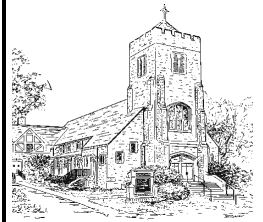




Grace Notes

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



What is Christian Formation?

Christian formation (*growing in relationship with God*) is a lifelong process, and there are many aspects of our life together at Grace that encourage and deepen that formation: worship, fellowship, outreach and learning. This "Back to School" issue of *Grace Notes* addresses learning opportunities throughout the program year at Grace for all ages. No matter where you are in your own spiritual journey, we hope you will find something to nourish you on the road here. All are welcome!

FOR CHILDREN

Sunday School



For children from age 3 through 6th grade, Sunday School meets on Sunday mornings from 10:00-11:00 in the Parish Hall. We use the Episcopal Church Curriculum at Grace. Through the imaginative presentation of Bible stories, teachers invite children to wonder about themselves, God and the world in a way that is playful and meaningful. Our trained volunteers teach habits of listening—action—reflection and provide tools of religious language to help children become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. This year's liturgical focus is on baptism (the shell year), and baptismal themes will develop over the course of the year.

Sunday School begins at 10:00 in the Multipurpose Room of the Parish Hall (located directly across the church on the left-hand side of our entrance driveway) with a children's chapel, followed by classes offered at seven grade levels. Children will be brought over to church for communion by the teach-

ers and teachers' aides.

Sunday School Registration opens September 9. For more information, please contact the Rev. Lael Sorensen at 301 585-3515 or by email at lsorensen@graceepiscopalchurch.org.

Youth Group



For teenagers between 6th and 12th grade, Youth Group meets on Sunday afternoons (6th-7th graders from 4:00-5:30; 8th-12th graders from 5:00-6:30). All sessions invite youth to explore the Christian faith and follows the program *Journey to Adulthood*. The curriculum is structured by the ancient process of listening—experience—reflection to help young people develop their own understanding of God's presence in their lives and the world around them. We use Scripture, popular culture, art, physical activity, fun and prayer to explore our spirituality and to build community. We laugh a lot; we learn a lot. Every effort is made to keep the process experiential, with a hands-on and hearts-on focus.

Each trimester we engage in different service projects, join with other youth across the diocese in activities and leave plenty of time for physical activity, fun and fellowship. Youth Group takes seriously the need to deal with what is real for young people, to honor questions and to place a scriptural, spiritual and liturgical frame around each one of those experiences.

(cont. on page 3)

September 2012

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Special points of interest:

- Christian Formation
- Stewardship and Ministry Sunday
- Pig Roast Photos

A monthly publication from the Grace Church Communications Committee

Sunday, September 9 - Ministry Celebration Sunday



Mark your calendars for the kick-off to a new program year at Grace. This is great day to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and learn about everything happening here at Grace. Lunch will be available after the 10:30 service (please bring a salad or side dish) and there will be activities for children, including the ever-popular moon bounce. Also, back by popular demand, **Sunday Sundaes!**

For all the details about this event - please read the article on page 4.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**Grace Notes**

Grace Episcopal Church
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www.graceepiscopalchurch.org

The Rev. Andrew Walter
Rector

The Rev. Lael Sorensen
Assistant Rector

The Rev. Michele Hagans
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Fiscal Officer

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

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

Grace Notes

Linda Caleb

Dining With Grace at the Movies

This year we are celebrating the 8th year of our ministry, Dining with Grace at the Movies. Thanks to all of the Graceful people who have continued to support our monthly gatherings. Please join us for our kickoff on **Friday, October 12th**, in the Undercroft and enjoy the movie "Babe". Be a part of a fun evening of fellowship, food and discussion. Guests and friends are always welcome. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., the film at 7:00p.m., a brief discussion follows the film, all ending between 9:00 and 9:15 p.m. In November, we will return to our regular schedule of the first Friday of every month through May 2013.

So that we may all enjoy a well balanced meal, we ask that you bring the food item associated with the first letter of your last name that serves 8-10 people. Drinks will be provided.

