

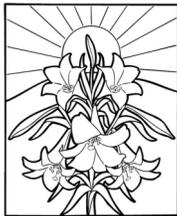


Grace Notes

Brief notes for the members, families and friends of Grace Episcopal Church



Holy Week and Easter at Grace Church



During Holy Week, we walk with Jesus through the last days of his life. His journey is one from triumph to death to resurrection; ours, one from excitement to despair to hope and new life. We invite you to join us as we accompany Jesus every step of the way.

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 1

8:00 a.m. *Liturgy of the Palms, reading of the Passion and Holy Communion.*

10:15 a.m. *Procession around the neighborhood, reading of the Passion and Holy Communion.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 5

7:30 p.m. *Foot Washing Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar.*

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 6

12 noon *The liturgy for Good Friday.*

7:30 p.m. *The liturgy for Good Friday.*

EASTER EVE – APRIL 7

7:30 p.m. *The Great Vigil of Easter, a powerful service of darkness and light, with readings and music, captures all the drama of the Easter mystery and is highlighted by baptisms. The Vigil marks the first celebration of the Resurrection.*

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 8

9:00 a.m. *Festival Services marking Christ's triumph over the grave.*

An Easter brunch, along with an Easter Egg hunt for children, immediately follows the 9:00 a.m. service.

11:15 a.m. *Festival Services marking Christ's triumph over the grave.*

April 2012

Inside this issue:

Outreach Retreat	2
Photos from Spring Concert	
New Space for Pennyworth	3
Stewardship and Easter	4
Photos from Lenten Adult Forum	
Earth Day Celebration	5
GEDS News	6
Fiscal Report	
One More Note - from the Rector	7

Special points of interest:

- New Space for Pennyworth
- Earth Day Celebration
- One More Note from Rev. Andrew Walter

A monthly publication from the Grace Church Communications Committee

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**Grace Notes**

**Grace Episcopal Church
1607 Grace Church Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

**Telephone: 301-585-3515
Fax: 301-585-4309**

**Website:
www.graceepiscopalchurch.org**

**The Rev. Andrew Walter
Rector**

**The Rev. Lael Sorensen
Assistant Rector & Chaplain,
Grace Episcopal Day School**

**The Rev. Michele Hagans
Priest Associate**

**Danny Catalanotto
Minister of Music**

**Beth Boyd
Parish Administrator**

**Marnie Brown
Communications Coordinator**

**Gib Baily
Fiscal Officer**

**Wardens and Vestry
Peter Curtin, Senior Warden
Aileen Moodie, Junior Warden**

**Kathryn Allen, Paul Brown,
Theresa Cameron, James Doyle,
Matt Hardwick, John Mahler,
Amy Miller, Virgil Whitehurst,
Raquel Wilson**

Grace Notes

Linda Caleb

**Outreach Commission Retreat
Saturday, March 31**



The Outreach Commission will host a planning retreat on Saturday, March 31 from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. This will be an opportunity to reflect, dream, plan and share with others who have a passion for reaching out to others. Specifically, to make a difference in the community. Everyone is welcome at this retreat and the commission is anxious to welcome new members, as well explore possible new directions along with deepening existing ministries and efforts.

If you are interested in attending this retreat, please contact either **John Mahler**, or **Reverend Michele**, so that lunch can be provided for all attending.

Spring Concert Showcases Grace's Talented Youth



New Space for Pennyworth!

The new shop!

Final touches are still being completed, but The Pennyworth Shop is thrilled to be in a new space. If you have visited the Shop in the last few years, just head three doors east to **949 Bonifant Street**. If you've never visited the Shop, now is the time.

The major advantage to the new address is SPACE! The shop is twice the size, giving us room for some off-season clothes and small furniture. The space had several small rooms, and while some walls came down, we have rooms for sorting and storage in the back, and a room has been set aside in the front of the Shop as "The Pennyworth Boutique," where particularly nice clothing and other items are displayed.

The most recent tenant in the space - a theatre company - had painted the walls and ceiling black, so in addition to taking down walls, painting was a major part of the renovation of the space. Jay and **Jack Dahill** and **Mark Whipple** devoted many hours to making the space bright. Jay's understated comment: "Wow, that was a lot of black paint that needed covering." And a special thanks is due to **Geri Twitty**, whose support allowed us to hire professional painters to paint the ceiling as well.

