



# Grace Notes

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



## Going Green at Grace

When Ohio's Cuyahoga River caught fire in 1952, it caused \$1.5 million in damage to Cleveland. The city's industrial revolution had taken its toll: The oil and debris clogging the river had ignited eight times before, and the city had developed quite a rep. When the river went up in flames yet again in 1968, the situation gained national attention. The Cuyahoga became a poster child for early environmentalists.

One of those "green" trailblazers, Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, had a plan to turn the then-grassroots campaign to save the environment into a mainstream movement. In 1969, he announced what would come to be the kick off for the movement, something called "Earth Day."

The mere mention of Earth Day 1970 drew the country's attention to the sad state of rivers, air and forests, especially when press outlets covering Nelson's announcement started running pollution stories that made people's hair stand on end. The environmental revolution had begun.

Earth Day has been celebrated every year since 1970, and almost 40 years later, its purpose remains the same: encourage social and political action by drawing attention to the cause. Every year, around the world, the damaged state of the environment comes to the forefront, and millions of people take the opportunity to pitch in – if only for a day.

At Grace Church, the focus of the Stewardship Committee changed a few years ago to include stewardship of the environment. One of the biggest impacts of this focus has been the "greening of the kitchen." What this means is that there is now a conscious effort to eliminate the use of disposable plastic and paper goods for all events at which food is served.

Part of this effort is seen in the use of cloth table coverings, rather than plastic or paper. Coffee at coffee hour is now served in mugs, rather than Styrofoam cups. Enough silverware and glasses have been purchased so that disposables are no longer needed there.

However, your help is needed to keep these efforts going. The cost of using non-disposal items, means that a crew is now needed to run the dishwasher, dry and put away the dishes and to take home and launder tablecloths and drying towels after each event. Right now there are a hardy few who undertake this work, but it would be wonderful to have everyone help as they can. If you feel that a "greener Grace" is important and if you can spare some time to help, once in a while, please consider joining this very special group. For more information, or to indicate your willingness to support these efforts, please contact **Rev. Andrew or Linda Caleb**. They'd be delighted to hear from you.



April 2013

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### Special points of interest:

- Ways to Celebrate Earth Day
- Images from Palm Sunday
- Pennyworth News



★ **TOWN HALL MEETINGS**  
 ★ **Sunday, April 14 following the 10:30 Service**  
 ★ **Wednesday, April 17 at 6:15 p.m.**



★ **Town Hall Meetings regarding Proposed Projects for the Church Building:**  
 ★ Thank you to everyone who completed the recent parish wide survey. We had well over 200 people respond. As we continue to explore and plan for a fundraising campaign through which we can raise the resources necessary to take on important building projects in our church, we will be holding two town hall meetings to discuss the projects in greater detail and answer any questions you might have. The town hall meetings will take place on Sunday, April 14 immediately after the 10:30 service (**food and childcare will be provided**) and on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:15 p.m. Please plan on joining us for one of these meetings.



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**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH****Grace Notes**

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**Grace Notes**

The Rev. Andrew Walter  
Linda Caleb

**DINING WITH GRACE AT THE MOVIES - FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

Our movie selection for April is "Namesake". The film depicts the struggles of first generation immigrants from India to the United States and their American born children. The film chronicles the cross cultural experiences of their son from a teenager through his exploration of his Indian heritage. The title of the film refers to the son's birth name, Gogol, which shapes many aspects of his life.

"Namesake" highlights the importance of self-acceptance, identity, culture and family. The rating is PG 13.

Please join us on Friday, April 5th for food, fellowship and insightful discussion as we reflect on our birth names. We meet in the undercroft at 6:30 p.m. for a pot-luck dinner and the film begins at 7:00 p.m. Please bring a dish that is associated with the **first letter** of your **last name**:

A-H - salad/vegetable      I- Q - dessert/fruit      R-Z - main course/casserole

For further information contact: **Lola Crawford** - (301) 571-2321

**Homeless Ministry Reminder**

**Saturday April 6th** will be the next Homeless Ministry opportunity - Green Team this month! We gather in the undercroft at 1 pm to make sandwiches and load the van for the trip downtown with food, clothing, and a lot of friendly faces from our Grace family. We head out around 2 pm and will spend about 3 hours serving our brothers and sisters on the streets of DC. This is the one Ministry at Grace that is open to people of all ages and interests - a wonderful way to get to know your fellow parishioners while serving others in need. Contact Rebecca Lent ([rebecca.lent@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.lent@gmail.com)) if you have any questions or concerns. Matthew 25:40



*"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."*

**PRAYER FOR EARTH DAY****O GOD,**

we thank you for this earth, our home; for the wide sky and the blessed sun, for the ocean and streams, for the towering hills and the whispering wind, for the trees and green grass.

