



Grace Notes

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



The Joy of Grilling



Grilling is cooking food quickly over high heat. Grilling is fun for one, but becomes transformational when cooking for the masses. For the

past few years, a trio of talented grill men, Keith Allen, Matt Hardwick, and Virgil Percival Whitehurst, have been delighting Grace picnickers with a flavorful and juicy assortment of burgers, dogs, ribs and even turkeys! To get a feel for what drives these young men (*well, one young man and two older men*) to keep the faith in the face of a super hot grill and salivating parishioners, they were asked to answer one simple question:

Why do I grill at Grace?

Keith Allen: Beyond the obvious joys of grilling (eating and drinking), I do enjoy getting together with a good group of people and just taking time to get to know them and provide a service (that I do have some skill at). I have always enjoyed cooking as can easily be verified by my girth. That original joy came from cook-outs with my family and, in particular, at my grandmother's house. My grandmother was a staunch Catholic and, without fail, we always had Sunday dinners together as a family. I was one of the grand-children who actually wanted to know how food was prepared so I spent time in the kitchen with her learning how to make gumbo, etouffe, etc. I also spent time on the pit (and I mean a real pit not these gas grill things we use now) with my grandfather. Anyway, all of that time I spent with my family eating, drinking, and laughing led me to want to continue the tradition today. Whether it is with my immediate family or my extended family at Grace, I love to get together, cook some food and just "hang out"!

Matt Hardwick: My interest in cooking and grilling started in college. Ramen noodles and Mac 'n Cheese get you only so far! That's when I started cooking for myself. It was always simple stuff, but it was definitely better than what I was eating before. Once I started grilling outside, it all changed. I didn't have as much to clean up afterward. That was a

definite plus. Another positive was the reaction I always got when I was grilling. Neighbors stopping by and commenting on the good smells, friends coming in and mooching food off the grill (at first, a negative, but then a positive when they started bringing stuff to share). I loved grilling so much, I couldn't wait to get a grill after Rachel and I bought our first house. Before I started grilling at Grace, I only grilled for a handful of folks at a time. Therefore, I was a bit nervous when I was asked to help out at the church picnic. One, as I said—I hadn't cooked for so many. Two, I was intimidated by Pit Boss Keith and Rib Man Virgil. I mean, one is from Texas and the other from North Carolina! What could an Indiana Hoosier bring to the grill? Well, it was great! The three of us and our various helpers (thanks, Ben and VJ!) got on well and everyone liked the food. Who could ask for more? Apparently, Grace can and has. Grace keeps asking and we keep grilling!

Virgil Percival Whitehurst: When I was first asked to grill some ribs for the end-of-the-year church picnic, I wasn't sure what to expect. I'd grilled and smoked ribs plenty and, generally, have been on the grill my fair share. Still, I wasn't sure how the church picnic would go. I started the ribs early in the morning so that I could transport the ribs to church and finish up on the church grounds. Once at church, I was working alongside of my fellow grillers so it felt like cooking at the family reunion. The jokes, the tasting of each other's grill contents, grilling beverages, etc was just like I always remembered back home. Then, once the doors of the church opened and I saw the hungry mouths coming, the joy on the faces of everyone devouring the food, everyone fellowshiping with one another, I felt like I was helping bring the church community together and I wouldn't have it any other way. Now, if I can just make the ribs spicy enough for Cafiner and George Cato, the sky is the limit!

So there you have it. Grilling at Grace brings joy not only to those who eat but those who grill. The community and fellowship brought together by the simple acts of cooking and eating are reminiscent of family reunions and neighborhood cookouts. They remind us of where we came from and why we are here at Grace.

June 2012

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GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**Grace Notes**

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Grace Notes

Linda Caleb

Dining With Grace at the Movies

The year has passed so quickly, and we have enjoyed current and retro favorites. Thanks to all of the Graceful folks and families who continue to support Dining With Grace. Our discussions have been insightful, with comments from our youth and adults that encourage pause for reflection. We all learn from each other. Next year, we will again visit a few retro films like "Babe, the Glorious Pig". Please consider joining us on the first Friday of every month, beginning October 5th. A list of movies with dates will be provided in September.

