



www.gracealex.org

June 2024

GRACE NOTES

A Monthly Magazine Published by Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Road | Alexandria, Virginia 22305

June Theme:
All Things Bright & Beautiful

From Mother Jenny, *Priest Locum Tenens*



I love this theme for June and wonder if it would be an exaggeration to say that Grace Church is all things bright and beautiful? Maybe. Then again, close your eyes and imagine the altar candles aglow, the brass and silver shining bright, the floral arrangements bursting with color.

Hear the pomp and circumstance of the organ, choir, and congregational singing. Look around at all the smiling faces when the Peace is shared. Remember all the enthusiastic responses of “We will!” said at baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and ordinations when full support from the congregation is given to those receiving these sacraments. Recall the times of lighthearted fun and holy laughter. Remember even at the grave when we make our song: “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.”

To be all things bright and beautiful does not mean that Grace Church is perfect. Nor does it mean that there aren’t cracks and crevices that need mending. It does mean, however, that Grace Church is doing the work needed to be all God is calling this parish to be now and in the future.

In the Affinity Groups, over 150 of you have engaged in sacred conversations about the mission and identity of Grace Church—who you are and who you want to be as a welcoming, inclusive, merciful, loving, compassionate, sacramentally based, service-oriented parish. You’ve been vulnerable and open when talking about issues of trust and reconciliation. You’ve been respectful of differing opinions. In addition to these conversations, thoughtful written responses have been submitted to the Vestry for their discernment about the future rector leadership of Grace Church.

So, if you ask me, along with all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, Grace Church is without a doubt all things bright and beautiful!

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



In This Issue

<u>From Mother Jenny.....</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>On the Mind of Father Santi.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>From Mother Emma.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Ops & Comm.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Music Notes from Alain.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Food Pantry News.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Grace Episcopal School.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Vestry View.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Campus Matters.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Pride! A New National Shield and a Local Celebration.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Mission Focus: Grace Joins National Rebuilding Day!.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Get to Know Finance</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Un Colombiano en Japón</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>National Church News.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Congratulations, Graduates.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>From the Altar Guild.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Diocesan News.....</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Grace-ful Worship.....</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>An Occasional Word.....</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Why Grace?.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Family Fun Coloring Page.....</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Our Mission / Nuestra Misión</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>Grace Leadership</u>	<u>24</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.

On the Mind of Father Santi



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

I recently visited the Land of the Rising Sun, a country rich in cultural heritage and spiritual depth. My journey to Japan was more than a fun visit with my brothers to a foreign land; it was an encounter with profound truths that resonate deeply with our values as Episcopalians and Christians. Here are three elements from Japanese culture that left a lasting impression on me and that I believe can enrich our community life.

Reverence

In Japan, reverence is a cornerstone of social interaction. There is a deep respect for the elderly and a profound care for children, evident in the way Japanese people bow as a sign of salutation and respect. This practice is not just about manners but about recognizing the inherent dignity of each person. In the Christian tradition, reverence means humbling oneself before God, recognizing God's majesty, and acknowledging our dependence on God. Within the liturgy, we make gestures of adoration and reverence to the aumbry (the sacred cabinet where we reserve the Blessed Sacrament), the altar, and the Eucharist. We bow when the processional cross passes, at the mention of the name of Jesus, and when we are blessed with incense. Other gestures, such as making the sign of the cross, genuflecting, and kneeling, help us to humble ourselves before God and to honor the Spirit of Love and Truth.

Festivals and Rituals

Japan's temples and shrines are not just places of worship but vibrant centers of cultural life. Festivals and rituals, rooted in Shinto and Buddhism, play a crucial role in daily life. These practices remind us of the importance of rituals in our own faith. Celebrating our religious festivals and rituals is a profound expression of our faith and identities, beautifully woven into the fabric of our daily lives.

Marking feast days like the Ascension and Pentecost, learning about the saint of the day, and lighting a candle for the dead or someone who is in need of prayer infuse our routine with spiritual depth and historical continuity. These rituals not only enhance our understanding of the Divine Presence, but also connect us to a timeless spiritual journey, fostering a deeper sense of community and personal faith.

Bridge between Tradition and Innovation

Japan uniquely blends eye-popping modernity with long-standing traditions, teaching us the value of balancing our rich Anglican heritage with the need to adapt to contemporary contexts. Innovation should not mean discarding our traditions but finding new ways to express and live out our faith. In Japanese culture, tradition and innovation are mediated by the principle of Kaizen, or continuous improvement, evident in the beautiful craftsmanship of Japanese architecture, art, and cuisine. This idea of "good change" encourages discernment and thoughtful progress. In our spiritual lives, we, too, are called to continuous growth and transformation. As a community of faith, we are invited to commit to personal and communal growth, always seeking to deepen our faith and enhance our ministries. This journey to wholeness is informed by our tradition and inspired by innovation in all areas of ministry. Above all, it is grounded in our communal discernment of God's dream for our community and for the world.

My journey to Japan was more than a visit to a foreign land; it was an encounter with profound truths that can enrich our spiritual journey. By integrating these lessons into our church life, we can deepen our faith, strengthen our community, and more faithfully live out our calling as Episcopalians and Christians.



From Mother Emma

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

Slowing Down for the Summer?

From an outside perspective, it might seem like Grace Church is winding down for some slower months during the summer. Adult Forums and Children & Youth Formation Hours have come to a close. The seminarians wrapped up their year with us. Choir is shifting to their summer schedule. And yet, I am reminded through the celebration of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit comes to **revive us!** The Holy Spirit remains just as active in our lives during the summer months as during the school year. **God does not go on vacation during the summer, and neither does faith formation at Grace.**

Yes, faith formation looks different during the summer months, but it is every bit as active. In fact, the less formalized formation that happens during the summer months can be just as meaningful as the carefully planned lessons and activities that take place during the school year.

