



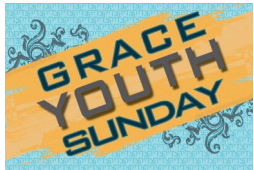
Grace Notes

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



Celebrating Children and Youth at Grace

In May, Grace welcomes children and youth with springtime warmth and vigor with a number of activities and opportunities for the "under 21" membership of Grace and the rest of us who love them.



We begin with **Youth Sunday on May 5th** when the teenagers of Grace take on significant leadership of our worship life, Sunday School Chapel, and will present a special Adult Forum on why they are excited about being part of the Grace community and answering your questions about what Youth Group is like. This will be of particular interest to parents with children in the 4th through 6th grades who may be wondering, "is there life after Sunday School?" Today's youth are exciting and thoughtful, eager to engage with their world, to share in outreach opportunities and reflect theologically on all of it.

On **Thursday, May 9**, we continue the family-friendly theme with a special outdoor festival service and picnic. Ascension is the day we remember Christ's ascending to his Father in heaven and, like those first apostles, all eyes are focused upwards. Children are invited to blow bubbles and watch them float, fly a kite or swing a hoola hoop up their bodies. In the event of rain, all will happen (minus the kites!) in the Undercroft.

We conclude with the **Feast of Pentecost on May 19**, when not only will several children be baptized, but the 1st through 3rd grades, who have been studying baptism all year, will join us in church to witness the baptisms.



Finally, May is open rehearsal month for our children's choirs: children and youth who are curious about choir are invited on Wednesday evenings to try choir on and even, once they've tried it, to vest on Sunday and sing with the other choristers. We are even experimenting with the creation of a Youth Choir. No previous experience is needed and all are welcome.

CONSIDERING BUYING A BIBLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

When you are shopping for a children's Bible there are two things to look for: evocative illustrations and the basic bible story told simply and powerfully. Like many consumer products these days, there are many options to choose from but very few are really good. We want a children's Bible to tell the richness of our stories and to spark the imagination. We want a Bible that invites a child to enter in to the story, to play with it – even take risks with it – and to be moved by it. We want our children to know the richness of Scripture: narrative and poetry, prophetic shout, and tender lament. We want them to know the silence of mystery. Fear not, there are several exceptional examples I am happy to recommend. Children's Bibles go in and out of print frequently, but with internet shopping all of them are available somewhere. Here are my favorites:



The Lion Bible for Children, retold by Murray Watts, with illustrations by Helen Cann (Oxford: Lion Publishing, 2002) is a hefty volume, sized and shaped like a traditional children's Bible, but excitingly innovative in its thoughtful incorporation of scriptural and liturgical symbolism. Helen Cann's watercolors (with pencil details) are stylized and decorative without sacrificing the realistic details of facial expression and gesture that give characters individuality and life. Each two-page spread contains not only at least one large, full-color picture, but the borders are decorated with such images as stars, mountains, desert rocks, thorn bushes, flowering branches, waves of water, ears of wheat, and many more, and they unobtrusively serve to establish a symbolic framework for the story in progress. The border changes with each page turn, but each design reappears several times over the course of the book. One can imagine a thoughtful child spending hours thumbing through the volume to spot where the borders repeat themselves, and gaining, through this process, an intuitive sense of

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Special points of interest:

- Honoring Steve Dean
- Town Hall Meetings
- One More Note from Rev. Andrew

A monthly
publication
from the
Grace Church
Communications
Committee

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**Grace Notes**

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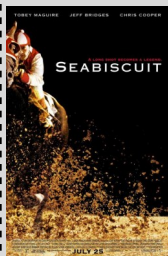
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Chris Bedal, Paul Brown,
Matt Hardwick, Rebecca Lent,
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Althea Sherman, Virgil White-
hurst, Raquel Wilson

Grace Notes

The Rev. Andrew Walter
Linda Caleb

DINING WITH GRACE AT THE MOVIES - FRIDAY, MAY 3

Wear your jockey hats (baseball hats can be substituted) Dining With Grace is off to the races! Come join our family night for the last movie of the year. Our film is Seabiscuit which is based on the bestselling book, **"Seabiscuit: An American Legend"** PG-13 (But is really more PG than 13). It tells the story of the life and career of an undersized and overlooked thoroughbred race horse whose unexpected success demonstrates the mending of brokenness of spirit during the Great Depression. Seabiscuit reminds us all to never give up.