We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds, and see the splendor of fields of golden wheat, and taste autumn's fruit, and rejoice in the feel of snow, and smell the breath of spring flowers.

**GRANT US** a heart opened wide to all this beauty; and save us from being so blind that we pass unseeing when even the common thornbush is aflame with your glory.



## Ways to Celebrate Earth Day

*If you're one of those millions who would like to lend a hand in honor of Earth Day, you may be wondering what exactly you can do. In this article, we'll check out 10 great ways to commemorate Earth Day, whether you're looking to spend 5 minutes, 5 hours or a lifetime.*

### Avoid the Car

Since our cars are some of the greatest sources of pollution in our daily lives, it makes sense to start there. A short commute to work may not seem like a big polluter. Let's say you drive 10 miles each way. That means about a single gallon of gas round-trip – maybe even less. But that single gallon of gas sends 19 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air. That's almost twice as much as running central air conditioning for a day, and central air is one of the biggest household polluters.

### Skip the Bath

If you consider all the water shortages around the world, the amount of water we use to keep ourselves squeaky clean can seem a bit shocking. A daily shower isn't a matter of health; it's a matter of comfort. And for the comfort of a 10-minute shower, we consume up to 50 gallons of water. To relax in a nice bath, it takes up to 70 gallons. A typical family in Africa gets by on a tenth of that for an entire day, including drinking water. So on Earth Day, stay a little dirty – or, more accurately, slightly less than pristinely clean.

### Pay Online

The benefits of setting up online bill pay will last long past this year's Earth Day. If you buy stuff, chances are you have at least one credit card. It may be necessary for conducting financial transactions these days, but it's actually not necessary to kill trees in the process. Lots of people have started paying credit card bills and viewing statements online instead of through the mail. It's faster than writing checks, and you don't have to store all that paper. And if everybody in the United States started

dealing with money online, it would save almost 19 million trees every year.

### Buy an Offset

Carbon offsets are the big thing right now, because they're easy and they might actually make a difference. They basically work like this: You pay for enough clean power (wind or solar, typically) to cover the dirty power you use. People buy them to offset travel, home power usage and any other energy-heavy expenditure. If you're busy and you have some extra funds, this could be a great way to celebrate Earth Day. Just decide what you want to offset – it could just be your home -power usage for Earth Day, or you could take the opportunity to offset your car travel for the whole year. Just go to one of many Web sites (type "carbon offset" into your browser to find a whole slew of them); use the Web site calculator to figure out how many offsets you need to buy; type in your credit number and you're done.

### Write a Letter

Writing a letter to your representative in Congress can help make great changes. Writing a letter may not seem like much, but it's very much in keeping with the spirit of Earth Day. Contacting someone with the power to make large-scale change through legislation, like a senator or representative, can have some pretty grand and lasting consequences. To find the name and contact information of your member of Congress, just go to the Web site for your state or local government. You'll find both e-mail and mailing addresses, and you could even call if you don't have the time to write a letter. Just pick a cause – water safety, forest preservation, clean air, recycling, whatever speaks to you – and tell your congressman or congresswoman how you feel.

### Volunteer (or Just Attend)

If you want to really be a part of Earth Day, there's nothing like joining other like-minded individuals in a common task. If you have the time, there are lots of oppor-

tunities out there to pitch in. If you go to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site page for events and volunteer opportunities, you'll find a list of Earth Day activities for your area. You might want to get in on planting some trees, cleaning up a park, or, if you have some extra time to get some pledges, doing a walk for a "green" charity.

