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July/August 2024

GRACE NOTES

A Monthly Magazine Published by Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Road | Alexandria, Virginia 22305

July/August Theme: Summertime!



Photo Credit: Marko Kelecevic on Unsplash.com

From Mother Jenny, *Priest Locum Tenens*



Summer is the season I eagerly await. This could be because I am a June baby. And yet I think it has more to do with the permission summer gives me to lighten up, relax, go to the beach eat ice cream, and play with my grandchildren. At home we grill out often and, with longer days and warmer weather, we linger outside until dark laughing and talking. Life is good.

The rhythm of church-life changes as well. Sunday mornings are less scheduled. Attendance typically drops a bit as people travel and take vacations. Or, you might see more people at the 7:30 am or 5:00 pm services just because they want to play golf, lounge at the pool, or go to the river. Nothing wrong with that, for with everything there is a season.

And this includes the work we have been doing together these past eight months. When I arrived at Grace in late October last year, fall was in full swing. The leaves had begun to change. There was a slight chill in the air. It was sweater weather. Whereupon we began to get to know each other better.

By February, winter had arrived. The days were short and nights were long. A heavy coat and boots were needed to navigate the cold and snow. And we went deeper in our conversations about loss and grief as well as naming elephants in the room and celebrating the strengths of Grace Church.

Spring arrived with Easter Resurrection. Trees became green and flowers bloomed. Winter wear was put away and short-sleeved shirts appeared. You gathered in small groups to talk about the mission and identity of Grace Church as well as what is needed spiritually and emotionally to move forward as a parish.

And here we are today in summertime. May you enjoy times of leisure, relaxation, and fun. Along with worship services on Sundays, summer Vespers focused on reconciliation and healing will be offered on Monday evenings, July 22, July 29, and August 5, from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Malm Narthex. And on Monday, August 12, there will be a Service of Public Healing with Eucharist in the Nave at 7:00 pm. I hope you will come.

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mother Jenny". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Jenny Montgomery



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Grace Notes Submissions and Publication Schedule

Grace Notes is published ten times a year by Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Virginia. All parishioners are encouraged to contribute articles and photos. The deadline is the fifteenth of the preceding month. Articles and photos should be emailed to grace.notes@gracealex.org and will be subject to editing. The Grace Notes team includes Joyce Ames, Kevin Hamilton, Diana Jarrett, and Liz Rugaber.

On the Mind of Father Santi



**THE REV. SANTIAGO RODRIGUEZ,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR**

Finding God in the Summertime

"Where have you found God in the summertime?" Dear reader, allow me to share with you many ways I have found God in the summer seasons of years past.

Sounds and Sights of Summer

In the summertime, I find God in the sounds and sights that define the season. Summer is a symphony of vibrant sounds and visuals. The air is filled with the cheerful chirping of birds, the hum of cicadas, and the distant laughter of children playing. The sky, a brilliant blue, is often dotted with fluffy clouds, while lush green trees sway gently in the warm breeze. Bright flowers bloom in a riot of colors, and the golden sun casts a radiant glow over everything, making the world seem alive and full of possibility. How wonderful God is to provide such a bountiful blessing for our senses, turning the natural world into a grand display of her glory.

Summer Pastimes

In the warmth of summer, I find God in the simple joys and cherished moments of my favorite pastimes. Cookouts with the scent of grilled food, pool time filled with laughter, and refreshing swims in the lake reflect God's creation and blessings. Sharing drinks with friends on a sunny patio reminds us of God's presence in our connections with those we love. Each of these summertime activities brings me closer to God as I revel in the season's abundance and the joy it brings. These moments are not just fleeting pleasures, but profound reminders of God's goodness and the joy he wants us to experience.

The Complicated Dread of Summer

Amid a world that is rapidly warming and where weather patterns are changing, summer sometimes fills me with dread. Hot days bring moments of worry about the future of our planet. High temperatures fill me with fear for those in precarious conditions, living without relief from the oppressive heat. Droughts and record heatwaves affect not only people, but also birds and frogs, adding to my anxiety.

I worry about the foxes, deer, and bunnies in the neighborhood struggling without fresh water. In these moments of dread, I seek invitations to let God cure my hopelessness and inspire me to continue committing to climate justice, finding solace and strength in faith and action. It is in these challenges that I turn to God, asking for guidance and strength to face the pressing issues of our time.

Memories of Other Summers

I remember a warm and sunny day in July about eight or nine years ago when we took a trip from Milwaukee to Chicago and spent a delightful afternoon walking around Millennium Park. The highlight of our visit was the Crown Fountain, an interactive summer oasis with large screens and water fixtures. It was a joy to watch the children play, especially on such a hot and humid summer day, as they splashed in the water and cooled down. The scene was infectious, and soon we were drawn into the fun. The delight on people's faces and the joyous chorus of laughter enveloped us, making it a truly unforgettable experience. Memories like this remind me that delight and joy are infectious.

God Is in the Still Summer Breeze

When I sit outside on the patio on a hot summer afternoon, whether having a drink with my wife or swinging in the hammock, I can hear the evening wind gather itself around the trees. I catch the faint rustle of the oaks lining the backyard and then, suddenly, the cool air is upon us. Some days, the great gusting wind blows away my fatigue along with the day's heat. Other times, the gentle breeze fills me with peace. Each time, I think, here is the Holy Spirit: a pleasant coolness that banishes the heat, a rushing wind, and an impossible-to-ignore push to stand up and get to the work that God has called me to do. Come, Holy Spirit.

In these diverse experiences, I find God in the summertime: in the beauty, the joy, the challenges, and the memories. Each aspect of summer, whether delightful or daunting, is an invitation to see God's hand at work and to respond with joy and wonder, with faith and action.



From Mother Emma

THE REV. EMMA BRICE,
ASSISTANT RECTOR FOR FAMILY MINISTRIES & GRACE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Summer is a Time for Growing!

In the Episcopal Church, we move through different liturgical seasons over the course of a year. Beginning with Advent, we prepare for Christmas, followed by Epiphany. Then we move through Lent and Easter until coming to Pentecost. After Pentecost, we have the longest season of all. Sometimes it is simply called "The Season after Pentecost"; other times it is called "Ordinary Time." Or, in the Godly Play room, we call it "The Green Growing Time."

When we look at the Circle of the Church Year, the Green Growing Time stretches all the way from the red day of Pentecost to the purple days of Advent. It is a LOOONG season!

Let me be clear that the term "Ordinary Time" does not mean "regular" or "unimportant." Rather, it refers to ordinal numbers that reflect how we keep track of time during this long growing season. Ordinary time is truly an **extraordinary** season for growing our faith!