Please bring the particular food item associated with first letter of your last name:

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

For further information contact **Lola Crawford** - 301-571-2321.

ASCENSION DAY PICNIC

Join us May 9 at 6 p.m. in the parking lot (undercroft in case of rain) to remember Christ's ascension to heaven. The grill will be going and will feature the culinary stylings of Virgil Whitehurst and Matt Hardwick. Families are asked to bring side dishes or deserts. We will hold a short Eucharist service and will also pull out our favorite games to keep our gazes lifted including hula-hoops, bubbles and kites. We will even hold a hula-hoop competition with a twist.

**TRANSITIONS****Baptized at the Easter Vigil, March 30**

Thomas Allen Todd II
 Avery Elisabeth Todd
 Ava Louise Myrie
 James Oliver Engel
 Liam Alexander Provost-Lyons
 Sean Patrick Provost-Lyons
 Malcolm Bruce Smith

Departed

Sita Narasimhan, Feb. 19
 Carol Hjorstberg, March 27
 Edward D. White, April 9
 Mike Yarborough, April 15
 Michael Rogers Rubin, April 18

Diocese Honors Steve Dean

The annual Senior Celebration recognizes the volunteer service to the Church community of older adults, with a certificate from the Bishop. This year's celebration will take place on Tuesday, May 7, at noon, in the Washington National Cathedral. A reception will follow. Grace Church's very own Steve Dean will be honored at this very special service.

Since 1975 Steve Dean has been a fixture at Grace Church. Originally a reluctant Roman Catholic attendee, he came with his first wife to Grace, but after that marriage ended, he still came to church and met his beloved wife and volunteering companion of twenty-six years, Betty Dean, at coffee hour.

There is very little that Steve hasn't done for Grace Church. He literally knows where the bodies are buried—as one of the less glamorous parts of his job as volunteer facilities manager, he provides the holes for the urns of cremains for the parishioners who are being buried in the Grace Church cemetery.

Grace Church no longer has an official sexton, but instead we have Steve Dean who volunteers his time to take care of all of the maintenance for buildings and grounds issues that a normal parish faces every day. (Leonard Lee from Grace Episcopal Day School assists in some of the larger projects.)

Three separate times Steve has served as Senior Warden, he has served on the vestry five times and was elected to be Junior Warden once. He currently is the recorder for the vestry (he takes the minutes.)

Being a verger is on the top of Steve's list of favorite activities, and what brings him the greatest joy at Grace Church. He also coordinates the lay eucharistic ministers and schedules all of the lectors for the year, making sure that everyone has their correct reading, even when the clergy make last minute changes. Steve has also worked with Gib Bailly, since 1995 training countless young people as acolytes. He is also in the rotation of counters for the weekly offering, Steve is also a tireless member of the stewardship committee and serves as an Every Member Canvass team leader. His most recent undertaking is as the co-chair of Capital Campaign to improve the HVAC system, restrooms, and the organ that will hopefully kick-off in the fall of 2013.

Every Christmas and Easter you will find Steve with a large stack of index cards that have a distribution list all the homebound parishioners at Grace that are to receive flowers and cookies during these holidays. Steve makes sure there are drivers to take these gifts to each of our older members. There is also a local elementary school that he and another member of Grace coordinate Christmas meals each year. There are 20-40 food-insecure families that receive a completed holiday meal gift box of foods items that are donated by Grace Sunday School Families.

Steve's talents aren't limited to just to Grace Church. He has served as the head teller at the yearly Diocesan Convention for over 10 years and has been a teller to the annual event since the 1980's.

