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September 2023

GRACE NOTES

A Monthly Magazine Published by Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Road | Alexandria, Virginia 22305



Photo Credit: Canva.com

September Theme:
“Meet Me on the Road to Emmaus”

From Our Rector



Dear Friends in Christ—

“Meet me on the Road to Emmaus.” It’s the theme for this issue of Grace Notes, and it’s the theme for our Shrine Mont retreat. It’s a terrific theme. And, at the same time, it’s incomplete.

If you read the Emmaus story (Luke 24:13-35), you’ll probably focus on the first part of the story, when two sad disciples walk along and meet with risen Jesus without knowing that it’s Jesus. If you love dramatic irony, this is your moment. Jesus is telling these two disciples all about his saving work in what amounts to the most authoritative bible study ever.

They have no clue.

They’ve met Jesus, sure. But when and how do they recognize Jesus?

That recognition only happens at the tail end of the story. Night comes and Jesus joins the disciples for dinner, and it is only in that moment—when he breaks the bread—that he is known.

I make this point because God’s invitation is not merely to meet Jesus. It’s to get to know Jesus. It’s not only to bump into him. It’s to recognize him.

Luke clearly makes the point that we know Jesus primarily in one way: community. Until these people sit together and share a meal, they are just strangers swapping ideas. But when they commit their time to one another, something more begins. God is revealed—not way off and far away, but in their midst. Community, and the love learned in community, are necessary parts of knowing the source of all love.

I hope you are coming to Shrine Mont, and I hope you will meet Jesus there, and recognize him, too.

I also hope you will get to know Jesus here at Grace. Our programs for the fall—not only Sunday worship, but education, small groups, opportunities to serve, and special events—offer community. I want this parish to be a place of belonging.

The last Sunday in September is Founders Day, and we’ll celebrate this year with a picture on Russell Road at 10:30, immediately before worship. If you have walked down the second-floor hall where my office is, you’ve seen years of these photos, a witness to the community of saints in this place. It’s time for one more.

We are that community still, and we need to remember and celebrate our identity. Jesus shows us who he will be for us most clearly when we are here together.

Yours in Christ,

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

The Rev. Dr. Anne M. Turner



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Grace Notes Submissions and Publication Schedule

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

Fall Adult Formation Series: Reflecting on Remembrance, Thanksgiving, and Hope

By Julia McClung

Please join Anne Clift Boris and me as we gather for a six-week adult formation series this fall to grow and learn together, share our faith experience, and build community.

We will offer two formats for meeting each week for a multi-hour session:

- In-person at Grace: Monday nights (10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, and 11/20)
- Virtual via Zoom: Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday afternoons during the same weeks as above

The exact time for both formats, and the settled day of the week for the virtual format, will be mutually agreed upon by the participants. For the Monday evening series, we anticipate something along the lines of a 6:30 pm start for those who want to bring their own dinner and socialize, and a 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm session.

Activities will include:

- light reading that can be done the night before the session
- exploration of biblical traditions of remembrance, thanksgiving, and hope from the Old Testament, the New Testament, psalms of thanksgiving, and hymns of gratitude
- exploration of how grief and loss affect us, sharing secular cultural and faith-based support approaches to processing grief and loss and finding hope
- sharing our stories of how we've processed loss over the last few years, how our faith has sustained us, what's missing, and our questions
- learning about various traditions for remembrance from our culture and other cultures
- learning about spiritual practices (prayers, meditations, movements) for expressing gratitude

There are no fees or books to buy. We'll be looking for at least six participants for the in-person series and at least three for the virtual series.

Please reach out to Anne Clift Boris (anne.boris@gracealex.org) or me (julia.mcclung@gracealex.org) no later than October 1, 2023, to sign up.

Thanks so much.

Can't wait to see you there!



Exploring Spiritual Journeys at Shrine Mont: Meet Me on the Road to Emmaus

By Chad Eckles



Photo Credit: Grace Church Archives

Nestled within the tranquil embrace of the Virginia mountains, Shrine Mont offers a haven for spiritual seekers and nature enthusiasts alike. Steeped in history and reverence, this picturesque retreat center beckons us to embark on a journey of self-discovery and reflection. As we head to the mountain September 8-10, we invite you to explore the deeper meaning of companionship, faith, and transformation--drawing inspiration from the biblical narrative.

With its sprawling landscapes, rustic cabins, and serene atmosphere, Shrine Mont provides a backdrop that facilitates contemplation and rejuvenation. It's a place where individuals can escape the cacophony of everyday life and delve into the realm of spirituality. "Meet me on the Road to Emmaus," named after the biblical story of two disciples encountering the resurrected Jesus while traveling to the village of Emmaus, invites participants to walk in the footsteps of those disciples. Through Adirondack-chair discussions, worship, fried chicken, and nature walks, attendees are encouraged to examine their own spiritual journeys, their encounters with the divine, and the transformative power of faith.

Much like the disciples' encounter with Jesus, this weekend encourages us to recognize the sacred moments in our lives and the presence of the divine in the ordinary. It fosters a sense of community and shared exploration, where we can engage in meaningful conversations, forge connections, and gain fresh perspectives. As the sun sets over the peaceful landscapes of Shrine Mont, we find ourselves not only reinvigorated but also equipped with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of our own spiritual paths. In a world that often moves at a relentless pace, Shrine Mont offers a space for introspection and growth, reminding us of the importance of slowing down and reconnecting with the essence of our being.

Come and share in this journey!

Heads-Up: Construction to Begin Near Grace Church

By Diana Jarrett

Construction has started on a large new affordable housing complex near Grace Church. Located at the corner of Mount Vernon Avenue and West Glebe Road, this multi-year project has been in the planning stages for some time.