For example, one of the core memories of my childhood at church happened when I was about five or six years old. I was sprinting down the sidewalk to go play with the older kids from church, when I tripped and fell hard. My elbow and both knees were bleeding profusely, and my parents were nowhere in sight. Another adult from the church saw me fall, and she immediately ran over, knelt down next to me, and hugged me tight. She helped me up and led me to my parents. She wiped my tears and found Band-Aids for my wounds. I still have a scar on my elbow from that fall, but more importantly, I still remember feeling safe and cared for by that woman. Her actions reinforced that God is nurturing and caring. She was not my family. She was not a Sunday School teacher. But she was a fellow worshipper and member of the Body of Christ.

Faith formation happens for children in the small moments—the times when we embody kindness, patience, and empathy. Faith formation for kids and grown-ups alike is not dependent on lesson plans and lecture series. Yes, those are incredibly valuable and have their place. But they are not the only place where God is teaching us and shaping us for a life of ministry.

God is just as present during the summer, and we should strive to be just as present with one another. Here are a few suggestions for you to consider:

- 1) Our schedules may look different during the summer months. Maybe attending your regular service won't always be possible, but I encourage you to try on the 7:30 am or the 5:00 pm service. Come try on Little Church or the Spanish-language service.
- 2) It can be far more comfortable to only speak to the people you already know during coffee hour or between services. Maybe you could try introducing yourself to one new person each week. Try to commit their name to memory. Or try wearing your nametag DURING church as a signal to others that you want to meet them.
- 3) And finally, try on a new ministry this summer. You do not need to commit for life, but maybe you want to help with coffee hour once to see what it is like. Maybe you want to help with Children's Chapel and see what happens there. Maybe you want to drop in to summer choir and see the view from the loft. Summer is a perfect season for trying on new ministries and opening yourself to how God might be calling you to connect in new ways.

The Holy Spirit is here to revive us and open our hearts! Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

OPS & COMM

Operations & Communication @ Grace



KEVIN HAMILTON,
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATION

“All things bright and beautiful” certainly add splendor and brushstrokes of brilliance to the created world. For an example of tangible beauty, one need only get a glimpse of the altar on any given Sunday. See how the various hues, shapes, and sizes of flowers are artistically arranged to tell their own story for that Sunday. The flowers and the arrangers work their magic together to spark wonder.

However, when it comes to all things bright and beautiful about the intangible parts of life, I find most are a direct result of the growth we experience during times when things have been a bit more shadowy than bright, and perhaps not qualified to be called beautiful. Much like the rainy days that help bring us flowers, difficult situations provide space for growth but are not often associated with beauty themselves.

This last year has presented some unique challenges, and along with them some opportunities for growth. While we do, indeed, see and celebrate all things bright and beautiful, we also know that there have been moments in this particular season that we would put in the challenge column. As a result, a few projects were paused or slowed as other initiatives needed attention. There are two such projects that I have mentioned in previous Grace Notes articles that I would like to revisit this month, as they were paused or slowed due to a need to support other initiatives but are now back on the front burner.

Later this month both the website refresh and phase one of the Breeze database update will be complete. Even with a more limited budget compared to a major site upgrade, I believe our new website refresh will provide us with a much cleaner and navigable website. I am so thankful to Liz Rugaber who did so much of the groundwork in establishing the original relationship with our vendor. Also, Father Santiago has helped tremendously by providing support in both site mapping and photography. There is also a group of parishioners who is helping to review the site, providing insights to steer us toward making any needed adjustments. Of course, it won't be one hundred percent perfect, but I am encouraged by what I see. Keep an eye out in the bulletin as we will let you know when we transition to the refreshed site.

The second project is the phase one update for Breeze. With over 2,700 individual records in Breeze, this update has touched every single one. The work has been completed and is under a second clergy review. Once finished, we will soon be able to utilize these updates to ensure that the online directory is more complete, meaning you will be able to see many more parishioners in the database. Much of this work will help in ways that many won't see beyond the directory, like parish reporting (parochial report, etc.). This is the first phase of several phases to ensure that Grace's records are up to date and thorough.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we have moved through these projects and look forward to receiving feedback that will help us to be continually improving and growing. When I think about the brightest and most beautiful part of my workweek, it is hands down you. To be among this community and to have the opportunity to help you in some small way on your mission bring me much joy. I am your fan!



DR. ALAIN TRUCHE,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Music Notes from Alain



Summer Choir

Our Summer Choir runs from Sunday, June 2, until the last Sunday in August. If you would like to sing one or more of those Sundays, come to the choir room (St. Cecilia Room) at 9:30 am on Sunday to rehearse the day's anthem and psalm (Simplified Anglican Chant). During the summer, the choir does not vest, so no need to worry about vesting. If you don't have the time to commit to choir during the program year, this is a perfect opportunity for you to have fun singing with no strings attached.

Handbell Ensemble

Exciting news! Our Handbell Ensemble has welcomed two new members, bringing our total to eight ringers, including myself. But we're aiming higher—to ring three octaves instead of two. Why? Because it's simply more fun! Join us on Thursdays from 6:00 to 6:45 pm in the Malm Narthex during the program year. We're looking for two more enthusiastic ringers to expand our harmonic range. If you're interested in joining the Handbell Ensemble, please contact Dr. Truche at alain.truche@gracealex.org.

Juneteenth

On Sunday, June 16, in honor of Juneteenth, we're presenting special music. Experience the rich heritage of African-American music as I perform organ voluntaries based on spirituals and a work composed by Florence Price, a celebrated African-American composer. Additionally, our Summer Choir will sing a lovely arrangement of "There is a Balm in Gilead." Join us as we commemorate this important occasion through the power of music.

Food Pantry News...

Many Hands Make Light Work



Grace is very blessed to have the continued support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. This year, the Food Pantry was awarded a grant to purchase goods directly from the regional warehouse in Maryland.