On the second Saturday of every month you will find Steve coordinating an eight person team to serve at Shepherd's Table serving meals to homeless women and men in lower Montgomery County. Local senior citizens who participate in "Meals on Wheels" are lucky to have Steve Dean as one of the substitute drivers—filling in when a regular driver is unavailable to work their regular shift. Another outreach project that Steve participates in is acting as the liaison for the local food pantry which is operated out of the First Baptist Church in Silver Spring.

It is very hard to believe that someone with so much energy has any energy left at the end of the day, but Steve still finds time to spend with his children (he and Betty had a blended family of four children) seven grandchildren, and his two cats, Frankie and Avalon. A native to the Silver Spring area, born January 1, 1946 at what is now Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park. Steve worked until retirement for the Federal Government as an USAID contracting officer.

Steve likes to travel, having recently visited Alaska, Ireland, and Germany. He also is a most-passionate Maryland Terps fan, rarely missing a men's or women's basketball game.

And we don't know where he finds the time, but he also is an avid reader and has a season subscription to Arena Stage.

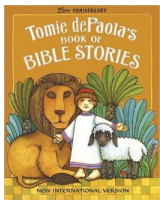
We are very blessed that we have Steve Dean in our lives. When asked why he does what he does, he told us he loves the people and the community of Grace and that it has been a big part of his life for over 35 years. Steve wants Grace Church to be here for the next generation.



Grace Church loves and thanks Steve for all the many ways in which he so generously shares his time and talents in service to others.

the basic symbolic language of Scripture. **The best all-round version of the Bible for confident readers, 8 and up.**

The Reader's Digest Bible for Children, by Marie-Hélène Delval (Joshua Morris Publishing, 1995) was originally published in France. The pictures are softly colored and gentle, with short, stocky figures with large heads—but not at all cartoonish or whimsical. Wensell, a Spanish artist, uses watercolor washes to bathe his scenes in miraculous, evocative light. He is especially good at wind and water, and often achieves wonderful emotional power by the use of unusual perspectives. The story is printed in short lines, at a very accessible reading level, and it is, almost always, simply Scripture: it has the terseness, the evasiveness, the mystery, of the ancient stories. For ages 6 to 10 (or older, simply for the beautiful art), or for reading aloud with younger children. **The best Bible for elementary-school children.** Unfortunately, it is currently out of print, but I got mine “like new” for a penny from Amazon.



Tomie dePaola's Book of Bible Stories (Putnam, 1990) DePaola probably needs no introduction: in all of his work, both text and illustrations are gentle, dignified, and beautiful, without ever being saccharine or sentimental. The text here consists of selections from the New International Version,

with some simplifications. This collection is briefer than the Reader's Digest Bible, and is **excellent for reading aloud with younger children, or for independent reading by early readers up to age 8.** I am particularly fond, too, of DePaola short books of particular focus: *The Parables of Jesus*, *The Miracles of Jesus*, and a wonderful Christmas book *Joy to the World: Christmas Stories and Songs*.

A Family Treasury of Bible Stories by Roberto Brunelli (Harry N. Abrams, 1997), a translation of an Italian edition, achieves its considerable impact from the stunning illustrations by Mikhail Fiodorov. Fiodorov draws inspiration primarily from Russian ikons, Byzantine art, and early Italian Renaissance painting. He is at his best in portraying the transcendent and mysterious, especially his angels, his depictions of the Transfiguration and Pentecost, and his closing spread on “The End of Time.” In other words, he is superb in just the sorts of images that most children's Bibles either do not attempt, or attempt with painful or laughable results. For this alone the book is worth the price. **Good for ages 8 to 12, especially children who are captivated by images of other worlds.**

Preparing for a Summer of Growth

May in many ways brings a wind-down to our programs and leads our thoughts to summer months. Grace like many churches in urban areas sees a mass exodus of families and events over the summer. So many folks travel June through August that many churches abandon most organized activities that require a quorum of participation.