Efforts to minimize negative impacts on surrounding areas during construction have been a part of that planning. Details of the project are available at:

<https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/home-and-garden/construction-to-start-on-arlandria-affordable-housing-develo/>

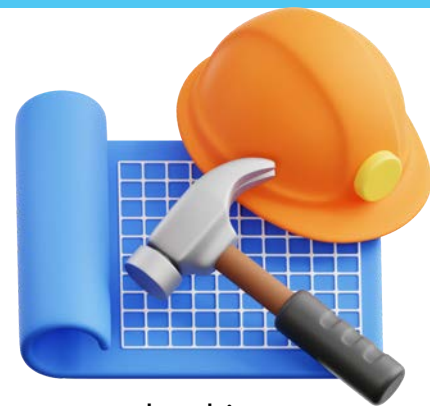


Photo Credit: Canva.com

On the Mind of Father Santi



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

Like many of us today, the disciples on the road to Emmaus were at a loss and in despair over a world seemingly gone mad. The horror and shock of the Crucifixion overwhelmed them. The loss of Jesus crushed all hope and threatened the teachings of love and compassion that their friend and master had taught them. If I am honest, the horrors of today's world events overwhelm my sense of hope. I often struggle to make sense of Jesus' teachings on love and compassion in the face of climate change, racial hatred and injustice, refugee and displacement crises, and so many other struggles in our world. Yet, I find solace and hope on the road to Emmaus, where Jesus meets me--meets all of us. Something happens on this road. Our hearts are consoled. Our lives are transformed.

Let me share some of the ways Christ joined us on the road this summer: how he walked beside us, broke bread with us, and opened our hearts with his Word in a way that increased our faith, hope, and love.

With most of our adult formation paused for the summer, we have been in planning mode for 2023-24. Between the series led by Julia McClung and Anne Boris (see page 4), and a few upcoming series led by our seminarians and clergy, there will be a good number of opportunities for faith sharing, spiritual practices, and journey groups.

I am very consoled by the way Jesus joins us on the road as a community of disciples--by the fellowship we share and the friendships we form with one another. One beautiful illustration of this is the group of parishioners who participated in the Inquirer's class this spring (most of whom were confirmed, were received, or reaffirmed their faith). They have formed a pretty tight community that gathers once a month for fellowship and spiritual conversations. The joy of finding belonging around Jesus' table is palpable. I look forward to more opportunities to foster spaces for fellowship and faith formation.

Jesus meets us on the road to Emmaus. He also met us on our journey to The Last Frontier. I had the immense pleasure of participating in the J2A pilgrimage with our now "young adults." Alaska is ruggedly beautiful and unforgettable. Yet, the highlight of the trip was the one-on-one conversations I was able to have with each of the youths and the other chaperones. The main impression I got from those conversations is that these are young people who have been loved well by this church community and who know that they belong here--and they are accepted as they are. It inspires me to continue to extend radical hospitality to newcomers and to continue to form a community of disciples devoted to worship and prayer, fellowship and care, and justice and service.

Speaking of justice and service, I want to celebrate the leadership of Jennifer Eckel (our VOICE Grace Core Team Lead) in engaging other Grace parishioners to participate in the conversation and actions on housing and mental health. The VOICE Core Team will continue engaging parishioners to participate in conversation on housing in Alexandria and mental health initiatives at a regional and state level.

As scripture scholar Roland Faley writes, a key to the faith journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus was their offer of hospitality. "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over," they say to Jesus. (Luke 24:29) So, he went in and stayed with them. One of the ways Jesus met us this summer was in our hospitality for the ordination of deacons on August 12. The celebration was beautiful and joyful. I found Jesus in the joy and passion of our parishioners welcoming our siblings from across the diocese to celebrate the gift of discipleship, consecrate new deacons, and break bread together.

"Were not our hearts burning within us while [Jesus] spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures for us?" (Luke 24:32) The story of Emmaus reassures us that even when we do not recognize him, Jesus comes and walks with us. May you continue to reveal yourself to us, O Lord. All we wish for is a "closer walk with thee."



From Mother Emma

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

Faithful Wondering

Since arriving at Grace, I have been working hard to learn about the many children, youth, and family traditions here. One practice that I have been particularly energized by is the emphasis on wondering. In the Godly Play curriculum that we use with first through fifth graders and the Rite-13, J2A, and EYC curriculums that we use with sixth through twelfth graders, children and youth at Grace are encouraged to ask questions, to wonder. For some people, asking questions or having doubts about Christianity can be viewed as a sign of spiritual weakness. But I disagree. **Asking the hard questions about God, the world, the church, and ourselves is an essential spiritual practice.**

When we wonder, we have the opportunity to learn and grow deeper in our relationships with God and each other. Wondering is a great sign because it means that you care enough to ask more. The author Anne Lamott is credited with saying, **"The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty."** Certainty can lure us into stagnancy or complacency. Our faith lives can become repetitive and draining, rather than growing and stretching us in new directions. An important aspect of faithful living is noticing the messiness of the world we inhabit, noticing its brokenness, and wrestling with how we respond.

Now, you might be asking yourself: Mother Emma, this all sounds great, but what am I supposed to actually say when my kid asks me about the origin of evil or whether God has a gender? **My friends, this is a great thing about faithfully wondering together: You do not need to have all the answers!** Indeed, it is often better to add to the questions and hold space for these questions than to give an oversimplified response. One of the best responses can often be active listening or even repeating the wondering back to your child. It is important that young people (and grown-ups, too) are not shamed for asking questions. Use your child's questions as fuel for your own spiritual practices. Do some research together, reach out to your clergy, or even open the bible and see what jumps out at you! Together we can nurture practices of wonder by allowing space for questions, creativity, doubt, and play.

Here are a few prompts to help you wonder together:

- I wonder what part of today (or school/church/playdate, etc.) you liked the best.
- I wonder what part of today was the most important.
- I wonder when you felt most alive (or had the most energy) today.
- I wonder what part of today you would have liked to leave out.
- I wonder how you are feeling in this moment.