Some of the ways I am working to deepen my faith this summer (because, yes, even priests need to work on our faith lives), include:

- **Seeking connection** by calling loved ones out of the blue that I haven't spoken to in a while. As a millennial, phone calls give me anxiety for sure, but nonetheless I am ringing up at least two people each day in order to build deeper connections.
- **Embracing rest** by reading books just for fun and being outside as much as possible. I am prioritizing work-life balance, even though there is always much to be done.
- **Experimenting with prayer** by trying on new prayer practices. I often feel pressure to maintain the same spiritual discipline with a perfect completion rate, but this summer I am accepting the fact that my schedule is not predictable enough for the same exact prayer practice every day. Instead, some days I am journaling. Some days I am praying aloud as I drive. Some days I am setting a timer for ten minutes of silent prayer. Some days I am doing prayer activities that I teach young children because—let's be real—they are just as effective for grown-ups (Skittles prayers, Five Finger prayers, and more!).

How can this summer be a growing season for you and your faith life? What intentions might you set for the next month or week? How can you intentionally try on a new prayer practice while you're on family vacation?

Finally, I want to offer an invitation to anybody reading this (yes, I mean YOU). Reach out to me or one of the other clergy and schedule a time to chat with us. We can grab a cup of coffee, go for a walk, or chat on the side of the playground or in the air-conditioned offices. You do not need to be in crisis or have a major life update to schedule a meeting with us. We can even schedule a phone call for when you're driving back and forth to swim practices. We are here for you throughout this green growing season, and we look forward to growing alongside you.

OPS & COMM

Operations & Communication @ Grace



KEVIN HAMILTON,
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATION

If you were to ask me to give you a list of highlights for each position I've held in my career, ranking them by most important to least, the top of every single one of those lists would be the same—the relationships that I have built. To me, nothing matters more than the people I get to serve in whatever position I hold—be it relationships with clients, coworkers, vendors, or leaders. Each person I am blessed to meet or work with in this life has unsurpassable worth to God, and that understanding translates into people being of primary importance to me.

Over two years ago when the late Frank Waskowicz stepped down from his role as editor of Grace Notes, he left some big shoes to fill. To get an idea of how big those shoes were, it took three of us to take on the task. We didn't know at the time that Frank wouldn't be with us to see his work carry on in the next versions of Grace Notes. It was because of his care and faithfulness to the publication that it continued, yet another piece of his legacy here at Grace.

When Diana Jarrett stepped into the role, I volunteered to do the layout of the magazine. It was our deal that I would do layout, but she would take on the organization, theme, vision, and editing for this next iteration of Grace Notes. I didn't know Diana very well at the beginning, but over the past two years I have had the amazing privilege to get to know her and to find not only an amazing editor and kind leader, but that she is a genuinely cool person!

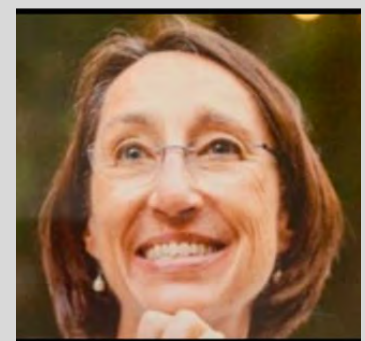
With Diana stepping down from her role after giving us two solid years' commitment, I have mixed feelings. The first is a bit of sadness. I know I will still see her around Grace (and she has offered to be of help however needed with the transition of leadership), but I will miss being in the trenches with her working through each issue. It has been a blast. However, I am also excited for the future because of the work she has done in helping Grace Notes become the first-class church magazine that it is. Her leadership and insights have given us a great format that will serve the next editor well. To find out more about what will be happening for Grace Notes for the remainder of 2024, please check out Diana's article on page 12.

We are saying goodbye to Joyce Ames as well. Joyce has been an amazing part of the team. She is a gifted editor, but even more so, an amazing encourager. I cannot count the number of times that Joyce has offered a kind word or popped into the office with a smile that brightens up the most mundane tasks. What is even more amazing is that she was so encouraging even on the days when I know she was faced with the huge task of editing my monthly article so that it is ready for the light of day.

If you were to ask me what I enjoy most about Grace Notes, I would tell you how much I like reading the articles submitted, having some latitude of creative space to break up more static routines, and knowing that Grace Church parishioners are able to connect with others because of the magazine. However, I would tell you that while I like those things very much, I LOVE working with the team. I will miss working with them both and look forward to building the next team. Who will it be? Who knows ...maybe you?



**Thank you,
Diana & Joyce!**



Music Notes from Alain



Nurturing Our Musical Journey at Grace Church

As I pen this brief article for Grace Notes, I find myself immersed in planning for the upcoming program year. It's a delicate balancing act, weaving together my musical wishlist for the choir while pragmatically considering what's achievable.

As we gaze into the future of Grace Church, music remains a vital thread woven through the fabric of our worship. What defines a thriving music ministry? Let's explore:

- 1. Congregational Participation:** Our choirs and handbell ensembles form the heartbeat of our musical landscape. Their collective voices resonate not only within our sanctuary but also in our hearts.
- 2. Guest Instrumentalists:** Imagine a percussionist joining us, infusing rhythmic energy into the timeless strains of "Keep Your Lamps." Their presence adds layers of richness to our worship tapestry.
- 3. Chorister Care:** Equipping new choristers with cassocks, cottas, and materials from the Royal School of Church Music program ensures they step into their roles with confidence. Their journey becomes ours, and their growth enriches our ministry.
- 4. Guest Organists:** Our majestic organ deserves center stage. By inviting guest organists, we elevate our musical offerings during special services. As I focus on directing the choir, their skilled hands breathe life into our hymns and anthems.
- 5. Community Outreach:** At Grace Church, our mission extends far beyond our congregation to embrace the wider community. Music serves as a powerful vehicle for this outreach, bridging divides and fostering unity through shared artistic experiences. By opening our doors to local musical groups and artists, we fulfill our mission to spread joy, inspiration, and spiritual reflection beyond our sanctuary walls. In essence, through our commitment to community outreach via music, Grace Church not only enriches worship experiences, but also actively contributes to the cultural and social fabric of our neighborhood. We believe that by sharing the gift of music generously and inclusively, we embody the values of compassion, unity, and service that lie at the heart of our church's mission.

Remember, all these endeavors thrive on the support of our congregation—the heartbeat that sustains our musical journey. Together, let's harmonize faith, art, and community.



Grace Episcopal School



**PATTI CULBRETH,
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

And God is able to make all GRACE abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

After a successful 2023-24 school year, our students and their families are enjoying summertime joy while filled with GRACE! The year finished in early June with a lovely graduation ceremony celebrating our rising middle school students. We also enjoyed a wet and wild Field Day and slipped in one more assembly with animals.



