



# Grace Notes

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



## New Year Begins with Annual Meeting

Happy New Year! Our new calendar year at Grace Church begins with the Annual Parish Meeting. Held each January, this special meeting draws together the entire Grace Church community for several purposes:

- ◆ The Annual Meeting is a time to review the past year and the many accomplishments of our numerous ministries.
- ◆ It also provides an opportunity to hear from our Rector about plans for the future, including a brief review of the 2012 operating budget.
- ◆ Elections are held each year for one of the Warden positions, along with vestry positions and delegates to represent Grace Church at the annual Diocesan Convention.

This year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 22**. To encourage everyone to attend, we will have only one worship service at **9:30 a.m.** **A light lunch will be served and there will be childcare available in the Parish Hall.**

A special **Adult Forum** will take place on **Sunday, January 8**, in the Undercroft, immediately following the 8:00 church service. At this "Meet the Candidates" forum, parishioners will be able to hear from and ask questions of those standing for election as Junior Warden, members of Vestry, and Delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention.

The slate for elected positions includes:

**Junior Warden** (two year term)

Aileen Moodie

**Vestry** (3 positions, three year term)

Kathryn Allen, Paul Brown, Matt Hardwick, Paul Moore and Terry Ocheltree.

**Delegate to the Diocesan Convention** (one appointed delegate, two elected delegates, one year term)

*Biographies and personal statements for those standing for election begin on page 4.*

### The Vestry in the Episcopal Church

As in all Episcopal parishes, the Vestry is the elected governing body of the parish. In addition to the Rector, the Vestry is composed of the Senior and Junior Wardens and nine other members, who represent a broad spectrum of the Grace community. Broadly speaking, the Vestry also has canonically specified responsibilities for the stewardship of church money and property and for working with the rector on personnel management and program development and oversight. Upon the departure of a rector, the Vestry is also responsible for calling an interim or new rector, with the assent of the bishop.

However, as with most corporate bodies, serving on Vestry typically involves much more than the above definition and responsibilities, as eloquently stated by out-going Vestry member, **Traci Thompson**.

*As my term on Vestry comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the road that has led me here,*

*(cont. on page 3)*

## January 2012

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### Special points of interest:

- Reflections on Service
- Candidate Bios
- New Head of GEDS
- One More Note from Rev. Andrew Walter



**REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!**

**On Sunday, January 22, there will be only ONE church service at 9:30, so that everyone can more easily attend and participate in the Annual Meeting. Light lunch and childcare will be provided.**

**A monthly  
publication  
from the  
Grace Church  
Communications  
Committee**

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

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**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**

**Theresa Cameron, James Doyle,**  
**Matt Hardwick, Kent Kester,**  
**John Mahler, Amy Miller, Traci**  
**Thompson, Virgil Whitehurst,**  
**Raquel Wilson**

**Grace Notes**

**Linda Caleb**

### Please join us for Dining With Grace at the Movies on Friday, January 6.



Please join us in the New Year for Dining With Grace at the Movies. "Good Will Hunting" is our film on January 6th. It is a poignant story of a young man who struggles to find his identity. He is a genius who can solve any mathematical problem but can't solve the problems deep within himself. With the help of a therapist, a supportive friend, the love of a young woman he has an "epiphany", and comes to terms with life. The movie begins at 7:00 p.m. with a brief discussion of the spiritual insights afterwards. Please bring a dish associated with the first letter of your first name:

A - H    Dessert/Fruit  
 I - Q    Main Course/Casserole  
 R - Z    Salad/Vegetable

For further information contact:

**Lola Crawford** - (301) 571-2321

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### Every Member Canvass Final Update - Thank You!

Our annual Every Member Canvass is officially concluded and we want to thank everyone who made a financial pledge in support of the operating budget for 2012. It is the operating budget that most directly supports our many wonderful, and growing, ministries both within Grace Church and to the wider community.

This was extremely successful canvass in many ways: As of December 30, **219 pledges** were received for a total commitment of **\$515,585.90**, including **39 new pledges**. This represents a significant increase in total number of pledges, total amount pledged and new pledges made. These increases are especially important as we continue to welcome new people into our parish family and as many of our ministries continue to grow.

Although our formal canvass is over, we are delighted to receive pledges at any time. If you have not yet pledged, we would love to hear from you. Every pledge is important and helps to support all ministries at Grace. You can make online pledge on our website at [www.graceepiscopalchurch.org](http://www.graceepiscopalchurch.org), or by phone by contacting our Fiscal Office, Gib Baily, at 301.585.3515.

If you have any questions, or would like to talk about your pledge or stewardship, please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Andrew Walter at [andrew@graceepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:andrew@graceepiscopalchurch.org).