As a camp chaplain, I maintained a very active "Question Box" that campers and counselors used to ask me whatever hard questions they had. For simplicity's sake, I use email these days, so please reach out to emma.brice@gracealex.org with whatever wonderings you and your family generate. I would love to talk through your responses and wonder alongside each of you!





Grace Episcopal School



**PATTI CULBRETH,
HEAD OF SCHOOL**

Another school year—and another wonderful opportunity to live our Grace School mission: to honor the gift of childhood. Not much can compare to the joy of beginning a new school year with new school supplies (who doesn't love a fresh box of crayons?), new friends (as well as returning friends), new curriculum (scaffolded from the year before), and new opportunities (like extracurricular clubs). Let the wonder begin!

An exciting part of our new year is welcoming Mother Emma as our School Chaplain. Although she will serve the church community in many ways, the school is thrilled to have her teach our Godly Play religion classes and hold chapel each week for our students. Her pastoral care of the school community is greatly appreciated and will continue to build the beautiful partnership between school and church.

The school year will begin after Labor Day with 111 children in preschool through grade five. We welcome one new lead teacher in preschool (appropriately named Grace) and three assistant teachers in our early childhood grades. We also welcome some new talent to our extended care program. Our teachers returned the last week of August to prepare for our students with important meetings on school safety, and our curriculum focus this year will be literacy.

Like the travelers on the Road to Emmaus, we pray as we begin our new year:

*Loving God, Risen Christ, please walk with us and stay with us as we journey through our days.
Please remind us of your presence and hold us in your loving embrace.*

God bless the Grace community as we begin a new journey for the 2023-2024 school year.

J2A Pilgrimage to Alaska *By Alison Campbell*

In late June, the J2A pilgrims went on a journey to Juneau, Alaska, that will not soon be forgotten. We asked the youth to provide their insights on the trip and gave them these prompts as a place to start: What did you learn? What surprised you? What did you enjoy? Here are their responses:

"I enjoyed all the fun hikes we went on! ... I loved seeing all the sights and learning about the Tlingit people ... I loved the plane rides ... Definitely going on the hikes ... I loved seeing the animals and pretty views ... I loved the weather and the setting ... The hikes were tough but getting through them was worth it in the end ... I liked the rain and view from the house ... No laughter or memory will ever compare to the ones I got to experience during the trip! ... I loved bonding with everyone and staying in the cabins!"

This trip was a journey to a place none of us had been before and another step on everyone's spiritual journey. We thank Grace Church and the parishioners for continued support of our youth and the J2A program.

Grace Church started using the Journey to Adulthood curriculum in September 1999 and this is the eleventh pilgrimage that Grace Church youth and sponsors have taken. This year is the first time a youth who had participated in the program was a sponsor on a pilgrimage. I also had the privilege to accompany two youths whose mother had been in youth group, called Grace Corps, when I was a new youth sponsor (quite a few years ago).

There is a through-line in everything we do as a community. Sometimes we see things formulate quickly, sometimes it can take years for things to surface, and sometimes we may never see the impact we have in the lives of those we meet. We must never forget that sometimes we must continue to believe without seeing.



*Photo taken after we went kayaking in Fritz Cove.
We were tired, wet, and joyful!*

Photo credit: Kayak guide, taken with Father Santi's phone



BEHIND THE SCENES



KEVIN HAMILTON,
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATION

I once heard a story about a little girl who was drawing a picture during art time at Sunday School. When the Sunday School teacher asked her what she was drawing with such passion and gusto, she boldly replied, “God’s face!” The Sunday School teacher replied, “Oh sweetie, no one knows what the face of God looks like.” The child didn’t even bother to look up as she quipped, “Well, come back in five minutes and I’ll show you.”

To have such boldness...

I feel like Grace Church is entering a bold new post-pandemic era where we are dreaming and creating a vision together. No, it is not a drawing of what God’s literal face may look like, but a vision of what a community touched by God’s grace and love looks like when lived out with intentionality. I see firsthand the dedication and commitment of our clergy to servant leadership that equips and empowers both our personal and communal faith and our service to Alexandria and beyond. I get to see glimpses of our vestry not only focusing on matters at hand, but also thinking of long-term strategies and a vision for tomorrow. I get to hear the heart of many parishioners who desire to make a difference while on their journey.

Operations and communications come alongside so many different parishioners, staff, and leadership in support of various initiatives and projects that flesh out our vision. This summer, the behind-the-scenes work has been plentiful and engaging. I want to provide a few highlights.

This summer we welcomed Madeline Manaker to the team as our parttime Operations and Finance Assistant. Madeline has hit the ground running, providing top-notch support with parish communications and financial administrative support. She has quickly become a valuable member of the Grace Church administrative staff.

We are in the midst of cleaning up our church database (Breeze). You will see the fruits of this over the next month, especially when searching Breeze for parishioner contact information. The other benefits will mainly be behind the scenes for parochial reports and church administration.

Partnering with Father Santi and working with the vendor, we are moving the website refresh forward. There will be more about the refresh coming in the next couple of weeks, but we are looking forward to our fall launch. This partnership with Father Santi is ensuring that the site aligns with the digital ministry strategy.

There has been a great deal of reorganization of the parish office. Consolidation of space and a significant cleanup of excess furniture and supplies helped to make the layout more conducive to the office moves that took place in August.

In addition, we are reviewing various policies and communication flows for leadership review over the next couple of months.

These are just some of the behind-the-scenes activities that have been keeping us busy. It is an honor to support these and other projects as the Grace Church community shows the world what God’s love looks like at 3601 Russell Road and beyond.



Campus Matters

ROBBY SCHRUM,
JUNIOR WARDEN



Summer has been busy for Grace's grounds!

