

Spring 2019

## Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



The  
**ANGELUS**  
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

### The Rector's Letter



#### Are You Prepared for Lent?

As your new rector, I am excited that we now approach the season of Lent, a time for reflecting on the holy, a time that historically is steeped in prayer, fasting and repentance. My practice has been to reflect and meditate

on the wonder and beauty of a loving God through Jesus Christ. For greater insight, please go to YouTube and search for Fr. Richard Rohr (Catholic priest) and you will see many wonderful seminars on the concept of time, focusing less on the future and more on the holiness found in the present - a wonderful practice that will lessen blood pressure, angst and worry.

As an Episcopalian, I find it both liberating and awe-inspiring that we are so connected to history; in other words, there is reason and tradition behind what we do and say. Furthermore, our practices are also connected to those saints that have come before us; those within our Anglican history books and those we've known personally in the past.

Allow me to explain. I am a strong believer in this concept referred to as the *Communion of Saints*, a notion that we are not alone in our journey with God. We



are part of a bigger community. We are in a community with, not only those we know today, but also those we've known in the past - those who have connected to us in our past, but no longer live on earth.

I believe that all saints, those famous and not, allow us a deeper and more well-rounded understanding of 'who we are' and 'where we come from' as we journey with God. Therefore, a deeper and richer understanding of what it means to be part of the greater Christian community including those in the past, those in the present and those we will meet in the future.

We will begin our new season of Lent with Shrove Tuesday, segue into Ash Wednesday and go to the streets in White Plains with *Ashes to God*. Fr. Adolfo, I and other ministers will dispense ash crosses, reminding recipients of the sacred, historical and scriptural understanding that we are all *dust and to dust we shall return*.

The use of ashes is deeply connected to our history and has a foundation in scripture to signify grief, repentance and meditation. For example, in 2 Samuel, it states that after Tamar was harmed by her half-brother, she sprinkled ashes on her head. In Job 42, it indicates that he will abhor himself, repenting in dust and ashes. And just prior to the New Testament period, the Maccabees prepared for battle (Jewish independence) by using ashes.

The use of ashes is also deeply connected to Genesis and the beginning of humanity with Adam (literally of the earth). In sum, we are reminded that we begin our journey out of dust and we will end it returning to dust.

As we begin this new season of Lent and receive the cross of ashes on our forehead, we are reminded that we are common, that we are all brought to our knees before Christ as dust. In this way, we are deeply connected to God and his grand design in creation, now and forever.

Amen.

### **¿Estás preparado para la Cuaresma?**

Como su nuevo rector, me emociona que ahora nos acerquemos a la temporada de Cuaresma, un momento para reflexionar sobre lo sagrado, un momento que históricamente está impregnado de oración, ayuno y arrepentimiento. Mi práctica ha sido reflexionar y meditar sobre la maravilla y la belleza de un Dios amoroso a través de Jesucristo. Para una mejor visión, por favor vaya a YouTube y busque al Padre. Richard Rohr (sacerdote católico) y verá muchos seminarios maravillosos sobre el concepto del tiempo, centrándose menos en el futuro y más en la santidad que se encuentra en el presente, una práctica maravillosa que disminuirá la presión arterial, la angustia y la preocupación.

Como episcopal, me parece liberador e impresionante que estamos tan conectados a la historia; en otras palabras, hay razón y tradición detrás de lo que hacemos y



decimos. Además, nuestras prácticas también están conectadas con aquellos santos que han venido antes que nosotros; los que están en nuestros libros de historia anglicana y los que conocemos personalmente en el pasado.

Permítame explicarle. Soy un firme creyente de este concepto conocido como la Comunión de los Santos, una noción de que no estamos solos en nuestro viaje con Dios. Somos parte de una comunidad más grande. Estamos en una comunidad con, no solo aquellos que conocemos hoy, sino también aquellos que hemos conocido en el pasado, aquellos que se conectaron con nosotros en nuestro pasado, pero que ya no viven en la tierra.