**Pledge**  
  
**Online**

## Reflections on Service

*(cont. from page 1)*

*the challenges we as a community have faced in the past two years, and how far we have come. At the time I was asked to run for Vestry, The Rev. Bruce McPherson was our interim rector, and we were embarking on our search to find a new rector for Grace Church. We were in transition, and I was uncertain about the call being asked of me. After much contemplation, discussion, and prayer, I decided to run not only because I wanted to learn more about our Church and what was involved in its operation, but I also wanted to be involved in the process of calling a new rector. I welcomed the opportunity to assist in deciding who would make a good fit for our community. Although I had limited experience on a governing panel (I currently serve on the Board of Directors of my condominium community), being a member of the Vestry was going to be a relatively new experience for me, and I hoped that I was up to the test.*

*As my term on Vestry comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the road that has led me here, the challenges we as a community have faced in the past two years, and how far we have come. At the time I was asked to run for Vestry, The Rev. Bruce McPherson was our interim rector, and we were embarking on our search to find a new rector for Grace Church. We were in transition, and I was uncertain about the call being asked of me. After much contemplation, discussion, and prayer, I decided to run not only because I wanted to learn more about our Church and what was involved in its operation, but I also wanted to be involved in the process of calling a new rector. I welcomed the opportunity to assist in deciding who would make a good fit for our community. Although I had limited experience on a governing panel (I currently serve on the Board of Directors of my condominium community), being a member of the Vestry was going to be a relatively new experience for me, and I hoped that I was up to the test.*

*With outstanding guidance from past and present members, I have discovered so much about what it means to serve on a Vestry, and what effectively managing a church entails. From overseeing the management of Grace Episcopal Day School, to discerning how pledges are utilized in the planning of the annual budget, learning how all the pieces fit together has been an eye-opening and positive experience.*

*As a member of the Vestry, one of the many responsibilities is to be appointed to the various Commissions and/or ministries of Grace Church. One particular ministry I thoroughly enjoyed as a member of the Vestry was volunteering at Pennyworth. Prior to Vestry, I had heard so many wonderful things about Pennyworth, but did not know much about this ministry other than the remarkable generosity they have shown the Church, especially in terms of financial support. But working at Pennyworth provided me with the opportunity to interact and connect with people*

*inside and outside of the Grace Church community, and hopefully bless someone with the gift of God's light shining through me, as well as my being blessed by His light shining through them. It has been a truly rewarding, soul-enriching experience.*

*I have to say, some of the most interesting time spent was at the monthly meetings. In addition to being a great opportunity for fellowship with laughter, good food and even better company, there have been some pretty deep, powerful, and thought-provoking discussions held at the Grace House Conference Room table. But despite the numerous varying viewpoints on what we as a Vestry are called to do, and what are the best ways to answer that call, it is encouraging to know that everyone involved has the Church's best interest at heart, and it unifies us to do what is needed to further God's plan, whatever that may be for our community.*

*I have been so blessed to work with such a superb group of people who are dedicated to ensuring Grace Church grows and flourishes. We have such a bright and positive future ahead of us, and with the leadership of the current Vestry, the prospect of additional leadership from the new slate of candidates, and fresh direction from our rector, The Rev. Andrew Walter, Grace Church will continue to set forth the mission that is laid before us – to witness and share with all people the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen and amen.*

### Delegate to the Annual Diocesan Convention

At the Annual Parish Meeting, we also elect Delegates to represent Grace Church at the annual Diocesan Convention.

Our diocesan website states that:

- ◆ Delegates and wardens represent their congregation at the annual Regional Assembly, and at any other meetings of the region. Delegates represent their congregation at the annual Diocesan Convention and any specially convened conventions.
- ◆ Delegates advise their vestry/mission committee and congregation of issues pending before the region or the Diocese, seek their opinions, and report back to them when actions are taken.

**Stephanie Gray** has served as one of Grace Church's delegates for the past two years and will represent Grace again at the Diocesan Convention held at the end of this month. She also shares her reflections as a delegate.

*Back in late 2009 (or perhaps it was early 2010), Steve Dean, wearing his Nominating Committee hat, asked me if I'd be willing to run for election as a lay delegate to our Diocese. He explained the position primarily entailed representing the Grace*

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Community at two Diocesan meetings: the Regional Assembly in October 2010, and the Diocesan Convention in January 2011. It was a huge honor to be asked; how could I say no? Even bigger was the surprise when I was elected at the Parish Meeting in January 2010. I have subsequently been re-elected at the January 2011 Parish Meeting. So, with God's help, I've represented Grace at the Regional Assemblies of 2010 and 2011 and the Diocesan Convention of 2011. I will attend the Diocesan Convention of 2012.

Our Diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, is made up of 88 churches, and the Washington National Cathedral, in the District of Columbia and the Maryland counties of Charles, St. Mary's, Prince George's and Montgomery. The diocese is led by the Episcopal Bishop of Washington and administered from Episcopal Church House on the grounds of Washington National Cathedral. The churches of the diocese are organized into six regions; Grace is in Region 4. Both the Regional Assemblies and the Diocesan Convention are gatherings of fellowship, worship, and business to include elections to positions of Diocesan leadership and representation.

Some highlights of things I've learned while serving as the Diocesan Delegate:

Many members of the Grace community serve the Diocese: as committee members and as volunteers assisting with the behind-the-scenes needs of the meetings such as registration and election tellers.

The election of a new bishop is an exciting and intricate process. There was a Special Convention held in June 2011 where our new Bishop Mariann Budde was elected from a slate of five candidates. Renee Raffini, the alternate Lay Delegate, attended that Special Convention. (My father died in January 2011; my mother and I traveled out of town for a wedding on his side of the family that same weekend – it was a trip he would not have been able to make while alive and therefore wasn't on my radar when I agreed to run for Delegate). I did enjoy helping to get the word out to the Grace community about the candidates and the process.