What does it take to pick up, deliver, and stock 500 cases of food pantry donations? A big truck and lots of helping hands. Many thanks to all the amazing volunteers who participated!



Save the date! Our next delivery is Saturday, June 8. The fun starts at noon in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Jen Pease at Jennifer.pease@gracealex.org.



Grace Episcopal School



**PATTI CULBRETH,
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small...the Lord God made them all!

We celebrate the close of another successful school year at Grace. Our students, great and small, have filled the hallways and playground with laughter, love, and learning. As we close the '23-'24 school year, we are filled with hope for the future.

We finished the month of May with exciting community events like our Family Celebration Day, Field Day, Free Dress Day, class picnics, yearbook signing, and assemblies. Our fifth grade will graduate on June 4. Our graduates will matriculate to the following schools:

- Alexandria Country Day School
- Congressional School
- Rochambeau School
- St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School

This summer, we will once again host Baroody Camps through the end of July. The summer will allow school administrators to plan and prepare for the new school year that promises to meet our enrollment and budget goals. Grace School ends the year strong!



Vestry View



MARY LEWIS HIX,
SENIOR WARDEN

In a 1939 radio speech, Winston Churchill described the difficulty of comprehending Russia's actions. He said, "It's a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

I'm borrowing Churchill's words to describe my difficulty understanding the Old Testament. From childhood experiences in Sunday School, to required Old and New Testament courses in college, to rereading the Old Testament in EFM, to twenty years of following the daily lectionary readings in the chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary, at times I continue to find the Old Testament to be a riddle wrapped in mystery. The familiar stories of God's actions, the commandments, the drama, the lyrical poetry, and yes, the violence and mayhem, all flow through the Old Testament pages, and, at times, confound my comprehension.

And, thankfully, sometimes the riddle of the OT is transformed into crystal clarity—or at least my mind is less muddled. This clarity came recently in a reading from the book of Numbers:

The Lord said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone." (Numbers 11:16-17)

Moses felt incapable of leading the people of Israel, and God sent seventy to share the leadership with him. As Grace's Vestry has pondered the future of the parish, I've been keenly aware of our shared leadership. Throughout the thirteen Affinity Group gatherings, the people of Grace have explained their vision, hope, and concerns about the future and reminded me of their shared leadership of the parish.

And so, the riddle currently before Grace takes on the gift of the many people who are joining in the discernment process, who are praying and who are trusting in God's providence to lead this parish. While the Old Testament may continue to baffle me at times, Grace's current mystery is being revealed in God's perfect timing. My gratitude goes to all who are sharing the leadership of the parish, just as the seventy appointed by God supported Moses.



Campus Matters

ERIC WASKOWICZ,
JUNIOR WARDEN



Masonry Repairs near Library Door

Repairs have begun to the masonry on the exterior between the library door and the hall to the nave.

Summer Projects

This summer we will be refinishing the library door and installing a small bike rack near the glass doors.

Pest Control

The pest control company we're working with is having good success so far, but not complete victory!

Wildflower of the Month

There are Maypops growing on the park hill that overlooks the playground (which are not currently in bloom). The formal name for these plants native to the Southeast is *pasiflora incarnata*.



Photo Credit: Photo Credit: By H. Zell
- Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=10767160>



Pride! A New National Shield and a Local Celebration



By Liz Rugaber



In affirmation and celebration of The Episcopal Church's LGBTQ+ members, the national church's Office of Communication has unveiled a new Pride shield available online for churchwide use. As reported by the Church:

The design retains the upper-left blue corner of The Episcopal Church's shield logo and incorporates elements of the traditional Pride flag as well as the Progress Pride flag and Philadelphia Pride flag. In their use of black, brown, pink, and light-blue diagonal lines, the latter two flags represent intersectional progress in acknowledging people who are often overlooked by the mainstream LGBTQ+ movement: communities of color; the transgender community; and the many thousands harmed by anti-LGBTQ+ policy—from those who lost their lives in the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and '90s, to those still disproportionately impacted today.

Locally, members of the LGBTQ+ community, friends, families, and allies are invited to kick off Pride Month on June 1st! Join us at noon for a vibrant Pride Eucharist at historic Christ Church (118 N. Washington Street). After the service, mingle and enjoy a light reception. Then, from 3:00-6:00 pm, head to City Hall/Market Square (301 King Street) for Alexandria Pride 2024. Stop by the Alexandria Episcopal table to say hello and spread some cheer. Hosted by the Alexandria Region of the Episcopal Church, this event honors the richness of our diverse identities as reflections of the divine. All are warmly welcomed!

Shield = https://www.episcopalchurch.org/resource-library/logos-shields-graphics/?mc_cid=b5e01cf587&mc_eid=9cdc97989f



Focus

Grace Joins National Rebuilding Day!

By John Berry

Grace again joined many other teams around the country for National Rebuilding Day: One Day, One House, One Team. On a damp April 27, twenty-four spirited volunteers—adult and youth—came to the home of an elderly widow to install comfort toilets, renovate the utilities room, replace a garbage disposal, demolish an old woodshed and put all the remains in a dumpster, and much more. This was intergenerational Grace at its best, from our energetic EYC teens to families with children to several determined adults in their eighties, we got the job done in eight hours. House Captain Rich Kelly kept us all focused with walk-around advice and supplies when we needed them. Mother Jenny and Mother Emma came to cheer us on. It was a great day to help a neighbor and to serve the Lord with our hands and feet. We'll be back next year. Come and join us!



Photo Credit: Cindy MacIntyre



Get to Know Finance

Who we are:



Mary Cyrus (pictured with her husband)
Financial Administrator



Madeline Manaker
Finance Assistant

What does the finance team do?

We contribute to the church's mission and goals by ensuring the efficient and effective management of all financial processes. This includes the recording and reporting of all church donations, assets, liabilities, income, expenses, payroll, and budgets for review and distribution to the Vestry, parishioners, and staff, as required.

When are you in the office?