Creo que todos los santos, aquellos famosos y no, nos permiten una comprensión más profunda y completa de "quiénes somos" y "de dónde venimos" cuando viajamos con Dios. Por lo tanto, una comprensión más profunda y más rica de lo que significa ser parte de una comunidad cristiana mayor, incluidas las del pasado, las del presente y las que nos encontraremos en el futuro.

Comenzaremos nuestra nueva temporada de Cuaresma con el Martes de Carnaval (fecha festiva que antecede al Miércoles de Ceniza). Continuaremos con el Miércoles de Ceniza e iremos a las calles de White Plains con Cenizas para el Camino. P. Adolfo, yo y otros ministros dispensaremos cruces de ceniza, recordándoles a los destinatarios la comprensión sagrada, histórica y bíblica de que todos somos polvo y al polvo regresaremos.

El uso de las cenizas está profundamente conectado con nuestra historia y tiene una base en las Escrituras que significa dolor, arrepentimiento y meditación. Por ejemplo, en 2 Samuel, se afirma que después de que Tamar fue agredida por su hermanastro, ella roció cenizas en su cabeza. En Job 42, indica que se detesto a sí mismo, arrepintiéndose con el polvo y las cenizas. Y justo antes del período del Nuevo Testamento, los Macabeos se prepararon para la batalla (independencia judía) utilizando cenizas.

El uso de las cenizas también está profundamente relacionado con el Génesis y el comienzo de la humanidad con Adán (literalmente de la tierra). En resumen, se nos recuerda que comenzamos nuestro viaje fuera del polvo y lo terminaremos volviendo al polvo.

Al comenzar esta nueva temporada de Cuaresma y recibir la cruz de cenizas en nuestra frente, se nos recuerda que somos comunes, que todos estamos de rodillas ante Cristo como polvo. De esta manera, estamos profundamente conectados con Dios y su gran diseño en la creación, ahora y para siempre.

Amén.



## Grace La Gracia Calendar for March, April, and May 2019

**Weekly Events**      Tuesday & Thursday at Noon – The Holy Eucharist in Chapel  
                                    Wednesdays at Noon: DTM at Grace until May 29, 2019  
                                    Thursdays at 7:30 PM – La Gracia Santa Eucaristía

### March 2019

Every Friday in March at 7:30 PM La Gracia Estación del Viacrucis  
Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>      Ash Wednesday 12PM (Noon) Service & 7:30 PM Bilingual Service  
Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>      Lenten Education Series with Father Chip at 6:45 PM in library- Four Weeks  
Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>      “The Celebration of Womanhood” during 10 AM Service.  
Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>      ECW Selling Spring Raffle Tickets during Coffee Hour

### April 2019

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>      4:30 PM - The Highbridge Voices Chamber Choir – A DTM Benefit Concert and Reception  
Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>      Palm Sunday 8 AM & 10 AM Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palm  
                                    12:30 La Gracia La Santa Eucharistia y Domingo de Ramos  
Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>      Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Bi lingual Service  
Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>      Good Friday 12PM (Noon) Service with Choir  
                                    7:00 PM La Gracia Viernes Santo  
Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>      The Great Vigil of Easter – Bi lingual Service with Choir  
Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>      Easter Day 8 AM & 10 AM Festival Holy Eucharist with Choir  
                                    “Bring a Friend Celebration”  
                                    12:30 PM La Gracia Domingo de Pascua Misa en Español  
Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>      12:30 PM La Gracia “Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia”

### May 2019

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>      12:30 PM La Gracia “Celebración de Mexico”  
Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>      Mother’s Day and Episcopal Charities Sunday  
Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>      4:30 PM Esther and Sun A- Park: Duo Amadee –  
                                    A DTM Benefit Concert and Reception  
Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>      12:30 PM La Gracia- First Communion

## Epiphany and the Three Kings Toy Drive

### **Rev. Adolfo Moronta**

Every year, on the 6th of January, the 12th day of Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, also known as the Day of the 3 Kings (dia de los Reyes Magos). In Latin America, this festivity is as big a celebration as Christmas. The celebration carries the custom of giving gifts to the children (as a way to celebrate the birth of Jesus) at the start of the New Year. Latino children typically write letters to the Three Kings asking for gifts.