Even as we wind down Sunday School's shell year during the month of May, we are mindful of how much our children will grow, learn and change in three short months. Summer is a great time to unwind but it can also be a time to lose physical and spiritual momentum. It sometimes proves a bit too much to try and get kids back to Sunday School and academic school at the same time come September. We'd like to find some ways to keep the children of Grace interested and encouraged through the summer months.

Some thoughts on the table include:

- A children's electronic newsletter (to be sent to parent's addresses)
- We are considering hosting a game challenge to culminate in the summer. One popular thought is to create an architectural rendering of Grace Church using Minecraft by Mojang (creative mode). Participants can video a virtual tour and submit for judging this summer. Details will follow.
- For those who prefer to avoid video game technology, there will be a Lego category.

- Summer reading is a great way to inspire spiritual curiosity in children. A summer book challenge for children who love to devour books is on the table as well. We will be offering a book list suggestion in June.
- Just visiting the campus can help maintain relationships. We are considering an occasional play date and picnic while the weather is still comfortable. The playground is the perfect location for a periodic get-together.
- Sending kids off to camp or grandma's house? Please let the clergy and staff know. Provide an address and we would love to drop your campers a note.
- If you're traveling over the summer, send us a postcard to 1607 Grace Church Rd., Silver Spring, MD, 20910. We will create a wall of these cards over the summer and have it ready when children return in September.



Finally, we can't forget that we have a great venue for spiritual growth and participation in Summer Garden. We will be sending a sign up soon for parents to volunteer to lead this weekly activity in the Undercroft.

We will have more details in June and welcome your feedback and ideas. Have a great May!

Town Hall Meetings

On Sunday, April 14, and Wednesday evening, April 17, two Town Hall Meetings were held for the purpose of sharing information and answering questions about the plans for a possible capital campaign. Rev. Andrew shared that the meetings “give us a chance to come together and hear what parishioners are thinking.”

Rev. Andrew began both meetings by sharing the process used to produce the Preliminary Case Statement and the parish survey. This process was actually begun even before Rev. Andrew was called as Rector of Grace. Needs related to the church building itself had been identified in prior years. During the interim period, additional needs were added to the list as well as some prioritization of the needs.

Last year, the Vestry approved a RFP for a consultant to guide the church through a feasibility study. Three candidates were interviewed and considered with Marshall Ginn, from Capital

Development Strategies, hired. A small steering committee working with Marshall and Rev. Andrew created the Preliminary Case Statement and the survey, to which over 200 individuals replied.

Rev. Andrew also reviewed the top priorities which include replacement and/or refurbishment of the HVAC systems, the electrical system, the bathrooms in the Undercroft, as well as the Undercroft area itself, and the organ. Please see the box below for information about addressing the upcoming need for air conditioning.

Both meetings included ample time for questions and answers and Rev. Andrew particularly stressed the use of the word “preliminary” assuring everyone that we are in the very early stages of collecting information.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the two recent Town Hall meetings. Based upon the feedback from those meetings, the Vestry voted unanimously to move forward with new air conditioning for the Nave immediately. Our contractor is already beginning to remove the old equipment, and the entire project should take about a month to complete. The work will not interfere with our worship services. At the same time, our campaign consultant will be presenting the results of the parish wide survey and making his recommendations to the Vestry at the May Vestry meeting. Thank you also to the more than 200 parishioners who participated in the survey - a wonderful response! If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the feasibility study for a capital campaign, please contact Rev. Andrew.

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

One of the great kick-offs to the summer is the Grace Church annual Parish Picnic. Following the 10:30 church service on Sunday, June 9, everyone will gather on the lawn of Grace House to celebrate the conclusion of another wonderful program year and to welcome the summer season.

The main course of hamburgers and hot dogs is provided, and we ask that everyone bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. We'll also need help with moving tables and chairs to the Grace House lawn, as well as folks will run our grilles.

And of course, there's clean-up. We'll be using recyclable plastic dishes and if you can help dry a few after the picnic that would be extremely helpful.



Please see the information to the right!