We are both in the office on Wednesdays and work remotely the remainder of the week.

What is the best way to contact you?

Any questions about giving can be sent directly to giving@gracealex.org. To reach a specific member of the finance team, you can email us directly at financial.administrator@gracealex.org (Mary Cyrus) and madeline.manaker@gracealex.org (Madeline Manaker) or call the office on Wednesdays to speak with one of us.

What is your favorite part about working finance at Grace?

Mary:

Working with our great staff and parish community to ensure that the finances of the church are well maintained.

Madeline:

I love supporting the staff at Grace Church and being able to directly help parishioners. I am always happy to answer questions about online giving or assist with giving statements. We are here to help you, and I love serving the church community in this way!



Un Colombiano en Japón

Father Santiago shares where he found God in Japan.

FATHER SANTIAGO RODRIGUEZ, ASSOCIATE RECTOR

‘Un Vallenato en Japón’. Esta es posiblemente la versión de Carlos Vives del tema de Juan Luis Guerra, ‘Una Bachata en Fukuoka’. Hace poco, visité Japón, la Tierra del Sol Naciente, un país lleno de riqueza cultural y espiritual. En las calles y templos de ciudades como Tokio, Kyoto, y Osaka, encontré recordatorios de la gracia de Dios. Lo que empezó como una divertida aventura con mis hermanos, se transformó en una experiencia que resonó profundamente con muchos de nuestros valores como episcopales y cristianos.

Los templos y santuarios japoneses son vibrantes centros de vida cultural, llenos de festivales y rituales que unen a la comunidad. Uno de mis santuarios favoritos en Japón fue el templo Fushimi Inari en Kioto, que es uno de los santuarios más icónicos y visitados de Japón. Dedicado a Inari, la deidad sintoísta del arroz y la prosperidad, este templo es especialmente famoso por sus miles de torii (portones) rojos que forman senderos serpenteantes a través del bosque del Monte Inari. A través del templo puedes ver altares y bóvedas donde se realizan festivales y rituales. Estos eventos me recuerdan la importancia de celebrar nuestros propios rituales religiosos. En nuestra tradición cristiana, festividades como la Ascensión y Pentecostés, el encender velas por los muertos o por alguien en necesidad de oración, añaden una profunda dimensión espiritual a nuestra vida diaria. Estos actos nos conectan con la presencia divina y con la rica historia de nuestra fe, fomentando un sentido más profundo de comunidad.

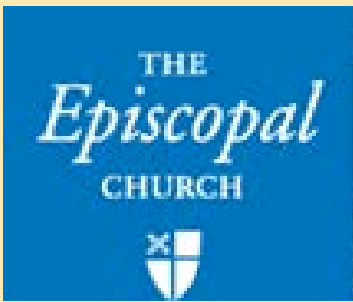
Algo que me llamó mucho la atención es la forma en que los Japoneses se demuestran reverencia. En Japón, la reverencia es esencial en las interacciones sociales. La forma en que los japoneses se inclinan para saludar y mostrar respeto a los demás revela un profundo reconocimiento de la dignidad humana. Como cristianos, también practicamos la reverencia al humillarnos ante Dios, reconociendo Su majestad y nuestra dependencia de Él. Nos inclinamos ante el tabernáculo, el altar y la Eucaristía, hacemos la señal de la cruz, y nos arrodillamos en señal de humildad y adoración.

Esta actitud de reverencia puede fortalecer nuestra conexión con Dios y con los demás.

Japón es un ejemplo de cómo se puede combinar la modernidad con tradiciones milenarias. Este equilibrio nos enseña a valorar nuestra herencia anglicana mientras nos adaptamos a los tiempos contemporáneos. En nuestra vida espiritual, también estamos llamados a un crecimiento constante. Al igual que los japoneses, debemos buscar nuevas formas de expresar y vivir nuestra fe, manteniendo nuestras tradiciones mientras innovamos en nuestro ministerio. Este enfoque nos ayuda a discernir y progresar, siempre guiados por el sueño de Dios para nuestra comunidad y el mundo.

Mi viaje a Japón fue más que una visita turística; fue un encuentro con verdades profundas que pueden enriquecer nuestro camino espiritual. Al integrar estas lecciones en nuestra vida de iglesia, podemos profundizar nuestra fe, fortalecer nuestra comunidad y vivir más plenamente nuestro llamado como episcopales y cristianos.





National Church News

Reprinted from ENS Episcopal News Service

Church Pension Group releases report on the origins and sources of its assets

*Developed in response to Resolution 2022-A129 from the
80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church*

Church Pension Group

Posted May 8, 2024

The Church Pension Group (CPG), a financial services organization that serves The Episcopal Church, released a report on the origins and sources of its assets (cpg.org/A129). The report was developed in response to Resolution 2022-A129: Resolution for a Forensic Audit of the Funds of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society from the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

In an effort to understand historical financial connections to the enslavement of humans, the slave trade, and racial injustice, Resolution 2022-A129 urged CPG to research the sources of wealth of the donors to The Church Pension Fund (CPF), which was founded in 1917, and share the results of our historical research.

Patricia Favreau, Executive Vice President and Chief Communications Officer of CPG, who led efforts around the research and development of the report, commented, "While our research did not reveal direct ties between The Church Pension Fund's top donors and the institution of slavery, we acknowledge that wealth accumulation for much of the 19th century cannot be separated from the economics of enslavement. We decided to take a deeper look and share any indirect legacy connections that we uncovered, and we found a few."

Mary Kate Wold, CEO and President of CPG, said, "We were glad to undertake this research. We want to be transparent about the history of The Church Pension Fund, which is worthy of study. It is my hope that readers also will focus on what CPG is doing in the present to address the long tails of racial discrimination."

CPG's Approach to This Study

To respond to Resolution 2022-A129, CPG reviewed historical records in its possession, consulted publicly available resources, solicited input from its Research & Data team, read biographies of its most famous original funders, read other books of history from relevant time periods, and engaged an outside researcher who specializes in late 19th and early 20th century US history.

