

A MESSENGER OF GRACE

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



RECTOR'S LETTER

Michaelmas 2011

Good people:

The Church is filled with humor about the place people sit. Is that 'my' pew or is it someone else's? When someone new comes into the liturgy they generally worry that they might be taking someone else's place. There is a joke about some visitors who came to church for the first time and found a pew. "Pardon me," an usher said, "This is saved." "Oh, replied the couple, "We are too!"

We are creatures of habit and, in fact often the first thing one might notice is if someone has changed their usual place to sit. As a frequent celebrant I can look over the congregation and sense where folks are usually seated and know to look for them. If missing, then where are they? Does the parish need to reach out? Place is important, and humor aside, there is a spiritual aspect to finding one's place in a church setting. Here there is the approach to the Holy, the numinous, the spiritual. Where one 'sits' in the cosmos and what is my relationship to God is the question being asked and answered in the liturgy. The tall nave of the church suggests the whole sky! The procession suggests the exodus of life, the life journey. The reading of scripture from a raised place says that this is important, and the table at the center of life points to the Sacramental nature of feeding and being fed spiritually. Where one sits in the cosmic drama of liturgy is spiritually important. We pray with our bodies and our time, conterminously.

This place-consciousness is not just in churches. In secular settings, one tends to scan a room before sitting down. One tends to find a place with people perceived to be safe. It is human nature to find it difficult to be out of place. In the present social climate I suspect that much of the fear fueling the current rush to economic feudalism is rooted in the sense many have that they have lost their place to stand, or they are about to lose their place in the economic world. This is not an idle abstraction but the loss of jobs, home and income for thousands. Their place is lost: our fear is that we too might lose our place. The flight of former wealth overseas and into the hands of fewer and fewer people domestically - by accident or design - breeds fear. Where is one's place in the new reality of having less, while remembering when we had more and more? Fear is the obvious response, and it is not unwarranted. And fear is a spiritual reality whether in or out of a church setting!

The antidote to fear is trust and the Sunday liturgies affirms a trust in God by acting out with our bodies and time the stewardship of the spirit. That is one reason we all have a place in church. In the final analysis, praying is trusting in the One who has a place for us in the eternal heart. Formal liturgy is that movement of trust toward God by following the Way of Jesus and then acting to both take one's place and find a place for others bogged down by fear. If there is no other reason to gather to worship, it is that in finding our place, we are found by God.

This Fall we will ask all to support the parish through a pledge. The pledge is a living prayer of trust and thanksgiving and provides space and place for all of us to be open to trust in God. There are many good reasons to be afraid: there is also a place to come and find trust in the place prepared for you in the heart of God.

May you see many blessings, **Richard+**

THANK YOU TO OUR PIONEERS

I would like to personally thank the vestry and those who have joined them in pledging early for the Mission of Grace Church in 2011. Every year their faithful response has given life and hope to the congregation and many beyond the parish itself. Bless you and your witness. **Richard+**

Nigel Bark	Ejane & John MacCartney
Beryl Bethelmy	Lauren Malone
Louise Bohr	Orville & Sally Mann
Ruth Butler	Rev. Kenneth Mann
James & Ruth Case	Steven Marsh
John & Beverly Colgan	Nils & Roberta Mathsen
Barbara & Charles Cross	Jeff McDowell
Elaine Dempsey	Debbie & Robert McGuinness
James & Virginia Dillon	Mary O'Donoghue
Douglas Doller	Moriah & Keith Olsen
Eugenia Duryea	James O'Toole & Gregory Birchett
Gerald & Marjorie Federico	William & Rosemary Owen
George & Ruth Fee	Beth & Joe Paskowski
Barbara Fleischer	Tom Perry
Victoria & Frederick Frelow	Philip & Helen Scala
T.D. Bergen & K.M. Fulmor	Sally & Roger Seiler
Peggy & Jim Gilbert	Sheinman-Rihs Family
Edward & Suzanne Grant	Emily Sieracki
Eleanor & Harold Hafstad	Carol & Paul Streichert
Rudolph Knight	Emily Wilkins
Amy Lehman	Bruce & Thayer Woodcock
Mia Leo & Dick Kuczkowski	And two anonymous pledgers
Evelyn Lombardi & Jeanette Matthews	

IMPORTANT CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School Registration

Church School registration forms and syllabus will be available on **Sunday September 19 during the Parish Activity Fair (8:30am—12:30pm.)** A new form must be filled out each year to ensure that we have current information on your children. Please note that in light of insurance and safety concerns, **we must have a registration form for your child** if they are going to be in the classroom without you, even if you don't expect that they will be attending regularly. **Junior Youth Group (JYG)** for 6th-8th graders also includes special activities such as skiing, rafting and Night Watch. Information will also be available regarding **Senior Youth Group** for High School aged youth. This group meets on Sunday evenings in the Fenton Room. Curriculum includes teambuilding activities, topics related to spiritual growth, youth presentations about their countries and community service. Church school is available free of charge for children aged 4 years old - 8th grade thanks to the hard work of our volunteer teachers and Youth Commission.