Our parents will join together for a social event in July to welcome new families and to enjoy an afternoon of camaraderie. Before we know it, summer will conclude with teachers returning to school on August 26 and students returning on September 3.

Mrs. Culbreth has announced that the 2024-25 school year will be her last as Head of Grace School, and she will retire at the end of June 2025. This final year will mark her tenth year at Grace and her fortieth year in education. The School Board has contracted with The Education Group to run a Head search on behalf of the school. There is no doubt that Grace School will attract a talented new leader, and the strong faculty and School Board will make the transition a successful one.

This summer, Baroody Camps will host camp sessions at Grace through July. If you are interested in having your child participate, please find more information on their website: www.baroodycamps.com.

The school community wishes everyone a safe and happy summer of joy!

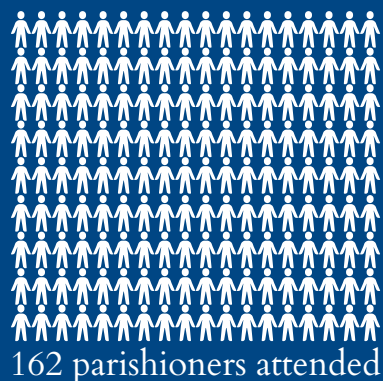
Let the sun shine!



Vestry View



MARY LEWIS HIX,
SENIOR WARDEN



162 parishioners attended an in-person or online Affinity Group!

Affinity Group Stats



An estimated 120 hours of clergy, staff, and vestry time went into planning, preparing, conducting, and reviewing data from the Affinity Groups.

15 parishioners provided feedback via the online survey.



13 different Affinity Groups were held over a 3-week period, totaling 20 hours of sessions.

Truth abounds in the statement that a picture is worth a thousand words! This graphic, designed by Kevin Hamilton, tells the story in a way that one can grasp rapidly and ponder at length. AND, there is more to the story. The Vestry asked for guidance from Grace parishioners and said that we would listen intently as we seek to make decisions wisely.

Vestry members have read all of the narratives of the Affinity Group conversations and the entirety of the written responses. So, what have we learned? What is God calling Grace to be? The headline is Grace's mission statement: a community of love, proclamation, service, and so much more. The adjectives flowed freely: trusting, welcoming, inclusive, diverse, nurturing children and youth, changing, growing, eucharistically centered, brave, outreach- and justice-focused, multigenerational, compassionate, safe, beacon of love, fostering belonging, and joy.

Imagination for the future combined vision with continuity. Multiple voices seek a "safe harbor," a port in the storm, a family where one is always accepted. Increased focus on outreach, growth, evangelism, greater integration with La Gracia, a growing music program, deeper spiritual connections, ensuring that all parishioners are active and claim responsibility for the well being of the parish—these are some of the hopes that found voice. And the longings for stability, peace, quiet, less change, no drama were repeated.

Parishioners thought hard about questions of trust: What does trust mean? Has it been violated? Can it be regained? How will the possible change in clergy leadership impact the parish? Equally robust were the conversations about reconciliation, with a strong desire for parish healing no matter the decisions about future clergy leadership.

Loud and clear was the core identity of Grace as a worshipping community. Worship binds us and nurtures the people. And there are many viewpoints on how we worship. Attendance is largest at the primary Sunday service with its beautiful liturgy, chanting, bells, incense, clergy, and lay participants. Other parishioners are nourished by the quiet, said 7:30 am, 5 pm, and daily services. The simplicity and joy of Little Church have drawn new families to Grace. Worshipping in Spanish brings solace to La Gracia members. Organ grandeur, the peal of bells, the guitar, the bell choir, and spoons and accordion at Little Church—all music enhances the worship experience. The core is worship; the expressions are varied.

To all who have responded in attendance and written form, the Vestry is grateful. Parishioners continually confirmed a deep faith and an abiding love for God's work at Grace. The Vestry's continuing goal is to be wise and faithful, and to respond to the will of the parish as we seek God's providence. Your prayers nourish and sustain our journey.



Campus Matters

ERIC WASKOWICZ, JUNIOR WARDEN



Stair Treads in Merrow Hall

Stair Treads were being replaced in June.

Masonry around Library Entrance

Some of the masonry around the library entrance had deteriorated and has been repaired.

Bike Rack

A one-bike, in-ground bike rack was installed near the glass doors of the parking lot. This will prevent the junior warden from recklessly blocking the sidewalk between the glass doors and the library with what Dan Pattarini called his "sweet ride."

Library Door

In August, we are planning to remove the external door near the library so it can be varnished in a horizontal position. The doorway will be blocked with plywood for the several days (during the week) it will take to apply the varnish.

Mission Focus

Grace Church and VOICE: Why I'm Involved

By John Boris

Engagement with the broader community is a defining characteristic of Grace Church. It takes many forms, offering parishioners a wide range of ways for involvement. One that particularly resonates with me is Grace's participation in VOICE—Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement.

VOICE is a nonpartisan coalition that brings together more than fifty faith communities and civic organizations in northern Virginia. It focuses on issues that lower- and middle-income communities themselves identify—subjects that have a direct impact on people's daily lives. Affordable housing and access to mental health resources have historically ranked high among VOICE's priorities and are goals in its current campaigns.

Among the accomplishments of VOICE and its allies in its fifteen-year history are securing over \$30 million in funding for a mental health crisis receiving center in Prince William County, eliminating Virginia's practice of suspending driver's licenses over unpaid court debt, restoring \$6 million to the Virginia budget for dental care for low-income residents, securing from banks over \$300 million in various forms of relief to low-income victims of predatory lending practices during the foreclosure crisis, and winning funding for over 1000 preschool slots in Prince William County.

That's (part of) the "What" of VOICE's activity. Also important is the "Why" that draws people to participate. For me, VOICE offers a tangible way to push back against certain trends and tendencies that trouble me. While some profit from sowing division and animosity among different faiths, VOICE provides heartening examples of churches, synagogues, and mosques working together and improving conditions in northern Virginia. While some treat the disadvantaged as an afterthought (if that), VOICE focuses on concrete ways to ease burdens for "the least" among us. While some benefit from the viewpoint that certain injustices and inequities are beyond repair, VOICE affirms that people acting together have the power to make change.

A recent 10:30 service included the hymn "God of Grace and God of Glory." (*The Hymnal* 1982, 594) Its line, "Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore ..." could serve as a mission statement for VOICE. Engagement can be a potent corrective to acquiescence, and VOICE provides a focused, proven channel for that. I or any other member of the Grace Church VOICE Core Team would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the organization.



Financial Matters

Common Questions about Giving

This month the finance team—Mary Cyrus and Madeline Manaker—answer common questions about giving. If you ever have any questions about giving at Grace that are not answered here or on the website, you can reach out to the finance team at giving@gracealex.org.