The full report can be found at cpg.org/A129.

Congratulations, Graduates

High School

Madeline Arnold

Alexandria City High School
Next year: College of Charleston

Hudson Chiow

Gonzaga College High School
Next year: Dartmouth College

Sam Heaney

St. Anselm's Abbey School
Next year: College of William & Mary

Kate Lorentz

St. Michaels Middle High School
Next year: Moore College of Art
and Design

Joey Madigan

Wakefield High School
Next year: University of Redlands

Max Milla

Alexandria City High School
Next year: James Madison University

Will Reilly

Alexandria City High School
Next year: Elon University

Brennen Ruff

Alexandria City High School
Next year: James Madison University

Alexander Trevor Washington

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School
Next year: University of the South (Sewanee)

Charles "Caz" Winstead

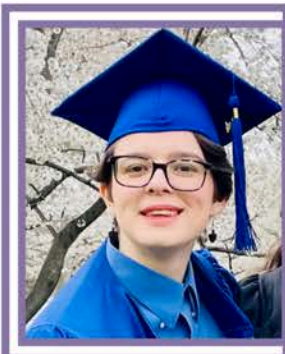
Lewis High School
Next year: Learning a trade/going to trade
school

Katherine Winstead

Alexandria City High School
Next year: Studying international cultures
and communications

Madeline Wolcott

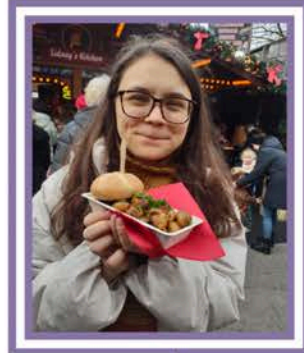
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School
Next year: Syracuse University



College and Graduate School

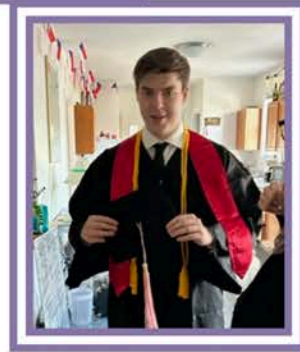
Julie Mills Cizek

Bachelor of Arts in Applied Languages
with German, Japanese, and TESOL
University of Limerick



Owen Malone

Bachelor of Arts in English
University of Washington



Nick Pattarini

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater
University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music

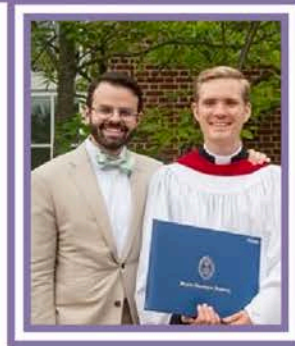


Lauren Gustafson

M.Ed in Education Policy and Leadership
American University

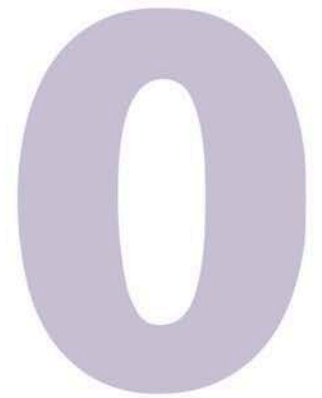
Durango Jenkins

Master of Divinity
Virginia Theological Seminary



Erin Kelly

Masters in Healthcare Administration
Texas Tech



From the Altar Guild

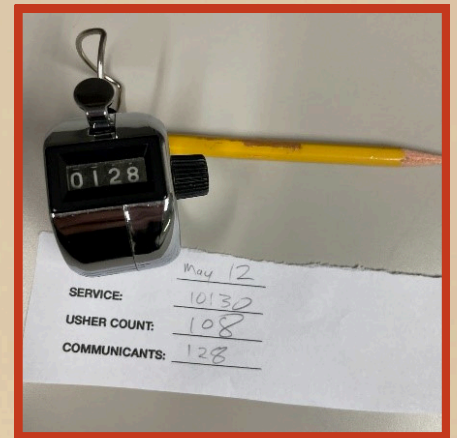
Secrets of the Sacristy

by Eleanor Reed



The Altar Guild has cough drops and mints. Also, a first aid kit with smelling salts (ammonia capsules) in case someone passes out.

Have you ever wondered why there is an Altar Guild member standing outside the door at communion “clicking the clicker thing”? (That was a Follies song once.) It is because one of the things we report every year to the Diocese is the number of communicants. It gets recorded in the book in the vesting sacristy for every service. Also, notice the pencil. We try to only use pencils in the sacristy, so that stray ink marks don’t get on any linens.



We have special towels marked with a cross. We call them “holy vessel towels.” They are for drying silver, and we use them only for that so they don’t pick up any grit that might scratch the silver. If you have a spill on the floor or some other mess, we are happy to provide a regular sort of towel. Just ask. We have those too!

This is “THE MANGLE!” It’s a speed iron, and we put it where we used to have a desk. This is a lot more useful. We use it for our small linens. You could join the Altar Guild just to use it. We don’t judge! (Crew members have been known to bring in their dinner napkins and run them through. No problem.)



