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GRACE NOTES

A Monthly Magazine Published by Grace Episcopal Church

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June Theme: Changed, Not Ended



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Grace Photo Archives

From Our Rector



Dear Friends in Christ—

In my house, we have been counting down the days this month. Days until the spring musical is over. Days until the AP exam. Days until the promotion ceremony. Days until school lets out. One clock ticking down after another. We are marching toward all sorts of significant endings.

But, of course, they are not really endings.

The lives of young people give a perfect example of how each ending is a new beginning—as, of course, many clichéd speeches about “commencement” have noted. It’s an insight that became a cliché because it’s so true. We do not end the story. We turn the page to a new chapter.

This insight is not merely cultural; it’s found in our prayer book as well. The funeral liturgy makes the claim from which the theme of this month’s issue is taken: “Life is changed, not ended.”

Here at Grace, we can see many aspects of our life drawing to a close. Our children are finishing another year; some will graduate and leave home. Mother Nina will end her time at Grace Church on May 31. We are finishing what I have come to think of as our baseline year—our first “ordinary” program year since the shutdown of COVID.

None of these changes, of course, is truly an ending. Those kids will move up to new challenges. Mother Nina will take her experiences at Grace and use them for what will be, I am sure, transformative ministry at St. Bartholomew’s in Poway, California.

And we at Grace? We’re writing a new chapter, too. Our vestry is settling into the work of discerning our future. They are both studying current opportunities and challenges and, at the same time, dreaming and praying about what God might be calling us toward that we haven’t even begun to imagine.

Perhaps your own life has a clear turning-of-the-page this summer. Or perhaps it is more subtle. Regardless, I invite you not only to mark the passage of time but also to embrace the future. Change is God’s invitation to us to dream.

Hear the power of change in the invitation from Acts 2:17 read on Pentecost:

*I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.*

I hope you dream big this summer.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne +".

THE REV. DR. ANNE M. TURNER



In This Issue

<u>From Our Rector</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Grace Church's Mission Team in Action.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>From Mother Nina.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>De Madre Nina.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>On the Mind of Father Santi.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Grace Episcopal School.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Behind the Scenes.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Notes from Sam.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Campus Matters</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Parishioner Funeral and Burial Instructions</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Diocesan News.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>National Church News Spotlight</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Inquiring Minds Want to Know.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Vida Cambiada, No Acabada: ¿Cómo te imaginas el cielo?.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Photo Essay: Celebrating Mother Nina's Ministry Among Us.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Opinion: Youth Perspective.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>A Day in the Life of Mary Cyrus.....</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>A Brief History: The Book of Common Prayer</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Shrine Mont 2023.....</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Mission Focus.....</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>A Letter from Bishop E. Mark Stevenson.....</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Grace-ful Worship.....</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Photo Essay: 2023 Annual Church Picnic.....</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Why Grace?.....</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Answers to the National Church News Quiz.....</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>An Occasional Word.....</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Family Fun Coloring Page</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>Family Fun Page</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Our Mission / Nuestra Misión.....</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Grace Leadership.....</u>	<u>32</u>

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.

Grace Church's Mission Team in Action

By John Berry

It doesn't happen often that Grace does something brand new, but we did on Saturday, April 29! We joined the nationwide National Rebuilding Day program: one team to repair one house in one day. Many hundreds of mission teams like ours engaged in community service all around the USA.



The Grace Church National Rebuilding Day Team

The Grace team of twenty-nine adults and older youth spent a day transforming a group home to improve the lives of the disabled, but independently-living, adult residents. Fresh paint, new and brighter lights, security cameras, new kitchen tiles, power-washed decks and walls, gardening work everywhere, a freshly varnished deck for outdoor barbeques, and little quick repairs all around the home were the results.



Paint Team



Grounds Team

Altogether, in our 8 am to 4 pm workday, Grace's team provided close to 240 hours of work for our neighbors living a short distance from the church. We also made connections across generations at Grace. From a few of us over eighty to some just over fifteen, and all ages in-between, we got to know fellow parishioners and created new friendships. And more than that, we all had the chance to live out our baptismal covenant: proclaiming by word and example the good news of God in Christ.



Grace before lunch

Where might we go next? National Rebuilding Day will come around again in 2024. Can we form a second mission team? Yes we can! Si se puede! But there is something else to consider. Grace has been sending its youth on mission trips since 2004. Our Assistant Rector way back then--none other than Mother Anne--took our EYC to New York City to meet and engage with the urban homeless. Youth teams have been on mission trips every year until old man Covid stopped us. As we rebuild our EYC in the coming year, a mission trip might be possible too. Let's see where the Holy Spirit leads us.



Light Team



Grounds Team



Laying tile



Break time



From Mother Nina

THE REV. NINA BACAS,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR & GRACE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

*I come in the little things, saith the Lord
My starry wings I do forsake
Love's highway of humility to take
Meekly I fit my stature to your need
- Evelyn Underhill*

As I think about our time together at Grace Church and Grace School, many big things come to mind. But since you know all those big things, I would love to write to you about the little things that not everyone sees--the little things that make up what Underhill calls "Love's highway." Journeying on this "highway" with you has been life-giving and heart-growing. God is certainly in all things, big and small. For me, I am especially enchanted by the little ways that we see God in one another. What are these little things? There are too many to count, but allow me to remember a few for you that I will always treasure.



+The La Gracia congregation's nature to be quick with a blessing and full plates of food. Practitioners of "radical hospitality," there is no limit to the size of the La Gracia table.

+A child quietly asking to be baptized.

+The gentle kindness of ushers interacting with children in chapel.

+A note from a GES teacher reassuring me that we did the right thing by euthanizing our 13-year-old Labrador. Her students giving me a list of dogs for my dog to find in dog heaven.

+Before moving out of state, a parishioner hands me eight sets of Anglican prayer beads to gift to the graduating fifth graders at Grace School. Each is wildly different and equally beautiful.



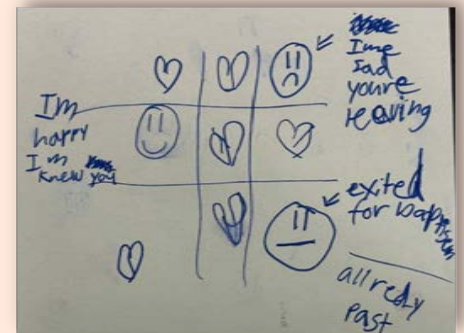
+Finding a freshly steamed alb on my vestment closet door.



+During a busy moment, someone calmly asking, "What do you need?"



+Prayer shawls wrapping people in love just when they need it most.



+Endless, endless "love notes" from church and school.

I give thanks to God for the opportunity to journey with you and to be enriched by your love. I know that Grace never fully says goodbye to its clergy, staff, or congregation, so I look forward to seeing you all again. I pray you continue with what you do best: loving God and each other in big ways and small.



De Madre Nina

**THE REV. NINA BACAS,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR & GRACE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN**

*En las pequeñas cosas vengo, dice el Señor
Mis alas estrelladas las abandono
Tomo la carretera del amor humilde y
Acomodo mi estatura mansamente a tu necesidad
- Evelyn Underhill*

Mientras pienso en nuestro tiempo juntos en Grace Church / La Gracia y Grace School, varias cosas eminentes me vienen a la mente. Pero como puede que ustedes sepan estas gran cosas, me encantaría escribirles acerca de las pequeñas cosas que no todo el mundo ve. Las pequeñas cosas que componen lo que Underhill llama "la carretera del amor". Viajar con ustedes por esta "carretera" ha sido para mi vivificante y alentador. Dios ciertamente está en todas las cosas, grandes y pequeñas. Yo estoy especialmente encantada por las simples y pequeñas formas en que vemos a Dios en los demás. ¿Cuáles son estas pequeñas cosas? Hay demasiadas para contarlas, pero permitanme recordarles algunas que siempre atesoraré.