Our Diocese is incredibly diverse and beautiful! It was an honor to attend Bishop Chane's last convention before his retirement in November and I look forward to representing Grace at Bishop Budde's first.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FOR THOSE STANDING FOR ELECTION AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### JUNIOR WARDEN

#### Aileen Moodie

Aileen has been a member of Grace Church since 1989. Her family members include her husband, Michael, and their two children, Amanda and William.

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** organization, patience, experience, great love for Grace Church

#### **Current and Past Ministries at Grace:**

**Current:** Altar Guild, Buildings and Grounds, Pastoral Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Sunday School helper, Youth Group groupie, Welcome Commission

**Past:** Senior Warden, Vestry, Sunday School teacher

**Ministries at prior parishes:** Sunday School

#### **Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve as Junior Warden**

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve Grace Church again as junior warden. I would hope to contribute to a smooth beginning for our new rector and to continuing the work we have begun to improve our facilities. Preserving and deepening the diversity of our parish is critical, as is welcoming new members of all ages. The growth in our Sunday School and Youth program is a wonderful harbinger of great things to come and must be nurtured.

I have a deep and abiding love for the people of Grace and I would welcome this opportunity to serve them once more.

#### **Importance of Grace Vision Statement in an Elected Position:**

Welcoming and inclusion are two of my most cherished values. I want to make Grace "the city set on a hill," the place we are called to be as a welcoming home for all who seek God.

### VESTRY

#### Kathryn Allen

Kathryn has been a member of Grace Church since 1999. Her family members include her husband, Keith, and their children, Brittany, Jamie and Benjamin.

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** I am an attorney with the Office of the General Counsel of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, where I serve as an ethics official. I have a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Texas at Austin, and a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. Prior to practicing law, I taught middle school English, Reading, and Language Arts for three years in Houston, Texas.

#### **Current and Past Ministries at Grace:**

**Current:** Altar Guild, Lector

**Past:** Search Committee (2010), Vestry (2004-5), Sunday School Teacher, Children's Program Steering Committee, Stewardship Committee, Bell Choir

(cont. on page 5)

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**Ministries at prior parishes:** Vestry member, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver, Colorado (1997-1998)

**Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve on Vestry** I have been a member of Grace Church for over twelve years. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, and I have been an active member of many parishes. I find Grace to be a truly special place with wonderful ministries and warm people, and being a part of the parish is tremendously important to me. When I served on the Grace Vestry a number of years ago, the parish was struggling in many areas. Youth membership was down, staff turnover was high, and the children's choir had lost nearly every member. While the church is thriving now, like so many other churches, Grace will continue to face challenges in the future. I am committed to working to keep our church strong, and I am willing to offer more of my time and energy to Grace. I believe my skills and abilities, along with my experience and enthusiasm would make me an asset to the Vestry.

#### **Importance of Grace Vision Statement in an Elected Position:**

Membership on a vestry is not always easy. I've known of vestries whose members have not gotten along well, and I've seen vestry members frustrated by outside factors and circumstances. To be an effective vestry member during difficult times requires strength, patience, wisdom, and kindness. An effective member of the Grace vestry must constantly keep our parish vision in mind.

Last year, members of the Search Committee spent many hours thinking about Grace's vision statement and how we would best find a rector that would help us to live it. As an involved member of the parish, I believe the members of our current vestry have fully embodied our vision. Much like the Search Committee, the vestry genuinely seems to work well together and many have said they have enjoyed serving on the vestry and that they have found the experience to be truly rewarding. As a diverse body, they represent the congregation well, and they have also accomplished a great deal of important work for the parish.

I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of this governing body. I am confident I could help to continue the work of Grace in the same thoughtful and prayerful manner.

#### **Paul Brown**

*Paul has been a member of Grace Church since 2001. His family members include his wife, Marnie, and their children Ogden, Virginia and Amelia.*

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** 20-plus years of professional public affairs experience. Good communication, political, and advocacy skills. Work well in committees/groups. A sense of humor that

allows me to laugh with others, and at myself.

#### **Current and Past Ministries at Grace:**

**Current:** Acolyte Coordinator, Usher, Lector

**Past:** Welcome Commission (chair), Cub Scouts, Rector Search Committee (co-chair), Diocesan Delegate (vestry-appointed and elected)

**Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve on Vestry:** There is certainly a sweet spirit moving through Grace this past Advent season: welcoming to all, giving, entertaining, uplifting, while also a quiet place for comfort and reflection. I'd like to do everything I can to keep this positive spirit going. I've been fortunate to serve Grace in a variety of ways. As co-chair of the Search Committee and as a Diocesan Delegate, I was inspired by how much Grace is seen by others in our Diocese and beyond as a diverse and vibrant place, as a model for what the Episcopal Church can be. I realize that we need hard work, inspired thinking, and the commitment of a lot of faithful stewards to keep moving forward. I feel called now to Vestry service as the best way for me to do my part.

#### **Importance of Grace Vision Statement in an Elected Position:**

I'm a cradle Episcopalian, but only recently have I truly appreciated how important the sense of community is to the Episcopal experience. Through community we learn from others, seek comfort from others, and serve others in ways that we could never do alone. A community with a vision to be diverse, accessible, respectful, and joyfully united is not realized by accident or good fortune. It's the combination of a lot of faithful, hardworking, and visionary people sharing their individual talents. That vision inspires me to want to serve on the Vestry.