First off, thank you to the dozens of parishioners who helped out at the parish clean-up day, August 5! I appreciate all of your hard work.

We filled up a truck and a half with all sorts of stuff: old office furniture, old tables, old signs, things that may not have seen the light of day in decades. We also spruced up the parish for the ordination, August 12. The windows in the tower, the Malm Narthex, the nave, the choir room, the plants outside the building, the food pantry, the carpet in Merrow Hall, the kitchen, and plenty of other spaces all got a thorough reorganization and cleaning.

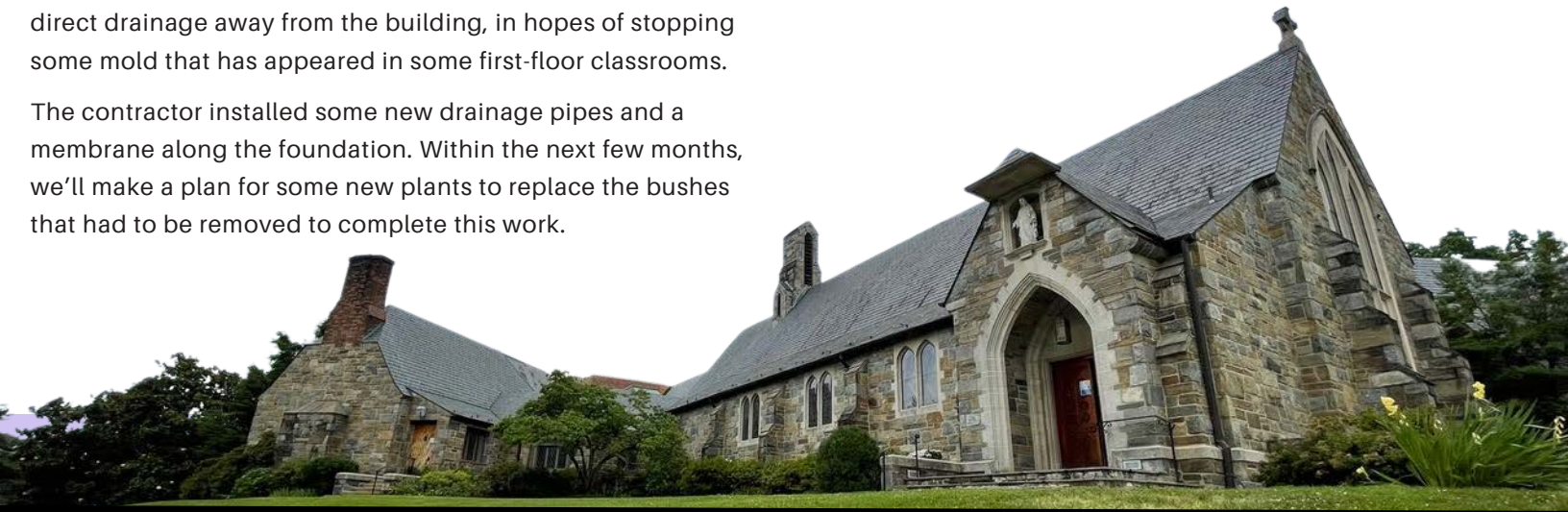
You may have seen some construction equipment, fencing, and disturbed earth outside Merrow Hall. We undertook a project to direct drainage away from the building, in hopes of stopping some mold that has appeared in some first-floor classrooms.

The contractor installed some new drainage pipes and a membrane along the foundation. Within the next few months, we'll make a plan for some new plants to replace the bushes that had to be removed to complete this work.

The rehab work on the elevator is just about complete. You may have noticed new walls and a new ceiling in the elevator; a replacement handrail is still to come.

Other building work continues. We've addressed a few malfunctioning air conditioning units. We are evaluating a proposal to address some masonry problems between the sacristy and the library. Grace Episcopal School has led the way, cleaning the carpet and repainting the walls in the Merrow Hall auditorium. And we'll soon affix plaques to the stone in the nave commemorating the recent refurbishment of the stained glass windows.

As always, please feel free to reach out if any building issues catch your eye or if you have a task for the junior warden's list: robby.schrum@gracealex.org.



Get Social with Grace!

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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



THE REV. SANTI RODRIGUEZ,
ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Cristo nos encuentra y nos transforma en el camino a Emaús

Father Santi reflects about the Road to Emmaus.

Como muchos de nosotros hoy en día, los dos discípulos en el camino a Emaús se sentían perdidos y desesperados por un mundo aparentemente enloquecido. Los principios fundamentales del mundo que los rodeaba se derrumbaron. El horror y la conmoción de la crucifixión los había abrumado. La pérdida de Jesús había aplastado toda su esperanza y había amenazado las enseñanzas de amor y compasión que su amigo y maestro les había enseñado. Si soy honesto, los horrores de los eventos mundiales de hoy abruman mi sentido de esperanza. A menudo me cuesta dar sentido a las enseñanzas de Jesús sobre el amor y la compasión frente al cambio climático, el odio racial y la injusticia, las crisis de refugiados y desplazados, y tantos otros problemas en nuestro mundo. Sin embargo, encuentro consuelo y esperanza al saber que Jesús se encuentra conmigo, y con todos nosotros, en el camino a Emaús. Algo sucede en este camino.

En el camino a Emaús, Cristo se une a los discípulos, camina junto a ellos, parte el pan con ellos y les abre el corazón con su palabra de una manera tan poderosa que el mundo ya no parece tan loco para ellos. Es bueno tener en cuenta que la situación mundial no ha cambiado en absoluto, pero los corazones de los discípulos sí. Para cualquier cristiano, para cualquiera que profese creer en la resurrección y las enseñanzas de Jesús, nuestro corazón debe ser transformado por nuestro encuentro con Dios en nuestros propios caminos a Emaús. Cristo camina a nuestro lado hoy. Cristo parte el pan con nosotros en nuestro día cotidiano. Cristo abre nuestros corazones con su palabra de la misma manera que lo hizo en ese camino a Emaús hace casi dos mil años. Sus enseñanzas son las mismas: ama a Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente. Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo y ora por tus enemigos.