Diocesan News



by Liz Rugaber

Alexandria Region Council Updates

The most recent quarterly meeting of the Diocesan Alexandria Region Council was held at Christ Church on April 17, 2024. Representing Grace Church was Doug Prince, one of Grace's two lay delegates. Liz Rugaber is Grace's other delegate; all Grace clergy are automatically members of the Alexandria Region Council. Among the matters discussed:

- Rev. Robbie Laughton of Christ Church reported on the recent regional youth events sponsored by the Alexandria Region Council: (1) In October 2023, about sixty youth from Christ, Emmanuel, Grace, and St. Paul's churches participated in a Ghost Tour of Old Town Alexandria; and (2) in January 2024, a group of over one hundred, including youth from Christ Church, Grace, and St. Paul's, attended a dinner presentation about the Chirilagua neighborhood.
- The Dean of the Region, the Very Rev. Robin Razzino (Church of Saint Clement), voiced strong support for a request made by Grace's own Rev. Santiago Rodriguez to use the Council's \$180 evangelism budget allocation to develop a brochure listing and promoting all eight churches in the Region. The brochure will be approved and ready for distribution at Christ Church's table at the June 1, 2024, Alexandria Pride event and should be universal and relevant for any future event.
- One of the Alexandria Region's delegates, Cindy Bartol, is one of the four lay delegates attending the National Episcopal Church's 81st General Convention, scheduled for June 23-28, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky. Every diocese in the Episcopal Church is allowed the same number of clergy (currently, four) and lay (currently, four) representatives to the General Convention, regardless of the size of the diocese or its number of congregations.
- Rev. Jo Belser (Church of the Resurrection) reported that there would be a meeting of candidates for City Council and Mayor on May 11, at the Third Baptist Church, 917 Princess Street, from 4:00-6:00 pm exploring, "What are Your Priorities?"
- Kat Turner, the Alexandria Region Council's representative to the Executive Board of the Diocese of Virginia, gave her report on the Board's April meeting. Of note, Nathan Madison, the Diocese's Registrar and Historiographer (a new position that the Bishop created in January), is beginning the marathon of digitizing records of the history of the Diocese of Virginia. The Board is considering establishing regional or parish chapters of the Union of Black Episcopalians. The Executive Board is the governing body of the Diocese of Virginia in between sessions of Annual Convention and is responsible for oversight of the budget and program of the Diocese.



JUNE HUBER

Grace-ful Worship

Finding Time to Appreciate “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Within each of us, there’s a well of energy that must be regularly replenished. When we act as if the well is bottomless, scheduling a long list of activities that fit like puzzle pieces into every minute of every day, the well gets dry and we feel exhausted, disconnected, and weak. Refilling the well is a matter of finding time to focus on, nurture, and care for ourselves—physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Most of us have different roles that we play throughout each day: spouse, friend, relative, employee, parent, caregiver, and/or volunteer. This means that “down time,” however relaxing it might be, is not necessarily “you time.” Though some people may look upon “you time” as being selfish, it is actually the polar opposite of selfishness. We can only excel in our various roles when our own physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs are fulfilled.

Recognizing the importance of “you time” is far easier than finding a place for it in an active, multifaceted lifestyle. You can take my word for it because this has been an ongoing problem for me. I never envisioned how busy my schedule would continue to be after I retired fifteen years ago. Even if you make time for it in your busy agenda, you may be surprised (and unhappy) to discover that your thoughts continuously stray into other territories.

To make the most of “you time,” try to give yourself enough time on either side of the block of time you plan to spend on yourself to ensure that you don’t feel rushed. Consider how you would like to pass the time, forgetting for the moment your obligations and embracing the notion of renewal. You may discover that you are energized by creative pursuits, such as drawing or writing; activities that support spiritual connection, such as guided meditation, certain types of group activities (yoga or tai chi), or reading the bible; relaxing activities during which your mind can wander, such as long walks, needlework, or gardening; or just sitting down comfortably with a good book.

Even if you’ve achieved a good work-life balance, you may still be neglecting the most important part of that equation, and that is you. “You time” prepares you for the next round of daily life that drains the well of energy: a challenging professional project, helping a friend or family member with his/her latest crisis, chores around the home, or the need to make a difficult decision of your own. Instead, it gives you the opportunity to notice the beauty, love, and kindness in the world around you.

As unimportant as “you time” can sometimes seem, it truly is crucial to your well-being because it ensures that you’re never left without the energy to give of yourself to someone else when that is exactly what is needed at the time.





Barbara Morris

An Occasional WORD

Last month, two days after my ninety-second birthday, I experienced the power of God’s love of a kitten and of His trust in me so deeply that I trembled and cried.

The tiny, smoky gray kitten was huddled under a car in the large parking lot at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, my home—where I am known as “the cat lady.”

I was alone with him, crooning gently, softly, but he refused to come out until I held out a tube of Creamy, a cat and dog treat that is squeezed from the tube, somewhat like toothpaste. I keep it, plus water and soft toweling, in my car in case I meet a needy animal. Now it was invaluable!

At the first sniff of the treat, the kitten inched out of hiding. However, he shot back when I moved my hand toward him. It became a delicate dance. I offered the treat. He crept toward it. I moved my hand too quickly, he darted back.

It occurred to me that even if I caught him, I couldn’t handle him alone. “Please, please God, I need help!” I pleaded. Then, instead of offering the tube, I squeezed drops of Creamy onto the ground. Ah, better; the kitten inched forward, concentrating on the food.

Just then, a young woman exited the building, headed toward her car, but seeing me and thinking I had fallen, she hurried to help.

“Don’t move too quickly,” I called to her. “There’s a frightened, stray kitten here.”

“A kitten!” she cried. “I’m a cat person. Let me help.”

And that’s how Julia and I became a Kitten Rescue Team. Twenty-four-year-old Julia sat on the ground holding my large pink pashmina shawl (which had belonged to my cat, Cora), ready to drop it onto the kitten, while I slowly squeezed drops of Creamy onto the ground, gradually bringing them closer and closer to Julia.

Finally, when the kitten was inches away, in a flash, Julia tossed the shawl over him. I tossed a towel. The kitten went berserk, kicking and bucking in a frenzied struggle. But, hugging him tightly even though she was scratched and bitten, Julia leapt to her feet, raced to her car, tossed the kitten in, and slammed the door shut.

Her fingers flashing over her phone, Julia eventually located a shelter that sent an animal control officer to take the kitten to be neutered, vaccinated, and offered for adoption. As he drove away, Julia and I danced, high five-ed, and shouted to the sky, “We saved a kitten!”