#### **Matt Hardwick**

*Matt has been a member of Grace Church for the past four years. His family members include his wife, Rachel, and their children, Olivia and Jack.*

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** Critical and creative thinking, the ability to explain complex ideas to all knowledge levels, experienced governance, consensus building

**Current and Past Ministries at Grace:** Vestry, GEDS School Board, Welcoming (past and a little current), Communications, GEDS Buildings and Grounds

**Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve on Vestry:** I love Grace Episcopal. I love its people and its ministries. I have thoroughly enjoyed my brief two years on the vestry. While we have done a great deal during that time (revised the church mission and vision statements, restructured our committees, and called a new rector!), I believe there is a great deal more to do. One task that is left incomplete is the righting of the Grace Episcopal Day School. We are in the midst of dramatic and positive

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change at the school and I wish to continue to carry that out in my role as vestry member to the GEDS board. The divide between the Church and the school was quite wide when I joined the vestry. My personal mission in joining the GEDS board as a vestry representative was to reduce this gap. Over the last two years, I believe we have come a long way at narrowing that divide. The next two to three years will be critical in solidifying the bond between church and school and seeing two become one.

The church is undergoing dramatic and positive change, as well. As our membership grows and our youth programs thrive, I endeavor to support our increased membership and our youth programs both as a parent and a vestry representative. We are at a very special and important time in the life of our church. I wish to remain as a vestry representative so that I may continue the work we have begun.

#### **Importance of Grace Vision Statement in an Elected Position:**

During the spring of 2010, the vestry created a new vision for the church as a "city on a hill" where all people would come to build their community with God and others. Rachel and I felt called to Grace because of its diverse and spiritually rich community. The vision of Grace as a "city on a hill" is a powerful guide as we move into the future. This vision touches all of our commissions and committees, as well as our Day School. As a vestry representative and a member of Grace, I believe it is my calling and duty to help bridge the gaps that divide our communities. To this end, I have provided constant, positive feedback to both the school and the church, acting as a bridge between the interests of the two. I will continue to serve the church and its ministries by helping build the bridge to that "city on a hill."

#### **Paul Moore**

#### **Terry Ochletree**

*Terry has attended Grace Church since 2005. His family members include his wife, Cathy, and their children, Justin, Jenna, and Joelle.*

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** Management, Mediation, Negotiation, Computer, including Microsoft Office

**Current and Past Ministries at Grace:** Scoutmaster, Cub Scout Pack 246 (sponsored by Grace Church), 2007-2009, Usher, (3 plus years), Rector Search Committee, Men's Group

**Ministries at prior parishes:** Vestry and Treasurer, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Afton, MN, Rector Search Committee, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Afton, MN

**Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve on Vestry:** I am interested in serving on the Vestry at Grace to give back to the

Church and community for all it has provided to my family and me. My family and I began attending Grace in the Fall of 2005 after we moved to MD from IL. Since that time, I have been involved in the Outreach of Grace by serving as Scoutmaster for Cub Scout Pack 246, an Usher for the 10 AM service as well as other services, and a member of the Rector Search Committee; my wife, Cathy, has taught Sunday School, is on the Pennyworth Board and has contributed time and efforts to numerous Grace programs; and my children, Justin, Jenna and Joelle, participate in the Youth Choir, Sunday School, Youth Group and serve as Acolytes.

As a member of Vestry, I will contribute to the vision, growth and future of Grace by expanding upon the lessons and knowledge I acquired while serving on the recent Rector Search Committee. Some of those lessons include:

The spirit will move us in the proper direction if we are willing (even if it is not the direction originally thought),

Grace Church is a truly unique and wonderful place ◇ Grace Church exemplifies the Episcopalian Way ◇ At Grace there is no "you" and "I" only "Us" ◇ Shaping the future of Grace is our responsibility, now, not later ◇ am ready to assume a more active role at Grace.

Many years, prior to attending Grace, I served on the Vestry at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Afton, MN for three plus years. While on the Vestry, I served as Treasurer for over two years. This experience combined with my experience serving as a leader in local, state, national, and international organizations will aid me in serving Grace Church, representing the congregation and discerning the vision God has for Grace Church. Thus, I ask for your vote so that I may utilize my time and skills to represent and serve you as a member of Grace's Vestry.

#### **Importance of Grace Vision Statement in an Elected Position:**

I am committed to incorporating Grace's Vision Statement in the role and activities of the Vestry. It is evident that much thought and spiritual discernment was exerted to develop a vision statement that embodies Episcopal theology. As a member of the Vestry I will exemplify many of the facets of the vision, including Grace being a welcoming and inclusive community. I was baptized and raised as a Catholic Church. and married Cathy, a member of the Presbyterian Church. Together we gave considerable consideration as to the faith in which we would raise our children. Our prayers and search led us to the Episcopal Church for many reasons; including the openness the church demonstrates towards other faiths and religions. Our three children were all baptized and are being raised in the Episcopal Church. However, I have not been spiritually moved to join the Episcopal Church. Instead, I believe that God, at least for now, has other plans for me. He drives me to be part of a community that it is truly open and welcoming to all, regardless of their past or present beliefs. I am confident that one day I will formally join the Episcopal Church, but I am also confident that I can and will be part of shaping the vision and future of the Grace Church community, demonstrating that ALL are welcomed. This is evident

through my service on the Rector Search Committee and I hope will be extended to service on the Vestry.