What is pledging?

A pledge is a good faith estimate of what each individual or family would like to commit to give to the church. A “pledge” is different from a “donation” because a pledge is a promised gift rather than an immediate one. Each fall, Grace Church promotes a pledge drive campaign to encourage this type of financial support for the church, which is essential for planning an annual budget.

What do my donations cover?

General donations and pledges support Grace Church’s operation and its many ministries! Over eighty percent of Grace’s operating budget is funded by general fund gifts of pledge or non-pledge donations.

How do I make a recurring gift?

Recurring gifts can be set up online through Tithely or Breeze. These payments can be set to occur at a certain time, such as weekly or monthly, and can be made by credit card (through Tithely and Breeze) or ACH bank transfer (through Breeze).

I need help with Tithely or Breeze. What should I do?

If you are having difficulty with your giving on Tithely or Breeze, the Grace website has links to several frequently asked questions. You can also contact giving@gracealex.org with any questions about online giving and the finance team will happily help!

Will I get a donation receipt or statement for my tax records?

Yes! Giving statements are emailed quarterly to those who have made financial contributions to Grace Church. To receive an emailed statement, an email address must be on file in Breeze. Hard copy statements can be requested through the church office or by contacting giving@gracealex.org.



Encontrando a Dios en el Verano

Father Santiago shares how he finds God in the summer.

FATHER SANTIAGO RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE RECTOR

‘En el verano, encuentro a Dios en los sonidos y vistas que definen esta temporada vibrante. El alegre canto de los ruiseñores, el zumbido de las cigarras y las risas de los niños crean una sinfonía única. Las flores brillan en colores vivos y el sol dorado ilumina todo, haciendo que el mundo parezca lleno de posibilidades. Los árboles se mecen suavemente y el cielo es más azul y brillante. Qué maravilloso es Dios al proporcionarnos una bendición tan abundante para nuestros sentidos, convirtiendo la naturaleza en una grandiosa exhibición de su gloria.

En el calor del verano, también encuentro a Dios en las alegrías simples y los momentos preciados de mis pasatiempos favoritos. Las parrilladas, los chapuzones en la piscina y las refrescantes nadadas en el lago son reflejos de las bendiciones de Dios. Compartir comidas y bebidas con familiares y amigos en un patio soleado nos recuerda la presencia divina en nuestras conexiones con los seres queridos. Estas actividades me acercan a Dios mientras disfruto de la abundancia de la temporada y la alegría que trae. Estos momentos no son solo placeres fugaces, sino profundos recordatorios de la bondad de Dios y de la alegría que él desea que experimentemos.

Sin embargo, el verano también trae momentos de ansiedad. En un mundo que se calienta rápidamente y donde los patrones climáticos están cambiando, los días calurosos me llenan de preocupación por el futuro de nuestro planeta. Las altas temperaturas me preocupan por aquellos en condiciones precarias y por la fauna local que sufre sin agua fresca. En estos momentos de temor, busco en Dios consuelo y fuerza para enfrentar los desafíos climáticos. Es en estas dificultades donde recorro a Dios, pidiendo guía y fortaleza.

En una tarde calurosa de verano, sentarme en el patio y sentir la brisa me recuerda la presencia del Espíritu Santo. El susurro de los robles y el aire fresco que nos envuelve traen paz y renovada energía. Cada vez que siento esa brisa, pienso: aquí está el Espíritu Santo, una frescura que destierra el calor y me impulsa a levantarme y hacer el trabajo que Dios me ha llamado a hacer. Ven, Espíritu Santo.

Encuentro a Dios en el verano: en la belleza, la alegría, los desafíos y los recuerdos. Cada aspecto del verano, ya sea placentero o desafiante, es una invitación a ver la mano de Dios en acción y a responder con alegría y asombro, con fe y acción.

Changes to Grace Notes

By Diana Jarrett

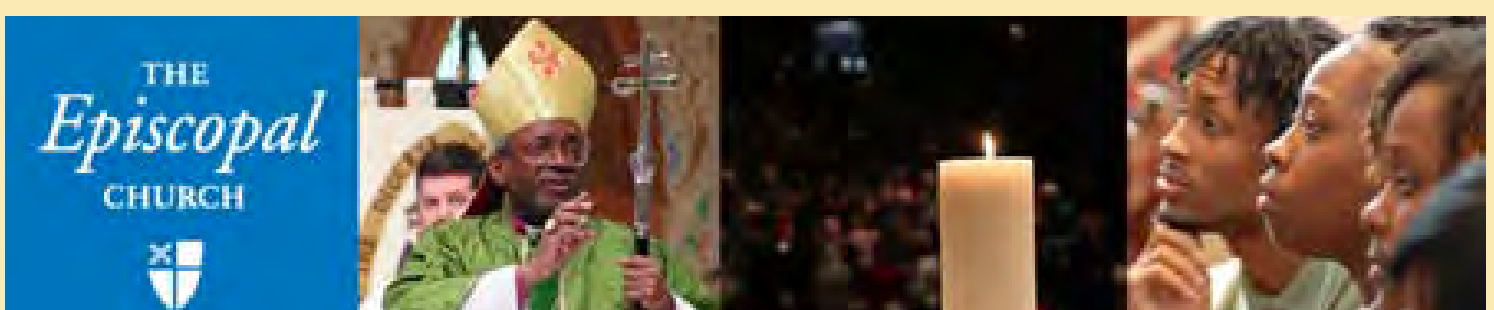


This is my final issue as editor of Grace Notes. It completes the two-year commitment I promised when I nervously stepped forward to fill the shoes of the wonderful previous editor, Frank Waskowicz. Now it’s time for me to step aside and make room for new blood and fresh ideas. In the short term, as new leadership is put into place, Grace Notes will be published every other month. Please let Kevin Hamilton know if you are willing to be involved with this most rewarding ministry.

As my involvement with Grace Notes comes to a close, allow me to share with you . . .

The Top Seven Things I’ve Learned (or Relearned) as Editor of Grace Notes

1. People have strong feelings about the Oxford comma.
2. There really is no such thing as deadlines; they are merely figments of an editor’s imagination.
3. Kevin Hamilton is the most gracious, talented, and kind graphic designer one could hope for.
4. Joyce Ames is the most, gracious, talented, and kind copy editor one could hope for.
5. The Grace Church community is indeed a community; it is filled with people who want to share their stories and who want to read other people’s stories.
6. People actually read Grace Notes. I have appreciated the many suggestions and kind words you have offered over the past two years.
7. The time and effort that go into each issue of Grace Notes pale in comparison to the rewards of the relationships that I have built as a result of working with the many Grace Notes contributors—including clergy, church staff, Vestry members, parish team leaders, teens, nonagenarians, and assorted other parishioners. What a blessing you have all been in my life!