### Plant a Tree

There's no time like Earth Day to make your world a little greener – in the literal sense. Planting trees, bushes and any-plant life at all not only beautifies your home space, it also absorbs some of the CO<sub>2</sub>- from the air. The destruction of the world's rainforests is a big reason why global warming is out of control; in a tiny way, you can help to offset that destruction by planting something in your own yard. Planting a tree is a great choice – it might be around even longer than you will, and it goes a long way toward preventing soil erosion.

### Update Your Lightbulbs

Been putting off switching your incandescent lightbulbs to energy-saving fluorescents? Well, you're going to have to do it in the next few years, with many governments (including Britain, the United States, India and Australia) looking to phase out energy-hogging incandescent bulbs by about 2012. And there's no time like Earth Day to make a contribution you're going to have to make anyway. Replacing -all the bulbs in your house won't take long, and it'll save you money on your energy bill since fluorescents are a lot more efficient than standard lightbulbs.

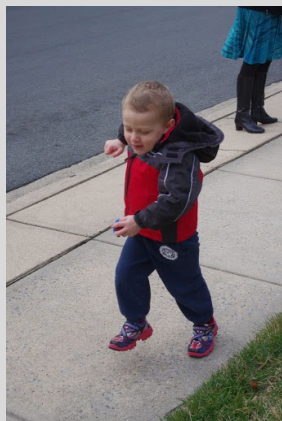
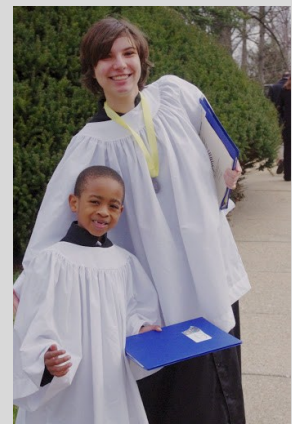
### Set up a Compost Bin

Every time you throw out coffee grounds, paper towels or a pizza box, you're adding to a landfill – and subtracting from your yard. All of this stuff, and much more, can be composted instead of trashed, and compost is an ideal way to fertilize your outdoor space. And once

*(cont. on page 6)*



### Palm Sunday at Grace Church



## Every Day is Earth Day at Pennyworth



In 1970, the first **Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)** sparked the modern environmental movement. *"The objective was to organize a national demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda,"* recalled Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a United States senator from Wisconsin. Today, many churches are considering their environmental ministry and looking at everything from light bulb to coffee purchases.

At Grace, we have a **60 year old environmental ministry** in the form of our Pennyworth Shop! Thrift shops provide a great opportunity for recycling and reusing.

So, celebrate **Earth Day** by a visit to The **Pennyworth Shop** at 949 Bonifant Street in downtown Silver Spring. We are open Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 4p.

Indeed, there is more to recycling than what goes in your blue bin. Many people are becoming aware of how sweatshop free clothing supports the growth of fair labor standards and contributes to a more just and equitable global society. Even if your closet doesn't meet those standards, when it's time to replace, recycle that clothing at the Pennyworth Shop.

The Shop is full of items that can be "recycled" into wonderful homemade gifts: put a favorite photo in one of our frames (even better, decorate a frame with shells from that summer beach trip, buttons, or beads); fill one of our suitcases with dresses, hats, shoes, gloves and jewelry for the ultimate "dress up" case; choose a selection of our cards (10 cents each) and give them stamped and ready to write. Books make great gifts and are 50 cents each at Pennyworth!

Make The Pennyworth Shop part of *your* environmental ministry.

### EARTH FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES THAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR FAMILIES AT HOME

The Pennyworth Shop has been selling recycled items for 60 years - long before recycling was really "COOL"!



Our whole huge shop has only preowned pre used items. So pass your **CLEAN** gently used clothes, toys, books that you have outgrown to your younger brother or sister or cousin or friend, Or donate them to a shop like Pennyworth.