## DELEGATE TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

### Faye Haskins

### Anne Shelton

*Anne has been a member of Grace Church since 2000. Her family members include Charles the Cat.*

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** storyteller, librarian, knitter

**Current and Past Ministries at Grace:** Pennyworth, LEM, Adult Forum, Vestry, Craft Guild, Bazaar

**Ministries at prior parishes:** Sunday School, Adult Forum

### **Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve as Diocesan Delegate**

I have been a lay delegate for several years now. I have enjoyed taking part in diocesan life and have learned a great deal about the church and about our diocesan community by doing so.

### Theresa Wheeler

*Theresa has been a member of Grace Church for over 8 years. Her family members include her husband, Clyde, and their grown children Clyde and his family and Kristifer and his family.*

**Talents-Skills-Abilities:** Administrative and technical management, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher), Proficient with Computers and Digital technologies, Technical Course Developer & Instructor/Trainer of Emerging Telecommunications technologies and Vendor compliance, Management Development & Quality Improvement, Disciples of Christ on Community (DOCC) Facilitator, Vocalist/Soloist

### **Current and Past Ministries at Grace:**

**Current Ministries:** Volunteer Coordinator for Lay Pastoral Care and Senior Ministry, Parish Contact for Seabury Resources for the Aging, Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and Eucharistic Visitor (EV), President of the Grace Chapter 1606 of the Order of the Daughters of the King, Member of Adult Choir and Instructor in Children's Cherub Bell Choir

**Past Ministries:** Member of Lilly Wee group, Lay Coordinator of Adult Formation, Vestry Member (2009-2011), Member of Building and Grounds Committee, Member of Communications Committee

**Ministries at prior parishes:** I have served in several parish ministries; Grace Church, Norfolk, Virginia Adult Choir, Ascension Church, Gaithersburg, Maryland Adult Choir, St. Marks Fairland, Silver Spring, Maryland, Adult Choir, Altar Guild, Vestry

### **Brief Statement Regarding Desire to Serve as Diocesan Delegate**

For several years I have had an interest in serving as a Delegate to the Diocesan Convention representing our parish. Since returning to Grace Church I've attended the EDOW conventions as a visitor, and have had the opportunity to work as a volunteer for the special Diocesan convention called to elect our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde.

My background in the corporate environment first introduced me to the importance of understanding the workings of an organization, from the top tiers of leadership where the decisions are made that can and do affect the members of an organization, down to the parish level. The Episcopal Church is a denomination with several layers of leadership that, though not too directly, can have a very positive impact on the environment and support for a local parish. As a Delegate to the Diocesan convention, I would be in a position to impact on those issues through a vote.

The information published on the EDOW website suggests that a lay delegate should be, "someone who can represent the congregation and vote on its behalf on a variety of subjects. A member of the vestry or a retiring warden often makes a good delegate because of intimate knowledge of the workings of that congregation."

I believe that I am fully qualified in all areas outlined for a delegate, having served as a member of the Grace Vestry, and currently I represent our parish in ministries that extend outside our parish, across the EDOW community; Parish Contact to Seabury Resources for Aging (formally Episcopal Senior Ministry-ESM), and current President of the Grace Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King. These ministries allow me interaction with people, both lay and clergy, across the diocese. These activities have also provided a chance, as a layperson, to hear the concerns of our local church and to hear the concerns of the broader diocesan community.

If elected believe that I would bring a strong and informed voice to the Grace Lay Delegate team, committed to maintenance of transparency in the communication process, working along with our clergy sharing information presented to us by the dioceses and hearing the concerns of our parish community on the topics presented.

### **Importance of Grace Vision Statement in an Elected Position:**

As a Lay Delegate I will support, through my vote, those decisions I view to be inspired by Christ's love for us and joyfully united through worship and ministries that are put forth by the Diocese of Washington. I will, through my vote, seek to provide support to those Diocesan decisions that work towards enriching our diversity and our efforts to seek to be Christ's faithful servants, striving for a community accessible to and respectful of all people.

# Outreach Needs Your Helping Hands

*Thank You to everyone who helped and supported the various outreach opportunities during Advent and Christmas.*

## 25 CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES DELIVERED TO FAMILIES LANGLEY PARK

Thank you to all at Grace – children, adults, families and seniors – who contributed to this year’s campaign to deliver Christmas Food Boxes to needy families in our area. The Outreach team collected all the necessary prepared food, as well as sufficient \$25 Giant gift cards to put one in each box. Children’s books from the Holiday Bazaar were also added to the boxes, as well as donations of children’s books from individuals in the congregation. We had such a great response that we were able to donate extra food to our local food pantry! A special word of thanks goes to June Moore for organizing this effort.