National Church News

Reprinted from ENS Episcopal News Service

Archives exhibit chronicles evolving roles of women in The Episcopal Church

From early work to support church missions to the struggle for equal representation in church leadership and ordination, the history of women in the church is told in "[For the Extension of the Kingdom: Women of The Episcopal Church](#)," a comprehensive online exhibit curated and presented by The Archives of The Episcopal Church.

In 2018, the Archives received a \$36,000 grant from the United Thank Offering to help preserve and share the history of Episcopal women. Research began that year and represents more than 150 resources and 40 collections of archival material, spanning more than 250 years.

Nearly 30 tabs offer viewers numerous photographs, reports, minutes, pamphlets, and letters, in addition to summaries that trace the mission support of the early church in the 1800s; the formation of the [Woman's Auxiliary](#) and [United Thank Offering](#); the role of deaconesses, professional laywomen, and women deputies; and much more.

The exhibit's [Virtual Reading Room](#) offers a firsthand glimpse into the work and dedication of the women of The Episcopal Church through digitized versions of the Woman's Auxiliary Triennial meeting minutes and handbooks, as well as annual reports and publications of the Auxiliary and the United Thank Offering.

"The Archives continues its efforts to process and digitize numerous collections to make accessible and showcase the history of women in The Episcopal Church and looks forward to expanding this exhibit in the future," said Whitney Hughes, interim director of the Archives.

The Archives staff will be in the Exhibit Hall at the 81st General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, June 21-27; all attendees are encouraged to stop by and receive a memento of the exhibit's launch. The exhibit also includes link to current organizations, including the [Episcopal Church Women](#), who will celebrate their 51st Triennial gathering June 22-28 in conjunction with General Convention.

[Learn more about The Archives of The Episcopal Church.](#)

Los archivos exponen crónicas sobre la evolución del papel de la mujer en la Iglesia Episcopal

Desde los primeros trabajos para apoyar las misiones de la Iglesia hasta la lucha por una representación equitativa en el liderazgo y la ordenación eclesiástica, la historia de las mujeres en la Iglesia se cuenta en [Por la extensión del reino: mujeres de la Iglesia Episcopal](#), una exposición integral en línea organizada y presentada por Los Archivos de la Iglesia Episcopal.

En 2018, los Archivos recibieron una subvención de \$36.000 de la Ofrenda Unida de Gracias [UTO por su sigla en inglés] para ayudar a preservar y compartir la historia de las mujeres episcopales. La indagación comenzó ese año y representa más de 150 recursos y 40 colecciones de material de archivo, que abarcan más de 250 años.

Casi 30 pestañas ofrecen a los espectadores numerosas fotografías, informes, actas, folletos y cartas, además de resúmenes que rastrean el apoyo misionero de la Iglesia en los primeros años del siglo XIX; la formación de la Rama Auxiliar de Mujeres y la Ofrenda Unida de Gracias; el papel de las diaconisas, las laicas profesionales y las diputadas; y mucho más.

El Salón de Lectura Virtual de la exposición ofrece una visión de primera mano de la labor y la dedicación de las mujeres de la Iglesia Episcopal a través de versiones digitalizadas de las actas y folletos de las reuniones trienales de Rama Auxiliar de Mujeres, así como informes y publicaciones anuales de estas y de la Ofrenda Unida de Gracias.

«Los Archivos prosiguen en sus empeños de procesar y digitalizar numerosas colecciones para hacer accesible y mostrar la historia de las mujeres en la Iglesia Episcopal y esperan ampliar esta exposición en el futuro», dijo Whitney Hughes, directora interina de los Archivos.

El personal de los Archivos estará en la Sala de Exposiciones de la 81ª. Convención General en Louisville, Kentucky, del 21 al 27 de junio. Se anima a todos los asistentes a pasar y recibir un recuerdo del lanzamiento de la exposición, la cual también incluye enlaces a organizaciones actuales, incluidas las Mujeres Episcopales, que celebrarán su 51ª. reunión trienal del 22 al 28 de junio al mismo tiempo que la Convención General.

Infórmese más acerca de los Archivos de la Iglesia Episcopal.



Bishop Barbara Harris confirms a member of the Church of St. Stephen in Boston, Massachusetts, 1990. Copyright, Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society / La obispa Barbara Harris confirma a una miembro de la Iglesia de San Esteban [St. Stephen] en Boston, Massachusetts, 1990. Copyright, Sociedad Misionera Nacional y Extranjera



Margaret Sherman (third from left) and Woman's Auxiliary delegates stand in front of the "Blue Box," an aircraft purchased through a 1952 UTO grant for the "Flying Bishop of Alaska." Photo by William Gordon, 1956. Copyright, Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society / Margaret Sherman (tercera de izquierda a derecha) y las delegadas de la Rama Auxiliar de Mujeres posan frente a la «Caja Azul», un avión adquirido mediante una subvención de la UTO en 1952 para el «Obispo Volador de Alaska». Foto de William Gordon, 1956. Copyright, Sociedad Misionera Nacional y Extranjera

From the Altar Guild by *Lorna Worley*

Summer marks the semi-annual turnover in leadership of the Altar Guild, so here is a little glimpse of its organization. One of the hallmarks of the success of the Altar Guild since it was started is the division of labor. No one person carries the load for the entire Guild all the time.

There is a president, who serves a six-month term that covers either Christmas or Easter. The president sets the tone for the Guild's work. They create the schedules for all the crews that do the work. Another important job of the president is to update and maintain the worksheets. The Altar Guild has detailed worksheets describing every setup. Even after decades on the Guild, members still depend on the worksheets because the work of the Altar Guild changes constantly.

The next level of leadership is the crew leader. This is a one-week assignment and involves reminding volunteers of what they have signed up for and organizing the work for the Saturday crew. Sunday, they will be in the Sacristy covering the changes between services with help from other Guild members. They will often check to make sure the work that needs to be done during the week of their assignment actually gets done.

There are chairs who oversee various areas. Kristine Hesse is the vestment chair, responsible for all things made out of cloth. John Barker is the candle chair, responsible for not only candles but everything that holds a candle. A lot of things hold a candle at Grace Church! Chad Eckles is the flower chair. This is not just the flowers for Sunday, but other services such as weddings, funerals, Christmas, Easter, and anything else that happens at Grace that needs flowers. Jay Legere is the supply chair. He works with the current president to make sure the Guild has what it needs to do the work to support the liturgy at Grace. Alison Campbell is our treasurer. The Grace Church Altar Guild is not supported by the budget of the church, but by monthly parishioner donations via special offering envelopes, as well as flower donations.