Church School Calendar

Classes begin **Sunday, September 18**, and run through June 10, beginning directly following 9:30 service and lasting 45 minutes - 1 hour. Special exceptions include days off following the school calendar and family activities to recognize important holidays. Classes combine a lectionary based lesson and choir instruction. Full calendars are in the church school syllabus.

Choirs

Four year olds through second grade sing with Miss Bonnie as their leader in the **Joyful Noise Gospel Choir** performing at the 9:30 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Third through fifth graders will be led by Maija Kupris as part of the **St. Cecilia Choir** and will sing during the 9:30 mass on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and with the Grace Church adult choir during selected 11:00 services. Older kids and parents might be interested in the **Parish Choir**, which is an intergenerational ensemble which welcomes members from the 7th grade up. You'll find more information elsewhere in this issue..

SOUP AND A SMILE!



Throughout the year various Grace Church parishioners are in need of a hot meal and friendly visit. Each Sunday, a sign-up sheet and labeled containers will be in Memorial Hall. Families are invited to sign-up to fill a container with a comforting soup (main dish), add some bread, salad and dessert, and stop by for a short visit. Your visit will brighten someone's day and make their recuperation that much easier!

Please contact **Jen Marrassino the Church School Coordinator** at **845-358-5108** or jenmarrassino@hotmail.com with any questions.



AMAZING GRACE CIRCUS! 10th Anniversary Year!

Now in its 10th year, AGC! is the only year-round youth circus organization in the NY Metro area. During 2011-2021 the AGC! Youth Circus Troup — fresh from appearances at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and the American Youth Circus Organization Festival in Sarasota, Florida — will continue its schedule of weekly rehearsals and exciting performances throughout the community and beyond.

The Amazing Grace Circus! School returns with a week-day schedule jam-packed with afterschool offerings for kids of just about all ages. New this year are the **PEE WEE CIRCUS** For kids 3 – 5 years old (moms welcome to attend too) early learning and brain stimulation for young minds; and the **SENSORY CIRCUS** for differently-abled children and children on the autism spectrum, ages 8 – 18. These and other classes – including Aerial skills, acrobatics, “Dancing Like the Stars -- all take place in Memorial Hall weekday afternoons beginning in October.

For information on the circus and the class schedules and detail, contact director Carlo Pellegrini at

348-8740 or www.amazinggracecircus.org



Rockland Parent-Child Center

WELCOME BACK TO ROCKLAND PARENT CHILD CENTER

As of September 1, the Rockland Parent Child Center — for many years located across the street in our building at 137 First Avenue—is back in-house, sharing space with the church school director and office administration on the second floor. “Grace Church has had a long history of support for the work of the Rockland Parent Child Center and we welcome this vital organization back into the Church building,” said Fr. Richard. “We are honored to be an important part of their continuing legacy of helping parents and children both physically and spiritually.

RPCC offers a host of programs for children and parents, including the **Toddler Playgroup**, which will continue in the church school area here at Grace on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. RPCC's **Family Connections Program** provides vital support services to families affected by incarceration, with a team of trained volunteers who mentor adults after their release from the Rockland Correctional Facility or children (age 5-18 years) with a parent who is or has been incarcerated. They regularly hold on-site training sessions for volunteers, and welcome those who wish to learn more about the program.

Find out more about RPCC and their programs on their website: rocklandparentchild.org.



VOLUNTEER MINISTRY FAIR CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION CONTINUES



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011
8:30am - 12:30pm in MEMORIAL HALL

FIND OUT HOW TO BE INVOLVED & TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**In Your Church - In Your Community
And Beyond**

**Talk to those who make it happen
Refreshments/Displays/Take Away materials Surprises**

Commissions

Adult Spiritual Formation (Adult education/Lenten Programs/Parish Retreat/Parish Forums)

Fellowship (planning and executing the occasions that bring us closer together)

New Member Ministry (the welcoming hand of Grace - Greeters/ Welcome Brunch, etc)

Social Ministry (Midnight Run/Helping Hands/Carpenter's Kids/People to People)

Youth (Church School/Youth Groups/Church Youth Service Mission Trips)

Worship Ministries (Acolytes/Subdeacons/Lectors) - **The Grace Church Choirs** -
(Senior/Parish/Youth) **Stewardship** - **Altar Guild** - **Grace's Thrift Shop** - **Pastoral
Care** (Food/Visitation/Flowers/Prayer Team) - **GraceMusic** - **Amazing Grace Circus** -
Garden Club - **Graceful Friends**—**Boy Scouts** - **Twelve-Step Groups** - **Nursery School
of the Nyacks** - **Rockland Parent-Child Center** — **Stewardship Committee**-

It's ALL Here!