From scripture, we have read that the Three Kings brought baby Jesus gifts of Gold, Incense, and Myrrh. Gold was an appropriate gift for Jesus since gold is the metal of Kings. The wise men knew Jesus was the King

of Kings. Incense was also a significant gift. Incense was the kind of gift that you would bring to a priest. It was used in the temple worship. In presenting this gift the wise men pointed to Christ as our great High Priest, and they presented Myrrh which foretold that Jesus would suffer and die.

In the past, the Three Kings celebration was mainly among the Latino children and youth of the Spanish ministry. For 2019, as a way of being united as one, the activity was open to both the youth and children of the English and Spanish ministries. More than 250 received toys, gift cards, clothes, and other unique gifts after the 10:00 AM and the 12:30 PM service.

I would like to thank each one of you who made this possible; it was through your generous donations that this activity was a success. May God bless your lives and grant to all of you the desires of your hearts.

## Epifanía y la Campaña de Juguetes para el día de los Tres Reyes Magos

Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Todos los años, el 6 de enero, el día 12 de Navidad, celebramos la Fiesta de la Epifanía, también conocida como el Día de los 3 Reyes Magos. En América Latina, esta festividad es una celebración tan grande como la Navidad. La celebración tiene la costumbre de dar regalos a los niños (como una forma de celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús) al comienzo del Año Nuevo. Los niños latinos suelen escribir cartas a los Reyes Magos pidiendo regalos.

De la Sagrada Escritura, hemos leído que los Reyes Magos trajeron regalos de oro, incienso y mirra al pequeño Jesús. El oro fue un regalo apropiado para Jesús ya que el oro es el metal de los Reyes. Los sabios sabían que Jesús era el Rey de Reyes. El incienso también fue un regalo importante. El incienso era el tipo de regalo que le llevarías a un sacerdote. Fue utilizado en la adoración del templo. Al presentar este regalo, los sabios señalaron a Cristo como nuestro gran Sumo Sacerdote, y presentaron la Mirra que predijo que Jesús sufriría y moriría.

En el pasado, la celebración de los Reyes Magos se celebraba en Grace/La Gracia principalmente para los niños y jóvenes latinos del ministerio en Español. Para 2019, como una forma de estar unidos, la actividad estuvo abierta tanto a los jóvenes como a los niños de los ministerios de inglés y español. Más de 250 juguetes, tarjetas de regalo, ropa y otros regalos fueron distribuidos después de los servicios de las 10:00 AM y el servicio de 12:30 PM.



Quisiera agradecer a cada uno de ustedes que hicieron esta actividad posible; fue a través de sus generosas donaciones que esta actividad fue un éxito. Que Dios bendiga sus vidas y les conceda a todos los deseos de sus corazones.



**Holy Week and Easter at Grace La Gracia 2019**

**April 14, 2019**

**Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion**

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms

12:30 PM La Santa Eucaristía y Domingo de Ramos

**April 18, 2019**

**Maundy Thursday**

7:00 PM Bi-Lingual Holy Eucharist

**April 19, 2019**

**Good Friday**

12:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

7:00 PM Viernes Santo

**Saturday, April 20, 2019**

7:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter – Bi-Lingual Service

**April 21, 2019**

**Easter Day**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - In English

10:00 AM Festival Holy Eucharist - In English

12:30 PM Domingo de Pascua Misa en Español

***The Deadline For The Summer Angelus  
Is May 15<sup>th</sup>. As Always, Thank You For  
Your Contributions!***

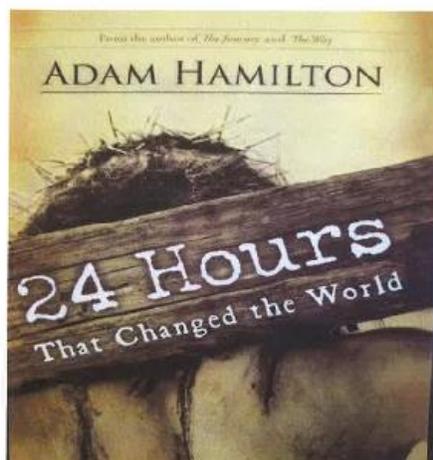
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Daylight Savings Time – Begins on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Move your clocks forward one hour. Don't be late for church!