But the thought that stuns and trembles me even now, weeks later, is that God saved that kitten and that He used Julia and me to do it! Imagine! God specifically noticed a tiny, helpless kitten and brought two cat lovers together to save it, one with food and water, and the other with a cell phone and the ability to track down an animal shelter with a caring man to take the kitten into the future to a safe and loving forever-home. I have named the kitten Spirit.



Photo Credit: Canva.com

Why Grace?

By Laura Laemmle-Weidenfeld



My answer to “Why Grace?” has evolved over the years.

A cradle Episcopalian, I first joined Grace when it was time to have my younger son, Kyle, baptized. His older brother, Michael, had been baptized at my mom’s church in The Plains, and the rector there encouraged me to join a parish in Alexandria, specifically suggesting Grace. So, when the time came to have Kyle baptized, I joined Grace.

Why Grace at that time? It was convenient, I loved the high church liturgy and the music, and the people seemed welcoming. Father Malm baptized Kyle and I resolved to start coming regularly to services. But I couldn’t quite make that practice stick at that time. My older son, Michael, liked Godly Play, but Kyle refused to be left in the nursery and didn’t like the loud music!

Then I tried again a few years later, when both boys were still small, and I was struggling to explain to them why we celebrated Christmas but my husband and stepdaughter celebrated Hannukah. I wanted them to learn about God, of course, and I wanted them to have an appreciation of Christian teachings and values and to develop an understanding of how they differed from other religious traditions. (I also wanted them to learn to sit in a pew for an hour without being disruptive, which they eventually did.)

We stayed at Grace throughout their school years because of the beautiful services, the incense, the music, the youth program, and Father Malm’s sermons. The boys would talk about his sermons on the way home and over lunch—they said that was their favorite part of church! Michael enjoyed the youth program all the way through high school and enjoyed going to Germany with his J2A group. Kyle was less of a joiner and engaged much less with the program, but Father Malm was still delivering his sermons. Meanwhile, my level of involvement with church activities and with other members of the parish remained limited, until a Vestry member convinced me to run for Vestry (interest in running was particularly low that year!) and, that same year, I began ushering.

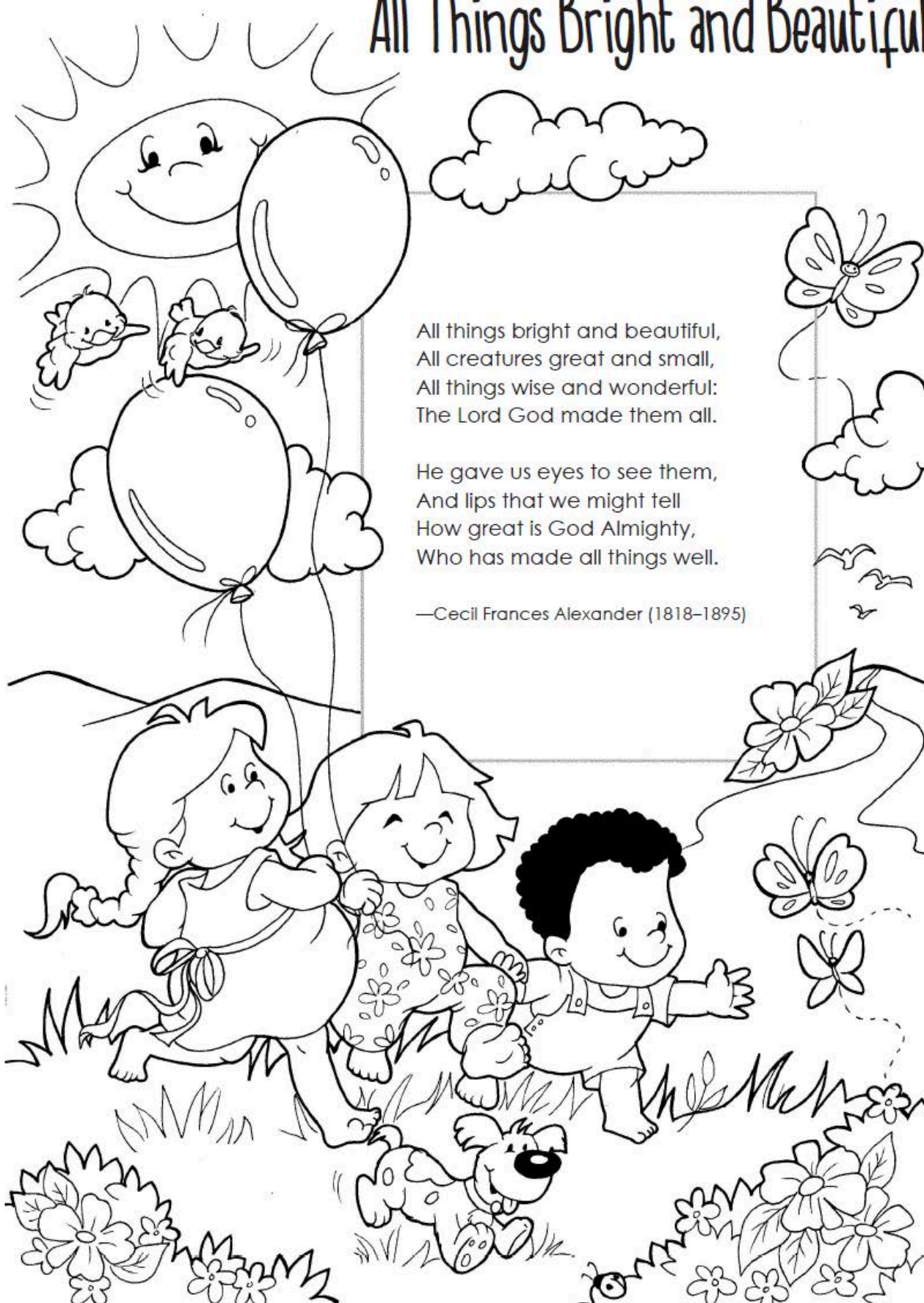
And then Covid hit. I was surprised to discover how much I missed the services and valued the sense of community. I embraced the opportunity to join activities remotely, and I especially welcomed the opportunity to explore racial reconciliation issues through several parish book clubs and then by becoming a facilitator for Sacred Ground. I supported the Food Pantry, which was filling such a crucial need. And then I witnessed firsthand how we support our parishioners through COHI and how we support our seminarians.

