class of 2017	
Lorna Worley	..... Senior Warden
John Boris	..... Treasurer
Jennifer Long	..... School Board
Fred Saalfeld	..... Stewardship
Kirk McPike	..... TNT

## Class of 2018

Rich Kelly	..... Junior Warden
Chris Rugaber	..... Stewardship
Jan Wolff	..... School Board/Register
Jennifer Pease	..... Outreach
Mary Stewart	..... Communications

## Class of 2019

Cindy Diehl	..... Pastoral Care
Kelly Gable	..... Education/Youth
Chris Kupezyk	..... Worship
Jean Reed	..... Evangelism
Ashby Rushing	..... Fellowship

## Non-Vestry Coordinators

Anne Caputo	..... Pastoral Care
Tracy Enger	..... Education/Youth
Kristine Hesse	..... Communications
Cindy MacIntyre	..... Evangelism
Lucy Tschetter	..... TNT
Judy Willard	..... Outreach