Mothers' Day – Sunday, May 12th

Memorial Day – Monday, May 27th

**Grace Episcopal Church Lenten Educational Series**



**COME JOIN US FOR FOUR SESSIONS!**

**Lenten Educational Study on the final 24 hours of Jesus Christ.**

**Fr. Chip Graves will be hosting this event.**

**Four consecutive Wednesday evenings of prayer and Bible Study.**

*Session 1*

March 13<sup>th</sup> 6:45 PM Labyrinth walk followed by Bible Study in the library at 7:15 PM

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*Session 2*

March 20<sup>th</sup> 6:45 PM Labyrinth walk followed by Bible Study in the library at 7:15 PM

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*Session 3*

March 27<sup>th</sup> 6:45 PM Labyrinth walk followed by Bible Study in the library at 7:15 PM

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*Session 4*

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:45 PM Labyrinth walk followed by Bible Study in the library at 7:15 PM

**Lenten Education Series with Fr. Chip**

You are invited to join me as I host a four-week study on the final 24 hours of Jesus Christ. Our educational journey will begin on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> and continue for three additional Wednesdays ending on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each session will start at 6:45 PM with time for Labyrinth prayer in the parish hall and then transition at 7:15 PM for Bible discussion in the library. Please contact our administrator, Maria Campos, by March 3<sup>rd</sup> to order books for the parishioners planning to attend.

This video series entitled, “24 Hours that changed the World” was written and produced by a wonderful Methodist pastor, Adam Hamilton. Adam started a new



church, Church of the Resurrection, with only 4 members in 1990. Within 10 years, his church grew to over 15,000 members. As you will find, his educational resources are fantastic.

This educational series encompasses the historical nature behind the last day of Jesus Christ on earth. We will discuss the ‘why’, the ‘what’ and the ‘where’ behind the Biblical stories we reenact each year in Lent leading to Easter Sunday. It’s a powerful journey. For example, we will travel to Jerusalem. We will see what Jesus saw and we will walk along the path that Jesus took 2,000 years ago.

Come join us for this amazing journey.

**Fr. Chip**

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### **Good News at Grace**

*There are several great things happening at Grace Episcopal Church.*

- We are adding new office volunteers.
- We are adding new members to our pastoral care team.
- We are speaking to new families wanting to become members at Grace.
- The eight o’clock Sunday worship service will begin having a Rite I worship on the second Sunday of each non-summer month. This will begin in March.
- We are developing some acolyte training.
- We are working with the mayor’s office in order to support local issues.
- La Gracia is having very successful weekly prayer group meetings every Wednesday evening.
- We are developing new celebration Sundays throughout the year to create excitement, community development and ways to invite newcomers. For example, this Easter we are asking all members to ***bring a friend***. Let’s make it a big Easter. ***Bring a friend***.
- We are creating new ways to better recognize our members. Stay tuned.
- The construction on our new elevator has begun.

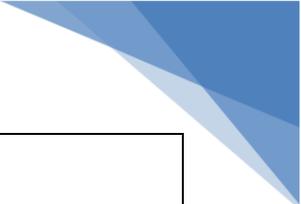
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**JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW**

**OR**

**JESUS KNOWS ME, THIS I LOVE**

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**The Angelus**  
Quarterly Newsletter  
of Grace Church  
(914) 949-2874  
[www.gracewhiteplains.org](http://www.gracewhiteplains.org)

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Chip Graves

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Distributor: Maria Campos

### **SUGGESTED DEVOTIONALS TO PONDER IN LENT**

*Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. —The Book of Common Prayer*

Lent has two quite remarkable bookends. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are dust and that God loves us even in our dustiness. At the end of this season, we will celebrate the power that God's love has to transform this world. Easter reminds us that not even death can keep us from God's unconditional love. As we follow in the footsteps of Jesus this Lent, we know that living out God's love for the world is our ultimate goal. We also know that this walk with Jesus won't be easy. Following Jesus takes us through Good Friday and the cross. There will be struggles; there will be times when we stumble, but we are not alone. We are bound to one another as children of God. We share with Jesus in God's beloved family. God came among us in the person of Jesus to show us how to be more than simply the human race. He came to show us how to realize God's dream, God's purpose, God's plan for us and for all creation. Whatever devotion you practice this season of Lent, either giving up something that ties you to this world or taking on a spiritual task or discipline, let it be something that helps you participate in the movement of God's love in this world, following in the footsteps of Jesus and loving one another.