+La bondad de nuestros parroquianos de ser rápidos al compartir una bendición y platos llenos de alimento. Son practicantes de "hospitalidad radical", no hay límite para la magnitud de La Mesa de La Gracia.

+Un niño pidiendo tranquilamente ser bautizado.

+La gentil amabilidad de los ujieres interactuando con los niños en la capilla.

+Una nota de un maestro de la escuela asegurándome que mi familia hizo lo correcto al sacrificar nuestro perrito labrador que tenía 13 años. Sus alumnos me dan una lista de perros para que mi perro los encuentre en el 'cielo de los perros'.

+Antes de mudarme fuera del estado, un feligrés me entrega ocho rosarios anglicanos para regalar a los alumnos de 5to grado que se gradúan en Grace School. Cada uno es muy diferente e igualmente hermoso.



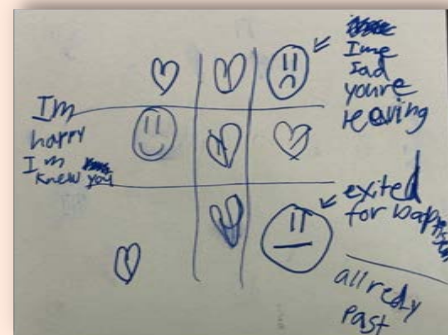
+Encontrar un alba recién vaporizada en la puerta de mi armario en la sacristía.



+Durante un momento ajetreado, alguien me pregunta con calma "¿Qué necesitas?"



+Mantones de oración envolviendo a las personas con el amor de esta congregación justo cuando más lo necesitan.



+Infinitas, interminables "notas de amor" de la iglesia y de la escuela.

Doy gracias a Dios por la oportunidad de caminar con ustedes y enriquecerme con su amor. Sé que Grace/La Gracia nunca se despide por completo de su clero, empleados y congregación, así que espero verlos a todos de nuevo. Ruego que sigan haciendo lo que ustedes saben hacer tan bien: amar a Dios y a los demás en formas grandes y pequeñas.

On the Mind of Father Santi



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

Our Burial Rites remind us that the hope of the Resurrection is the hope of a life changed, not ended. It is the promise not only of life transformed in Christ when we get to our eternal dwelling, but most importantly, the assurance that even here, in this earthly dwelling, God transforms us and makes us whole. When we are anxious, our hope reminds us that God is our shield, our rock, and our hope. When we are fearful, our faith assures us that God hears our cry and transforms our pain with her healing touch. When our hearts are troubled, love embraces us with the promise that God gently wipes away the tears from our eyes and mends all broken bonds and mangled hearts. This is our hope, our faith, and Love's promise to us. Not just for each one of us, but for our community and the entire human family. Allow me, then, to share some of the ways God is increasing in us hope, faith, and love.

In Adult Formation, our Sunday Adult Forums returned to action after a bit of a break with Holy Week and Easter. Attendance was a little lower than hoped for our forums on Shrine Mont, Cristosal, and Anglo-Catholicism, but we had great conversations on the power of intentional community, advocacy, and beauty. By the time you read this, our last two forums of the year will have taken place: sharing stories from National Rebuilding Day and a presentation on Heaven by this pesky Associate Rector. Adult formation continues elsewhere. Our bible studies continue to have strong participation. Bob Boyd's bible study on Thursdays will take a break during the summer. It is also worth noting that (our seminarian) Durango Jenkins' series on Dying, Death, and Resurrection was well-attended. The final luncheon with funeral planning had twenty-one participants and included some lively conversations on funeral rites and music.

Our experiments in Evangelism continue to yield good fruit. We continue to have visitors grace us with their presence on Sunday and on other occasions. Many of them are making Grace their new church home. That emboldens us to continue creating opportunities for radical hospitality and belonging. In collaboration with Mother Anne, we threw a Young Adults reception following the Ascension Day service on May 18. Also, on Saturday June 10, we will celebrate and give thanks to God for our LGBTQIA+ siblings with our Pride Eucharist. It will be held in the Amphitheater at 11:00 am.

Outreach is one of the ministries that participated in our mission team for National Rebuilding Day. As featured on pages four and five, twenty-nine people participated in the team. It was a great opportunity for people of all ages to work together on a wonderful project. We spent a day transforming a group home, and our efforts will positively affect the lives of its residents. The success of that day renews our energy for some of the work we are doing to empower others. Whether it is conversations on food security in Alexandria or reflecting on our outreach to Afghan refugees in our city, Christ is forming our minds and hearts for service.

Last but not least, let me share some of the work I do in the diocese and the wider church. As you may know, I am a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee. I am also the Chair of the Council of Advice for the Latino Ministries. In mid-May, I flew to St. Louis for four days to participate in the joint meeting of the Councils of Advice of the Department of Ethnic Ministries of the Episcopal Church. The four ethnic ministries are African Descent, Asiamerica, Indigenous, and Latinos. The individual councils gather quarterly, and the joint council meeting happens once a year. We had another successful and spirited meeting at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown St. Louis. Bishop Deon K. Johnson and his staff were gracious and hospitable as the four offices invaded the diocesan offices. All the members of our individual councils expressed often that they love being all together celebrating our diversity and unity. Yet much of our work happens in our separate council meetings. And did we ever work! I am grateful for the ways we came together to think about vision and strategy for Latino ministries in the Episcopal Church. Our ministry is stronger and more productive because of our mutual commitment, encouragement, and wisdom.

I invite you to join me in prayer for the work of our ministries at Grace, in our diocese, and in the wider church. As members of the Church of God--of the Jesus Movement--God transforms us and makes us whole. And that blessed life is a foretaste of the life we will enjoy in our eternal dwelling, in the loving embrace of God.



Grace Episcopal School



**PATTI CULBRETH,
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

As we close in on the end of another school year, Grace Episcopal School has much to celebrate. At the top is a stellar report from the VAIS Accreditation Review Team who visited the school in late April and voted that we follow all standards of best practice and approved our continued full accreditation.



This team of six professionals from the Virginia Association of Independent Schools commented:

Arriving at Grace Episcopal School immediately there is a sense of community among administration, staff, students, parents, church and community. Everyone embraces "The Grace Way" which is seen and felt throughout the School and extended throughout their partnership with the church. Their commitment to the whole student is evident within classrooms. Everyone is nurturing and leading with "Grace." Families of students feel confident in knowing their children are safe and trust Grace to build a strong foundation in scholarship, character, kindness and confidence. Grace is the village that parents are looking for in their child's educational journey.

The team spent three days at Grace. They observed all classes and met with the School Board, faculty, staff, parents, and Mother Anne. They reviewed our specific goals of partnership from our Strategic Plan and commented:

The School made significant advancement to the partnership between the School and the Church. This was made evident in several new parts of the program. First, the church has assigned one associate priest to conduct all Friday chapels, prayers and other school functions. Second, the School and church partnered financially to design the new Godly Play room that allows children in both the School and the Church to learn about worship, stories, symbols and rituals through a Montessori-based approach. Additionally, the church invited students to an after-school choir to allow students and church children to participate in the church choir. Finally, it should be noted that the leadership of the Church has daily interactions in the life of the school, and the Head of School and Rector meet regularly.

This glowing report affirms our mission to honor the gift of childhood. We plan to spend the final days of school with that as our focus as we enjoy picnics, a petting zoo, a talent show, our final chapel with Mother Nina, Field Day, and Graduation. The 2022-2023 school year has been one of great success. As we head into June, we wish our families time for rest and relaxation over the summer months.

Happy summer to all!



BEHIND THE SCENES



KEVIN HAMILTON,
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATION

Does anyone else feel a bit like Rip Van Winkle these days? It seems like just a minute ago it was January, we closed our eyes for a little winter's nap, and bam...we woke up in June. Except for how quickly it seems to have arrived, this time of year brings back many of the things we have missed. The warmer temperatures and slight evening breezes may call us back to the occasional evening stroll we have missed so much during the gray winter months and the rainy days of spring.