Perdona sinceramente. Da siempre la bienvenida al desconocido y al extranjero. Cuida a los enfermos. Visita a los encarcelados. Provee por los más pequeños y más necesitados en la comunidad. El Reino de los Cielos está cerca.

Nada ha cambiado, excepto que ahora somos nosotros los que caminamos por el camino.

Este encuentro en el camino cambió tanto el corazón de los discípulos que literalmente se dieron la vuelta y corrieron de vuelta a Jerusalén, de vuelta al mundo, de vuelta al lugar donde los otros discípulos sufrían. Así que debemos permitir que nuestro encuentro con Cristo en la comunidad, en la oración, en la Eucaristía, en el servicio a los demás, en la Palabra de Vida haga girar nuestro corazón. Debemos permitirnos estar tan inspirados por la revelación de un Dios de amor, que ningún miedo, ningún mal, ningún sufrimiento y ningún odio pueden dejarnos en la desesperación.

La elección es nuestra. Podemos continuar nuestro camino a Emaús y quedarnos allí. Continuar viviendo en la desesperación, la confusión, la inestabilidad y el miedo. Continuar viviendo en un mundo donde el mal tiene la última palabra y la muerte es el fin de la vida. O podemos escuchar la Palabra de Vida, escuchar la voz de Jesús y dejarnos transformar por el amor de Dios. En respuesta, podemos dejar que el amor de Dios nos impulse a volver a Jerusalén, volver al servicio a los demás, volver a la curación, volver a una vida de esperanza y volver a un mundo donde el amor tiene la última palabra y la vida nunca termina.

Reverend Pauli Murray: *Beloved Community Personified, Now Honored on a U.S. Quarter*

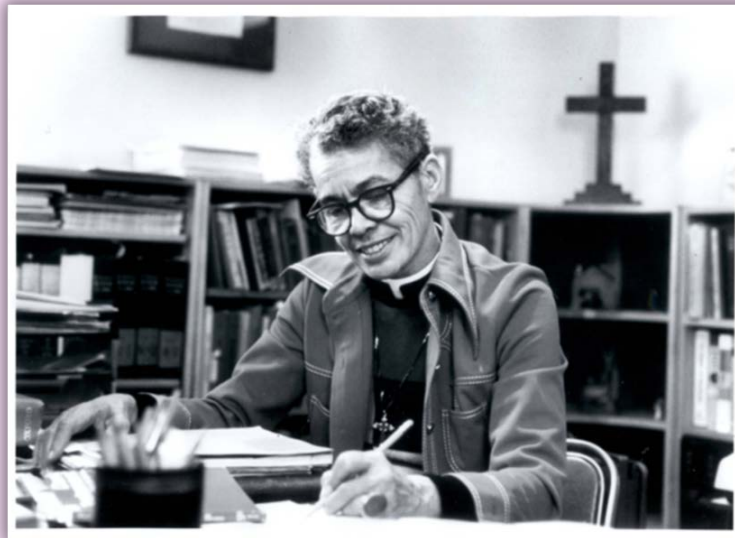


by Liz Rugaber

If you want to know what Beloved Community looks like--what it can mean to tell the truth, to proclaim the dream, to practice Jesus' healing way of love, to repair the breach--look no further than the life of the Reverend Pauli Murray. Not only was she the first Black woman ordained as an Episcopal priest, she also wrote the bible--that is to say, she wrote "the bible for civil rights lawyers," according to Thurgood Marshall. She co-founded the National Organization for Women, was a labor organizer, and was a poet. The Episcopal Church celebrates her feast day on July 1; see pages 296-298 of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. And now, she has been chosen as one of "up to five" women who will be featured on a U.S. quarter as part of the U.S. Mint's American Women Quarters Program. This program was made possible by the Circulating Collectible Coin Redesign Act of 2020, passed by Congress in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of ratifying the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which grants women the right to vote.

In learning about Pauli Murray, there is so much to be inspired by. A good start is this July 24, 2023, article by Shireen Korkzan of Episcopal News Service, announcing the quarter design.

Pioneering Episcopal priest Pauli Murray's US quarter design unveiled **BY SHIREEN KORKZAN**



The Rev. Pauli Murray was the first Black woman ordained an Episcopal priest. Photo: Courtesy of the Carolina Digital Library and Archives/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[Episcopal News Service] The United States Mint has unveiled the design for its quarter honoring the Rev. Pauli Murray, the first Black woman to be ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church and a renowned activist for racial and gender rights. The quarter will be one of five new designs that will be issued in 2024 as part of the U.S. Mint's American Women Quarters program, which celebrates the contributions of women to American history.

Murray, who was ordained in 1977, was also a lawyer, academic, poet and co-founder of the National Organization for Women, the largest feminist activist organization in the United States. As a civil and women's rights lawyer, she was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to serve on the 1961 - 1963 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women. Murray and a friend were arrested in Virginia for refusing to give up their seats to white passengers on a bus 15 years before Rosa Parks did the same in 1955, prompting the Montgomery bus boycott in Alabama.

The Episcopal Church celebrates Murray's feast day on July 1. Murray, who was queer, was often the only Black woman in positions she held. Murray' contributions to the civil rights movements in the 1960s were often overlooked, though she's been credited in landmark Supreme Court cases addressing racial and sex-based issues.

The reverse (tails) side of Murray's quarter depicts a portrait of Murray within the shape of the word "hope." A line from Murray's poem "Dark Testament," which characters hope as "a song in a weary throat," is inscribed in the design. The obverse (heads) side depicts a portrait of President George Washington.