At the risk of leaving out others who formed a fantastic team of workers, thanks are due to **Shashi Ray, Jim Doyle, Katherine Desmond** and other members of the board who visited the space, helped with decision-making, and then helped with the renovation and move. The Vestry, along with Rev. Andrew and Gib Baily, had a special meeting on short notice. **Brian Ellison, June Moore, Mathew Hague** and **Renee Rafini** painted, cleaned and did carpentry work. **Art Reed** checked all the electrical outlets, moved a sink, and created the dressing rooms. **Ethel Luckett's sons, grandson and nephew** fixed the electrical wiring and gave us bright lighting both inside and out. A fantastic team of

about 5 men put up drywall and installed a sink in one of the work rooms. Thanks **Michele Hagans, Pearl Peters, Elaine Barbari, Anne Sheldon,** and **Mary and Ernie Monti, Steve Dean** and **Barbara Lipscomb** helped with moving books, clothing and other items when the new space was ready.

After we'd settled in a bit, a "fresh" team, including **Chris Ryder, Eric Neally, Dan Amundson, Glen Olthoff** and **John Wilson** installed more slatwall and hung kitchen cabinets. A couple of air conditioners will soon be installed.

Manager **Marilyn Seitz** coordinated all this work and more. She met with the Fire Marshal, ran back and forth to county offices for the right occupancy permits, and dealt with a hundred details from key boxes to window replacement. At one point, when it seemed a hefty fee was required to establish the space for retail, Marilyn was "weak enough to write a personal check for whatever she said"! Marilyn's husband, **Marty**, devoted many hours as well, cheerfully putting up slat wall and other assigned tasks! (They even worked on Thanksgiving Day.) Former manager **Mike Shirey and Grace** lent their expertise gleaned from prior Pennyworth moves.

Plans are in the works for additional hours on the weekend of April 22 to celebrate this magnificent volunteer effort and 59+ years in business (the Pennyworth Shop opened on Valentines Day in 1953). Watch for details, and plan to visit the new space soon!

Grace Church Parishioners and Friends Help to Get New Space Ready for The Pennyworth Shop



Stewardship and Easter

The following is adapted from an article,
"Seasons of Stewardship"
 by William C. Green.

EASTER: Resurrection

Writing seventy-five years ago about the future of Europe, the great German poet, Rainer Maria Rilke, gave unwitting witness to the truth of both Good Friday and Easter. *"Hatred is once more the decisive and driving force in a world which can only be healed in the long run by a superabundance of love, mercy, and good will!"*

Impossible to conceive without Good Friday-blunt testimony to the decisive power of hatred—Easter turns the tables and gives the last word to life and love. In the resurrection of Jesus the truth of the world is reborn: justice and goodness shall prevail, outwitting and outlasting the most crucifying powers arrayed against them. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.

Stewardship is what happens when we believe this. It is the generosity that flows

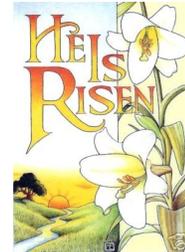
from a sense of the "superabundance" of life to which Jesus' resurrection testifies. In the light of Easter fears of scarcity and loss are overcome: we are "born anew into a living hope...an inheritance that is imperishable." (1 Peter 1:3) Never need we fear that who we are, what we have, and how we love are not enough—inadequate given what is necessary, perishable commodities that must be protected. *"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves,"* says Paul, *"but our sufficiency is from God, who makes us sufficient...(and whose) Spirit gives life."* (2 Corinthians 3:6)

No uncertainty or hardship we face, no problem or challenge is greater than the power of God. Beating at the heart of life, God's love is stronger than death itself, making possible more than all we can ask or imagine. Released from the anxiety that often constricts the way we live and give, we grow in the joy that makes us more open to others, minded to share, eager to give..

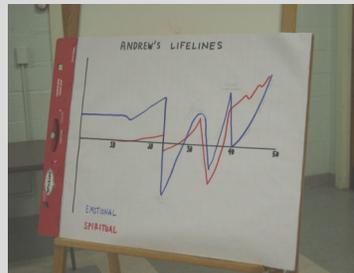
How can we keep to ourselves the energy unleashed by the assurance summed up by Paul when he declared, "Neither

death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

How do we understand "resurrection"? Is this but a promise for the future, or also assurance in the present? During the season of Easter, what is sowed is the very present hope made possible by the victory of Christ over death and evil. What is reaped is an outflow of joy and generosity undeterred by fears of scarcity or inadequacy. "Gifted by God" with this Easter faith, "we offer ourselves in praise," letting our giving testify to the unstoppable power of God's great love.



Reverend Andrew Shares His "Lifeline" at Adult Forum



Earth Day Celebration - Sunday, April 22

“Everyday is Earth Day at Pennyworth”

On Sunday, April 22, the Stewardship Commission will host special activities in honor of Earth Day. The focus will be Grace’s very own Pennyworth Shop; one of the oldest church ministries and one that has practiced reusing and recycling long before environmental concerns were part of the public consciousness. In reality, **“Everyday is Earth Day at Pennyworth.”** This is also an especially appropriate time to honor and thank Pennyworth as the shop recently moved into a new space.