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

For further questions please contact **Lola Crawford** (301) 571-2321 or **Maria Jenkins** (301) 589-1352

Date**Movie**

October 12, 2012	Babe	(Family)
November 2, 2012	No Movie	
December 2012	Wag the Dog	(Adult)
January 4, 2013	Soul Surfer	(Family)
February 1, 2013	Amelie	(Family)
March 8, 2013	The Way	(Adult)
April 5, 2013	The Namesake	(Adult)
May 3, 2013	Seabiscuit	(Family)

A note about the movie ratings: Family movies are appropriate for all ages, having content and plots appropriate for everyone. Adult ratings indicate that the content and or language may not be appropriate for children.

*** Pick up a copy of our movie schedule on Ministry Sunday, September 9, 2012**

Christian Formation, cont.

Registration for Youth Group opens September 9. For more information, please contact the Rev. Lael Sorensen at 301 585-3515 or by email.

Confirmation

This year confirmation preparation for young people aged 13-21 will be held on Sunday mornings from 11:45-1:00 during the months of January and February. While Youth Group itself will aid considerably in preparing teenagers for a life in Christ, specific confirmation classes will be held to prepare teenagers to make a mature affirmation of faith at the bishop's visitation in March or at the Washington National Cathedral later in the spring. For more information, contact Rev. Lael at 301-585-3515 or lsorensen@graceepiscopalchurch.org.

FOR ADULTS

Adult Forum

On Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 Grace offers adults an opportunity to learn together. The format for the Adult Forums is variable – from outside speakers to guided discussions and opportunities to share experiences and reflection. This year, we will gather in the Parish Hall (in the large room at the end of the main hall on the right). Some of the topics this year include: recognizing God in our everyday lives, forms of prayer, stewardship living, caring for aging parents, the greening of Grace and wellness.

Bible Study

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 in the conference room at Grace House, there is adult Bible Study. We may not all be bible scholars but all are curious and prepared to go deeper in our study of Scripture. This fall we will start with an eight-week course called *Listening to Scripture: Strategies for Interpreting the Bible*. Topics are group-directed and current plans also include a closer look at one (or more) of the books of the prophets from the Old Testament. For more information about this year's themes, please contact the Rev. Nancy Noall at nancyoall@aol.com.

Introduction to Faith (Inquirers' Class):

Introduction to Faith is a class based on questions: What do I have to believe to be a Christian? What does it mean to be "saved"? What about people who are from different religious traditions or who are atheists? What do Episcopalians believe about the Bible? Do I have to believe everything in the creeds? Was Jesus really God, or was he just a great and inspired teacher? Do Episcopalians believe that Christ is really present in Communion, or is Communion just a symbol? How does prayer work? Does it really make sense to ask God for things to happen a certain way? Why do some people cross themselves, and when do they do it? Why do the ministers wear the robes they do during services? Is all of that fuss really in the spirit of Christ?

These are just some of the questions that make for fascinating discussion. Any question is fair game, and dealing with our real questions is an important part of arriving at a real faith. The history behind some of the answers will surprise you, and your own capacity to handle these questions with integrity and faith might well inspire you. Join Rev. Lael this fall for an introduction to Christian theology and the richness of our Anglican faith.

Foundations in Faith (Confirmation Preparation for Adults)



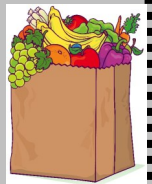
In January and February our rector offers this class for adults to refresh and enrich our experience of the faith. It builds on Introduction to the Faith but can be taken independently. Foundations in Faith also prepares adults for Confirmation, Reception into the Episcopal Church or for making a Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows before Bishop Mariann during her parish visitation in March or at the Washington National Cathedral in May.

Issues of Faith (Rector's Forum)

From time to time Rev. Andrew invites adults of the parish to join him in reviewing some of the more controversial issues of our time to consider the ways Christians might question, profitably reflect and grow in faith as they find their way through life's "hot button" topics.