This past month and continuing into the summer, we are doing a bit of strolling ourselves here in the office. However, we aren't outside strolling in the evening breeze; we are instead online strolling through Breeze, our church database system. The clergy and support staff have embarked on a mission to do some much-needed updates to parishioner records. These updates will help organize our system better for our yearly reporting to the church at large (called the Parochial Report) as well as clean up mailing lists and other group settings.

The clergy have walked through every person in our database to help us identify needed edits in major categories. This process will also help us better manage the online access that individuals have when they log into their own Breeze accounts. Have you ever tried to log on to Breeze to look up a fellow parishioner's phone number or email and been unable to find them? Hopefully, with the edits taking place over the summer, that will happen less frequently.

To help with these efforts, we invite you to go into your Breeze account and update your information. You can also email me with any needed updates. Don't have access to Breeze but would like to? You can email me about that as well and we will send a link to sign in.

I hope the start to your summer is a great one and that you find some time for the occasional stroll!

SAM SCHEFF,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Notes from Sam

What an exciting and eventful year it has been for the music ministry of Grace Church! While I could rattle off statistics about regrowing our chorister program or how we sang a lot of anthems this year, one of the goals I feel strongly about is that all individual members of the music ministry feel fulfilled in their ministry. So I asked them, "What was your favorite thing about being in choir this year?" Here's what they had to say:

Singing with my friends. *Chorister, age 7*

Singing in person with my favorite choristers! Loved the different instruments for Christmas and Easter. And I love our rehearsals. *Adult Choir Member*

Getting to sing with (and herding) lots of kiddos again. *Adult Choir Member*

Getting to know other people from school better that I don't usually hang out with. *Chorister, age 9*

Singing with an oboe for Easter. *Adult Choir Member*

Learning new songs to sing. *Chorister, age 6*

Choir has helped me develop my sight-reading skills and made me more confident in making a joyful noise! *Adult Choir Member*

Christmas party and the blanket fort. *Many, many choristers, ages 5 to 10*



Campus Matters



ROBBY SCHRUM,
JUNIOR WARDEN

Slow--and hopefully steady!--is the junior warden's progress tending to Grace's building and campus.

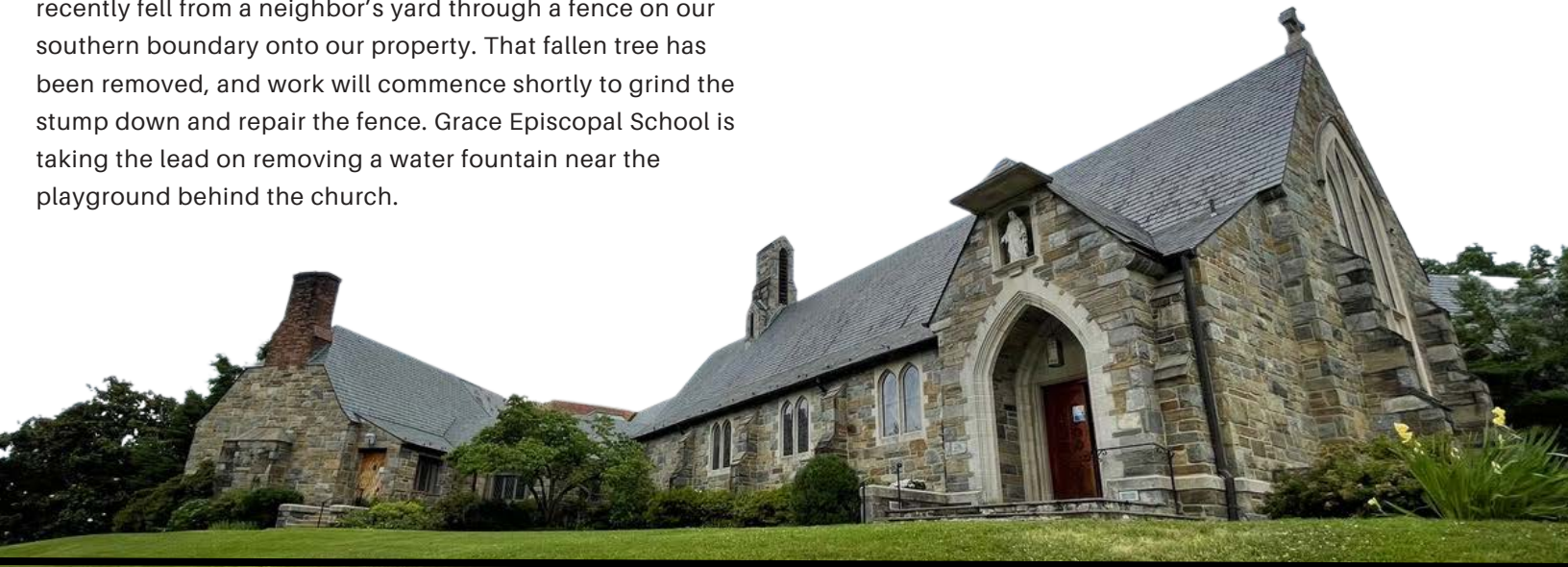
We are awaiting the necessary permits to undertake the water mitigation project on the side of Merrow Hall facing the parking lot. Work is still slated to begin this summer.

The work to refurbish the elevator outside the church office is still on the docket, too. We are waiting on the vendor for a potential start date. Stay tuned!

Behind the church, a few projects are underway. A tree recently fell from a neighbor's yard through a fence on our southern boundary onto our property. That fallen tree has been removed, and work will commence shortly to grind the stump down and repair the fence. Grace Episcopal School is taking the lead on removing a water fountain near the playground behind the church.

Speaking of water, I hope to have some malfunctioning water fountains on the second and third floors of the building back in working order shortly.

If you see anything around the church in need of attention, please feel free to contact me at robby.schrum@gracealex.org.



Parishioner Funeral and Burial Instructions

The Grace Church form for recording your preferences for your funeral and burial has been updated and is available on our website at www.gracealex.org/worship/special-services/funerals/. You may also request a copy to be mailed to you by contacting Kevin Hamilton at director.of.operations@gracealex.org or by calling the church office at 703-549-1980. If you have not already done so, please consider completing this form and returning it to the church so we can have it on file. Specifying your desires in advance can be a final gift to surviving loved ones.



Diocesan News



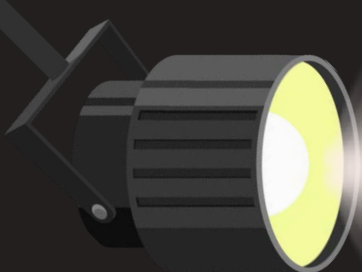
by Doug Prince

Did you know that Grace has a namesake church in Fredericksburg? That's right, and it was recently restored after not having seen a service for over eighty years.

Or did you know that there was a chance to learn more about deacons and the diaconate on "Diocesan Deacon Day," held on May 13 via Zoom?

How about free concerts? One featured an organ and chamber ensemble at St. George's in Fredericksburg. Another featured the early music vocal ensemble Carmina & Illuminare at St. Patrick's in Falls Church. Or for twenty-five dollars you might have attended "Jazz at Meade" at Meade Memorial Church in Alexandria. All these were held on May 21.

To find out more about these and other events going on in our diocese, open your web browser to <https://www.thediocese.net> and navigate to News and Events from the menu. From there you can catch up on the latest events via the News Room, view and subscribe to the calendar, sign up to receive the e-Communique newsletter, and more. Don't miss out!



National Church News Spotlight



by Liz Rugaber

In the May 2023 issue of Grace Notes, I challenged you to read the essays of The Episcopal Church Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop (JNCPB). I promised a quiz. So, here are my questions for you. I think it is important that all Episcopalians are aware of what is happening in our church polity, and especially what is happening next summer.