A U.S. quarter honoring the Rev. Pauli Murray, the first Black woman to be ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church and a renowned activist for racial and gender rights, will be issued in 2024. Photo: Courtesy of the U.S. Mint

In 1964, future Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall cited Murray's argument against the constitutionality of "separate but equal laws" in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which ruled against racial segregation in public schools. Marshall, who also led the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund, called Murray's 1950 book on segregation laws, "States' Laws on Race and Color," "the bible of the civil rights movement." Murray was also recognized by future Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as a co-author of the 1971 case *Reed v. Reed*, which established that gender-based discrimination is unconstitutional based on the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause.

The U.S. Mint is honoring Murray along with Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color to serve in Congress; Mary Edwards Walker, a Civil War surgeon, women's rights advocate and abolitionist; Zitkala-Ša, an advocate for Native Americans' right to U.S. citizenship; and musician Celia Cruz, the Cuban-American "Queen of Salsa."

"Sex and racial discrimination was [sic] her defining contributions as a pioneer, and she fought hard and she did a lot to change rights for those who were in the LGBT community," U.S. Mint director Ventris C. Gibson said of Murray while unveiling the five new quarters on ABC's *Good Morning America*.

The American Women Quarters program, which venerates U.S. women who've made significant accomplishments and contributions throughout history, began last year and will continue through 2025, with the U.S. Mint issuing five quarters each year.

-Shireen Korkzan is a reporter and assistant editor for Episcopal News Service. She can be reached at skorkzan@episcopalchurch.org.

Would you be interested in screening the 2021 Documentary by Amazon Studios, "My Name Is Pauli Murray," with your Grace Church Community? Let Liz Rugaber know, liz.rugaber@gracealex.org, and we can organize groups.

BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY





Fall Events @ Grace

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 17 | Sunday School Open House & Llamapalooza, 9:40 am
First Youth Night (6th-12th grades), 6 pm |
| September 24 | Founder's Day & Parish Picture, 10:30 am
Sunday School Classes Begin, 9:30 am
Sacristy Open House, 12 noon |
| September 30 | La Gracia Noche de Alabanza, 6 pm |
| October 1 | Grace Episcopal School Sunday, 10:30 am
Blessing of the Animals, 4 pm |
| October 29 | Trunk or Treat, 3 pm |
| November 5 | Pledge Campaign Ingathering
All Saints Requiem, 5 pm |
| November 23 | Thanksgiving Service, 10 am |
| December 2 | Bilingual Quiet Morning |
| December 3 | Advent Event (Wreath Making and Card Signing), 9:30 am
Advent Lessons and Carols with Choral Eucharist, 5 pm
Newcomer Reception |
| December 10 | Christmas Pageant, 5 pm |

Opinion: Youth Perspective

Reducing Stress

Annie Eason



With the start of the school year and other activities, it's important to regulate stress levels. As we know, increased stress can lead to other health conditions, such as higher blood pressure. While stress often comes from external factors beyond our control (such as work, school, environment, etc.), it still can be reduced to a large extent. While stress can't be completely eliminated, helpful tactics can reduce the harm of stress. Obviously, I'm not a medical professional, so take this advice with a pinch of salt. Here are some tactics I use to reduce stress.

- **Why?**

When I'm stressed, I try to ask myself why I'm stressed and then go on from there. Usually, it's something that's out of my control (homework, etc.). Then I try to figure out how to solve that problem. Do I need to organize my time so I can do x and y?

- **Hobbies**

If I have time, I try to participate in my hobbies in order to make myself feel better. Obviously, this isn't accessible for everyone—you may not have the time or the money to participate in your hobbies. But if you do, I suggest you should! It can calm you down significantly. While participating in your hobby of choice, you can sort through your emotions.

- **Talk to a friend about it**

Asking a friend to talk with you about your problems can help you calm down. Just try to make sure that your friend is trustworthy and willing to hear about your stresses. Whenever I talk to my friends about my stresses, I tend to realize that they aren't the huge problems I (an overthinker) have made them out to be. Writing helps, too, as it has a similar effect, though talking with a friend tends to be better. Friends can give you support and advice, which really can be helpful, just in general.

- **Take a break**

Going for a walk would be the best choice, but not always the most accessible. Taking a break by doing the activities listed above, in addition to breathing exercises that you can look up online, is definitely a good idea, as it can help you work through your emotions better rather than just steeping in them. Prayer and reading the bible can work, too, as they often give peace of mind and a reminder that Jesus is always there for comfort and support.

Overall, learning how to manage stress is just such a good life skill, as there are enormous amounts of stressful situations and moments that are just a part of life and living. Learning how to manage your stress will not only obviously make you feel better, but also prevent other future health problems linked to an increased level of stress. Hope this helps!

Ordination

August



*The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson,
Bishop of Virginia*



*Crucifer John Barker and tapers Natalie and Simon Kupczyk
lead the procession into the nave.*



*Gospeller Reverend
Theresa Lewallen,
formerly of Grace Church
and currently Deacon at
the Church of the
Resurrection, Alexandria*

of Deacons

12, 2023



Grace Church Verger Jay Legere leads the new deacons in the recessional.



The bishop lays hands upon the head of one of the ordinands, with Father Santi looking on



Lector Dr. Ronald Carey from St. Peter's, Richmond



Bishop Stevenson and the new deacons: Maria Elvira Beracochea, John Curtis Dickinson, Hope Austin Laingen, Deborah Falls Lockhart, Nancy Derby Searby

Inquiring Minds Want to Know . . .

What does the theme "Meet Me on the Road to Emmaus" mean to you?



Father Santi: To me, "Meet Me on the Road to Emmaus" is both an invitation to discipleship and a prayer to the risen Lord. I hear Christ inviting me to journey with him. The risen Jesus makes himself our traveling companion as we go on our way, and Christ forms us for discipleship along the way. As I walk in faith, I also find myself asking the Lord again and again, please meet me on the Road to Emmaus. When my heart is broken and my hope wavers, Jesus, my brother, meet me and embrace me. Christ, my Lord, lead me and guide me.