**-Michael Bruce Curry**



*Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. —Deuteronomy 7:9*

The wilderness experience forged the people of Israel into a community shaped by God's everlasting covenant. The footsteps of Lent take us with Jesus as he is led by the Spirit of God into the depths of the wilderness. It is a time and place of testing and preparation for covenant life. Covenant life, loving God through loving our neighbor, is the work of ministry. At the heart of this journey is a question posed by the Baptismal Covenant. Will we seek and serve Christ in all persons? The footsteps are reflection, judgment, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and ultimately salvation. Lent is a time to reflect on the temptations that lead us away from acts that preserve human dignity. The path leads us straight into encounter with those who are in poverty, displaced and sick. It is a path of justice that leads to the heart of God. In what ways do you serve and seek Christ?

**-Karen Montagno**

*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. —Mark 1:35*

We all need time to be alone with God. For so much of the day we're so busy that God can't get a word in edgewise. The time you spend in quiet prayer multiplies the value of all your other time. It puts things in perspective—helps you see the bigger picture of your life. You distinguish between the important and the merely urgent. The most enthusiastic people person in the world still needs some quiet time with God. Nobody will give it to you, so you have to claim it for yourself.

**-Barbara Cawthorne Crafton**

*Blessed be the God of our salvation: Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.*  
Opening Acclamation during Lent, Enriching Our Worship  
Alienation.

Apparently it's part of the human condition...part of the mixed bag we get along with memory, reason and skill. It's that nagging sense that we're all alone in this mess and nobody, but nobody, will be there for us. Faith comes next. Faith, that even if our colleagues, friends and family fail us (and they sometimes will), there is someone, something bigger than we are, who will not. Gratitude follows faith. We don't have to bear it alone. We don't have to do it alone. When disaster strikes, or illness, or loss of work, we have an advocate who bears our burdens with us. When we have botched the job, we have an advocate who forgives us and encourages us to do better the next time.

**-Claire Joy**



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## STEWARDSHIP

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

[Romans 15:13]

Grace/La Gracia Church appreciates all the pledges that we have received since November, 2019. The total amount pledged as of January 24<sup>th</sup> is \$296,359. We need more than \$350,000 to operate our programs and pay the salaries, electric, water and other bills that the church receives on a monthly basis. So if you haven't pledged for 2019 please do so as soon as possible.

A list of those who have pledged for 2019 was printed in the bulletin in January. Some parishioners questioned why their name was not on the list. So let's clarify. A pledge has to be made each and every year. We do not carry over a pledge that was made last year. If you need a form please see Charlotte Roberson, Daisy Calderon or Cynthia S. Brown or look in the back of the church. Pledge boxes are only distributed to those who have pledged. It is important to use your pledge envelopes when you give money. This will allow us to give you credit for the money you have given. In addition, each person who pledges, will receive a calendar and a special parking pass for certain Holy Days like Ash Wednesday that do not occur on a Sunday. You can place the pass in your window and park in the municipal garage across the street from the Church.

One additional note about pledging: If you indicated on your pledge form that you will be giving weekly and you miss a Sunday please try to catch up on the Sunday you return (ex. give 2 weeks). Another example: If you pledge \$600 annually and you give monthly you should have given \$100 by the end of February (2 X \$50).

In addition to the financial pledges we appreciate all of those who pledge and give their time and talent. This is a very important form of stewardship. A special thanks to Cynthia S. Brown, Ella Fitzgerald, Daisy Calderon, Michael Heffner, Sylvia Simon and Audrey Taylor for the time that they have donated to help with the stewardship campaign. Let us continue to work together to keep Grace/La Gracia Church strong and vibrant.