The answers appear on page 27.

National News Quiz

1. Why will The Episcopal Church gather in 2024? What will we be doing?
2. Who are we electing at the General Convention in 2024?
3. What does the Presiding Bishop do?
4. How long is a Presiding Bishop's term?



Inquiring minds want to know...

*What is something you will always remember about Mother Nina?
Do you have any parting words for her?*



The Woodiwiss Family

Thank you for welcoming our family with open arms. We are especially thankful for your gift of teaching. It has been a gift to know you. We pray that God will continue to watch over you as you move to the West Coast.

Violet Woodiwiss

Thank you for teaching all the kids. Thank you for making my baptism special.



Mother Anne

In the summer of 2021, we were just beginning to emerge from COVID. We had held worship back in our nave for less than a month. I was almost all by myself on staff at Grace, with three staff members leaving at once, wondering how we'd get a new clergy person with skills in both Spanish and family ministry in time to start the program year.

I went out for coffee with Nina and realized she was exactly the person we needed. Uncharacteristically, I offered her a job on the spot. Wisely, she said she needed to pray--but then called me that same night to accept the job, because she was so clear about her call to be at Grace.

My wish for Nina is that the Holy Spirit will continue to be as powerful and clear in all the years to come! The church needs her ministry.

Jeremy, Meg, Matthew, and Peter Whelpley, with love

Mother Nina has been a key part of engaging my children in the life of the church and in turn our whole family. She has gently shined a light on our boys allowing them to see the light of Christ in themselves. Her love of Christ and His work through her hands has blessed our whole family and we are forever grateful. (Peter is in the cow costume. 😊)



Bernarda Hernandez

There are so many qualities to describe Mother Nina that I don't even know where to begin. Maybe she is best described as an Angel put on earth with a heart full of love for people and especially for children.



Lyndi Cote, Grace School Teacher

What I will remember about Mother Nina is her patience and kindness, and the unique and very sweet way she connected to the children. My class of second graders loved religion, and often remarked Tuesday was their favorite day because they got to go to the Godly Play room and be with Mother Nina. Mother Nina, I wish you all the best. Your new church is lucky to have you! Our loss is certainly their gain!



Father Santi Rodriguez

What makes Mother Nina unforgettable is that she is genuinely human and loving. She possesses many great qualities--among them hospitality, generosity of spirit, and a pastoral heart. Working with Mother Nina has been a gift. I loved seeing the way she loves people and how she cares for them. Parting words: You have taught us that failures are lessons in progress. Keep learning from your failures and giving people room to make mistakes and learn from them.



Wendy Wilmer

I will always remember Mother Nina's care and compassion, not just for us at Grace Church, but for anyone who seemed to cross her path. When she came to visit me in the hospital, she brought altar flowers from Grace to cheer up my room. Sadly, I was not allowed flowers because of my illness. She told me that when she was told that the flowers were a no-no, she saw another patient sitting in a wheelchair looking very sad and forlorn. She offered the flowers to her, which made the patient smile. I will miss Mother Nina very much. She is the genuine article!

Parting Words: Thank you for your love and support, especially during this past year. I wish you the best of luck in your new parish. I look forward to seeing you when I go to visit my brother in Carlsbad. So this is not goodbye, but rather au revoir! Onward and upward!



THE REV. SANTI RODRIGUEZ,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Vida Cambiada, No Acabada: ¿Cómo te imaginas el cielo?

El Rito de Funerales del Rito de Sarum (antiguo misal de Inglaterra bajo el hospicio de San Agustín de Canterbury), proclama que Cristo es nuestra esperanza de vida plena y vida eterna. El rito resalta que a través de la muerte, nuestra vida cambia y no termina: "En Cristo ha resplandecido la esperanza de una bendita resurrección, para que aquellos entristecidos por la certeza de poder morir, puedan ser consolados por la promesa de la inmortalidad por venir. En verdad para los fieles, Señor, la vida es cambiada, no acabada, y, cuando esta morada terrenal se convierta en polvo, una morada eterna les está preparada en el cielo".

La mayoría de los estadounidenses creen en un tipo de vida después de la muerte. Sin embargo, no hay acuerdo de lo que creemos que es el más allá. Hay creencia de nubes, campos con flores, verdes praderas - e inclusive, ríos de Nutella. La fe nos revela algo distinto. Aunque los evangelios nos revelan muy pocas enseñanzas sobre el más allá, esto está lejos de limitar nuestra deseos humanos y añoranzas. Más bien, la falta de claridad expande nuestros corazones y despierta nuestra imaginación. Una de las enseñanzas en los evangelios es la creencia de que nuestros cuerpos serán reunidos con nuestras almas en el Juicio Final. La Asunción de María, en cuerpo y alma al cielo, prefigura este proceso. Lo mismo es cierto del poder revelador de la Resurrección de Jesús y la vida de gloria revelada en la Ascensión. La resurrección de los cuerpos nos ayuda a ver un aspecto fundamental de nuestra fe: en el cielo la persona humana es totalmente perfeccionada.

Es una vida de plenitud y alegría, en la que se preserva nuestra identidad en cuerpo y alma. San Pablo nos dice: "Cristo cambiará nuestro humilde cuerpo para conformarnos con su cuerpo glorificado" (Filipenses 3:21).

A diferencia de las religiones orientales y filosofías (como el budismo e hinduismo), no creemos que nuestras personalidades no se disuelven o fusionan en el Gran Todo. Más bien, nuestras personalidades son perfeccionadas para que para que podamos experimentar la última realización de una vida con Dios.

En el cielo, veremos la cara de Dios (1 Juan 3:2) y nos podremos bañar en la luz de su resplandor. En el cielo no habrá más lágrimas o noche (Apocalipsis 22:3-5). El dolor de esta vida habrá pasado - pues los cuerpos glorificados no sufrirán porque en el cielo contemplamos a Dios que "hace nuevas todas las cosas" (Apocalipsis 21:5). Porque las alegrías de esta vida son fugaces, puede ser difícil imaginarnos la alegría del cielo. El la felicidad del cielo nunca será monótona o aburrida, porque Dios es infinito. Solo estar en la presencia de Dios será el gozo eterno que satisface todos nuestros deseos. No hay nada más grande en el universo que Dios, y nada menos que estar con él hará nosotros felices como nos lo recuerda San Pablo, "Dios ha preparado para los que lo aman cosas que nadie ha visto ni oído, y ni siquiera pensado" (1 Cor 2:9).

Get Social with Grace!

Instagram



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facebook



facebook.com/
GraceEpiscopalChurchAlexandriaVa

Facebook Group



Grace Episcopal Church:
Members and Friends
(Alexandria, Virginia)

YouTube



Search for Grace Episcopal Church
Alexandria Virginia on YouTube.

Twitter



@graceepisalexva

Photo Essay: Celebrating Mother Nina's Ministry Among Us



Opinion: Youth Perspective



Welcoming All

Annie Eason

It's June, which is Pride Month—that is, a month when LGBTQ+ people not only celebrate their identities, but also protest against the systems and institutions that attempt to oppress, silence, and abolish their existence. Even though some churches, such as ours, do actively welcome LGBTQ+ people, others do not.

According to Pew Research Center, fifty-four percent of conservative Christians believe that homosexuality should be discouraged, and sixty-six percent oppose or strongly oppose same-sex marriage. However, among Christians as a whole, Pew Research Center found an almost fifty-fifty split between those who oppose and those who support same-sex marriage and homosexuality. I fear that sometimes those in opposition are heard more clearly, which unfortunately promotes the image of Christians as an intolerant, bigoted group; so while there are inclusive and loving churches such as Grace, the intolerance of some may cause Christianity as a whole to be characterized as a hateful religion instead of what Christianity actually is: loving and accepting.