HELP KEEP GRACE GREEN

Your help is needed to keep Grace Church green. Nearly all receptions and events with food are no longer using disposable items such as plastic or paper plates and utensils. However, that means that we need people to stay after these events and help dry dishes. We also need people who are willing to learn how to run the dish washer and who are willing to take home and launder tablecloths and dish towels.

There are large sign-up sheets in the Undercroft where you can volunteer to help with any or all of these efforts. You will not be expected to help with every event, but rather will be contacted periodically to see if you are available.

A few minutes a couple of times a year will go a long way to keeping Grace green!



Thank You Acolytes!

This past year, Grace Church has been blessed by the dedicated and faithful service of 45 acolytes. The efforts of these young people have greatly enhanced the dignity of our worship services. During the past year, our acolytes served faithfully at the 10:30 a.m. services on Sunday morning and at special services as well. In addition to serving at the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas services, acolytes serve at the Lenten Services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and at the Easter Vigil service. With the increasing number of acolytes during the past year, we have been able to expand to five acolyte teams to include eight acolytes on all Sundays.

Acolytes make a commitment to serve a minimum one during a five-week rotation in addition to serving at special services when scheduled. Each team of acolytes is headed by a senior acolyte, who fills the role of Senior Crucifer at each service. Two crucifers are graduating from high school this past year – *Jack Dahill* and *Nick Ryder*. Next year our five Senior Crucifers will be *Ben Allen*, *Kris Amundson*, *Nicola Ekuban*, *Kirby Porter* and *V. J. Whitehurst*. In addition to those listed above, 29 acolytes served faithfully on a regular basis this past year – *Grace Albus*, *Katherine Albus*, *Anna Bedal*, *Sarah Bedal*, *Eva Bogino*, *Amelia Brown*, *Ogden Brown*, *Virginia Brown*, *Susan Collard*, *Alexander Brown-Collie*, *Kayla Brown-Collie*, *Olivia Hardwick*, *Olivia Herron*, *Sophie Holt*,

Caitlin Jacobs, *Sierra Jacobs*, *Nick Kurtz*, *Gabriela Newburgh*, *Jenna Ocheltree*, *Joelle Ocheltree*, *Justin Ocheltree*, *Aislinn Olthoff*, *Ian Parks*, *Haley Porter*, *Alex Seeman*, *Olivia Seeman*, *Joel Simpson*, *Gabby Whitehurst*, and *Ruby Wilson*. In addition to the support provided by those listed above, Grace Church is blessed by the support of *Jamie Allen*, *Charles Cato*, *Paul Cato*, *Luke Dahill*, *Shannon Harmon*, *Alex Olthoff*, *Eric Ruggieri* and *Kajal Vasavada*, all of whom are now attending college (or recently graduated, in one instance) and have served this past year at our services at Easter and Christmas and on other occasions as needed.

Steve Dean, **Paul Brown**, **Jennifer Porter**, **Lanita Whitehurst** and **Gib Baily** serve as advisors to the Acolytes Guild. They are each responsible for coordinating one of five the acolyte teams, for reviewing special instructions prior to services and for training our acolytes. The Rector is responsible for the over-all performance of the Acolytes Guild. We would like to express our appreciation for the conscientious efforts of all of the acolytes this past year.

Steve, Paul, Jennifer, Lanita and Gib

Acolyte Recognition - Years of Service

10 Years	Alex Olthoff
9 Years	Shannon Harmon
8 Years	Paul Cato
7 Years	Jamie Allen, Charles Cato, Luke Dahill, Eric Ruggieri, Nicholas Ryder, Kajal Vasavada
6 Years	Ben Allen
5 Years	Kris Amundson, Eva Bogino, Jack Dahill, Nicola Ekuban
4 Years	Tayo Adelanwa, Ogden Brown, Alex Seeman, V. J. Whitehurst
3 Years	Katherine Albus, Anna Bedal, Alexander Brown-Collie, Nick Kurtz, Jenna Ocheltree, Justin Ocheltree, Aislinn Olthoff, Ian Parks, Kirby Porter
2 Years	Grace Albus, Virginia Brown, Kayla Brown-Collie, Sophie Holt, Caitlin Jacobs, Haley Porter, Gabby Whitehurst, Ruby Wilson
1 Year	Sarah Bedal, Amelia Brown, Susan Collard, Olivia Hardwick, Olivia Herron, Sierra Jacobs, Gabriela Newburgh, Joelle Ocheltree, Olivia Seeman, Joel Simpson