## CALLING EXTRA HANDS (AND VEHICLES) FOR DELIVERY OF ANGEL TREE GIFTS TO HOMELESS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 7



The Outreach team welcomes many more extra hands to assemble the shoeboxes, make sandwiches, and pack the van (and extra cars) with the Angel Tree gifts on the first Saturday of January. Extra people and cars are also needed to join the caravan as it makes the usual stops in downtown

D.C. Please meet at 1:00pm on Saturday, January 7, in the Undercroft. If you plan to go downtown, dress warmly. For questions, please contact Erik Olson, 301-949-0721, [erikdavidolson@gmail.com](mailto:erikdavidolson@gmail.com)



## Silly Goose and Val

On **Sunday, January 29, at 5:00 pm**, Music of Grace will host its first event that is specifically geared towards some of our youngest and most important members: children ages 2 and older. Silly Goose and Val, a musical ventriloquist act, will delight children and their families with an afternoon filled with magical puppets, sing-along songs, contagious dances, and energy-filled fun.

Children and adults alike will be able to sing and dance with Silly Goose and Val and their many friends, including Rufus, the Reluctant Dragon; the Pink Flamingo Can-Can Line; Cyleena, the Sloth; and Tingalayo, the Donkey. Silly Goose and Val’s

main objective is to spread the joy of music, song, and dance. Valerie Leonhart Smalkin, the creator of Silly Goose and Val, helped produce and perform the Emmy award winning Baltimore TV program, “It’s Kindertime.”

The performance at Grace will be held in the **Undercroft**, so that all in attendance will have plenty of room to move about, participate in the fun, and express themselves through music and dance!



## Stewardship of the Environment - Green Homes



After my presentation about my experience building a **LEED certified Gold home** at our forum on environmental stewardship, I was asked if I would write an article about steps that homeowners can take to build or update a home with environmentally friendly features. Such features fall generally into **four categories—energy saving, water saving, efficient materials use and clean air.** It is possible to create an exceptionally energy and water efficient and durable home, with fresh and healthy air. One can fill one's home with recycled, reclaimed and renewable products, minimizing our impact on the environment.

### Energy Efficiency

One of the most energy efficient ways of heating and cooling a home is geothermal heating and cooling. While expensive to install, the pay back period for the investment from energy savings is 10-15 years. Using the natural steady temperature of the earth at 50 degrees, combined with heat pumps, a geothermal system provides quiet, clean heating and cooling, with no outside units, and can be used to provide hot water as well. It can be installed in an existing home where there is sufficient space for drilling the two necessary 250 foot wells. Where converting to geothermal heat and cooling is impractical in an existing house, substantial savings may be achieved through creating as tight an envelope for the house as possible, through weather stripping, retrofitting high efficiency, argon filled windows, and/or adding icynene spray foam insulation to the roof, which expands and fills all cracks. In a new home, the icynene can be used in exterior walls, basement ceilings and roofs to create an airtight envelope and reduce noise as well as energy loss, and installing rigid foam insulation sheets under the siding of the house will further reduce noise and energy loss and act as a moisture barrier.

A few additional simple steps can reduce energy use in an existing house—seal all the joints in all accessible heating and air

conditioning ducts with mastic and wrap them, and all hot water pipes that are accessible, in insulation. Install a programmable thermostat and do not heat or cool your house when not necessary. Consider retrofitting existing light fixtures with energy efficient lighting, including the new CREE recessed, dimmable LED lights or recessed florescent lights, and ENERGY STAR and florescent fixtures. Replace old appliances as they wear out with new ENERGY STAR appliances.

### Water Efficiency

Dual flush toilets which save hundreds of gallons of water a year are now readily available and competitively priced and Water Sense high efficiency faucets and showerheads can be installed in all bathrooms. The sense of a full shower will not be lost if you purchase one of the newer technology showerheads such as those from Delta that change the shape of droplets to give the feel of more water in the shower. Front loading washers use less water and are gentler to clothes. A great deal of water can be saved with water efficient landscape design; e.g., seeding with drought resistant grass seed, utilizing native and drought resistant plant and grouping plants in the landscape by their water usage. Drip watering systems are far more water efficient than sprinkling systems and better for your plants.

### Choice of Products

Look for products that offer increased durability. They may cost more initially but save you money and serve the environment in the long run. Examples of exterior materials are: cement board siding, such as HardiPlank, which contains recycled material, lasts 50 years and with factory applied paint doesn't need repainting for fifteen years; thirty year architectural composite shingles; and decking such as Fiberon, made from recycled sawdust and plastic bags, which is beautiful and lasts twenty years with no maintenance.

For the interior there are a number of recycled glass counter options to granite, including ICESTONE, ECO or Zodiaq. All are beautiful, durable and do not emit volatile

organic compounds (VOCs) such as formaldehyde. Flooring includes bamboo and cork which are rapidly renewable products and may be purchased with non-VOC finishes and, my favorite hardwood flooring taken from older houses that are being demolished. Once sanded and finished this old flooring is beautiful. It is available at Second Chance in Baltimore and is much less expensive than new wood flooring. Second Chance has many reclaimed architectural materials. Tile can also be purchased that uses recycled materials and environmentally sound manufacturing processes. Most tile stores now have separate "green" sections.