Sponsored by the
Adult Spiritual Formation Commission For information:

esieracki@gracechurchnyack.org

[358-1297](tel:358-1297) ext. 12

MUSIC AT GRACE CHURCH



The Grace Church Choir

Founded in 1886 as a vested choir of men and boys, it quickly rose to a high

standard of musical excellence. The present Grace Church Choir consists of 30+ dedicated men and women with wide ranging choral experience whose repertoire runs the gamut from the early renaissance to commissioned works of contemporary composers. Although the Grace Church Choir exists primarily to provide music for the liturgy, it performs several concerts a year under the auspices of GraceMusic. The Grace Church Choir rehearsals regularly on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm.

The Parish Choir

The Parish Choir is an intergenerational ensemble which welcomes members from the 7th grade up. The choir sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at the 9:30 service with a rehearsal at 9:00am. As well as learning the music for that morning we also use it as a springboard for brief liturgical and theological discussion which is particularly geared to our young members. Contact Bob Barrows at 358-1297 ext 13 - or just come up to the choir gallery on Sunday



Youth Choirs

Grace Church's high standard of musical tradition is incorporated into church school each week, with children attending ½ hour of choir before their weekly lesson. Children aged 4 through 2nd grade sing in the

Joyful Noise Gospel Choir, Children in grades 3-6 sing in the Saint Cecelia Choir.

Both choirs have the opportunity to participate in special events such as the Interfaith Thanksgiving service, Christmas Eve Family Service, Easter Family Service and occasionally make special appearances at the 11:00am services.



For information on becoming a member of one of Grace's please e-mail Bob Barrows at barrows@optonline.net

GraceMusic

42 Years of Great Music in a Great Space

New York Polyphony: "Tudor City" October 30, 2011

"A stunning tour through chant, polyphony and renaissance harmonies" (Minnesota Public Radio), a compelling synthesis of ancient and contemporary vocal music performed by this preeminent male vocal quartet, their "Tudor City" CD featured on *All Things Considered* and on *Billboard's* Classical top 10.

42nd Annual Messiah Sing December 4, 2011

Rockland's beloved Messiah Sing!

We provide the soloists, you sing the choruses. Listeners welcome. A Rockland holiday tradition conducted by Robert Barrows. All tickets \$10; children free.

Typical Music February 5, 2012

Todd Reynolds, violin; Vicky Chow piano; Ashley Bathgate, cello.

These three inventive musicians find inspiration and reward in crossing boundaries of genre and format in solos, duos and trios from the early 20th into the 21st century. Mr. Reynolds is a member of *Bang On a Can*, Ms. Chow and Ms. Bathgate play with the *Bang On a Can All-Stars*.

A Viennese Rivalry March 25, 2012

Music by W.A. Mozart and Antonio Salieri: extravagant delights from these two legendary rivals performed by the Grace Church Choir & Orchestra, conducted by Robert Barrows.

Trio Passioné April 22, 2012

Kimberly Everett, oboe; Jesse Gilday clarinet; Gina Izzo flute

Based at NYU's Steinhardt School of Music, this energetic young woodwind ensemble has extensive experience performing solo with orchestras in and around New York City. Come hear them charm us with some new music, some classics, and some surprises!

All Concerts are at 4:00pm.

Tickets \$15; Seniors \$10; Students \$5

Available at the Door

Meet-the-artists receptions follow all concerts

except Messiah Sing

FRIENDS OF GRACEMUSIC

Admission fees do not cover the costs of GraceMusic concerts; a group of generous contributors makes them possible. A donation of \$25 to \$99 makes you an official Supporter of GraceMusic; \$100 to \$249 makes you a Contributor to GraceMusic. Supporters & Contributors receive acknowledgement in programs; a donation of \$250 or more also entitles you to a complimentary ticket to each performance. Please consider being a patron of this fine series by sending a check payable to **GraceMusic, 130 First Avenue, Nyack, New York 10960**