If you have any movie suggestions, send them to Lola_K55@yahoo.com Have a wonderful summer.

June Happenings**Sunday, June 3 - Last Day of Sunday School Classes**

We appreciate all the families and children who participated in Sunday School this year. A tremendous thank you to all our adult teachers and volunteers who worked so hard to make our program a success. We are very grateful for your work and ministry with our children!

Sunday, June 10 - Choir Recognition and Parish Picnic

Come celebrate the end of the church program year. During the 10:30 a.m. service we will recognize our Adult and Children Choirs for the beautiful music which enhances our worship throughout the year. Then, immediately following the service, we will have our annual Parish Picnic. Using the new grill provided through the recycling efforts of Jack Dahill, the main course of hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by the church. Please bring a salad or side dish to share with others and join the fun on the Grace House lawn.

Sunday, June 17 - Summer Garden Begins

During the summer months, children are invited to gather in the Undercroft during the 10:30 a.m. service for Summer Garden: a relaxed time together of song, brief Scripture lesson, games, crafts and small snack during the first half of the service. Children will rejoin their families at the exchange of the Peace. Two adult volunteers, often assisted by youth helpers, will be on hand to oversee and coordinate activities for children. The Grace Crib Nursery will continue to provide childcare for infants through 3-year-olds.

Adults and youth interested in volunteering for Summer Garden are encouraged to contact Rev. Lael (lsorensen@graceepiscopalchurch.org or 301-585-3515).

Grace Receives Substantial Bequest

The Vestry and Stewardship Committee are happy to announce that Grace Church has received a substantial bequest from the estate of **Alex and Barbara Geyger**.

Over the years, the Geygers were involved in a wide variety of ministries at Grace. Alex was involved in our Outreach ministries and served as our lay representative to Diocesan Convention for almost twenty years. He chaired the Parish Refugee Committee which assisted a Vietnamese family in immigrating to the United States. And, he worked with the sound system in the church, a ministry which enabled him to mentor several youth of the parish, teaching them to monitor the sound system during worship services.

Barbara, meanwhile, was a founder and leader of the Craft Guild as well as Coordinator of the Holiday Bazaar. She also used her skills from a career as a librarian to develop and maintain the Church library and Children's Corner in the Undercroft, as well as the library at the Grace Episcopal Day School.

The Grace Church community meant the world to Alex and Barbara, providing them with a great deal of support whenever they

needed it. The clergy guided them in their faith, helping them deepen their relationship with God, and the many longstanding friendships which they developed at Grace were a tremendous blessing in their lives.



When they died this past winter, Alex and Barbara left their entire estate to Grace Church. The entire amount of the bequest will be just over \$715,000, most of which will go into our endowment, increasing its value by 50% and providing annual income to support our work and ministry.

"This generous gift helps strengthen the financial future of Grace Church," Rev. Andrew says. *"It is a beautiful testimony to Alex and Barbara who were wonderful stewards and true saints of our community."*

Have you thought about making a capital gift to Grace Church? Or, remembered the Church in your will?

At Grace, we have a healthy tradition of making special gifts and bequests to the parish for particular programs, buildings or initiatives. Such gifts, large and small, have been received in memoriam and as thanks, blessings or tributes. These creative gifts have been structured in many ways, including one-time offerings of stock or other resources, as well as bequests made in the wills of parishioners. These gifts offer support for the enduring ministry of the parish and permit us to better plan for a vibrant future. Your own consideration for such a gift can itself be a truly spiritual exercise, as you discuss confidentially with the Rector your own faith-filled aspirations for Grace Church. Please contact Rev. Andrew if you are interested in considering such a special and sacred offering.