Mother Anne: It's a reminder for me to keep my eyes open! One of my favorite song lyrics: "If ever I don't see / the magic around me / please take my hands off my eyes." - "Through the Ages" by Cloud Cult



Mother Emma: For me, meet me on the Road to Emmaus means journeying alongside one another and supporting each member of our community as we grow in faith. It is a chance to meet new friends and strengthen existing relationships with God, with our neighbors, and with ourselves.

Mission Focus: VOICE

By Jennifer G. Eckel

VOICE (Virginians Organizing for Inter-Faith Community & Engagement) is a nonpartisan coalition of over forty faith communities and civic organizations in northern Virginia working together to build power in middle- and low-income communities. We organize in Prince William, Fairfax, and Arlington counties as well as in the City of Alexandria uniting people across lines of race, class, religion, political party, and geography to act on key issues in our community.

VOICE was organized in 2008, and Grace is a founding member.

Mike Jones was the earliest VOICE leader from Grace. The current leader is **Jennifer Eckel**. Many Outreach Committee members and other parishioners have participated in VOICE actions.

When over forty faith communities come together, there are many strengths that bind us. The best way to describe that is relationship and community. VOICE is committed to relationship building. You may not want to turn out for a specific action, but if asked by a friend, or someone with whom you have a relationship, then you very well might turn out. VOICE is a space where people of different economic and racial backgrounds come together. It is a community that believes in making our cities and towns better for all, including "the least of these." A second core belief is in Community, and small "d" democratic action. In the VOICE Community you often hear about relationship meetings and listening sessions. These meetings and sessions build our community and empower us to fulfill the challenge of the Great Commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

A third commitment—an ironclad rule that VOICE endorses—is that the organization cannot make things better for those who will not or cannot help themselves. Early VOICE actions involved organizing the public housing communities to turn out and vote in a city council election. When voting turnout doubled in a city precinct, city leaders took notice and paid attention to their new constituents.

VOICE will often ask what works and what does not and then organize its communities—its people—to cause change. VOICE cannot donate and fundraise for candidates. It only speaks truth to power. It has been said of VOICE that "organizing is what we do when being right is not enough."

VOICE is actively working on two issues that directly impact us in the Grace Church community. First is a continuing emphasis on affordable housing. VOICE members turned out in force in Alexandria when Resurrection Episcopal Church (led by former parishioner Reverend Jo Belser) needed approval from the planning commission and the city council. The yellow badges audience members wore dominated the Council Chamber. And VOICE members were heavily present when Arlington County voted to change its zoning rules and build for the missing middle. And, when COVID broke out in 2020, VOICE leaders met with the governor and urged him to freeze tenant evictions.



Grace Church VOICE team at July meeting with Virginia Governor Glen Youngkin

Now the VOICE housing team is engaging with city members to evaluate two initiatives: "Zoning for All" and "Housing for All." These issues will be heavily discussed in Alexandria later this fall.

In addition to its work on affordable housing, VOICE has engaged with others to support behavioral mental health. Virginia does not enjoy high rankings when it comes to spending on and providing support for mental health care. VOICE is out to make a difference. In July, over 750 VOICE members—including a contingent (our largest turnout ever!!) from Grace Church—attended a meeting with Governor Glen Youngkin in Prince William County. There the team heard him commit to adding funds to the Commonwealth's mental health services. VOICE members heard him make these promises and they will hold him accountable.

Also in Prince William County, VOICE was instrumental in building and preparing a new, modern Crisis Receiving Center (CRC) where adults in crisis can be cared for. A CRC keeps those in crisis out of emergency rooms or police custody. Virginia has endorsed plans to build more CRCs. Locally, the Alexandria team recently toured the city's Crisis and Emergency Center with **Dr. Allison Guernsey**, who is the Emergency Services Team Leader. The new Mark Center location is where licensed clinicians evaluate mental health and substance use disorder problems and provide help as needed over the phone or in person. Walk-in Emergency Services are available Monday and Tuesday from 8 am to 8 pm, and Wednesday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. The VOICE team heard that this new center is under-utilized and promised to get the word out about the center. Look for flyers around the parish and know that in addition to its ongoing campaigns for affordable housing and behavioral health, VOICE is engaging in a PR campaign to promote this new center.

VOICE is mostly a volunteer organization with some paid staff members. Your dollars are always welcome to support this civic and social action organization. More importantly, your local Grace Church VOICE team hopes you will say yes to showing up when asked to turn out for a meeting. Your presence is always welcome.