Pride Month is good time for Grace to assess how welcoming it actually is to all, including to those in the LGBTQ+ community. Grace does seem to be a safe environment for queer people, as some are even in leadership roles. Last year, there was even a sermon in June by Rector Mother Anne that had a queer coming-out allegory to it. However, there may still be room to ask if Grace is doing enough to welcome all sorts of people or if the Grace community is thinking deeply enough about the broad issues faced by different groups in American society. Grace might ask if the information on our website for the LGBTQ+ community is enough to convey to those outside the church how open our church family actually is.

Another question is if our church has a role to play in ensuring that the Episcopal Church as a whole is welcoming to diverse groups.

Grace Church is doing and can continue to do its part to prevent Christianity from being mischaracterized. I don't think Jesus hated people; in fact, he loved people. Perhaps all Christian churches need to be more involved in providing a safe and comfortable environment for all people. If not, Christianity may continue to decline, perhaps even faster. Numbers have been down over the past few years. There has been a "rapid growth of religiously unaffiliated," a nearly-twenty-percent change, according to Pew Research Center. In a 2002 paper titled "Why More Americans Have No Religious Preference: Politics and Generations," Claude S. Fischer stated, "In the 1990s many people who had weak attachments to religion and either moderate or liberal political views found themselves at odds with the conservative political agenda of the Christian Right and reacted by renouncing their weak attachment to organized religion."

The Grace community can set itself as a safe space for queer people, and all people, by proclaiming the Gospel and showing the ways that it is a Gospel of inclusion. Grace can strive to maintain its incredibly welcoming environment where all kinds of people come together to practice a religion of radical love and acceptance.



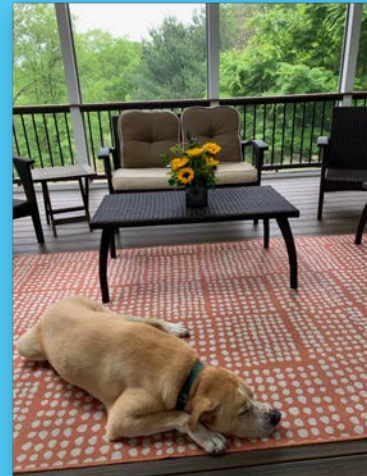
Photo Credit: Canva.com

A Day in the Life of ... Mary Cyrus, Financial Administrator

By Kevin Hamilton

A series inviting Grace parishioners into an average workday of Grace Church staff

It's 6 o'clock in the morning and Mary Cyrus is making her way downstairs to handle two critical tasks: making coffee and taking Buddy for a walk. Buddy is an (almost) eleven-year-old part lab, part whatever it is that makes him such a handsome boy. After those two critical tasks are completed, Mary manages to find a few moments of personal quiet time in the midst of morning chores. After enjoying the solitude, Mary and her husband head to the gym for a thirty- to fifty-minute workout.



Buddy after one of his walks

What happens once Mary leaves the gym and arrives at the office depends on the day. On Mondays you can find her in her home office, where she deals with emails for all three of the churches she currently supports. After she is done sorting and replying to emails, Mary spends a good portion of her day on Grace's finances. Tuesdays are not filled with Grace for Mary, at least not in the sense of finance work, as she's at St. Thomas, McLean, for the day.

Wednesdays find Mary fully engaged in the office here. Starting around 8:30 am and finishing up between 5:00 and 6:00 pm, you find Mary in the midst of all things finance here at Grace, things like processing invoices; recording receipts; reconciling assets, liabilities, and restricted funds; preparing financial reports; responding to staff and volunteer requests for financial information; addressing audit issues; dealing with payroll matters; and reviewing and updating financial information in Breeze.

Thursdays Mary is at St. Francis in Great Falls, the third church that she supports. Fridays Mary is back in her home office dealing with emails from all three churches and then spending the rest of the day on items for Grace, usually taking care of any loose ends from Wednesday's work.

The workday wraps up around 6:00 or 7:00 pm and Mary makes a quick dinner for herself and her husband. The menu is usually pasta or—admittedly, more often than not—whatever leftovers can be found to reheat. If not too tired, they may watch a little BBC or check out something on Prime.

It is now 10:00 or 11:00 pm—time to trade creating spreadsheets for counting sheep and call it a day.



Mary pictured with her husband, Rod

A Brief History: The Book of Common Prayer

By Liz Rugaber

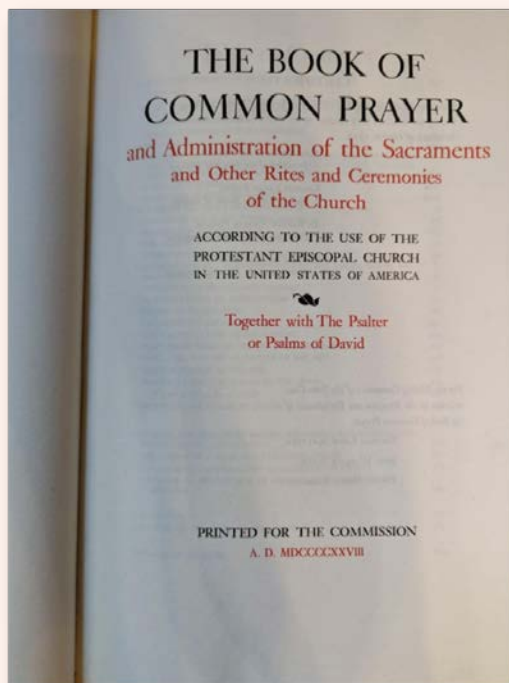


Photo from the 1928 leather-bound J.P. Morgan edition

Almighty and everliving God, who through the Book of Common Prayer restored the language of the people in the prayers of your church: Make us always thankful for this heritage; and help us so to pray in the Spirit and with understanding, that we may worthily magnify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

--Collect from the Feast of the First Book of Common Prayer

Always on a weekday (typically in June) following the Day of Pentecost, the lesser Feast of the First Book of Common Prayer is celebrated. This is because the first Book of Common Prayer came into use on the Day of Pentecost, June 9, 1549.

According to Lesser Feasts and Fasts, the first BCP was prepared by "a commission of learned bishops and priests," and further acknowledged to be primarily the work of Thomas Cranmer, the first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, 1533-1556. The circumstances of Cranmer's appointment as Archbishop have a direct line to the creation of the Book of Common Prayer.

A member of the clergy based at Cambridge University, Cranmer had found favor with King Henry VIII, who reached out to him seeking theological justification for an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. On research trips to develop this justification, Cranmer's public profile increased, and Henry appointed Cranmer ambassador to the court of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. This appointment required accompanying the emperor on his travels, which provided Cranmer first-hand exposure to the Protestant Reformation.

When the current archbishop William Warham died, Cranmer was appointed Archbishop in 1533, not only because of his relationships with King Henry VIII and Charles V, but also because of his relationship to the family of Anne Boleyn, which had a vested interest in having the King's marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled. Cranmer declared that the King's marriage to Catherine was against the laws of God, infuriating Pope Clement VII, who promptly excommunicated Henry. This set the stage for the full separation of England from the papal authority. Cranmer was then able to create the conditions for the new Church of England, with King Henry at its helm, along with the doctrines for the new Protestant church.

Influenced by the Protestant Reformation's rejection of the Roman Catholic doctrine of papal supremacy, Cranmer wanted to create an English language liturgy that was universal throughout all parishes of the Church of England. Cranmer's steadfast goal was to ensure that every person, whether educated or illiterate, could understand God's word. Cranmer himself had fully adopted Protestant views of the liturgy and faith, including the belief that Christ was spiritually present in the Eucharist rather than physically present (as Roman Catholics believed), and that Christ was not only present with Christians when they received Holy Communion but when they truly believed in him (e.g., you could have faith and salvation without receiving sacraments).