Ministry of Music - End of Year Recognition



On Sunday, June 10, Grace Church will formally recognize our music program. Under the direction of our Minister of Music, Danny Catalanotto, our choirs now number almost 90 singers and musicians, including 20 Adult Choir members.

Their years of service range from 1 to 25 and beyond.

Numerous others also participate in our program, from our music librarian to our Early Childhood music teachers to our Music Committee members and our Music of Grace chairpersons, all of whom are volunteers. Parents also play a very important role in our program, from assisting with vestments, to supervising children, and providing extracurricular activities for our choristers.

Our choirs provide music for Sunday services during the typical program year, in addition to sharing their musical gifts during special programs of Music of Grace and outreach opportunities within the community. It is a commitment of their time as well as their talents, and our church community is truly blessed by their gifts.

During the summer season, our choirs take a vacation from regular singing; however, there are other ways that singers and musicians can participate during the summer months. Choir members, adults and children alike, are encouraged to share their solo pieces as service music during the summer, and all members of the congregation are welcome to help 'lead' the hymn singing during services. Other musicians are also encouraged to share their talents, and all who are interested should contact Mr. C.

Stewardship and Pentecost

The following is the last in a series of articles adapted from "Seasons of Stewardship", by William C. Green.



Associated originally with the Jewish festival that began when the first fruits of the harvest were presented to God, Pentecost for Christians is a celebration of the "first fruits" of the resurrection: the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is the power of God made known in Jesus--"the power of the power of life itself," as Frederick Buechner puts it. **Known by its fruit, the Holy Spirit is manifest in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** (Galatians 5:22-23)

In the secular world, *morale* is called the key to better giving. In the church "morale" is called Spirit, without which the challenge of giving becomes a plea for support, largely unheeded. Spiritual vitality is the precondition of financial vitality. The number one stewardship task of the church is to build morale: to enhance a sense of God's Spirit, making sure the atmosphere and attitude of the local congregation express and nurture an experience of God's power.

This means that stewardship is hardly the monopoly of one committee. It is the responsibility of every committee, indeed the very heart of the church's ministry. The quality of Sunday worship, the excellence of the education program of the church, how well the church enjoys and celebrates its life together, how well the church presents and promotes understanding of its own mission

as well as the wider mission, how effectively faith can be shown to strengthen life at home, on the job, in the community--all these are issues bearing on an experience of the presence of God. Where that experience is thin, giving is thinner, and any emphasis on "stewardship" simply depletes further the limited energy of the congregation.

How strong is the power that "turns on the lights" in your congregation? How vibrant is a sense of God's presence? During the long season of Pentecost, what is sowed is an awareness that the goodness and mercy of God are a very present power at work in the world and in each of our lives...*right now*. What is reaped are "fruits of the Spirit," among which is generosity--giving founded and grounded in firsthand knowledge of the love of God. "Gifted by God" with a sense of divine presence, "we offer ourselves in praise," living for the glory of God as people who know the richness of life at its best.

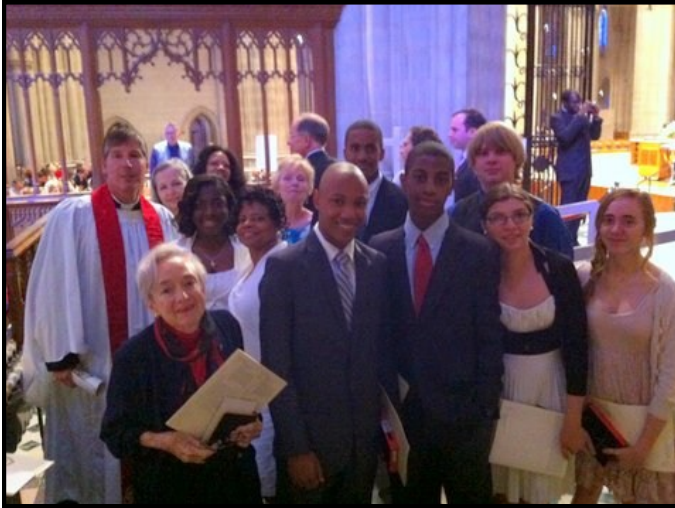
Stewardship is not a program. It is not another of the many projects and activities making up the church's life. It is a way of life. It defines how we understand who we are and what we have; it motivates and molds what we do. Just as there are seasons in the calendar year, so are there seasons in the church year, times that color and shape our experience of God. More sensitive to the rhythms and moods of these seasons, we can become wiser in the different ways we experience the fullness of life in the spirit of Christ. "Gifted by God" with the assurance of this abundance, "we offer ourselves in praise," reaping and sowing a harvest of generosity beyond anything we dreamed possible.