**Charlotte Roberson, Stewardship Chairperson**



## MAYORDOMIA

Que Dios, que da esperanza, los llene de alegría y paz a ustedes que tienen fe en él, y les dé abundante esperanza por el poder del Espíritu Santo..  
[Romanos 15:13]

Grace / La Gracia agradece todas las promesas que hemos recibido desde noviembre de 2019. El monto total prometido a partir del 24 de enero es de \$ 296,359. Necesitamos más de \$ 350,000 para operar nuestros programas y pagar los salarios, electricidad, agua y otras facturas que la iglesia recibe mensualmente. Por lo tanto, si no ha llenado su promesa para 2019, hágalo lo antes posible.

En el boletín de enero se imprimió una lista de los que se habían comprometido para 2019. Algunos feligreses cuestionaron por qué su nombre no estaba en la lista. Así que vamos a aclarar. Hay que hacer un compromiso cada año. No transferimos una promesa que se hizo el año pasado. Si necesita un formulario, por favor vea a Charlotte Roberson, Daisy Calderon o Cynthia S. Brown o mire en la parte de atrás de la iglesia. Las cajas de promesas solo se distribuyen a aquellos que han hecho sus promesas.. Es importante que use sus sobres de promesas cuando dé dinero. Esto nos permitirá darle crédito por el dinero que nos ha dado. Además, cada persona que se comprometa recibirá un calendario y un pase para el estacionamiento especialmente para ciertos Días Santos como el Miércoles de Ceniza que no se realizan en domingo. Puede colocar el pase en su ventana y estacionar en el garaje municipal al otro lado de la calle de la Iglesia.

Una nota adicional sobre las promesas: si indicó en su formulario de promesa que dará semanalmente y usted no estará un domingo, trate de ponerse al día el domingo que regrese (por ejemplo, dé 2 semanas). Otro ejemplo: si prometes \$ 600 al año y das mensualmente, deberías haber dado \$ 100 a fines de febrero (2 X \$ 50).

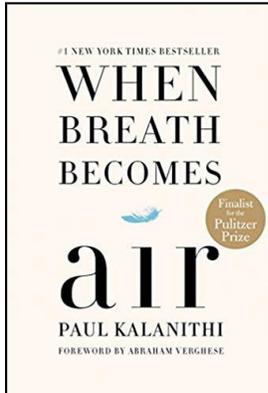
Además de las promesas financieras, apreciamos a todos aquellos que se comprometen y dan su tiempo y talento. Esta es una forma muy importante de mayordomía. Un agradecimiento especial a Cynthia S. Brown, Ella Fitzgerald, Daisy Calderon, Michael Heffner, Sylvia Simon y Audrey Taylor por el tiempo que han donado para ayudar con la campaña de mayordomía. Continuemos trabajando juntos para mantener a Grace / La Gracia fuerte y vibrante.

**Charlotte Roberson, Encargada de Mayordomía**

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## Grace Church Book Club

### Save the Date for the Book Club's Parish-Wide Read!



Ride the emotional rollercoaster as a neurosurgeon transforms into a patient with stage IV lung cancer and confronts his own mortality in the moving memoir **When Breath Becomes Air** by Paul Kalanithi. Then join the Book Club in discussing this parish-wide read during coffee hour on Sunday, April 14, in the church library.

*Submitted by Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com)*

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## THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of the Episcopal Church. It was originally established to fund mission and ministry for the Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican community in the United States and throughout the world. Funds for this ministry are provided by Thank Offerings collected in parishes, dioceses, provinces, the Triennial Meeting and General Convention. The UTO Board distributes the funds as grants for projects designed to transform the lives of those in need throughout the Episcopal Church and Anglican community.

Another purpose of the UTO is to foster a daily spiritual discipline of thankfulness and gratitude for God's blessings. Each of us is called upon to recognize our blessings, give thanks in prayer and make an offering of a coin or dollar to your UTO Blue box. The amount is less important than the daily discipline of gratitude for the good things in our lives and the recognition that these blessings come from God. This is an individual discipline so each person should have their own box including children and young adults. The Blue box is a reminder to give daily thanks for all blessings large or small. Donations are used for mission and ministry to help those in need. Each year, in the Spring and Fall, we will collect the Thank offering and send it to the UTO national office. You may turn in your box, write a check or make a cash donation. Funds are tax deductible. The UTO uses 100% of collected funds for mission grants. Our blessings become the blessing of others!