CALENDAR

LATE SEPTEMBER 2011

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

7:30pm ASF Book Club (Patterson Hall)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

12:00pm – Ministry Fair Set Up (Memorial Hall)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Holy Eucharist (Family Service)

10:10am Church School Classes Begin

8:30am – 12:30pm Ministry Fair (Memorial Hall)

11:00am Holy Eucharist

5:00pm Annual Concert For Remembrance 9/11 (Free)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00pm RPCC Meeting (Patterson Hall)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Memorial Hall)

7:30pm Vestry (Patterson Hall)

8:00pm Senior Choir (Choir Room)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00pm Rockland Camerata (Choir Room)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:00pm Bischoff/English wedding (Bradley Chapel)

7:00pm Palisades Opera—*La Boheme* (\$20; Info:203-915-2478)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

9:30am Holy Eucharist (Family Service & baptism)

10:10am Parish Forum 150th Anniversary

11:00am Holy Eucharist (baptisms)

6:30pm French Creole Service

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

10:00am Staff Meeting (Patterson Hall)

7:00pm Boy Scouts (Memorial Hall)

8:00pm Senior Choir (Choir Room)

SERVICE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Late September 2011

Sunday, September 18

8am Subdeacon/Lector: V. Mathews **Acolyte:** J. Martin

9:30am Subdeacon: LM Schnalzer

11:00am Subdeacon/Chalice: C. Uccellani/L. Holt

Lectors: P. Richards/N. Marshall

Verger: J. McDowell **Crucifers:** C.Cox/P. Cose

Torches: A. Marsland/J. Marsland **Elements:** T. & K. Burns

Usher Team: Cross Team **Greeters:** B. Cross/B. Growney

Sunday, September 25

8am Subdeacon/Lector: R. Hammond **Acolyte:** M. MacQueen

9:30am Subdeacon: M. Olsen

11:00am Subdeacon/Chalice: J. Matthews/P. Gilbert

Lectors: M. Owens/P. Barnard **Verger/Thurifer:** E. Lombardi

Crucifers: J. McDowell/C. Howe

Torches: P. Jean-Gilles/A. Jean-Gilles **Elements:** Holts

Usher Team: Wanamaker Team **Greeters:** B. Wanamaker

10th ANNUAL CONCERT FOR REMEMBRANCE, 9/11

The 10th Annual Concert for Remembrance, 9/11 will be held on **Sunday, September 18 at 5:00pm** in memory of the victims and heroes lost on September 11, 2001. Edward Simons, Holly Druckman and Robert Barrows will conduct. There is no charge for admission. The Concert for Remembrance 9/11 Orchestra is composed of professional musicians from area organizations that include the American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, Metropolitan Opera, New Jersey Symphony and many others, all of whom volunteer their time for this concert.

For information, please call Alison Crowther at 845-358-2766. For information about the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust, visit www.crowthertrust.org. The Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust is recognized as a not-for-profit organization according to section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Donations to the support the work of the trust are gratefully accepted.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION AND THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK present

Islam, Sharia, and Reformation: Understanding the Current Revolution in the Muslim World

Saturday, October 22; 9:30-2:00pm

\$10 including coffee and light lunch

A Presentation by Prof. Mark Welton of the Episcopal Muslim Relations Committee

As today's headlines make clear, the Muslim world, especially in the Middle East but also in other areas of that world, is undergoing significant, sometimes violent change. Some have argued that there is an irreconcilable clash of civilizations between the West and the Islamic world, and that the two worlds are incompatible and destined to engage in conflict. Others have suggested that the Muslim world is undergoing an internal "reformation" with significant parallels to the European Reformation that, after years of violent struggle, eventually led to democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. Which perspective is right – either, both, or neither? Or is something else going on?

There is an enormous output of opinion – popular and scholarly – on this issue. How is a concerned individual from outside the Muslim world to make sense of these developments and their impact on the West? This presentation offers a comparative perspective that recognizes the important differences between Islamic and Western history and culture – but also highlights important similarities.

Dr. Welton is Professor of International and Comparative Law at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he is Program Director for the Department of Law's major in International & Comparative Legal Studies. Prior to assuming his current academic position in 1999, he served as judge advocate in the United States Army. His assignments included Chief of International Law for the U.S. Army, Europe

Please register by email:

parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org or
call 845-358-1297 ext. 10

COMMISSIONS AT GRACE

Our Commissions provide the vision and planning behind all of our programs at Grace. New members are always welcome ~ you are encouraged to attend a meeting to find out where you are called to served and how you can become involved.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMISSION

The Adult Spiritual Formation Commission develops programs that provide a setting in which our faith community can deepen our awareness of God's presence and strengthen our commitment to follow the path of Christ. Programs include **Parish Forums** on a wide-range of subjects, twice monthly **Men's Prayer Breakfast (2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:00am)**, a **Lenten program** offering fellowship and classes for the entire family, ongoing **Book Group (3rd Thursdays days at 7:30pm)**, and other programs and events.