Bishop Mariann honors Ethel Luckett as the Outstanding Senior Volunteer at Grace Church for 2012.



Daughters of the King welcomes new members; Kathryn McMahon, Cynthia Bogino, Aileen Moodie and Geraldine Twitty



Congratulations!

Confirmed

Ben Allen
 Kris Amundson
 Alexander Brown-Collie
 Fara Clarke
 Natalie Mansueti
 Bronwyn Redvers-Lee
 Lynn White
 V.J. Whitehurst

Received

Anne Dorworth
 Marsha Obusek

Summer at The Pennyworth Shop

Summer brings lots of reasons for a visit to The Pennyworth Shop.

- ☀️ Planning a trip with the kids? Visit the Shop and stock up on a few “nearly new” books and toys to help pass the time.
- ☀️ Visiting family or friends? Pick up a fun and funky hostess gift for a couple of dollars.
- ☀️ The racks are full of summer shorts, t-shirts, and hats (priced so that you won’t mind if they mysteriously disappear at camp).

If you’ve thought about volunteering at the shop but haven’t had the time during a busy school year, think about whether you could sign up for a 3 hour shift this summer. Volunteers work from 10am to 1p, or 1p to 4p, Tuesday through Saturday and we have a hard time filling our volunteer slots when many of our regulars take a summer vacation. If life slows down a bit for you in the summer, please contact our Manager, Marilyn Seitz and she’ll be happy to schedule you with an experienced worker to show you a fun and fulfilling way to spend 3 hours! You can reach Marilyn at mmseitz1@gmail.com or 301-589-0728.

The Pennyworth Shop is located at 949 Bonifant Street in downtown Silver Spring, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 4p.

Greetings from the Day School



As I look back on the school year there are many successes to highlight. Here are few of my favorites. The Chesapeake Bay Study was a school-wide, year long project that culminated with a Bay Day Celebration. The photograph below shows a mosaic that each and every student helped create, under the guidance of Nina Muys. It has been installed in the main hall at Kensington. Please stop by to see it!



Three awards were presented to fifth grade students in May; the Daniel Benner Memorial Award to Taylor Netting, the Theolyn Wilson Music Award to Lourdes Fitzgerald, and the Drew Nealley "Walkers" Award to Cara Schultz. A reception following the presentations gave everyone an opportunity to congratulate the winners and visit the families and past recipients.

Our closing chapel and graduation of our fifth grade students officially ends the school year. We have an outstanding class of fifth grade students who are poised and ready to move on to sixth grade at some of the finest schools in the Washington metropolitan area. They have been accepted at Bullis, Field, Holy Child, Landon, Lowell, Maret, National Cathedral, Sandy Spring Friends, St. Andrew's, and St. Anselm's. We send these stu-

dents off with our most heartfelt wishes for continued success!



I want to thank everyone from the church and school community for their wonderful support throughout this year.

Donna Harshman
Acting Head of School

MUSST: An Outreach Ministry of Grace Church



Each year the Grace budget includes money for a contribution to MUSST.

MUSST was created in 1996 through a joint effort of Community Ministries Montgomery County and a number of local congregations to coordinate emergency assistance to low-income and homeless persons.