At the heart of it all are the volunteers that we call crew members. Once the schedules are done and the supplies are purchased, this is how the work gets done! We polish brass, set up the stack for the Eucharist, change out the candles, keep track of the freshness of the reserved sacrament in the aumbry, vacuum the carpet on the altar, place bulletins and mark books for the lectors and clergy, wash vessels, wash and iron small linens, change out the altar frontals and the lectern falls, and make sure the clergy have the vestments they need for any given service—all of this and more, as listed on the aforementioned worksheets!

The Altar Guild's work is never done, but the joy of serving God and our parish in this way is also never ending.

Grace @ Work:

A New Adult Forum Series for 2024-2025

By Anne Clift Boris



Adult Forum meets in the St. Mark room during the Sunday school year, providing an opportunity for members of the Grace Church community to share their experience and wisdom. Topics and formats vary from week to week. We have had multi-presenter sessions on such topics as How I Found My Way to Grace, People Who Changed Us, and Books Worth Rereading. We have had single-presenter sessions on a wide variety of topics such as Grieving, Aging with Grace, Afghan Refugee Care Teams, Faithful Response to Christian Nationalism, the various beauties of our physical plant (stained glass, carving, and so on), and, of course, every January, the Grace Church budget.

One of my favorite things about organizing Adult Forum has been learning more and more about the depth and wisdom of the many different people who make up our Grace Church community, and the different ways in which we live out our faith. In the hope of exploring these riches, we will be adding a series of Adult Forum sessions on “Grace at Work” for the 2024-2025 program year. Occasionally throughout the year, different parishioners will speak about how they live into their baptismal covenant in the workplace. How did their faith influence their choice of work or influence how they conduct themselves at work? It is all too easy to think of “vocation” as applying only to those who work professionally for a church, but of course all Christians are called to “seek and serve Christ in all persons” (BCP, 305) at all times and in all places, not just in church on Sunday.

Members of the congregation from a wide variety of fields have already agreed to share their experience. Some will speak of their work in government service—for example, Bill Eckel on environmental issues and Cindy McIntyre on nutrition. Others will speak about their small businesses focused on service—for example, Elizabeth Legere on the care of pets and Donna Hall on assisting those who are downsizing or clearing a house. In medicine and related fields, we will hear from Mindy Van Wart, who does art therapy with adolescents; Sarah Schultz, who assists clients with eating disorders; and Henry and Priscilla Ziegler, who provide medical assistance in the US and Tanzania.

These examples do not begin to exhaust the many possibilities of the Grace Church community! I hope in the future to find people who can also speak to how they lean into their baptismal covenant through their work in the teaching and legal professions, in military and diplomatic service, in journalism, in hospitality or entertainment, in construction, in technical fields, and in many other ways. If you would be willing to share how you live into your faith in your work life, and are free on Sundays between 9:40 and 10:15, please get in touch with Anne Clift Boris (awcboris@hotmail.com), and let’s talk. We all have so much to learn from each other.

Photo Essay: Youth Sunday & Church Picnic



June 2, 2024



Barbara Morris

An Occasional WORD

When Grace Notes' editor, Diana Jarrett, announced this month's theme of Summertime, instantly I recalled the summers of my teens. Summers of wonder, adventure, and hope. I believe that certain words have personalities. For me "summertime" is pure magic.

In the mid-1940s when I was a teenager, my summertimes were spent with my mother and my young sister, Conny, in a small, weatherbeaten but cozy "cottage" on a Methodist campground in the corn and tobacco farm country, just up the road from Northampton, Massachusetts. My kind, quiet father worked in Springfield, our hometown. When he joined us on weekends, Mother led us in jumping at him with joy.

Mother was a marvel. She worked as a private duty nurse most of the year, but in summertime she relaxed, reveled in her love of life, and let loose her magnificent laughter as she picked wild blueberries in the woods at dawn. Then, in our tiny kitchen with its dilapidated sink and stove, she whipped up breakfast muffins bursting with blueberries. Somehow, as she bustled about, she made old Methodist hymns sound as loud and lusty as sailors' sea chanties.

My own activities, especially three that I recall vividly, could have been painted by Norman Rockwell. First, my part-time work as a soda jerk and waitress at a roadside Howard Johnson restaurant. My paycheck went into my saving-for-college fund, but my tips went for a bucket of balls at the nearby golf driving range.



Second, the many long, intense hours on our screened-in porch, hunched over my ancient Royal typewriter, churning out deathless prose in my goal to become a world class writer. Lastly, my barefoot trek with two girlfriends to our favorite swimming spot—our "old swimmin' hole," the kind of place that famous writers fondly praised in their best-selling memoirs. With luck, someday I'd make our hole famous.

Our gangly threesome, shouldering gigantic, rubber-smelling inner tubes that bumped our hips and dwarfed us, laughed and lurched along our route that began on the dusty path along a two-lane country highway. From there it took a shortcut behind a small, steepled church, then crossed a pot-holed gravel road until it finally reached a high-grass meadow with a narrow, winding cow path that meandered to the swimming hole. Screeching like skittish schoolgirls, we took big, hopping steps to avoid "cow pies," the huge, deep, rich-brown, muddy piles of manure that steamed in the sun, sending nose-wrinkling odors into the high heat.

Then, finally, there it was! A tantalizing deep, clear pond rimmed by sloping, sandy banks and shaded by large, full-branched trees. With a whoop and holler we tossed the inner tubes ahead of us, took a running leap and plunged in.

All afternoon we were in and out of the water, alternately lolling on the banks, picking at peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, lazily sharing dreams and plans, and giggling endlessly about boys until the sun's blazing rays sent us shrieking and splashing back into the cool, dark water.

Hours later, our threesome slowly headed home. Sunburned and itching in damp bathing suits but still filled with giddy teenage summertime fun, at first we chatted incessantly while tugging and towing the bulky inner tubes. But, as the late afternoon shadows lengthened, we grew silent and thoughtful as, together, we tramped the narrow path. Each step took us a little farther away from the familiar old hole, each step a bit closer, a bit more warily, into the future.

Why Grace?

By Keith Davis



My wife, Sheng, and I moved from Boston to Virginia in 2007. While it was a homecoming of sorts for me, having been raised in Alexandria, it was a completely new life experience for Sheng. We both had a strong desire to “build roots” in the area and become part of the community; choosing a church that embraced our spiritual and personal beliefs was a critical part of establishing our new life. Choosing a church is a deeply personal and significant decision for many families and individuals. It is a choice that encompasses spiritual beliefs, community values, cultural identity, and practical considerations. For my family, the journey to selecting Grace Church was guided by a combination of these factors, which has led to a harmonious blend of faith, fellowship, and purpose. From the moment we attended our first service at Grace, we knew that we had found a church and community that was and continues to be ideal for us.