Pennyworth Welcomes Children of All Ages

Our growing church is increasingly full of children and teenagers - Sunday School, choir, and youth group are robust and vibrant. Some grow like weeds - bigger every time you look at them. Others are fashionistas - pulling interesting looks together with color and style. Some come to Wednesday choir rehearsals in their Grace Episcopal Day School uniforms - and may just be *waiting* for the weekend to try out a new outfit.

Children come in all sizes in Pennyworth. We have the short children that come with taller people. These shorter shoppers love all the toys and the taller shoppers love Pennyworth because of the bargains.

The bookworms want to sit in the children's corner of the Undercroft and explore the library there. **Pennyworth** has something for all of them.

There are the normal games, books and puzzles but we also have a huge kite that is shaped like an airplane. There is a tent that is the shape of a train engine which is big enough for daddy to sit inside but it folds flat. There are racks of darling baby clothes, girls and boys clothes for school, church, or play. Pennyworth even has a kitchen sink and stove - just right for playing restaurant.

The round rack at the back of the shop at 949 Bonifant Street has children's clothes, while the back wall is plump with adorable little baby onesies and jammies. An entire bookshelf in the book room is devoted to children's books, which at 25 cents for a paperback and 50 cents for a hardback you can't afford NOT to buy just to keep them reading! Hardworking Pennyworth volunteers also clean up and test toys, games, and puzzles. You will also find bigger items from time to time - a stroller, high chair, or a child-sized punchbuggy.

The Pennyworth ministry touches children in other ways as well, because the beauty of the ministry lies in its many connections to the greater world. Sometimes it is the little preschooler who comes to the shop with her mom on a school day and walks out

with a delightful grin and a new toy, or the older child who can translate for their mom or dad. Older teens and college students can earn community service hours by volunteering. And because of space limitations at the shop, Pennyworth donates carloads of children's clothing and items to Wider Circle - the Silver Spring nonprofit organization that gives clothing and household items directly to families in need.

Pennyworth is blessed (sometimes a mixed blessing, to be sure!) with abundant donations because of our 60-year history of ministry. Ask any of the "choir moms" who help sort the mountains of donations that come in to the back door of Grace House every week. You never know what you'll find when you dig into one of those mysterious bags - maybe a Disney Store princess dress for a four-year-old or a Gap sweat-shirt for a 'tween. And because volunteers pay only half-price of Pennyworth's already famously low prices, you can be frugal and cool!

We have big kids that come to Pennyworth also. Like the college student that needed to dress up like Jimmy Hendrix for a photo shoot and the two men from Wind Power who needed to dress up as Clean/Green Energy and Dirty /Smog- filled Energy. Pam Hamilton found the perfect outfits for their Capital Hill Earth Day demonstration.

Recently quite a few members of the Grace Youth Group and their brave leader Rev. Lael came to visit Pennyworth to make a very special surprise for the congregation on Youth Sunday.

The government says it costs some \$230,000 to raise a child to adulthood? Not if you shop or volunteer at Pennyworth!

So say "NO" to high retail prices and trips to the mall and say "YES" to economy and sustainability and connection to one of Grace Church's many hardworking ministries! Spread the word about the fabulous Pennyworth Shop - winner of the "Best Specialty Shop" award in the Fenton Village area.

Visit the Pennyworth Shop

Come shop Tuesday through Saturday from 10-4 p.m.

and

First Fridays of the month (through October)

when we are open until 8 p.m.

Better yet, sign up to work a shift by emailing

Marilyn Seitz at

mmseiz1@gmail.com

or give Marilyn a call at 301-661-8028.