MUSST's primary mission is to furnish emergency assistance to eligible persons living in the lower Silver Spring/Takoma Park area (defined as zip codes 20901, 20910, 20912 and a small part of 20783 in Montgomery County) who are facing the threat of eviction or utility discontinuance or who cannot pay for medical prescriptions. MUSST volunteers also help clients to receive other kinds of assistance by screening to ensure that they meet eligibility requirements and then referring them

for food, clothing, furniture, dental or eye care through other area agencies.

It is MUSST's goal to provide emergency financial assistance to prevent catastrophic events, which could de-stabilize an individual or family. MUSST strives to empower people to be an active part of the solution to their financial crisis. MUSST also works with clients to get them back on solid financial ground. MUSST does this by referring clients to money management courses and providing them with referrals to available community resources, which will allow them to stretch their income. MUSST helps by providing the necessary applications to programs such as Maryland Energy Assistance (MEAP). Electric Universal Service (EUSP), Rental Assistance (RAP) and MEDBANK.

Located in the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services office at 8816 Georgia Avenue (near Spring Street), MUSST is convenient for persons in the service area. MUSST has a paid program manager, but is other-

wise staffed by volunteers. The congregations and individuals who contribute to MUSST provide the funding for the salary and operating expenses, which makes it easier for the program manager to attract grants to cover the services.

You can volunteer for MUSST. Volunteers usually work one day a week for 4 hours, although anyone who can work 2 to 4 hours weekly will be considered. The important thing is consistency. Volunteers help eligible clients obtain prescriptions, medical and dental care, food, clothing and furniture. Please contact Grace MUSST representative Deborah Gilbert (301-585-0666 or deborah.gilbert1005@gmail.com) if you have questions.

Fiscal Officer Report

As outlined previously, the financial situation in Grace Church continues to be very positive, with income slightly exceeding expenditures. That trend has continued through this point in May. I thought that it might be interesting in this report to summarize major categories of income and expenses, both to give you an idea of how dependent Grace Church is on pledge income and other congregational giving and also to give you an idea of how funds are spent. The information below covers the first four (4) full months of 2012. A total of \$241,536.66 in income was received during the first four (4) months of the year (which included both an additional Sunday and the Easter offering), and a total of \$232,555.42 in expenditures were made (the percentages below are based on these respective totals).

Income Summary

Pledge Income	\$175,355.43	72.5%
Easter Offering	\$10,751.50	4.5%
Plate/'No Pledge'	<u>\$10,730.00</u>	<u>4.5%</u>
Sub Total	\$196,836.93	81.5%
Endowment Funds	\$18,500.00	7.6%
GEDS Contributions	\$14,882.00	6.2%
Other Space Use	\$5,450.00	2.3%
Pennyworth Shop	<u>\$1,550.00</u>	<u>0.7%</u>
SubTotal	\$40,382.00	16.8%
All Other Income	\$4,317.73	1.7%

Expense Summary

Clergy Salaries/Benefits	\$92,001.93	39.5%
Lay Staff Salaries/Benefits	\$53,944.05	23.2%
Utilities (Heat/Electricity)	\$19,916.27	8.6%
Diocesan Contribution	\$16,150.00	7.0%
Repairs/Maintenance	\$8,398.12	3.6%
Grace House Operation	\$6,010.45	2.5%
Music Program (non-salary)	\$3,955.24	1.7%
Copier	\$3,378.91	1.5%
Computer	\$3,229.23	1.4%
Youth Group	\$3,056.75	1.3%
Cleaning Service Contract	\$2,600.00	1.1%

'Other' Outreach*	\$2,550.00	1.1%
Child Care Expenses	\$2,550.00	1.1%
Office Expenses	<u>\$2,405.32</u>	<u>1.0%</u>
Sub Total	\$220,145.27	94.7%
Other Expenses**	\$12,410.15	5.3%

"Other Outreach" includes annual budget contributions to the Episcopal Center for Children, the parish ministry to the homeless, Senior Connection, the Shepherd's Table, MUSST and the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. The parish ministry to the homeless, the Shepherd's Table, MUSST and the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington also receive designated contributions the year in addition to the general operating budget contributions noted above.