King Henry was a religious conservative and Cranmer's vision could not be fully realized until after Henry's death in 1547. The next king, Edward VI (who was crowned at the age of nine), did not interfere. A committee of scholars, bishops, and priests drafted a Book of Common Prayer using many existing liturgical sources (especially those rites in use at the Salisbury Cathedral, as well as the liturgy of the Reformed Church of Cologne and prayers from the Byzantine rite). The BCP draft was debated in Parliament and, despite conservative opposition (especially from Catholic bishops who still held power in the House of Lords), was allowed to be published through the First Act of Uniformity of 1549, which required that the new Book of Common Prayer be used by all parishes no later than Whitsunday (the British name for Pentecost), June 9, 1549. This Act provided for stiff penalties for clergy who did not use the BCP after that date.

The 1549 edition was the first prayer book to have complete forms of service in English for daily and Sunday worship, the Holy Communion, as well as orders for baptisms, marriages, and funerals. It allowed communion to be given in both kinds to laity (previously only the clergy were permitted to take the wine as well as the bread). The principles governing the 1549 Book of Common Prayer can still be found in our current 1979 Episcopal BCP on page 866. The 1549 BCP was criticized by more Reformist Protestants as too traditional, and by Catholics as too radical. An even more Protestant-leaning BCP was subsequently published in 1552.

Even after it became required for use in all parishes by law, the BCP's doctrinal changes were not without contest. When pro-Catholic Mary ascended to the throne in 1553 (after a nine-day rule by Lady Jane Grey), Cranmer was tried for treason; when the Acts of Uniformity were ultimately repealed by Parliament in 1555 and heresy laws were revived, he was tried for heresy, convicted, and burned at the stake on March 21, 1556. At some point during Cranmer's imprisonment, he was forced to sign documents repudiating Protestantism, and legend has it that at the stake he burned his right hand completely to disavow his forced repudiations and exhorted his true, unwavering beliefs.

The Book of Common Prayer has lived on. It is one of the most beautiful devotional books ever composed—it has made its way into culture (just google Shakespeare and the Book of Common Prayer, as an example), is read by millions, and still influences Christians today. In the United States, we have had our own Book of Common Prayer since the American Revolution. The first Episcopal BCP was published in 1789 and revised in 1892 and 1928. The 1979 version is in use today.

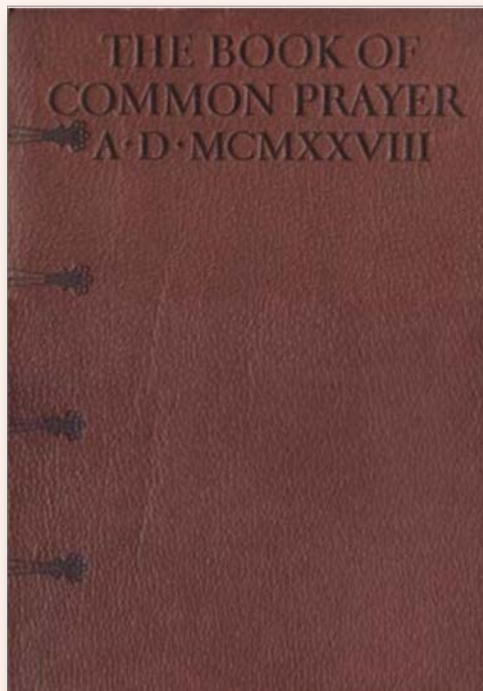


Photo from the 1928 leatherbound J.P. Morgan edition

A Brief History: The Book of Common Prayer, continued from page 19

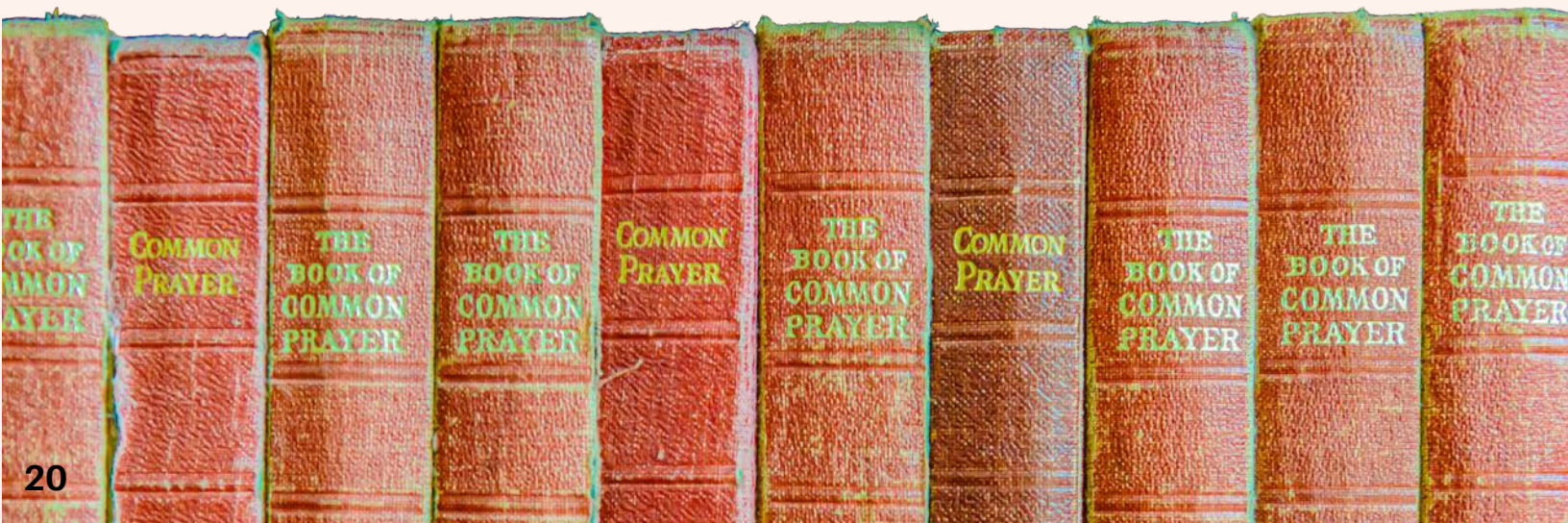
In 1928, American financier J.P. Morgan financed a competition for the printing of 500 copies of the "Standard Book" edition of the Book of Common Prayer, with the intent of producing the printed edition by which all other printings were to be judged for accuracy. Daniel Berkeley Updike and his Merrymount Press won this competition. It is said to be this publisher's finest work, and it took two dedicated years to complete. Grace Episcopal Church has one of these original 500 copies, donated by the Rugaber Family. The Rugabers were gifted this edition from Liz Rugaber's stepmother, Martha Spoerri Wohlken, who acquired it from her father. Martha's father, James Fuller Spoerri, was a collector and lover of books, especially rare books.

The book is being restored, and will be on display in the library at some point in the future.



Enching. *Thomas Cranmer at the Stake with Queen Mary looking on.* Wellcome Collection, Public Domain

Photo credit: Canva.com



Shrine Mont 2023

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" Luke 24: 32



Registration begins June 4th!

Come find Tracy (tracy.enger@gracealex.org)
and Chad (chad.eckles@gracealex.org)
after each service to answer any questions and help sign
you up.

8 - 10 September 2023
Orkney Springs, VA

Come get your raffle tickets!!
Grand prize of two Shrine Mont
adirondack chairs!

- Proceeds go to Shrine Mont scholarship
Fund



SHRINE MONT WEEKEND 2023
GRACE & LA GRACIA

Mission Focus

Hope in Hard Times:

Haiti Micah Today



By Mary Hix

For many years, the Haiti Micah project has provided hope for children in Mirebalais, Haiti. Founded by The Reverend Joseph Constant, a native Haitian and priest in the Episcopal Church, to bear witness to Micah 6:8--"to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"--the program continues today despite the prevailing circumstances of anarchy in Haiti.