### Indoor Air Quality

With a high efficiency heating and cooling system, one can add high efficiency Merv 13 or 15 electronic air filters to clean air as it is being cycled through the HVAC system. Paints, stains and other finishes can be used that emit no or few VOCs and cabinetry is now available from most major manufacturers that is built with low or no VOC finishes and materials. Replacing old bathroom fans with humidistat controlled fans that come on automatically when humidity in bathrooms reaches a certain level and remain on until it is reduced can eliminate a primary source of mold in homes. Installing sealed and directed vented gas fireplaces instead of traditional woodburning fireplaces reduces contaminants. And, finally, the greatest source of contamination in a home is the bottoms of shoes. Simply placing a shoe rack at entryways and having family members switch into slippers once they come in the door, will make your home a cleaner and safer place to breath.

*Judy Whalley  
is a member of the Stewardship  
Commission and Chair of the GEDS  
Board of Governors*

## GEDS Announces New Head of School



### Malcolm C. Lester Announced as New Head of Grace Episcopal Day School

The Board of Governors of Grace Episcopal Day School and the Vestry of Grace Church are extremely pleased to announce that Malcolm C. Lester has been named the new Head of Grace Episcopal Day School, effective July 1, 2012.

The Board and Vestry concluded that Mr. Lester is a strong and dynamic leader who personifies the values of the School and can strengthen and lead the School forward, while preserving the Episcopal and community values the School holds dear. As the School integrates its early childhood and elementary programs in Kensington and focuses on its core mission of nurturing the minds, bodies and spirits of young children in a diverse and welcoming community, the Board believes Mr. Lester will bring a leadership filled with energy, enthusiasm, and vision to the School.

When asked why he wanted to lead Grace, Mr. Lester replied, "Grace Episcopal Day School has many assets, ranging from a remarkably diverse student body to a focus on academic excellence and character education. The School exudes care, compassion, and warmth. After learning about the school and speaking to many people about it, and then witnessing it first-hand, it is easy to see that there is congruency between the school's mission and its culture: Grace is what it says it is. Grace faces exciting times with the consolidation of two campuses into one building, which will present the opportunity for new traditions and ideas. I am looking forward to being a part of it all and I am honored to lead and serve Grace Episcopal Day School as it begins this new era."

Mr. Lester has worked as an administrator, teacher and coach at St. Albans School, the National Cathedral School for Boys, for twenty one years. For the last fourteen years, he has directed the Skip Grant Program, a support and guidance program for students with historically underrepresented backgrounds in grades 4 through 12. (The program is named for Skip Grant, a long time parishioner at Grace Church and former Grace board member). He also currently serves as Assistant Director of Admission for grades 4 through 8, teaches English and physical education and is the head lacrosse coach. Mr. Lester serves on the boards of Beauvoir School, the National Cathedral elementary school, and the Bishop John T. Walker School, a diocesan-supported Episcopal School for low income children in Anacostia. As all his references pointed out, his energy seems boundless, equaled only by his commitment to children and his work ethic.

Mr. Lester holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English from William and Mary and Springfield Colleges and a master's degree in school counseling from Trinity Washington University. He has written widely on education, diversity and athletics, and, in his spare time, runs marathons and ultra-marathons. He is married to Hilary Cairns, director of the Parent and Adolescent Support Services Program for the District of Columbia. They have three children; daughter Page (age 12), son Teddy (9) and son Grant (6).

All are invited to celebrate Mr. Lester and his family joining the Grace family at a reception on Saturday, February 4th at 4:00 pm at the Kensington campus of Grace Episcopal Day School

### PENNYWORTH ENJOYS NEW SPACE

Have you visited the new Pennyworth Shop yet? If not, be sure to drop by soon!

949 Bonifant Street  
Silver Spring, Maryland



### VOLUNTEER WITH SEABURY AT SPRINGVALE TERRACE

If you are interested in volunteering with seniors, Seabury Resources has many opportunities for you to help at Springvale Terrace. You can be a friendly visitor, lead Bible Study or book club, play board games.

Please contact **Shiree Fenelon** at (301) 587-0190 or at [sfenelon@seaburyresources.org](mailto:sfenelon@seaburyresources.org) to learn more.



## Fiscal Officer Report

*Thank you! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday.  
Best wishes for the coming year.*

Because of you, Grace Church will end 2011 with a small surplus and assured of a budget in balance. Today is December 30, so we expect to get a couple more end-of-year pledge payments and possibly a couple of more end-of-month invoices, but we are assured of a balanced budget and a small surplus. Thank you very much for making this possible. To put this statement into context, **this year is the first year in six years in which the church operating budget has been in balance.**

For those of you who read this monthly report on a regular basis, you know that we have stressed the importance of contributions in our ability to balance the operating budget, with particular emphasis on three areas (all of which would happen in December) – the Holiday Fair; the final pledge payments for the year, also termed ‘the surge’; and the Christmas offering. We will realize a total of roughly \$84,000.00 in income in December, roughly 13% of our total annual income, because of success in all three areas above –

- ◆ First, thanks to **Susan Curtin** for her leadership and to everyone who supported the Holiday Fair, a total of \$11,000.00 has been contributed from the proceeds of this year’s Holiday Fair to the annual budget – an increase of \$1,000.00 over the contribution made to the 2011 budget and the highest total from this effort for at least ten (10) years;
- ◆ Second, the ‘surge’ resulted in a total of \$48,226.71 in pledge income being received thus far in December, marginally higher than the ‘surge’ total of \$48,017.42 received in pledge income in December 2010 – thank you to everyone brought their pledges into balance by the end of the year because it truly makes a difference; and

- ◆ Third, the **Christmas offering** for 2011 has totaled \$10,081.00 thus far, the highest Christmas offering in the last five years.