FOOD COUPONS FOR SALE BY THE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our Homeless Ministry is financially supported in large part by proceeds from sales of grocery store certificates (Sniders, Giant, Shoppers Food Warehouse). How does it work? Grace Church purchases food certificates from the three local grocery stores. Parishioners buy the food certificates and use them just like cash at the local stores for grocery shopping. For every \$1500.00 sold by the Outreach Commission, our Homeless Ministry nets \$75.00. The Homeless Ministry operates on roughly \$300.00 per month. Can you help? Certificates can be purchased (check or cash) every Sunday following the 10:30 service, or you can call Gib Bailly in the church office on Mondays or Tuesdays and purchase them directly from him. For more information, contact John Mahler, 240-505-9610 or mahlerjo@gmail.com.



Stewardship and Ministry Celebration Sunday



For the past few years, the **Stewardship Commission** has coordinated and organized **Ministry Celebration Sunday**. Some might wonder what Stewardship has to do with celebrating our many wonderful ministries at Grace Church. Actually, the connection is a clear and perfect extension of what Stewardship is all about.

In the next few months we will be focusing on one very important part of our stewardship, our Every Member Canvass. The canvass does focus on our **treasure** and involves making a financial commitment to carry on the work of the church. However, there are two other parts to our stewardship, giving generously of our **time and talent**.

You may have heard the saying, **"Our lives are God's gifts to us; how we live is our gift to God."** Part of our stewardship of God's gift of our lives is becoming a good stewards of our time and talent. It is the wise and responsible use of the special gifts God has entrusted to each of us. It is believing that God has created each one of us with unique abilities and attributes – including our personalities, interests, motivations, life experiences, talents and skills, hopes and dreams – which make us who we are. We are one of a kind creations of God with unique contributions to make in this world.



Our lives have real meaning only when we use our gifts in accordance with God's will. As we grow in stewardship, we grow in our relationship with God. We grow in our ability to hear and accept God's call and to let our life be guided by God's will, not our own desires and impulses.

On September 9, there will be opportunities to learn about everything happening here at Grace. After both services, our various ministries will have tables with information available. Stop by each table to learn what our ministries do and ways in which you can participate. How can you use your gifts and talents to help further the mission of Grace Church? Are there ways in which you can place God closer to the center of your life?

Ministry Celebration Sunday also provides great opportunities to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy fun and fellowship together. Lunch will be available after the 10:30 service (**please bring a salad or side dish**) and there will be activities for children, including the ever-popular moon bounce. Also, back by popular demand, the Stewardship Commission will provide **Sunday Sundaes!**



We look forward to seeing everyone on **Ministry Celebration Sunday** and hope that you might find a new way to further your stewardship of your own very special gifts and talents. We are provided with many opportunities each day to be good stewards. We just need to be aware of the choices we make and the significance of our decisions.



Pennyworth Shop - A Ministry of Grace Church 949 Bonifant Street, Silver Spring

Pennyworth is the only thrift shop in downtown Silver Spring. We have been there almost 60 years as an outreach ministry to all people. The shop is open 10 AM to 4 PM Tuesday through Saturday making an average of 84 working slots per month. Also the sorting, pricing, and shop maintenance requires many volunteers to stay open. We have closed on days due to no workers!

Pennyworth Shop makes a contribution of \$4,000.00 annually to the Grace Church operating budget and contributes \$1,680.00 to cover a portion of the cost of trash removal services at the church in addition to making special gifts such as those for cottas for the choir, enhancements to the sound system, one of the largest gifts made for the purchase of the piano for Danny, contribution of two chasuble sets last year, painting the nave, narthex, kitchen, sacristy and stairways in the church, etc.

We hope you will offer to work a 3 hour slot or do other projects to help share the work as PW shares the profit.

Visit our display at Sept 9th Ministry Sunday or email Marilyn Seitz - mmseitz1@gmail.com



Why Volunteer in the Grace Church Sunday School Program?

I will be making three points about why I have taught in the Grace Church Sunday School program for over 25 years both to provide some information on parenting to you and to encourage you to participate in the Sunday School program.