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. At that time, Pennyworth had been operating as an outreach ministry of Grace Church for 13 years! The first Earth Day is considered by many to be the birthday of the modern environmental movement. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson’s New York Times bestseller **Silent Spring** in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries and, up until that moment, more than any other person, Ms. Carson raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health. Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns front and center.

At the same time, The Pennyworth Shop was also committed to reusing and recycling while providing a valuable resource to the Silver Spring community. At Pennyworth, people could purchase clothing and other household items at a significantly reduced cost. Endless numbers of Grace Church parishioners and friends have donated their time to sort and price what is sold in the shop, as well staff the store so that others could shop. And, over the past 50 years, Pennyworth has made financial contributions totaling over \$800,000 to Grace Church which have been used for everything from paying off the mortgage of the church building to providing air conditioning.

In celebration of this amazing ministry and of Earth Day itself, we hope you will be able to participate in any or all of the following:

- Visit the Pennyworth Shop after church! If you haven’t had a chance to see their new location, be sure to drop by during special **Sunday hours from 1:00 - 4:00.**
- Do your **Spring Cleaning** and bring in your clean, gently used clothing and other items for donation to Pennyworth. As we get closer to April 22, be sure to look for the special list of what Pennyworth does and does not accept. For those items that Pennyworth does not accept (like computers), we will publish a list of local charities which will accept those items.

- **Toy Exchange.** Help your children learn about recycling with our Earth Day Toy Exchange. All children are encouraged to bring a used, but clean and functional toy with them on April 22 in order to participate in the Toy Exchange. Unclaimed toys will be donated to Pennyworth.
- Bring in any **papers for recycling.** Our own **Nicci Jones**, who runs a recycling company, “*Shred ‘Em Up*”, will be glad to receive your paper products. You don’t have to do anything except bring them to church with you. Nicci will take your papers, shred them at her home and send you an invoice so that you can pay her directly. What could be easier?
- Bring in your **used electronics** for recycling. Support **Jack Dahill’s** efforts on behalf of the **“Think Recycle”** program, which helps to tackle the growing problem of electronic waste. Bring in your unwanted cell phones, inkjets, toner cartridges, and digital cameras and place in the cardboard recycle bins located in the Undercroft. Jack is designating the proceeds he receives from Greentec, to purchase a grille for Grace Church. Let’s see if we can purchase that grille in time for the annual Sunday School picnic.

And lastly, the celebration will also include **Stewardship Sundae Sunday.** Members of the Stewardship Commission will be scooping ice cream and providing favorite toppings as a way of celebrating Earth Day and Pennyworth. Drop by the Undercroft for a special treat. 

So, clean out your closets, round up your old papers and electronic devices, help your children recycle some toys and be sure to join the entire parish in thanking all the volunteers who give their time and talent so generously to **The Pennyworth Shop.**

Transitions

Baptisms – Sunday, February 19, 2012

Eloui Clare Santiago
Wesley Barron Blenkinsop
Madison Aniyah Ready
Kole Bakari Corbitt
Avery Carolyn Elmore

Deaths

Evelyn Carson	January 19, 2012
Vilma White	March 5, 2012
Josephine Thompson	March 8, 2012
Tony Caracci	March 18, 2012

GEDS Celebrates the Chesapeake Bay



All students at the Kensington campus have been involved in a campus-wide integrated unit on the Chesapeake Bay this school year. As part of this study, we are collaborating with Eagle Cove School in Pasadena, Maryland.

All students in first through fifth grades and the Kensington campus teachers have been invited to spend the day at Eagle Cove School on Wednesday, April 25. At Eagle Cove, in addition to taking part in a variety of Bay studies, all students will spend time with the author, Jennifer Keats Curtis, and will get to see Eagle Cove's students' production of *Jack and the Green Stalk*.

All teachers have gotten involved in the integrated unit in some way. They're working together to create a Chesapeake Bay Day on Friday, May 4th. Classroom teachers have incorporated Bay themes in social studies, writing, and technology. All specials teachers have contributed.

Particularly exciting is that art teacher Nina Muys has worked with students to create a Bay mosaic that will be installed soon, and each student created a tile that features a Bay animal or plant. The students at the Silver Spring campus got into the act when they painted clay pieces that represent the water of the bay that are part of the mosaic, and they created their own under-the-sea mural that is on display at the Silver Spring campus.

GEDS Students Create Chesapeake Bay Mosaic



Fiscal Officer Report

This report is being prepared earlier than normal in March because of the timing of Holy Week and Easter this year.