**DE-CLUTTER**  
**BORROW**  
**RE-THINK**  
**REUSE**  
**RECYCLE**  
**SHARE**  
**TRADE**

**DOWN SIZE**

do one small area a day, everyday -soon messes will be gone,  
books, tools, toys, clothes with friends and relatives  
before you buy new  
plastic containers, wrapping paper  
all cans, papers,  
books, clothes, toys  
books  
and  
when loosing weight - buy smaller sizes at Pennyworth



Come shop at Pennyworth  
949 Bonifant Street, just off Georgia Ave.  
Open 10 to 4 Tuesday to Saturday



## Grace Episcopal Day School



I remember spending hours a day as a kid wandering around the woods with my brother searching for insects under logs, catching crayfish in the stream, and bravely getting closer each day to the old fishing shack we spotted not far away. The crunching of leaves below our feet, the sound of the water as it flowed gently over the rocks, and the smell of the damp ground after a rainstorm remain fresh in my mind. The memories remain vivid because at Grace I am able to relive these New Jersey memories with our students here in Maryland. While the experience of the abandoned fishing shack stays in NJ, the walks in the woods and the trips to the stream are weaved into the fabric that is Grace.



Bishop Mariann Budde referenced a passage from *My Grandfather's Blessings* during Malcolm Lester's installation in December. The passage spoke of a little girl's dedication to a cup of dirt. Each day she provided water and love to this cup until one day weeks later she stood in awe as this tiny green plant emerged. This moment was so profoundly powerful. It was truly a blessing.

As Earth Day approaches, I am once again reminded of nature and all the gifts that are provided. We are blessed with the beauty of the trees, the smells of freshly bloomed roses, and the sights of butterflies dancing among the flowers. Just as the butterflies dance with joy at the newly discovered nectar, I too dance with joy each day knowing how lucky I am to be here at Grace. As a part of my first Earth Day at Grace, the students and I planted our first rain garden. Now, at the end of my third year we have not one, but two rain gardens, a butterfly garden, and five vegetable gardens. It is with dirt under our fingers and shovels in our hands that the magic begins - a cascading effect of love and appreciation for all that the earth offers. The Native American proverb teaches us that "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." It is with pride that I can say that our students are true keepers of this earth.

Christine Comas  
Science Teacher

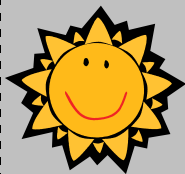
### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### AUCTION NEWS



Grace Episcopal Day School's annual PTO Auction is Saturday, April 20, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at Grace School. If you are interested in attending, tickets are available on the school's website, [www.geds.org](http://www.geds.org). Go to parent section and click on PTO Auction. Our theme this year is "Growing with Grace", in honor of the trees and rainscapes that were planted this past fall by the children. Hopefully some things will be in bloom that evening and we can witness the fruits of their labor.

#### SUMMER CAMP



If you have not made plans for your child for summer, consider our summer camp programs. There are many different offerings throughout the summer from June 17 through August 9. You can choose one week or multiple weeks. You can earn \$25 off your camp registration if you refer a new family to register for camp. (Have the new family make a note of you as the referral on their registration form). We will also offer a 5% sibling discount. Please contact Jason Dejavichitlert with any questions [jdeja@geds.org](mailto:jdeja@geds.org).

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you set up a composting system – basically a bin in your kitchen to put in compostable waste, and a bin in your yard where it can decay – all of that rich fertilizer is free. Setting up a compost bin is a great Earth Day project. It takes only a few hours - maybe less. You can build your own out of wood, chicken wire or even an old trash bin; or you can save time and buy one at any garden or home-improvement type store. They sell for as little as \$50.

#### Keep It Going

It's great to do something nice for the environment on Earth Day. It's even better to keep it going after Earth Day has passed. The best way to celebrate Earth Day is to extend the celebration. So if

you commemorate Earth Day by setting up a compost bin, make sure you stick with composting your kitchen waste. If you skip a shower to save conserve water, make it a habit to conserve water in other small ways, like only running the washer or the dishwasher when there's a full load. Once you replace your light-bulbs, remember to turn them off when you leave the room. See if you can get a car pool together for work. Make planting a tree on Earth Day a yearly tradition. And if you find you like volunteering on Earth Day, who knows – maybe you'll like volunteering for the environment once a month. The Earth will thank you for it, and Earth Day will have done its job.

From [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com)



## First Quarter Fiscal Report

This financial report covers the first quarter of 2013. A total of \$168,113.35 in income was received during the first three (3) months of this year, including a total of \$60,566.22 received during March. The very high level of the March income included a combination of the following :

- ◆ \$47,397.78 received in pledge income (reflecting the impact of five Sundays during the month);
- ◆ \$8,605.89 received for the Easter offering;
- ◆ \$1,287.52 in plate offerings;
- ◆ \$1,170.00 in "no pledge" offerings;
- ◆ \$928.00 in special offerings received during Holy Week; and
- ◆ \$1,177.03 for all other receipts combined.