The three points are:

1. The value of learning and its relation to teaching
2. Adults, particularly parents, must educate children
3. Education is central to Christianity

1. The value of learning and its relation to teaching

I was raised in a household where learning was valued for itself. Neither of my parents progressed beyond elementary school but that had no effect (and perhaps even enhanced) the value that they placed on learning. Clearly they passed that value on to me and I have tried to do that to my children and students at Grace. As you may know, I am a professor of economics at George Washington University. To me teaching, learning, and research are so related that I cannot separate them. When you teach, you are forced to examine your beliefs and to prepare for questions that are very basic. I know that teaching has made my research better and I am equally sure that preparing for Sunday School classes and interacting with our wonderful youngsters has made me a better Christian. It will do the same for you!

Teaching is NOT difficult. We have lots of age-appropriate teaching material available on line and, of course, the parables teach themselves. The other teachers will provide new teachers with lots of support. If you want to begin by assisting in the classroom, that is very valuable to teachers with larger classes.

2. Adults, particularly parents, must educate children

This is an age of specialization and there are advantages to that in an economy. But children are NOT a product. Parents who trust the education of their children to the school system are foolish. Obviously this is true of moral and religious education where the public schools have no role. But it is also true for traditional academic subjects as the literature which has involved testing of recent high school graduates demonstrates. It is our responsibility as adults in Grace Church to pass on our religious beliefs and practices to the youth of the parish. If we do not take on this task, they will likely not get this instruction elsewhere.

3. Education is central to Christianity

It all begins with Jesus, who was the best of teachers. Much of the New Testament is a textbook that all but the youngest students in Sunday School can appreciate. I sometimes use the book of Proverbs with my (fifth and sixth grade) students. They learn that wisdom survives over the ages as much about the human condition really never changes.

At all levels, Christian Churches sponsor institutions of education and learning. For most of the parish youth, Grace Sunday School is their connection with that tradition.

In sum, I am confident that your participation in Grace Church Sunday School will be valuable to you as a person, develop your faith as a Christian, and acquaint you in a special way with the wonderful youth of the parish. Christian education may be a responsibility but, at Grace, it is also a joy!

Tony Yezer

Greetings from the Day School



One of the best aspects for me of recently joining a new school community is learning the history of the institution. In only two months, there have been so many wonderful stories told to me about the talented and caring people who, over the past 52 years, have made Grace Episcopal Day School what it is. Fortunately for me, I work with one of those individuals—Betty House. Although in the directory I am listed as the Head of School and she is the Executive Assistant, it is clear to me and to others that she is actually the “Mayor of Grace”—she knows everyone and she runs the show. I asked Betty to share some thoughts about some illustrious former Grace faculty members who have been involved with the school this summer. Below are Betty House’s thoughts on those Grace Episcopal Day School luminaries:

JANE WOOD



Jane Wood was one of the “Women of Grace Church” who founded the school in 1960. She served as Director—as she was called then—of the school from 1960 to 1986! Jane is still alive and her family remains in touch with the school. We have not seen her in a little while, but she came to life this summer when we hung a beautiful painting of her in our conference room, which we named the “Jane Wood Conference Room” (with a nameplate on the door to boot!). It is a great painting and a terrific room. We invite you to come by to look at it. It is nice for our school community to pay homage to our founding Head that way, and I can’t wait to show our students—as young as 3 years old—the picture of Jane and to say to them, “That was the woman who started this school.”

CAROL SANDERS AND JANET ROTH

How nice it was to be visited by two former teachers in August. Carol Sanders taught computers for many years and Janet Roth is a former kindergarten teacher. They visited the campus to see all the changes and meet with our new Head of School, Malcolm Lester. They loved seeing the campus and all the preparations for our youngest students’ arrival in September. They both enjoyed touring the classrooms and the newly designed playground. They said that Grace is in good hands and are excited for its future with Mr. Lester. They were very pleased to see that the conference room has been dedicated to the founding Head of School, Jane Wood, and to see her portrait hanging in a place of prominence.