The commission will meet on **Thursday, October 13 at 7:30pm** — new members are always welcome.

Contact **Claudia Uccellani (358-4228)** or **Jennifer Hausler (353-0166)**

PARISH FORUMS

10:10 to 10:50am—between the 9:30 & 11:00am services
Watch for a calendar of upcoming Forums soon.

If you have topic suggestions or would like to be involved in planning future presentations, please attend a meeting or speak with Claudia or Jennifer.



FELLOWSHIP COMMISSION

The Fellowship Commission fosters and nurtures fellowship in the church and community by providing opportunities for social interchange. From annual events like the **Fall Hike**, **Advent Party** and **Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival** outing, to monthly **Sunday Shorts** hikes and **Traveling Table** events, as well as receptions at a variety of church events, fun social gatherings are the hallmark of this commission, which works to bring us all closer together. Volunteers are always welcome to join in planning and executing events, or to support the commission by helping to provide food.

Contact **Kris Burns 353-6590**

JOIN US

Help us in planning a year-long schedule of both new and familiar events to bring us all closer together. Your creativity and energy will be welcomed!

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY COMMISSION

works to identify and welcome visitors to our church, and to help them become active members of the congregation. For our **Greeters** there are no regular monthly meetings, just a willingness to stand at the door following the church service on assigned Sundays, shake hands, direct visitors to coffee hour, and collect their contact information to receive our newsletter if interest is expressed. Other commission members make follow up phone calls to visitors, and help plan and execute our **Newcomer Brunches** and other activities.

Contact: **Sally Seiler (358-8791)**

GREETERS NEEDED

If you want to share your enthusiasm for Grace Church and are available to greet newcomers after the service, we'd love to hear from you and add you to our roster.

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL MINISTRIES

The Commission on Social Ministries is the tangible presence of Grace Church in the community. The commission works to act on the Biblical mandate to "go out into the world...feed the hungry, work for justice."

Three nights a month from January through April we provide shelter for the homeless in Memorial Hall (**Helping Hands**). We sponsor and support grant requests to Episcopal Charities by the Rockland Parent-Child Center, and Amazing Grace CIRCUS! Social Ministry coordinates the weekly food collection for **People to People**, and the monthly **Midnight Run** that makes lunches for the homeless in New York City. We also work to raise funds for the diocesan **Carpenter's Kids** project and a variety of other programs.

Contact **Charlie Cross (358-4599, CORjj@aol.com)**

HELPING HANDS

December 11, 12, 13 (Sun, Mon, Tues)

January 7, 8, 9 (Fri, Sat, Sun)

February 9,10,11 (Thur, Fri, Sat)

March 10, 11, 12 (Sat, Sun, Mon)

We'll need volunteers on these dates
to cook and serve dinners,
and to provide overnight supervision.

Watch for details & sign-up sheets later this year.

YOUTH COMMISSION & CHURCH SCHOOL

The Youth Commission assists in planning, and implementing youth programs in the parish. We strive to provide a supportive community of faith within which children and youth may come to know Christ and are able to claim a role in our worship, spiritual life, witness, mutual service, and social outreach.

The **Church School**, (pre-k to 5th grade,) offers an experiential approach to religious education. Classes meet at 10:10am, between the 9:30am and 11:00am services, and focus on introducing children to our spiritual community through interactive programs of Bible stories, activities, and music.

Parents volunteer as **teachers, assistants, and helpers for special events**. Youth in 8th grade and above are invited to join the **Confirmation Class**, a year-long curriculum that involves a review of Christianity and the Anglican/Episcopal tradition, parish and community service, a scriptural testimony, and a mentoring program. There are also two **Youth Groups**: the **Junior Youth Group** (6th—8th grade) meets on Sundays at the same time as Church School; the **Senior Youth Group** (9th—12th grade) meets on Sunday evenings and includes involvement in church activities. A major focus of the SYG is preparation for the summer **Church Youth Service Ministry** trip, which in past years has included travel to work on projects in Louisiana, Montana, Nicaragua and West Virginia.