So why Grace now? It’s not the liturgy or the sermons or the music, though all those are wonderful. It’s because being part of this community of people who share the same fundamental values of loving God and neighbor, and who do our imperfect best to live those values inside and outside the church walls, is a priceless blessing.





All Things Bright and Beautiful



All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

—Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895)

<https://mywonderstudio.com/en/0-5/coloring-page-all-things-bright-and-beautiful/>

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

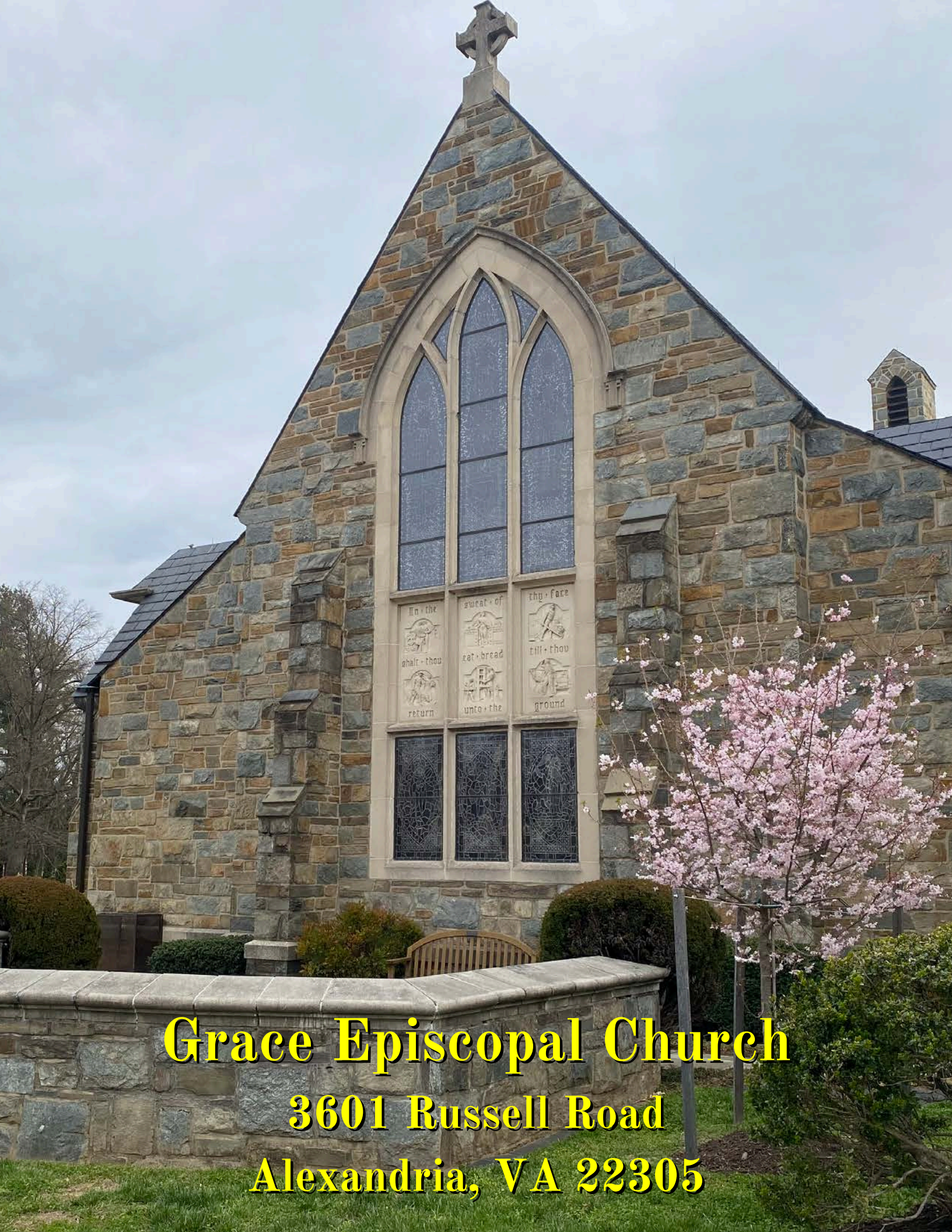
a través de

† adoración que da vida

† comunidad llena de alegría

† ofreciendo una mano al prójimo





Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Road

Alexandria, VA 22305



Parish Staff

Betsy Bamford
Jane Avery
Nursery Workers

The Rev. Emma Brice
Assistant Rector for Family Ministries & GES Chaplain
emma.brice@gracealex.org

Patti Culbreth
Head of Grace Episcopal School
pculbreth@graceschoolalex.org

Mary Cyrus
Financial Administrator
financial.administrator@gracealex.org

Kevin Hamilton
Director of Operations & Communication
kevin.hamilton@gracealex.org

Pedro Hernandez
Sexton

Madeline Manaker
Finance Assistant
madeline.manaker@gracealex.org

The Rev. Dr. Jenny Montgomery
Priest Locum Tenens
jenny.montgomery@gracealex.org

Amorita Quintanilla
Sunday Sexton

The Rev. Santiago Rodriguez
Associate Rector
santiago.rodriguez@gracealex.org

Addie Tapp
Communications Support

Dr. Alain Truche
Director of Music
alain.truche@gracealex.org

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*



Reading a printed copy of Grace Notes?
Use your smartphone to scan the QR Code
and view an online copy with clickable links.