CAROL G. HJORTSBERG

Former Head of School, Carol G. Hjortsberg sends her best wishes to the school and its new Head. Carol and I started working at Grace at the same time, in the fall of 1986, right after Jane Wood retired. I went to visit her in mid-August, along with Cathy Moore, a longtime administrative assistant at Grace who retired in June. In fact, the occasion for our visit was to celebrate Cathy’s retirement. Carol was very happy to find out that all the students were going to be on one campus. It was her vision to bring the two campuses to one location. She also was very pleased to see photos of the new Jane Wood Conference Room. She is retired and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and her dog Dock.

MARILYN SEITZ

Most of the people reading this know Marilyn Seitz, who is a tireless volunteer at Pennyworth. What some may not know is that she, too, was a longtime teacher at Grace. Malcolm Lester and I paid her a visit at Pennyworth in August, where Marilyn graciously showed us around. We

were fascinated to see that the current Pennyworth location used to be a blackbox theater. Marilyn remembers her Grace school days fondly and tells great stories about her years there. Just stop by the store and ask her either about “the raccoon” or the night of the “Ladies Night Out” sleepover at the Kensington campus! Thank you, Marilyn, for your hospitality.



How fortunate Grace Episcopal Day School is to have people like this still in contact with the school. And how fortunate I am, to be working alongside colleagues like Betty House and others, who are the individuals that will be talked about many years from now when people think of Grace.

Warmly,

Malcolm Lester

Head of School

TRANSITIONS

BIRTH

Phillip and Jill Downs and
Sister Eva
Welcome Baby
LOUISE MIDDLETON
DOWNS
Friday, July 20, 2012

DEATH

Frances Brosius - April 24,
2012

Fiscal Officer Report

I begin this message by expressing my hope that everyone had a great summer and by thanking everyone for maintaining their pledge payments throughout July and August. With one Sunday remaining in August, we have received pledge payments in the total amount of \$311,551.64, including a total of \$27,466.50 for the first three weeks of August. **The total of \$311,551.64 is \$40,710.57 (15%) above the comparable total for the same period in 2011.** The cumulative total of \$311,551.64 is very close to the estimate for pledge income through this period included in the balanced budget approved by the Vestry for 2011.

As we begin the new program year, it seems like an opportune time to reflect on some of the major, and somewhat unanticipated, expenses incurred during the summer.

- ◆ The costs for clean-up and tree removal following the storm at the end of June totaled \$6,500.00.
- ◆ The refurbishment of the church nursery was completed (many thanks to Amy Miller and her team for completing that work).
- ◆ Efforts are underway to refurbish the Parish Hall following the consolidation of the Grace Episcopal Day School to the Kensington campus.
- ◆ Repairs have been made to our church sound system.

With all of this work, expenditures for 2012 are projected to remain within the allowance of \$656,000.00 approved by the Vestry in the balanced budget approved for 2012.

Having said this, at the present time there is a deficit in the church operating budget of <\$26,463.69>. As indicated in my notes last month, because of the timing of summer payrolls, insurance premium payments and quarterly pension fund contributions. This deficit was anticipated and is actually better than the deficit of <\$32,600.00> projected to be seen in the operating budget at the end of August. This deficit is likely to remain at roughly this level for the next couple of months before being reduced in November and December. This deficit, larger than the deficit seen at the end of August 2011, reflects the on-going reliance of the church on pledge income to meet its obligations, which brings me back to the note on which I began this report. Many thanks to everyone for keeping their pledge payments current this year.

Best wishes for the coming program year.

Gib Bailly
Church Fiscal Officer

Come Join the Music Ministry for an Exciting and Expanding Program Year!