The **Amazing Grace CIRCUS!**, co-founded by Carlo Pellegrini and Janet Hayes, is now the only year-round youth circus organization in the Tri-State area. AGC! runs both after school circus classes and a summer camp out of Memorial Hall. Children ages 5-14 learn how to cooperate with others and build their self-esteem through facilitated learning of circus arts: clowning, juggling, balancing and acrobatics. **Contact: Carlo Pellegrini (348-8740; carlo@amazinggracecircus.org)**

Contact Laura Cavazzi (353-8937), or Church School Coordinator Jennifer Marraccino (358-1297 ext. 14)



MORE OPPORTUNITIES

SERVICE MINISTRY

Every week twenty to thirty volunteers of all ages assist during our three liturgical services, including **Acolytes, Chalice Bearers and Subdeacons** (Altar Servers who assist the priest during liturgical processions and administration of the sacrament); service ministers also offer their service as **Lectors and Ushers**.

Contact: Fr. Richard (358-1297) or Evelyn Lombardi, Sacristan (358-4080)

THE ALTAR GUILD

is dedicated to preparing the altar for worship, supervising seasonal church decorations and flower arrangements, and preparing the church for sacramental rites — baptisms,

confirmations, weddings, and funerals — for those in the parish and beyond.

Contact: Sally Ann Mock (358-8014)

The PASTORAL CARE TEAM

(Prayer Team, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Food, Flowers) supports parishioners in times of need and joy, enhances the existing ministry of the clergy, and keeps parishioners in need connected to the church community.

Contact: Mtr. Emily (358-1297 ext. 12)



GRACE'S THRIFT SHOP

is an active consignment shop in downtown Nyack which generates income that is used to directly support community outreach programs, our diocesan assessment, and special church projects. Volunteers are always welcome, either for regular shifts or as substitutes.

Contact: Sally Mann or Fran Sennas, Thrift Shop Co-Managers, at 358-7488.

*Photos are from last year's
Volunteer Ministry/Activity Fair.
Don't miss the 2011 Ministry Fair on Sunday
the 18th — your one-stop source for
information, answers, inspiration
on ways to become more involved.*

NOTES FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

The August vestry meeting was short on business and long on search process. We met a half an hour early to conduct the business of the parish.

We then adjourned to a time certain to listen to Rev. Tom Orso, Canon in charge of Development, instruct us in the search process. Former wardens and present commission chairs were also in attendance. Rev. Orso was very informative and we will present to the parish at the October 16 Parish Forum the gist of his presentation.

In the meantime, we look to starting church school for the new 2011-12 year. The pledge campaign has started with the vestry pledging a 3% increase over last year's pledge. Our goal is to reach a total of \$375,000 in pledges. That is \$25,000 more than last year. Our September vestry meeting will focus upon our pledge campaign.



Kickie Fulmor

Summary of the July Vestry Meeting minutes (Full minutes are posted outside Memorial Hall)

The SCOF Report as circulated was reviewed; reports indicates seasonal income decline; utilities are evening out; anticipating income from 137 rentals soon; maintenance will be over budget for year – this will be addressed at year-end.

Query re terminology used on COSM support to AGC!/RPCC could be indicated is mission-driven support vs “payment to;”

Endowment report for March shows slight improvement over January report - goal of SCOF to “clean up” some of the funds that are unused/minimal amounts;

Stewardship – Moriah Olsen agreed to head drive for another year; At August meeting vestry will be asked to make their 2012 pledge – increased amount will determine % increase to suggest to parish;

Discussion concerning custody of IPC funds – roughly \$750 – as IPC no longer is a viable entity, decided that this should be turned over to the diocese for determination.

J. McDowell presented **the SCOP report**

RPCC space request: R. Gressle, C. Cross (COSM) and J. McDowell met with representatives from RPCC in response to a request for space within the Grace Church complex. To survive a transitional time financially, they need a small amount of space for nominal rent. Their needs are flexible. After review of possible locations the 2nd floor administrative office was determined to be most workable. RPCC will pay \$300/month, with the first three months deferred. This is intended as a short term arrangement. There was discussion regarding the ongoing relationship with RPCC and need for further definition going forward. On a motion by J. McDowell, seconded by R. Seiler, the short-term arrangement for RPCC to use the space, specifics to be determined, was approved with one abstention (K. Cross.)

145 First Avenue: after annual Section 8 inspection, emergency painting and minor repairs were required to meet Nyack Housing Section 8 requirements. K. Cross suggested a procedure for annual inspection of the rental properties be put into place to plan for routine maintenance and avoid emergency repairs.

Sign update – tension between goal of having sign by 150th anniversary and working within budget via use of donated services etc. The need for legibility of sign by passing cars stressed.