Come visit the Children's Corner at Pennyworth

Grace Episcopal Day School



Grace's mission:

Grace Episcopal Day School will provide every student the opportunity for academic excellence in a caring, nurturing, moral environment that embraces diversity and promotes creativity, self-confidence, and service to others.

One of the things I love about Grace Episcopal Day School is that we really do live our mission. We talk about it. We think about it. We look for ways to fulfill it. I look out my window, walk down the hall, drop into classes or lunch and see our mission in action every day.

How are we providing academic excellence? Some examples:

- Children are reading everywhere—in their classrooms, in the lunchroom, on the playground. You can't stop them.
- Children are writing, choosing to continue their stories during free choice time and collaborating with friends.
- Children are experiencing science. They're building robots and rockets, they're exploring the property, and they are waiting for their caterpillars to turn into butterflies.



How are we promoting creativity and self-confidence? One example is the fourth and fifth graders wrote the spring musical with Mr. Kennedy this year. You're invited to see their amazing results on May 16 at 7:00 in our multipurpose room.

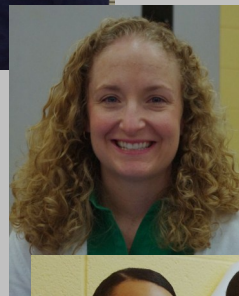
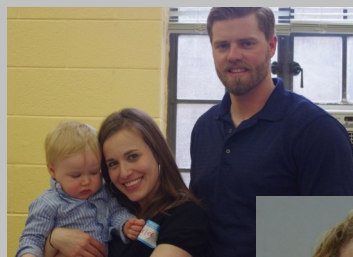
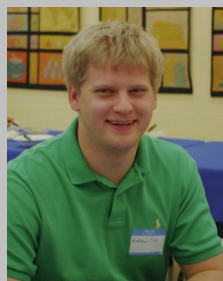
How are we caring and nurturing? I watch teachers comfort children with kind words and actions, and it's not perfunctory! I see older children helping younger children.

How do we embrace diversity? On Fridays we all gather for an assembly. Each class has a buddy class, and they sit together. Our school is a wonderful mixture of races, gender, and ages all learning and working together.

How do we serve others? The students raised \$128.65 for the Heifer Project this year. This money bought a sheep for a poor family. The students collected 226 books for the Homeless Children's Playtime Project. The fifth graders volunteered at a homeless shelter. They returned more appreciative of their own blessings and even more determined to help others.

Gail Kennedy
Director of Elementary Education

Spring Newcomer Brunch Welcomes New Friends to the Grace Church Family



Fiscal Report

This report is prepared based on financial information through Sunday, April 28, 2013. With essentially four (4) months of experience in 2013, the operating budget for the church is projected to remain in balance for this year. There are conflicting indicators which reflect some of the changes seen this year compared to our situation last year when the church ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$9,000.00 (when there was one more Sunday seen during the first four months of 2012, compared to the total of 13 Sundays seen in the first four months of 2013; and an additional Sunday seen in 2012 compared to the standard 52 Sundays in 2013).

Last year, the surplus of \$8,981.24 was seen in the operating budget at end of April 2012 essentially equaled the surplus in the operating budget seen at the end of 2012. This year, while a deficit of <\$6,738.46> was seen in the operating budget in 2013, trends indicate that this deficit will be eliminated by the end of the year depending upon our demonstrated ability to control costs and our ability to reach our income projections for pledge review and "plate" contributions. The deficit of <\$6,738.46> seen at the present time is significantly better (lower) than the deficit of <\$19,300.00> projected to be seen in the operating budget at the end of April based on the balanced budget approved by the Vestry for 2013.

With one less Sunday through the first four (4) months of 2013, the total of \$174,647.41 in pledge income this year essentially the budget estimate for the first four (4) months of this year of \$174,650.00 and essentially equaled the comparable total of \$175,355.43 received in pledge income during the first four (4) months of 2012 (when there were 14 Sundays during this four-month period, compared to 13 Sundays seen during this four-month period in 2013). Given this trend, we project that the end-of-year pledge income total will equal the budget estimate for this year of \$534,150.00.