Danny Catalanotto, our Minister of Music, has been hard at work making plans for our ever-growing music program. There are many new and ongoing choir opportunities for children and adults this year and all are welcome. The Cherub Choirs are for our PreK and Kindergarteners, our Chimers are in First Grade, our new Primary Choir is made up of 2nd and 3rd graders, our Junior Choir is for children in 4th through 12th grade, and our Adult Choir is for anyone older than that. Choir rehearsals will begin on August 30th for our Adult choir, September 5th for our Primary and Junior choirs, and our younger groups will begin the week of September 3. Anyone who is interested in participating in one of our choirs and needs more information can contact Mr. C. directly.

In addition to our choirs' regular Sunday musical offerings, we are also getting ready for our 30th season of the **Music of Grace** program. These periodic musical events are a great opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of music, from outside groups and performers, as well as our own Grace Choirs. This year, Music of Grace will include special dramatic programs geared towards children and families, a second installation of the **Amahl and the Night Visitors** opera, our All Saints Memorial Evensong service, and a concert dedicated to the African American experience. Music of Grace is a wonderful way to experience many of the different musical contributions of our community, and is a perfect opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to visit and learn about Grace Church. More information on this series should be arriving in your mailboxes soon!

Sunday School Calendar 2012 - 2013

September

- 8 Teacher Retreat (Sat., 9-noon, PH)
- 9 Ministry Sunday
- 16 First Day of Sunday School
- 23 Sunday School, New Acolytes
Music of Grace, children's program, 5pm
- 30 Sunday School
Newcomer Brunch

October

- 6 Blessing of the Animals (Sat, 10:00am)
- 7 Sunday School
- 14 Sunday School
- 20 Harvest Dinner
- 21 Sunday School, Stewardship Sunday
- 28 Family Service: No Sunday School

November

- 4 All Saints' Sunday, Baptism,
Día de los Muertos
Music of Grace, All Saints' Evensong, 5pm
- 11 Sunday School
- 18 Sunday School
- 21 Thanksgiving Service, 7:30pm
- 25 Family Service: No Sunday School

December

- 2 Winter Garden begins (Advent Wreaths)
Holiday Bazaar
- 9 Winter Garden (Socks: Samaritan Mins.)
- 15 "Amahl and the Night Visitors" 7pm
- 16 Winter Garden (Christmas Caroling)
"Amahl and the Night Visitors" 5:30pm
- 23 Winter Garden (Pageant Rehearsal)
- 24 Christmas Pageant (4pm call, 5pm)
Christmas Eve Service (8pm)
- 25 Christmas Day Service (10am)
- 30 No Sunday School

January

- 5 Teacher Retreat (9-noon, PH)
- 6 Sunday School resumes
- 13 Sunday School, Baptism
Music of Grace, children's concert, 5pm
- 21 Sunday School (MLK Weekend)
- 27 Family Service: No Sunday School
Annual Parish Meeting
Music of Grace, 5pm

February

- 3 Sunday School
Fellowship Brunch
- 10 Sunday School
- 12 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 13 Ash Wednesday, 7:30pm
- 17 Sunday School, Pretzel Sunday
- 24 Family Service: No Sunday School

March

- 3 Sunday School
Bishop's Visitation & Confirmations
- 10 Sunday School
- 17 Sunday School
- 24 Palm Sunday, No Sunday School
- 28 Maundy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 30 Great Vigil of Easter; Baptism
- 31 Easter Sunday, No Sunday School

April

- 6 Teacher Retreat (9-noon, PH)
- 7 Sunday School
- 14 Sunday School, DoK Admissions
- 21 Sunday School, Earth Day
Music of Grace, Grace Choirs Concert, 5pm
- 27 Jr. Choir Soloists Recital #1, Sat., 4pm
- 28 Family Service: No Sunday School
Newcomer Brunch

May

- 4 Jr. Choir Soloists Recital #2, Sat., 4pm
- 5 Sunday School; Youth Sunday
- 9 Ascension, 6pm
- 12 Sunday School, Mothers' Day, Baptism
- 19 Pentecost, No Sunday School
- 26 Family Service: No Sunday School
Memorial Day Weekend

June

- 2 Last Day of Sunday School
- 9 Choir Recognition, Year End Picnic
- 16 Summer Garden begins, Fathers' Day

Fun at the Pig Roast!