Truly, without the outpouring of gifts in each of these areas this year, we would not have ended 2011 with a budget in balance and a slight surplus. A final report will be available at the upcoming annual Parish meeting to be held on January 22, 2011.

While contributions are the primary determinant of our ability to balance the operating budget each year, the on-going effort of many people to control expenses also plays a critical role in ensuring a balanced budget, and there are several people and groups deserving recognition and thanks for ensuring a balanced budget this year.

- ◆ First, special thanks to the Rev. Bruce McPherson and the Rev. Andrew Walter for their leadership in achieving a balanced budget this year – without their efforts this year, the budget would not be in balanced. Special thanks to the members of the Vestry and to the members of the parish **Budget & Finance Committee** for their on-going oversight of the church financial situation.
- ◆ Special thanks to the leadership of **Aileen Moodie, Steve Dean and Leonard Lee** in overseeing the very effective maintenance of church facilities and grounds – without their efforts,

maintenance costs would have been much higher than seen in 2011, and we would have ended the year with another deficit, as we did in past years – they really have done an amazing job this year with the support of the members of the church **Buildings and Grounds Committee.**

- ◆ Finally, special thanks to the church staff, especially to **Danny Catalanotto**, for managing their ministry budgets in a way which met the needs of expanding ministry requirements in an efficient and cost-effective manner – again, without their efforts, achieving a balanced budget in 2011 would not have been possible.

Again, thanks to everyone for your support of the ministry of Grace Church in 2011 – I think that it has been a great year. Very quickly, looking ahead to 2012, to date we have received a total of 219 pledges for 2012 for a total of \$515,585.90 – these total represent increases of 31 pledges (14%) and \$61,443.40 (13.5%) over the comparable totals of 188 pledges for \$454,142.50 for 2011. With these increases, the Vestry is in a position to fund a part-time position to serve as the Director of the Sunday School, to fund an expanded role for the Rev. Michele Hagens in our church in addition to funding increases in other ministry areas as needed, and to fund pay raises for church staff as provided within Diocesan guidelines.

### Transitions

**Transfer Out:** Koraly E. Perez-Edgar and her children Luis Gabriel Edgar and Elisa State transferred to St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, College, PA

**Deaths:** Dorothy Jane Easterly, died December 6  
Elizabeth Ann Nicholson, died December 14  
Alexander Wolfgang Geyger, died December 17

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

I have always been a fan of Bill Murray movies. His comedies, in particular, are favorites of mine. Murray is a master at portraying the slovenly, lazy, underachiever with a heart of gold who always manages to come through in the end.

One of his best and most popular films is *Stripes*. Murray, in character, his life falling apart, convinces his best friend that the only way to turn their sorry lives around is to enroll in the Army. But, army life is a rude awakening for the indolent, wise-cracking ne'er-do-well. The first day of boot camp is replete with orders, high and tight haircuts, standing at attention, and marching in formation. It's all a little much for the new soldier whose old habits won't die so quickly. The drill sergeant, Sergeant Hulka, quickly sizes up Murray – he's seen these types before – and stops him on the way to the mess hall: "Son, I notice you are always last," the drill sergeant says. To which Murray responds: "I'm pacing myself, sir."

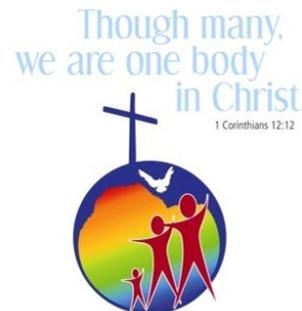
Later that night, the platoon sits inside the barracks introducing themselves to one another. When it is Murray's turn, he decides to "thank" Sergeant Hulka on behalf of the entire platoon: "An Army without leaders is like a foot without a big toe. And Sergeant Hulka isn't always gonna be there to be that big toe for us. I think that we owe a big round of applause to our newest, bestest buddy, and big toe – Sergeant Hulka."

His insincerity aside, there is some good insight here. Like a foot, every organization consists of different parts, each of which is needed if the institution is to function properly. A big toe is important, but so are all the other toes, as well as all the ligaments and bone which make up a foot. Each is needed for the foot to work. Leaders are important, but so are the people working around them. Only together, working in unison, each doing their part, do they form a cohesive force. This is true whether we are speaking of an army, a large multi-national corporation, small business, or even a church community.

Some two thousand years before Bill Murray appeared in *Stripes*, St. Paul wrote his first letter to the church in Corinth: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body... Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many."

Our Grace Church community consists of many different members, but together we are one community, one family, in Christ. Within our family, each of us has a variety of gifts and talents, given to us by God, which we can use in service to the Lord and for the common good. As we approach our Annual Meeting at the end of January, I want to thank those who have been sharing their gifts with us in so many different ways during the past year – our community is better for it and we have done some wonderful work in Christ's name.

If you are new to Grace, please prayerfully consider sharing your talents with us. The clergy are always open to speaking with you about ways in which you can participate in our common life. We want you to be involved! Who knows – you might be our big toe.



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](mailto:awalter@graceepiscopalchurch.org)