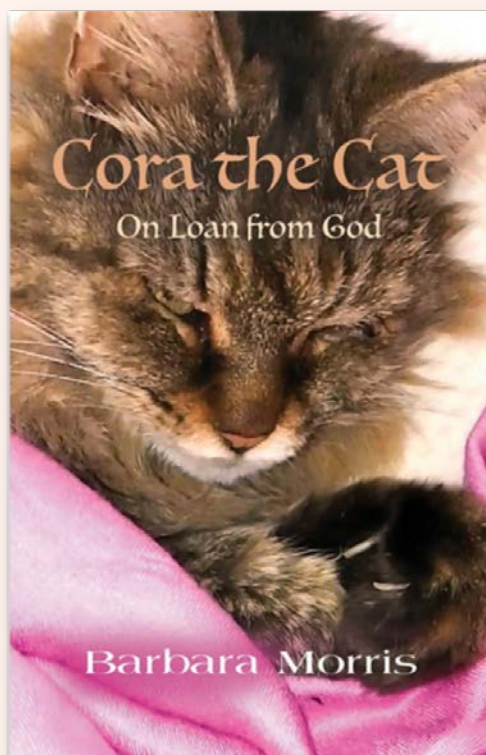
Barbara Morris

An Occasional WORD

There is an extra chunk of joy in my heart as I write this month's Occasional Word column, and that's because the book I've been working on night and day for fourteen months has finally been published. *Cora the Cat: On Loan from God* is a true story that I believe God inspired me to write after Ward, my husband of fifty-six years, died two and a half years ago. Briefly, it's the tale of how God, in His wisdom and love, unites two of His needy creatures—an elderly, deaf widow named Barbara (me!) and a deaf, little, orphaned rescue cat named Cora. Both are lonely, listless, and in shocking need of grooming. God sees that these two creatures of His go together as naturally as peanut butter and jelly. And, so, He gives each of them a divine task—to comfort one another by bringing love, companionship, warmth, and joy into the other's life. Both of them obey this divine command. Soon their mutual needs and support for one another envelop them in the special love that exists only between human beings and their pets.

This book—my fifth—offers a way for me to thank God for His love and support as I mourned Ward's death. It's also a tribute to a sweet, spunky, little cat—Cora—who gave meaning and purpose to my life. I was Cora's fourth owner. Cora is now with God in her Eternal Home. As the book title says, she was only on loan.

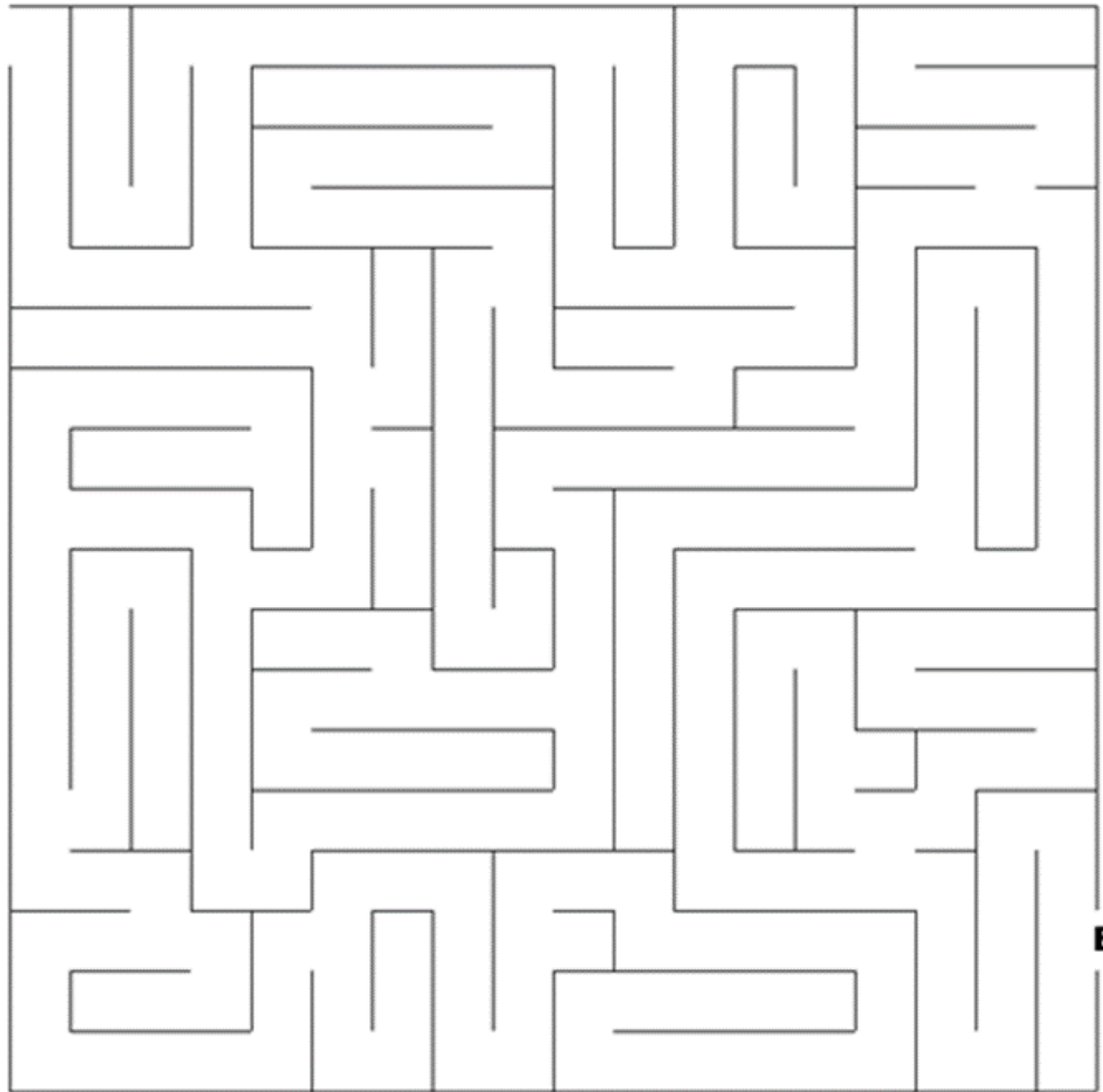
I will put a copy of my book in the Grace Church library. Copies may also be ordered from my publisher at <https://booklocker.com/books/12999.html>.





Family Fun Page

Solve the maze to help Jesus and his friends get to Emmaus!



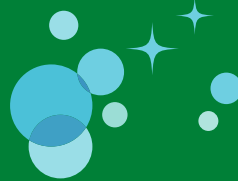
Emmaus

Source: https://sermons4kids.com/emmaus_maze.htm



Parish Clean-Up Day

August 5, 2023





Parish Staff

The Rev. Amanda Bourne
Priest Associate

The Rev. Deacon Emma Brice
Assistant Rector for Family Ministries & School Chaplain
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The Rev. Dr. Anne Michele Turner
Rector
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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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