The table above reflects the high level of dependency in the church on parishioner contributions to fund the ministries in this parish. Included in the total of \$168,113.35 in operating income received during the first quarter of the calendar year are the following amounts, which combine to account for \$165,815.23 (98.5%) of all income received during the first three (3) months of the year.

- ◆ \$136,547.58 in pledge income;
- ◆ \$8,605.89 for the Easter offering;
- ◆ \$5,725.00 in "no pledge" contributions;
- ◆ \$5,135.00 in Pennyworth Shop contributions;
- ◆ \$3,650.00 in designated endowment fund contributions;
- ◆ \$2,999.76 in "plate" contributions;
- ◆ \$1,904.00 in payments to fulfill unpaid balances on prior-year pledges; and
- ◆ \$1,248.00 in special offerings received during Lent.

A total of \$189,338.90 in operating funds were disbursed during the first three (3) months of 2013, somewhat higher than the total of \$181,890.00 projected to be disbursed during the first quarter of the year. The higher than anticipated level of expenses reflected the upward adjustment of the impact of a clergy pension fund assessment made during the first quarter of the year, higher than anticipated costs for Grace House operations during the first three (3) months of the year, and a special cleaning of the church building and Parish Hall required early in the year.

Despite these higher than anticipated costs, cash flow for the church has been very positive during the first quarter of the year, which allowed the church to somewhat delay its planned schedule of endowment fund draw-downs. The deficit of <\$21,225.75> seen in the operating budget at the end of March reflects both the impact of the delay in drawing down the planned total of \$15,875.00 in endowment funds dedicated to support of the operating budget and the slightly higher level of costs outlined above.

Even with the deficit seen in the operating budget at the end of March, the operating budget essentially is projected to be in balance by the end of 2013. This projection is based on the current

trends in the operating budget reliant upon controlling expenditures within budget allowances (it should be noted that the expenditures referenced above had been anticipated in the budget, but had not been fully anticipated to take place during the first quarter of the year) and continues to assume strong levels of parishioner gifts in terms of pledge payments and special offerings (as seen in the table above).

Through the first quarter of the fiscal year, earnings on church investments remained strong. Given experience in recent months, the budget estimates for endowment funds to be transferred into the operating budget in 2013 (in the combined total of \$63,500.00) will be met. It should be noted that endowment fund contributions are an essential component of the operating budget income, accounting for 9% of all operating income budgeted for 2013.

Similarly, earnings on the Geyger bequest have remained strong. As addressed previously, a total of \$715,000.00 had been estimated to be received from the Geyger bequest to the church. This total was received in full prior to the end of 2012. While it is possible that additional funds will be received from the bequest, distribution of these funds will be made at the discretion of the Vestry because all stipulations made in conjunction with the Geyger bequest have been met. The initial distribution of the Geyger bequest of \$715,000.00 was made as follows -

- ◆ increase the permanently endowed housing allowance for the Rector - \$250,000.00;
- ◆ permanently endow operating funds for the maintenance of church facilities - \$250,000.00;
- ◆ support the upcoming capital campaign - \$100,000.00;
- ◆ refurbish the Parish Hall - \$50,000.00; and
- ◆ Vestry discretionary use - \$65,000.00.

To date, the earnings on the Geyger request have reached a level of 10% of the initial bequest. For example, the permanently endowed funds for the support of the Rector's housing allowance and for support for the maintenance of church facilities have each grown to slightly more than \$275,000.00 and will be drawn down as needed as a part of the \$63,500.00 in endowment funds transferred into the operating budget this year as outlined above. The funds designated for the capital campaign have grown to a total of approximately \$110,000.00, of which \$20,000.00 has been drawn down to date to fund preliminary costs associated with campaign planning activities. A balance of approximately \$30,000.00 remains available for further refurbishment of the Parish Hall, and a balance of nearly \$25,000.00 remains available for Vestry discretion (after nearly \$45,000.00 in heating repair costs required at the end of December were funded from this account).

In closing, I hope that everyone had a blessed Easter.

Gib Baily  
Church Fiscal Officer