Based on the positive trends seen so far in March, it appears that the operating budget through the first three (3) months of this year will be very close to being in balance. With one Sunday remaining in March and the bulk of the larger invoices already paid:

- **Income** in the first three (3) months of 2012 totaled \$162,330.48, including a total of \$51,005.86 in income received during the first three weeks of March.
- **Expenses** for the first three (3) months of 2012 totaled \$167,677.43, including a total of \$43,071.41 in expenses incurred during March.

The deficit of <\$5,346.95> seen in the operating budget as of March 22, 2012 is projected to be more than offset by the Sunday offering projected to be received during the last Sunday in March. While some expenses will be incurred during the last week of the month, it is a very positive sign that the operating budget will essentially be in balance at the end of the first quarter of 2012.

As always, the ability of Grace Church to achieve a balanced budget in any year is dependent primarily on trends in pledge income.

- A total of \$115,422.34 was received in pledge income during the first 12 Sundays of 2012, equal to an average of \$9,618.53 in pledge income on a weekly basis.
- The operating budget for 2012 as-

sumed that pledge income would average \$9,423.08 in pledge income on a weekly basis this year.

We appreciate everyone's efforts to sustain their pledge payments for the current year. At the present time, given the positive trends in income seen to date and the ability of everyone to control expenses (plus the benefits of a mild winter), it appears that Grace is on a pace to achieve a balanced budget at the end of 2012 in conjunction with fulfilling its desire to hire a part-time Sunday School Director in the near future.

At this time of the year, we send you best wishes for a joyous Easter.

Gib Baily
Church Fiscal Officer

One More Note . . . from the Rev. Andrew W. Walter

My feet are ticklish. They always have been, as far back as I can remember. When I was a very young boy, my father and I would “rough house,” and he would tickle my feet, making me squirm and wiggle and kick all over the floor until I was out of breath, while the two of us laughed and laughed.

To this day, my feet are still that sensitive. So, you can imagine why I never liked Maundy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday is the day we commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. During that sacred meal, Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began washing the disciples’ feet. It was a humble act of hospitality and love. Before the supper ended, Jesus said to his disciples, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” The word *Maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning commandment.

During the liturgy of Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus’ commandment to love one another by following his example and washing each other’s feet. Because mine are so ticklish, though, I never participated in this beautiful ritual. I avoided it for years and years. The idea of someone washing my feet made me shiver. My reaction was like that of Peter, who responded to Jesus’ gesture by exclaiming, “You shall never wash my feet!”

Then, I went to seminary. When Maundy Thursday arrived that first year, I sat in the chapel with all my seminary classmates, watching, as one by one they went forward for the washing of feet. I did not know what to do. Could I simply stay in my seat? That did not seem right. Here I was, a seminarian, preparing for a life as a priest, sitting on the sidelines, avoiding one of the major liturgical actions of Holy Week. Yet, at the same time, I certainly did not want to stand up from my seat, get in line, and have someone tickle, I mean, wash my feet. Did I have to participate?

The voice inside my head said yes.

I stood up and waited in line, nervously. Slowly, the line moved forward. My turn arrived, and kneeling down, I washed the feet of the person in front of me. Then, I took my seat in the chair. As the water dripped off my feet into the basin, my anxiety was wiped away, for in that moment, I had this mysteriously powerful feeling of God’s presence. I felt connected to Christ, in a way I never had

before. What I was participating in – the washing of feet – was exactly what Jesus himself had done with and for his disciples. This is what happened at the Last Supper, and now I was doing it. In that moment, it was as if I was actually at the Last Supper, or Christ was really present in the seminary chapel washing the feet of all those seminarians, or maybe... it was both. To this day, I don’t quite know. I do know – it was an incredible feeling.

I returned to my seat in the pews, a little dazed and dumbfounded, but also content and at peace.

So often in our spiritual lives, we like to do the same things over and over. We always attend the eight o’clock service or the ten o’clock service. We sit in the same spot, in the same pew, Sunday after Sunday. We only like to recite the traditional version of the Lord’s Prayer. We do these same things again and again because we have always done it that way, and that is the way we like it.

Sometimes, though, we can become too comfortable. Our spiritual practices can become so repetitious, so rote, that they do not lead us to a deeper connection with God. Attending the same service, we miss out on the different, and beautiful, language of the other service. Sitting in the same pew, we have the same view of the altar; we see the same people. Reciting the same prayer, the words no longer speak to us.

Sometimes, in order to seek God, we have to look someplace else, try something different, maybe even something outside our comfort zone. So, go ahead and take a chance. It won’t tickle.



Have thoughts, comments or questions about Andrew’s articles (or even his sermons)? He would love to hear from you.

Please email him at awalter@graceepiscopalchurch.org