Money has been raised by Fellowship via cookbook sales, additional funds are necessary. On a motion from K. Fulmor, seconded by B. Parsekian, it was agreed that SCOP would come up with a proposal of what is needed and where the funds could be found. ALL AYES.

Commission Reports

COSM has requested that SCOF clarify fundraising planning, with all requests to be channeled through vestry in order to avoid conflicting fundraising efforts such as existed during Lent with Carpenter's Kids and Haiti appeals going on simultaneously.

GraceMusic – piano baffle will be finished in the fall (to protect piano from damage due to temperature changes.

CALL REPORTS due by July 30 – important since pledge drive begins in August with vestry pledging at meeting followed by Pioneer letter to those who have pledged/completed pledge over previous 3 years. In October /November there will be call follow up, with a “thank you” to pledgers or a “will you pledge” to those not yet committed. Relationships formrf will be critical as the transition unfolds in the coming year.

Discussion concerning call experiences; logistics of reporting anonymous information; difficulty of reaching everyone.

K. Fulmor, R. Gressle, M. Olsen and J. McDowell will meet to discuss pledge campaign and next steps as concerns stewardship/ Gordon Plan.

Rector's Report

Fr. Gressle reported on pastoral concerns of the parish,

He reviewed the steps of the transition plan, noting that diocesan deployment officer will be at the August 16 vestry meeting to. Due to the nature of the meeting, past senior wardens and commission chairs were invited to the meeting,

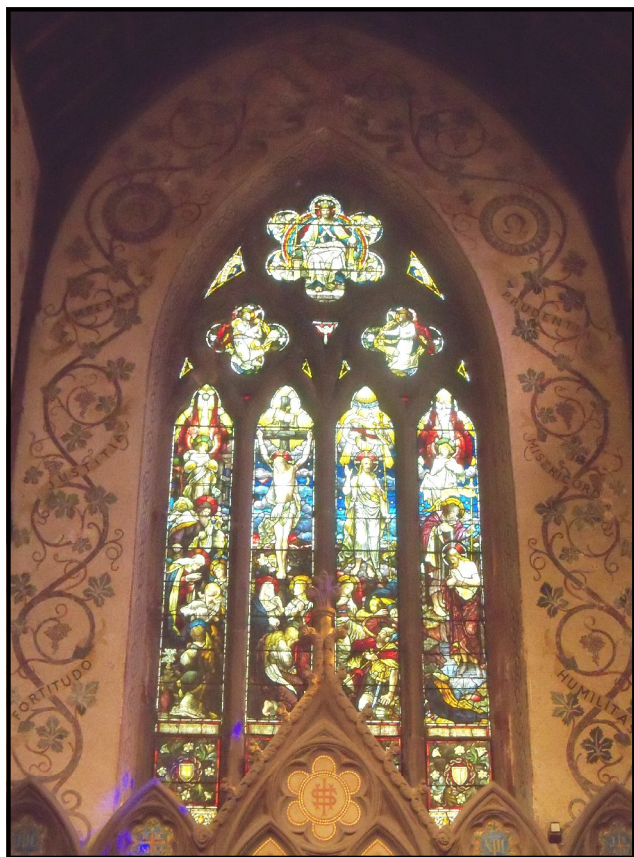
K. Fulmor reported that staff will be interviewed individually. Although it is traditional in the parish for staff members to offer resignations at time of the rector's departure, to facilitate continuity during transition they will be asked to remain until 12/31/2012 and which point it is hoped that new rector will be in place. Impact of transition on upcoming pledge drive was noted, along with possible effect on “transitional” people and those in vulnerable situations.

Discussion concerning recent New York State law concerning same sex marriage and stance of diocese. Bp. Sisk has made statement in support of the law, but has not given overt permission to performance of same sex marriage. Some members felt that bishop should be supported, but that given the prominence of diocese, should be urged to take a more positive stance in the matter. K. Cross and S. Marsh agreed to draft a letter for vestry discussion.

*O eternal God,
Turn us into the arms and hands,
The legs and feet
Of your beloved Son, Jesus.
You gave birth to him in heaven
Before the creation of the earth.
You gave birth to us on earth,
To become his living body.
Make us worthy to be his limbs,
And so worthy to share
In his eternal bliss.*

A prayer of Hildegard of Bingen,

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Usually I show you two pictures that have a relationship to each other but are from different times in our history here at Grace. This time I offer an explanation of something we see every time we are in church but perhaps are not aware of the meaning of its design. I refer to the mosaics and designs of the chancel. Did you ever wonder what they were?