The church itself was and is breathtaking. We have crossed the threshold of Grace countless times, and there is never a time when entering the nave doesn’t fill us with a sense of awe and serenity. From the radiant stained-glass windows (which I still gaze at in wonder after all these years) to the delicately carved pulpit and needlepoint kneelers, Grace is a beautiful church. Entering Grace, you can’t help but be moved by the presence of the Spirit and the sense of commitment and faith from the congregation, both past and present, who have literally and figuratively built Grace Church.

Foremost in our decision to join Grace was the alignment of the church’s teachings with our spiritual beliefs. My family has always placed a strong emphasis on the doctrines of faith, particularly those surrounding the nature of God. We sought a church that not only upheld these core tenets but also fostered a deeper understanding and personal relationship with God. Grace offers robust theological teachings through deeply moving, faith-affirming sermons that resonate with our convictions and encourage and foster our spiritual growth.

Equally important was the sense of community that Grace provided. My family values relationships and sought a congregation where we could build meaningful connections. Grace is known for its strong community bonds, and from the moment we first visited Grace, we were greeted with genuine hospitality and felt a sense of belonging. Grace’s commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment was evident through its numerous fellowship activities, small groups and ministries, and community outreach programs. This sense of community has been instrumental in our spiritual journey, providing us with a network of friends who share and support our faith.



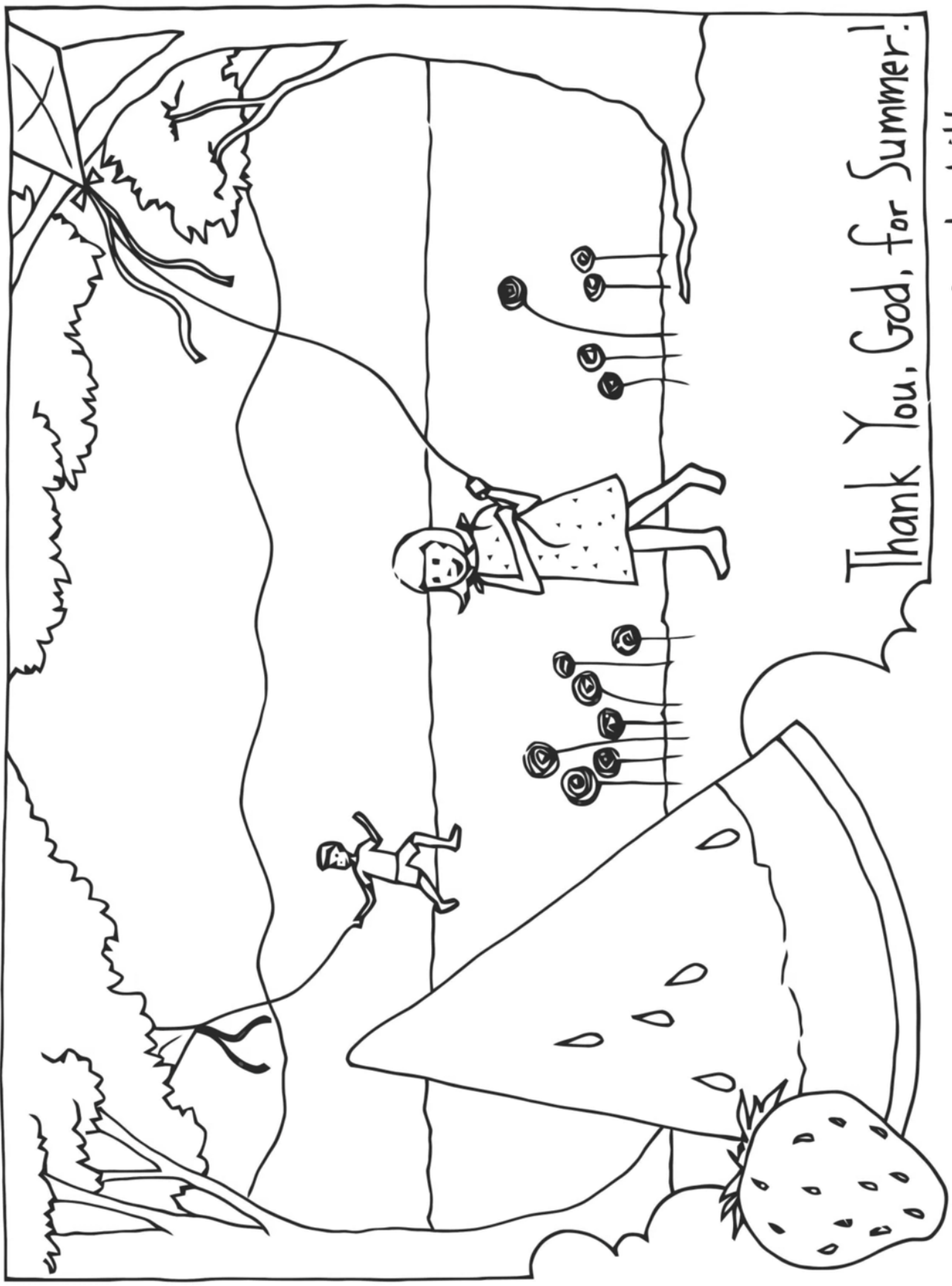
Cultural identity also played a role in our decision to choose Grace. We desired a church that not only respected but celebrated diversity. Grace truly reflects a diverse congregation where different cultures and lifestyles are embraced and integrated into worship and community life. This cultural inclusiveness has enriched our worship experience, allowing us to celebrate our faith in ways that are meaningful to us while also learning from and appreciating the diverse backgrounds of others in the congregation.

Practical considerations were also crucial. We needed a church that was conveniently located and offered services at times that fit our family's schedule. Grace's proximity to our home made regular attendance feasible and allowed us to participate actively in various church events and programs. Additionally, the availability of child-friendly services and youth programs was a significant factor. Grace provides comprehensive children's ministries and youth groups, which have been invaluable in nurturing the faith of our daughter, Blythe (who was baptized at Grace, is an acolyte, and sings in the youth choir) in an engaging and age-appropriate manner.

Grace Church is a community that puts its faith into action, and the church's commitment to mission and outreach was a decisive factor in our decision to join Grace. My family believes in the importance of service and giving back to the community. Grace has a strong focus on outreach programs, both locally and globally. Whether it's through the Food Pantry serving our neighbors in the surrounding area, mission trips, or community service projects such as the National Rebuilding Day, Grace actively works to make a positive impact in the lives of others. This mission-oriented approach aligns with our values and provides us with numerous opportunities to serve and make a difference, reinforcing our faith through action.

Our decision to join Grace was influenced by a combination of spiritual beliefs, community spirit, cultural relevance, practical considerations, and a shared commitment to outreach and service. Grace not only aligns with our doctrinal beliefs but also provides a supportive and inclusive community where we can grow in our faith and serve others. It is a place where we feel spiritually nourished, appreciated, and practically supported, making it the perfect fit for our family's spiritual journey!