Three cornerstones ground the program:

- Providing education because no free public education exists in Haiti. Currently tuition, supplies, and uniforms are provided for 152 children in elementary and post-secondary schools;
- An orphanage that provides a safety net for twenty-one children who otherwise would live on the street;
- A feeding program that formerly nourished 450 children daily. The program has been temporarily suspended because of rampant civil unrest and inflation, but twenty-nine staff are still employed with the hope of reactivating the program.

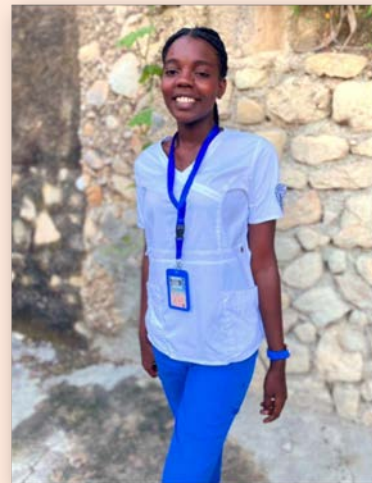


Sarah Désir and Jim Snow at April Adult Forum

Jim Snow, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Haiti Micah Project, and Sarah Désir, Administrator, updated Grace about Haiti Micah at a forum in April. The message was a strong declaration to not give up on the children or the staff of Haiti Micah. Essential services are ongoing, with resilience and determination. The presenters told the stories of several young people who have reaped the benefits of the education and orphanage. Jacky's education was provided by Haiti Micah, and he has now graduated from carpentry school. Elcie entered the orphanage at age seven and currently is a second-year nursing student in the Dominican Republic



Jacky in Carpentry Workshop



Elcie Charlot, Nursing Student

Beginning on Mother's Day and continuing through Father's Day, Grace's appeal for Haiti Micah will solicit donations and pledges. An annual sponsorship for one child is \$415 (\$35 per month), but a donation of any amount will be welcome and make a difference. Contributions will continue to be welcome after the campaign and may be submitted in installments. Donations may be made by check to Grace Church, with "Haiti Micah Project" in the memo line, or by selecting "Haiti Micah Project" to designate your contribution in Tithely or Breeze.

Annually, Grace's Outreach budget supports Haiti Micah, as do the contributions of many parishioners. Mr. Snow reported that, since 2018, Grace parishioners have generously provided \$94,000 in support of the children of Haiti. This generosity and faithfulness have changed lives and are a witness of hope in hard times.

A Letter from Bishop E. Mark Stevenson



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

THE RIGHT REVEREND E. MARK STEVENSON, BISHOP

April 28, 2023

The Rev. Anne Turner
Grace Episcopal Church
3601 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22305

Dear Anne+,

I am deeply grateful for Grace Church, Alexandria's gift of \$986.00 to the Diocese of Virginia collected from the plate offering on my visit on February 5, 2023. Gifts to a Bishop's discretionary fund fulfill a wide range of needs and your gift will be used well and fully for ministry that is not otherwise covered in the budget of the diocese. It will be a blessing to many.

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me, in my ministry as Bishop, to be able to support so many good works, and I greatly appreciate your part in making this possible.

With many thanks for your strong witness, and blessings upon your life as part of the family of Christ, I remain,

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson
Bishop of Virginia

FOR JESUS. FOR THIS TIME. FOR ALL TIME.

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JUNE HUBER

Grace-ful Worship

Changed, Not Ended

The theme of this month's newsletter is one of the prefaces for Commemoration of the Dead.

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is **changed, not ended**; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. (BCP, p. 382)*

I started to think about the three-word phrase itself and realized that it could apply to more than just death. It could describe the changes that we all go through as we move from one stage of our lives to the next because of age, sickness, marriage, divorce, having a family, geographic moves, or retirement.

I remembered something Brad said to me when I was bemoaning some of the physical changes of aging: reduced stamina, reduced stability (balance), reduced range of motion in joints, and arthritis pain. We knew our days of cross-country skiing were over. I wondered whether I/we were going to be able to continue (or resume) doing other things we loved to do together, such as gardening, taking long walks, and bicycle riding. In response, Brad said that I probably could do at least some of them, but I was going to have to change my expectations and "learn to do them differently." We could no longer work in the garden all morning and all afternoon, but we could garden for two or three hours on a nice day. We couldn't hike long, steep trails, but we could take walks on level ground. We shouldn't try to ride our bikes all the way to Mount Vernon and back, as we used to, but we could enjoy shorter rides in the neighborhood or on level, paved trails. Activities would be "changed, but not ended."

When I retired from my job, I didn't have any plans for what I was going to do next, other than volunteer in the church office (which I still love). I remembered advice from a former colleague: "Now you can try things that you've always wanted to do but didn't have the time to do. And, if you don't really enjoy it, you can just stop!" I liked the sound of that. When I was growing up, I really wanted to learn to play the piano; unfortunately, we had nowhere to put one in our apartment. I started taking lessons at age sixty. Before the tenth lesson I decided that I liked the IDEA of playing the piano but didn't enjoy practicing--not one bit. So, I stopped. But the time and effort weren't wasted: my life-long wish had been satisfied. (Other new things were more successful.)

I read another piece of advice: "Don't try to plan it all out. Leave room for the unexpected." Something unexpected arrived during my first year of retirement. I had decided to train for and then do the Susan Komen 3-Day Walk to end breast cancer. I started training in February and did the walk in May. While I was training--taking long, long walks several times a week--I met a woman who was doing the same thing. We started training together and, of course, there was lots of conversation. One morning after our walk we went somewhere for coffee. Out of the blue, she said, "You're a good listener, and you've had some training in pastoral care. Why don't you think about becoming a chaplain?" I knew that she was a chaplain at INOVA Alexandria, but I had certainly never thought of it for myself. We talked about it some more, and she convinced me to try it. I did, I loved it, and I've been doing it for fifteen years. Once again, I re-acquired two things that I missed about work: the satisfaction of a job well done and connection with colleagues I respected. Things were "changed, but not ended."

Facing major changes in our lives is never easy, but--with God's help--we can often find ways to discover or continue the kinds of relationships and activities that sustain us.

Photo Essay: 2023 Annual Church Picnic



Why Grace?

By Julia McClung



What brought me to Grace initially was a specific need. But what kept me and my family engaged was--simply put--love. Love shown in so many ways by so many people.

As first-time parents we were looking for preschool and extended care for our son, Spencer Foucart. He joined the Grace Episcopal School in 2006 and we never looked back. The small classes and individual attention from insightful teachers and caring staff helped our son thrive. Spencer graduated from the fifth grade of GES in 2013. The school also introduced us to the Grace family through numerous events and clergy involvement with the school.

Brian and Spencer started attending Sunday services in 2008, and Spencer asked to start attending Sunday school. The youth formation program at Grace provided Spencer with a sound foundation of spiritual growth and service, but also of friendship and fun. He ended up completing the full program through EYC, including multiple service trips and the pilgrimage. And the church made a great effort to recognize him and other "pandemic" graduates in 2020, sending them off that June with a virtual service that gave them a chance to speak and reflect on their journey.



Spencer Foucart, Nicholas Winkel, Crispin Enger as the Three Kings in 2015

From a family perspective we had many chances to share in celebrations and serve. We were coffee hour hosts for a couple of years before the pandemic. Brian

shadowed Frank Waskowicz on the rocket launch event for Shrinemont and now carries that on in his memory.

We enjoy the picnics, Chili Bowls, Agape Feasts, and other fellowship events when we can.