### 2018 United Thank Offering Blue Box Prayer

Almighty God, I give you praise  
for blessing me in many ways.

Create in me a grateful heart  
and with this gift a blessing start. Amen

### UTO Reflections

I will share with you that as I began to prepare to participate in the UTO, I became very excited. I wanted to embrace a life of gratitude, deepen my spiritual relationship with God and help others. Recognize your blessing, give prayerful thanks, put a coin in the box. It sounded easy enough. After all I have so much to be thankful for. And recognizing a blessing a day- piece of cake! I approached the blue box with enthusiasm as I anticipated how much money I would be able to put into it- what with all my blessings! “You are going to need 2 boxes-maybe 3,” I told myself.

I would come home from work, put my bags down, hang up my coat, take off my shoes and put on my slippers. After greeting my family, I would head off to the kitchen to cook dinner. On my way to the kitchen, I would pass my UTO blue box. I had dutifully and conspicuously placed it on a small table by the stairs so I would not neglect it. Hmm what am I thankful for today? Most of what I recalled was what went wrong, or not quite right, but had ultimately turned out all right. There was a traffic jam on the way to work, but I still arrived safe and on time - blessing.



I had run out of printer ink, but CVS, which was right across the street, happened to have the cartridge I needed, and I remembered to pick up some other things I needed while I was there - triple blessings? I had forgotten to stop at the grocery store on my way home and pick up the tomatoes for the salad- but I that was ok because I could make something else and have the salad another day - blessing.

I was beginning to see a pattern. I was not really recognizing my blessings first and foremost. I was recognizing negatives first and finding positive outcomes. Don't get me wrong, I was glad to have a job (to which I might possibly be late) and food on my plate. Besides it's good to be able to turn a negative into a positive. But for me it didn't feel quite right; I needed to see the blessings first and recognize them. How was I going to live a life of true gratitude if I was only grateful when a situation turned out not to be as bad as it might have?

As I made dinner, I revisited my day. After making my many purchases at CVS, I struggled to fit my packages into the bag, a passerby lent a hand and jokingly asked "Why *doesn't* CVS have bigger bags, the coupon receipts are bigger than the bags?" Help from stranger and a good laugh - definitely double blessings. I had received a much appreciated and heartfelt apology from a client - big blessing. One of my friends had texted "Happy Thursday!" making me smile -small blessing. I took a walk at lunch time and it was sunny - blessing. Got my 10,000 steps for the day - blessing. I had a warm house to come home to, slippers to put on tired feet, food for a meal to be prepared and shared with family - many big blessings. And the day was not over! Maybe I was going to need more than one box after all!

**Melanie Jackson**

La Ofrenda Unida de Gracia (UTO) es un ministerio de la Iglesia Episcopal. Es un ministerio de gratitud y agradecimiento a Dios. La UTO llama a los individuos a estar agradecidos por las cosas buenas que nos suceden todos los días; Da gracias diariamente a Dios por tu bendición y haz una ofrenda por cada bendición. Puede ser una gran bendición, como la recuperación de una enfermedad, o la aceptación de la universidad. Tal vez sea una pequeña bendición, como la joven que te abrió la puerta mientras luchabas con tu bolsa de la compra o el texto de cumpleaños de un amigo. Se nos anima a notar estas bendiciones y hacer una ofrenda por cada bendición. Cuando reciba una bendición, coloque un centavo, cinco centavos, diez



centavos, veinticinco centavos o un dólar en su caja azul UTO. Puede decidir guardar pequeños trozos de papel cerca de su caja de la UTO, anotar la bendición que recibió y poner la hoja en la caja. Mantenga su caja en un lugar donde la vea, de modo que sea un recordatorio constante para decir gracias y difícil de ignorar. Cuando vacíe su caja, revise sus bendiciones y recuerde las cosas por las que está agradecido. Escriba un cheque, haga una donación en efectivo o entregue su caja azul de dinero. Luego continúe con su estilo de vida de gratitud: con una nueva caja azul o conserve la anterior.