Again, with one less Sunday this year, a total of \$10,767.32 was received in "no pledge" and "plate" income combined during the first four (4) months of 2013, essentially equal to the comparable total of \$10,730.00 received in "no pledge" and "plate" income combined during the first four (4) months of 2012. Based on this trend, we project that end-of-year giving

totals in both of these areas will equal budget estimates for the year.

The significant loss in space rental contributions from the Grace Episcopal Day School and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church seen thus far this year, both of which were anticipated in the budget approved by the Vestry for 2013, has been offset to date by a significant increase in income from other sources, including two significant "matching" gifts from employers of parishioners and a larger-than-anticipated refund in costs for the workers compensation insurance for church staff which was based on an audit of our 2012 payroll expenses. Long-term, the loss of rental income is projected to be replaced by additional endowment income based on earnings being received from the permanent endowment funds created from the Geyger bequest and by rental income from the anticipated rental of the "Grace House" facility.

A total of \$11,075.89 was received for the Easter and Lenten offerings this year, very close to the total of \$11,523.75 for these two offerings combined received in 2012.

As outlined previously, trends in expenditures indicate that costs are being controlled within budget allowances, except in instances where increases in budget expenditures were approved by the Vestry subsequent to its approval of the initial budget for 2013. Increased expenses related to the cleaning of the Parish Hall more frequently than had been anticipated and increased cleaning of the Pennyworth Shop space plus increases for support provided by the Rev. Michele Hagans to bring her compensation package into compliance with Diocesan 'scale' are offset by savings seen in other areas of expenses and by the additional income received from other sources (as outlined in #4 above).

Based on all of these trends and despite the deficit seen in the operating budget at the end of April, it appears that the operating budget for 2013 will end the year in balance.

Gib Baily
Church Fiscal Officer



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

Recently, I decided to start walking to the church during the week. Not every day, of course, only on those days when it is not too chilly in the morning or not too hot in the afternoon. From our apartment in downtown Silver Spring, the walk is probably about a mile or so, and it takes me around 25 minutes. The time has been my way of getting a little exercise and enjoying the spring weather.

This past Monday, as I walked along Georgia Avenue and turned right onto Grace Church Road, I took in the beauty of our church campus: the dappled morning sunlight coming through the trees; the deep green of the newly mown grass; the flowering tree blooming in front of the church; the large bush, an azalea, maybe, in the cemetery. The sights and smells of spring were all around me. I could sense new life in the air.

Inspired by the moment, I pulled out my cellphone and took two pictures, which you see here.



Easter is a season of new life, not just the new life of the resurrected Jesus, who was dead and rose again, but the new life we all receive through his rising. The resurrection of Christ frees us from the power of sin and death, reconciling us to God once and for all. We are born again, forgiven and blessed, and as William Walsham How wrote in his great hymn: *it is a thing most wonderful, almost too wonderful to be.*

So, we have much to celebrate this season, our hearts and souls blooming like the flowers and trees all around us. It is a time of great joy and thanksgiving, knowing what God has done for us. And, in that spirit, I would like to highlight two particular blessings for which I am particularly grateful this Easter season:

I am thankful for the many, many people who participated in the recent Parish-wide Survey and two Town Hall meetings. Over 200 people completed the survey, answering questions, asking questions, offering comments, and over 100 people attended the Town Hall meeting to listen, respond, and provide comments and feedback. It is this kind of communication, this back-and-forth dialogue between parishioners and church leadership, that makes community, and it is beautiful to experience.

I am also very grateful for all the youth of our parish. We are very blessed to have so many youth in our community for they bring energy and excitement and enthusiasm. Rev. Lael has done such incredible work in developing our youth ministry, and this coming Sunday, May 5, we will all have the opportunity to experience it for ourselves as the youth take leadership for our Sunday morning activities. They will lead us in worship, teach us during the Adult Forum, and provide a special time of fellowship immediately after the 10:30 service. It should be a great day.

Happy Easter, and thanks be to God.



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