According to the Rockland County Journal of November 11, 1890, they are Italian mosaics. The chancel is forty feet high and twenty-four feet square. It took the craftsmen approximately seven weeks to place each little piece (1/2" sq.) of colored marble in its correct place. The chancel was completed on November 11, 1890. And, true to Rev. Babbitt's time, everything was paid for before it went up!

The side walls are covered in dark brown marble with bands of lighter marble. Further up the walls is creamy white marble with the Fleur-de-Lys in red marble an ancient emblem of the Trinity.

At the very top is a dove representing the Holy Spirit, Wisdom, with the word *Sanctus* written three times as well as rays of glory spreading in all directions. Under that are the Greek letters alpha and omega standing for the beginning and the end. To the sides are 6 of the 7 virtues intertwined in two grape vines. They are:

Temperantia - moderation in all things

Justitia - giving what is due to God, our neighbors and ourselves

Fortitudo - courage to resist anything which may hinder our salvation

Prudentia - reason which leads us to take proper and effectual means to secure our salvation

Misericordia - mercy

Humilitas - humility.

Why are there only six virtues instead of the seven? There are only six virtues because in iconography the viewer is always invited into the picture. In this case, Grace, living the spirit of God, is what we, the congregation, are asked to bring.

Underneath the mosaics at altar level is the re-redos. That is also full of Greek iconography and letters meaning Jesus Christ inside each circle of the Trinity. Ask Fr. Richard to tell you what they are. The panels themselves are explained by the scripture underneath. The mosaics, stained glass, re-redos, altar, needlepoint kneelers, and our community all combine to give us that beautiful space we call Grace Church.

If you have a question that might be answered from the Archives please email me at Lexow2@yahoo.com or let the office know.

Kickie Fulmor

Celebrating 150 Years of Grace

Counting Our Blessings...

Blessings of Grace -- on October 15 and 16 -- will be a great opportunity to express what Grace means to you, in honor of the 150th anniversary! Join us on Saturday morning, October 15, when you can create a collage, write a poem, or maybe make bread for Communion to express how you feel blessed by being a part of the Grace community. A light lunch will follow. The Church School will have related activities on Sunday, October 16. Hold the dates!

Happy Anniversary to Grace - Saturday, November 5!

We will be observing the 150th Anniversary with a special service and confirmation by Bishop Sisk on Saturday, November 5. A reception honoring the confirmands and anniversary will follow the service. And that evening, there will be a festive celebration where we can toast the 150th, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and good company, along with great music. Save the date and stay tuned for more details!

Church Memorials

In association with the 150th anniversary of Grace, the list of altar, liturgical and music memorials is being updated (Garden memorials are maintained as a separate list and are not part of this update effort). If you have any information regarding church memorial gifts (such as altar cloths, communion sets, bells) given in 2000 or later, please forward the information to Stephanie Campbell at lsnmcampbell@optonline.net by September 30th.



SEPTEMBER 2011

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Parish Office: (845) 358-1297 Fax: (845) 358-1443
Rev. Richard Gressle, Rector – ext. 11
Rev. Emily Sieracki, Assistant to the Rector – ext. 12
Robert Barrows, Organist/Choirmaster – ext. 13
Bonnie Parsekian, Assisting Musician
Maija Kupris, Assisting Musician
Jennifer Marraccino, Church School Coordinator – ext. 14
Thayer Woodcock, Parish Administrator – ext. 10
Elaine Dempsey, Receptionist – ext. 10
GraceMusic – ext. 16 **Grace's Thrift Shop:** (845) 358-7488
Grace Church Website: www.gracechurchnyack.org
Grace Church E-mail: parishoffice@gracechurchnyack.org
Newsletter Submissions: twoodcock@gracechurchnyack.org

Wardens

Katharine Fulmor
Jeff McDowell

Treasurer

Charles Richardson
Assistant Treasurer
Sally Ann Mock

Vestry

Kim Cross
Vickie Frelow
Orville Mann
Steven Marsh
Bonnie Parsekian
Beth Paskowski
Karen Rihs
Roger Seiler
Emily Wilkins

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
130 First Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH NYACK

The Rev. Richard L. Gressle, Rector

The Rev. Emily Sieracki, Assistant to the Rector

Assisting Clergy:

The Rev. Alan Chisholm, The Rev. Suzanne Hope Graham

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mann, The Rev. A. Meigs Ross

Grace Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 – 4:00pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

8:00am - Holy Eucharist - Rite I

9:30am - Family Service, followed by Church School

11:00am - Holy Eucharist, Senior Choir

6:30pm - French/Creole Mass (2nd/Last Sundays)