Thank You, God, for Summer!

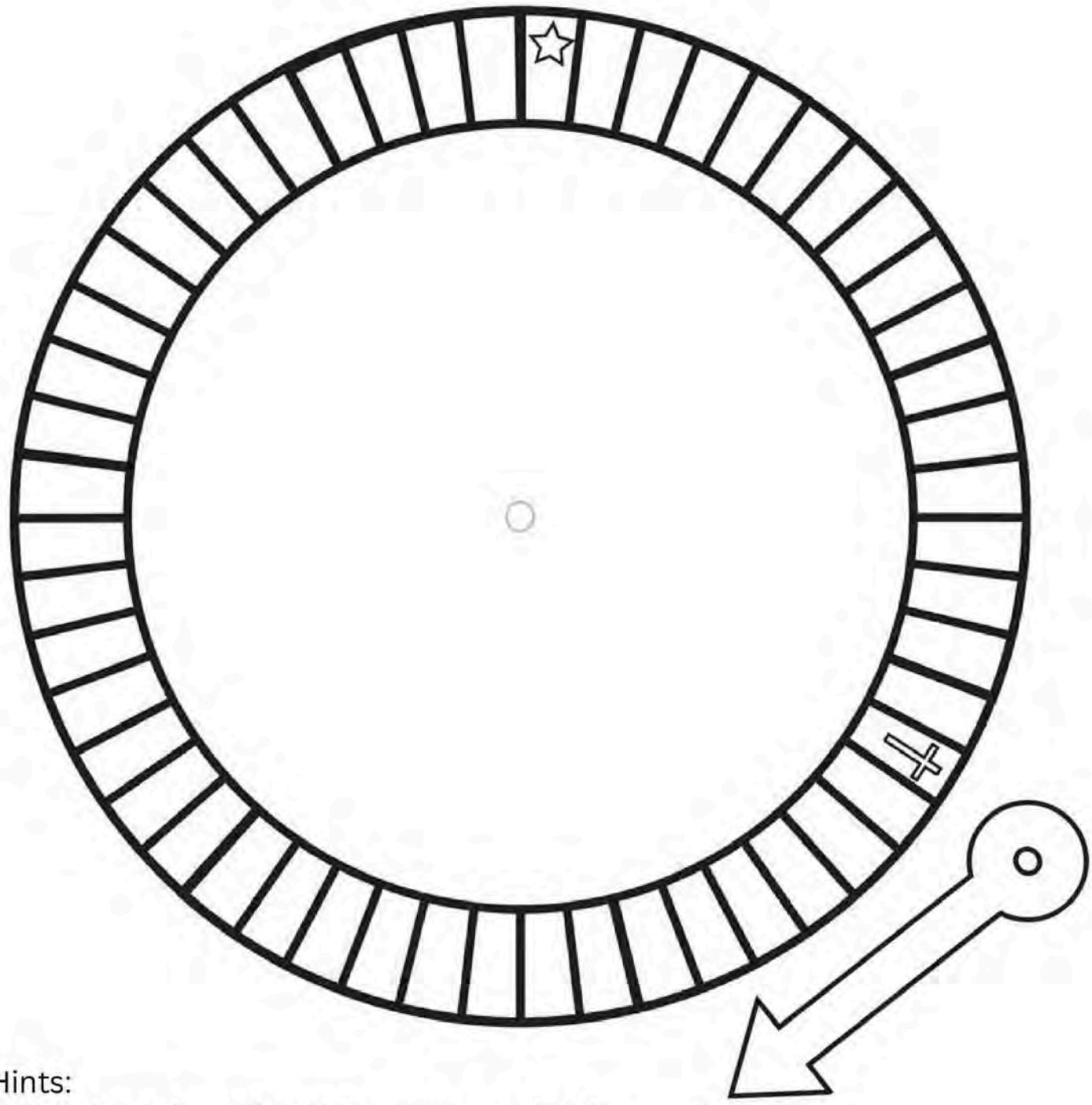
ministry-to-children.com

Mandy Grace '15



Family Challenge Activity

Can you complete your own Circle of the Church Year?



Hints:
You will need purple, white, green, and red.
Cut it out and attach the arrow to track the weeks this summer.
For a complete example, look at Mother Emma's article.

Inquiring Minds...

What's your favorite summertime tune? How about a favorite summer treat?



Mother Emma: My favorite song about summer is currently "Fabulous" from *High School Musical* and my favorite summer snacks are pineapple popsicles!



Celia Schultz: Lemonade, especially raspberry lemonade.



Alison Campbell: Any Beach Boys song.



Jennifer Eckel: "Take It Easy" by the Eagles. Rhubarb pie.



Mother Jenny: Well, I have to go with Sly and the Family Stone's "Hot Fun in the Summertime" from 1969. (Makes me feel like a teenager again!) Favorite summer snack is ice cream.



Sarah Schultz: "Cruel Summer" by Bananarama.



Eleanor Reed: Dire Straits' "Walk of Life," which reminds me of baseball, which reminds me of summer!



Joyce Ames: I'd probably go with the Beatles "Here Comes the Sun," and my favorite summertime treat is sun tea with home-grown fresh mint.

Nat Ames: "[What a Day for a] Daydream" by the Lovin' Spoonful. Gazpacho.



Father Santiago: I'll go with "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and the Waves. Summer Snack: Watermelon 🍉 with salt and lime juice or with tajin and lime juice.



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Vestry Class of 2024

Khacki Berry, *Youth Formation Liaison*
Lauren Gustafson, *GES Board Member*
Mary Hix, *Senior Warden*
Dan Pattarini, *Evangelism Liaison*
Rushad Thomas, *Children's Formation Liaison*

Vestry Class of 2025

Keith Davis, *Asst Treasurer and Outreach/Justice Liaison*
Eleanor Reed, *Worship Liaison*
Jane Rosman, *Member-at-Large*
Andrew Serke, *Treasurer*
Geoff Whitlock, *Stewardship Liaison*

Vestry Class of 2026

Chad Eckles, *Fellowship Liaison*
Morgan Miller, *Pastoral Care Liaison*
Sarah Schultz, *Register*
Mary Stewart, *Adult Formation & Stewardship Liaison*
Eric Waskowicz, *Junior Warden*

Parish Team Leads

Children's Programs - *Kristen Woodiwiss*
Evangelism - *Mindy Van Wart*
Fellowship - *Lynn Rohrs*
Outreach and Justice - *Jennifer Pease*
Pastoral Care - *John Boris*
Stewardship - *Sarah Glass*
Worship - *John Thompson*
Youth Programs - *Heather Kelly*



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