As for my personal journey, having been "unchurched" for most of my adult life, I was uncertain about whether I was ready to engage in regular worship and church community. I wanted to be close to God but wasn't sure how to do that. With both Brian and me working, family members to care for, and a child at home, I wondered how I could find time and energy for more of anything. But back around 2008 Brian assured me that I would love the worship experience of Grace, the music, the incense, the traditional--but accessible--liturgy. So, I started attending and he was right. I did love it. I was moved by the beauty of the services and my mind and heart opened to the liturgy in a way that really worked for me. I became more curious about what I thought I knew, and what I knew I did not know about being a Christian. As I began talking to others at Grace, I realized that this was a community in which it was normal to ask questions and start a faith journey without judgment. This made me comfortable in doing the work toward adult confirmation, experiencing that joy at age fifty in 2010. It's never too late!

But why did I stay? So many reasons...Because Frank and Linda Waskowicz turned around in their pew to say hello; because the choir members sang so joyfully during procession; because Bill Eckel took time to chat at coffee hour and introduced me to others; because Sunday School teachers saw my son; because Lorna Worley welcomed me as an Education for Ministry participant; because Kemp Williams invited me to co-mentor EFM with him; because so many folks took a risk to try retreats at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist with me and join a small contemplative prayer group; because we welcomed women into vestry leadership, as seminarians, and as clergy; because we took time as a community to reflect on blessings of same sex unions; because Mary Hix invited me to help select the GES Head of School; because Lucy-Lee Reed mentored me

with such kindness as a new Altar Guild member; because of many gentle shoulder taps and hugs when I had breast cancer; because Father Malm consoled me when my father died; because Anne Boris partnered with me to continue EFM; because Mother Leslie encouraged me to join COHI/pastoral care; because Father Jason and many others supported me through a crazy pandemic year as Altar Guild President; because Anne Caputo showed me how to create altar flower arrangements; because Liz Rugaber started Sacred Ground at Grace and Tracy Enger co-facilitated sessions with me and other brave souls who explored that territory.



EFM Gathering

In other words, I've stayed because people in this community took time to welcome and nourish me and my family. They have modeled that kind of love within the community and in how we keep pushing ourselves to find new ways to keep loving our neighbors.

And I've stayed because this community has given me opportunities to explore my faith, learn about myself and others, and continue learning. I've had so many opportunities to be "surprised by joy" through Grace. As I prepared to write this, I also took some time to think back on all my Grace experiences, to review mementos, and find old photographs. Some made me laugh and some made me cry. At turns, I felt wistful for things past, but hopeful for things yet to come. And most of all, I am curious about the new ways in which this community will continue to evolve. I know love will be the keystone!



Outgoing Altar Guild President Eleanor Reed passing the torch

Answers to National Church News Quiz from Page 12

1. The Episcopal Church will gather for its 81st General Convention in July 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky. The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church that meets every three years. It is a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, composed of bishops and deputies (delegates) from each diocese. During the triennial meeting, bishops and deputies consider a wide range of important matters facing the Church.
 2. At General Convention 2024, we will elect a new Presiding Bishop. Elected in 2015, our Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, will have served his nine-year term and, because of the mandatory clergy retirement age of seventy-two, he cannot seek another term.
 3. The Presiding Bishop has many roles, functions, and responsibilities. The most familiar roles are set forth in Canon I.2.4 of the Constitution of the General Convention. These include, in immensely summarized form: (i) serving as Chief Pastor and Primate of the Church, charged with leadership in developing church policy and speaking for the Church about policies and programs authorized by the General Convention; (ii) speaking God's words to the Church and to the world; (iii) consecrating bishops and meeting with bishops; (iv) visiting every Diocese of this Church for pastoral consultations with the bishops and lay and clerical leaders, and preaching the Word and celebrating the Holy Eucharist; and (v) reporting annually to the Church and issuing pastoral letters from time to time.
- Canon I.2.4(c) also describes that there are many other canonical responsibilities contained elsewhere in the Canons over which the Bishop has broad responsibility. These include (a) serving as ex officio president of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, which carries out the corporate matters of The Episcopal Church; (b) making appointments to numerous committees and advisory boards; (c) specific responsibilities with regard to certain congregations (including those in Micronesia, Europe, Navajoland, and armed forces chaplaincies) and those entities seeking relationships with The Episcopal Church; and (d) disciplinary and dissolution matters regarding bishops.
4. Nine years, pursuant to Canon I.2.2.



Barbara Morris

An Occasional WORD



Kindness Is Contagious

Several months ago, Washington Post writer Steven Petrow wrote an article in the Post's "Health & Science" section titled, "Kindness Contagion," which spoke of how one kind deed often leads to another. Two days later I was gob smacked by an episode of kindness that would have made Petrow's heart sing.

It happened in the emergency room of a local hospital where I waited with six others. We were a people rainbow--an elderly Asian woman, an African-American couple, and a Latino woman with two young sons, plus me, a Caucasian.

A woman, tethered to an oxygen tank and pushing a walker, came out of the doctor's office. She asked if any of us were parked in the downstairs garage: I was the only one. Assuming she needed help, I was about to offer it, but instead, she said firmly, "Please take this," and handed me a five-dollar bill—the cost of parking. Stunned, speechless, I vaguely waved the bill back at her. "No," she refused it. "I just want to do this. Makes me feel good," she said and pushed her walker briskly toward the exit. At the last second, I had the sense to call after her, "Thank you! I'll pay this forward!" A moment later, in the stunned silence of the room, the man next to me remarked with surprise in his voice, "Hey, That's like that article in the Post this week—the one about kindness." Of course! I remembered the "kindness contagion" that Petrow had written about.

For a few minutes, the seven of us, drawn together by the gift, chatted like old friends. They approved of my idea of "paying it forward" in a coffee shop by buying a stranger's latte or cappuccino.

Shortly afterwards, still amazed by the woman's gift, I surprised myself while in the elevator by turning to my captive audience and telling them the story. "Sounds like that kindness article in the Post this week," a man called from the back. Suddenly, there was an all-around remembering of the piece and how good it made us feel.

Petrow's article clearly stated that his "mission" was to "find and create kindness in my world." Thanks to him, at least in one little corner of the world, "Mission Accomplished"!

I hope that by now there may be many more corners of kindness contagion in the world. The next day, at Starbucks, I "paid it forward" by buying a latte for an amazed teenager. I left her and her friends buzzing with eagerness about how she would pay it forward.

After so many months of Covid contagion, it's hopeful that in some areas, the only contagion we have may be a contagion of kindness. Contagion has not ended. It has only changed.







Lead People to Jesus

A large square maze with a 'Start' label on the left and a 'Finish' label on the right next to a crucifix icon. The maze is a complex grid of black lines forming a path that winds through the square. The 'Start' label is on the left side, and the 'Finish' label is on the right side, next to a black silhouette of a crucifix. The maze is intended for a child to trace a path from the start to the finish.

www.hsm4kids.com

Our Mission



To Love, Proclaim, and Serve God

through

† life-giving liturgical worship

† joyful community

† empowering others

Nuestra Misión

Estamos llamados a amar,
proclamar, y servir a Dios

a través de

† adoración que da vida

† comunidad llena de alegría

† ofreciendo una mano al prójimo





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Vestry Class of 2023

Carlos Arboleda - Assistant Treasurer
Khacki Berry - Worship Liaison
Tracy Enger - Pastoral Care Liaison
Evan Robinson - Treasurer
Robby Schrum - Junior Warden

Vestry Class of 2024

Lauren Gustafson - Youth Formation Liaison
Mary Hix - Outreach & Justice Liaison
Bill Malone - Senior Warden
Dan Pattarini - Member-at-Large
Rushad Thomas - Evangelism Liaison

Vestry Class of 2025

Keith Davis - Stewardship Liaison
Eleanor Reed - Register
Jane Rosman - Fellowship Liaison
Andrew Serke - Children's Formation Liaison
Geoff Whitlock - Adult Formation Liaison

Parish Team Leads

Lisa Bellantoni - Education
John Boris - Pastoral Care
Cindy MacIntyre - Evangelism
Jen Pease - Outreach
Lynn Rohrs - Fellowship
Erin White - Youth
Kemp Williams - Worship



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