"All Other Expenses" include a wide variety of expenses, including support for the church Altar Guild, Acolytes Guild, Flower Guild and Crib Nursery; support for Sunday School, support for our Hospitality Ministry and our Stewardship Program, postal expenses and trash removal costs.

A surplus of \$8,981.24 was seen in the operating budget at the end of April 2012. Based on current trends seen in pledge income, other congregational gifts and our ability to continue to control expenditures to the extent seen during the first four (4) months of 2012, a balanced budget is projected to be seen in 2012. As indicated above, the surplus seen at the end of April reflects both the impact of the Easter Offering, the impact of the 'fifth' Sunday in April (two of the five months in 2012 having five Sundays have already been seen), and the delay in the billing of our annual liability insurance premium costs (approximately \$23,000.00 this year - all billed in July).

As always, if anyone has any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Gib Baily
Church Fiscal Officer

Transitions

Departed: Doris Louise Bentley Rusch, May 16, 2012

Received: Anne Dorworth, Marsha Obusek

Confirmed: Ben Allen, Kris Amundson, Alexander Brown-Collie, Fara Clarke, Natalie Mansueti, Bronwyn Redvers-Lee, Lynn White, V.J. Whitehurst.

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

Knowing our own personal history connects us to the very essence of our being and by extension to the very God who created each and every one of us.

Several years ago now, my wife Susan, our three boys and I were living in New York City while I attended seminary, and one day we decided to take a day trip out to Ellis Island. My maternal grandparents, my mother and her three sisters all came through Ellis Island and we wanted to see their names inscribed on the Immigrant Wall of Honor. The ferry carried us across the harbor, passing the Statue of Liberty bearing her famous words: "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to break free..." and I realized she was speaking of my family. She was telling me my story.

I remember arriving at the wall and staring at the name of my grandfather, Edward Wallace, a tough ol' Scotsman who left the Scottish highlands behind in order to find a better life for his family in this country, as my son, James Edward Wallace Walter, ran his fingers over the letters of his great-grandfather's name, connecting with a part himself that he never knew. As past and present came together that day, I felt, and I think all of us felt, intimately and powerfully surrounded by the presence of God for whom time and space is no boundary.

This coming weekend we celebrate Memorial Day, and we all have the opportunity to experience that connection with our Creator by recalling our collective past and remembering who we are as a nation. Memorial Day began in the years immediately following the Civil War, and is the day set aside to honor those American men and women who have died in military service. From the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 to the current conflict in Iraq, the lives of those who died serving this great nation tell our story – our hopes and our dreams, our successes and our failures, our triumphs and our tragedies. By remembering those who lost their lives, we are able to learn more about ourselves and about the God by whose divine providence our country was founded and flourished.

No one has benefited more than I from the sacrifices of those men and women who we honor this weekend. Not old enough to remember the Vietnam War, never called to serve, I have lived a life of relative ease and comfort in this land of the free due to the sacrifices of previous generations. So I am ashamed to admit that for a substantial part of my life, I took that life and freedom for granted, never giving Memorial Day much thought in terms other than as the beginning of summer, a day that marked the opening of the pool season, a day for playing a round of golf, a day to have a cookout with some friends.

Not any more. As the prophet Isaiah once said:

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Some time during the Memorial Day Weekend, wherever you are and whatever you are doing, take the opportunity to remember who we are and where we come from; remember those who died giving us the life and freedom we enjoy every single day, but more than that, take the opportunity to remember the holy and gracious God from whom all blessings flow, the God who is always present with us, the God who gave His only Son that we might have eternal freedom.



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