El dinero se recolectará dos veces al año en nuestra parroquia en primavera y otoño y se enviará a la UTO de la Iglesia Episcopal. El 100% del dinero recaudado se destina a becas de misión. Las becas transforman vidas en Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo. Tus bendiciones se convierten en bendiciones para otros.

Las Mujeres de la Iglesia Episcopal distribuirán cajas azules y sobres UTO durante la hora del café. Pase por la mesa para obtener más información sobre la UTO y obtener su caja azul. ¡Recuerda tus bendiciones, recuerda tu caja azul!

### LA OFRENDA UNIDA DE GRACIA

La Ofrenda Unida de Gracia (UTO) es un ministerio de la Iglesia Episcopal. Originalmente se estableció para financiar la misión y el ministerio para la Iglesia Episcopal y las Provincias de la Comunión Anglicana en los Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo. Los fondos para este ministerio son proporcionados por Ofrendas de agradecimiento recogidas en parroquias, diócesis, provincias, la Reunión Trienal y la Convención General. La Junta de la UTO distribuye los fondos como subvenciones para proyectos diseñados para transformar las vidas de los necesitados en toda la Iglesia Episcopal y la comunidad anglicana.

Otro propósito de la UTO es fomentar una disciplina espiritual diaria de agradecimiento y gratitud por las bendiciones de Dios. Cada uno de nosotros debe reconocer nuestras bendiciones, agradecer en oración y ofrecer una moneda o un dólar a su caja azul UTO. La cantidad es menos importante que la disciplina diaria de gratitud por las cosas buenas en nuestras vidas y el reconocimiento de que estas bendiciones provienen de Dios. Esta es una disciplina individual, por lo que cada persona debe tener su propia caja, incluidos niños, adultos y jóvenes. La caja azul es un recordatorio para dar gracias diariamente por todas las bendiciones, grandes o pequeñas. Las donaciones se utilizan para la misión y el ministerio para ayudar a los necesitados. Cada año, en la primavera y el otoño, recogeremos la Ofrenda de Gracia y la enviaremos a la oficina nacional de la UTO. Puede entregar su casilla, emitir un cheque o hacer una donación en efectivo. Los fondos son deducibles de impuestos. La UTO utiliza el 100% de los fondos recaudados para subvenciones de la misión. ¡Nuestras bendiciones se convierten en la bendición de otros!



Oración de la caja azul de ofrenda de agradecimiento de 2018  
Dios todopoderoso, te alabo  
Por bendecirme de muchas maneras.  
Crea en mí un corazón agradecido.  
y con este regalo un inicio de bendición. Amén

## Reflexiones UTO

Compartiré con ustedes que cuando comencé a prepararme para participar en la UTO, me emocioné mucho. Quería abrazar una vida de gratitud, profundizar mi relación espiritual con Dios y ayudar a los demás. Reconozca su bendición, dé gracias en oración, ponga una moneda en la caja. Sonaba bastante fácil. Después de todo tengo mucho que agradecer. ¡Y reconociendo una bendición un día – algo muy fácil! Me acerqué a la caja azul con entusiasmo cuando anticipé cuánto dinero podría poner en ella, ¡con todas mis bendiciones! "Vas a necesitar 2 cajas, tal vez 3", me dije.

Regresaba a casa del trabajo, dejaba mis maletas, colgaba mi abrigo, me quitaba los zapatos y me ponía las zapatillas. Después de saludar a mi familia, me dirigía a la cocina para preparar la cena. De camino a la cocina, pasaría mi caja azul UTO. La había colocado de manera obediente y visible en una pequeña mesa junto a las escaleras para no descuidarla. Hmm, ¿por qué estoy agradecida hoy? La mayoría de lo que recordé fue lo que salió mal, o no del todo bien, pero finalmente resultó bien. Había mucho tráfico en el camino al trabajo, pero aún así llegué bien y a tiempo: una bendición. Me había quedado sin tinta de impresora, pero CVS, que estaba justo al otro lado de la calle, tenía el cartucho que necesitaba, y recordé recoger algunas otras cosas que necesitaba mientras estaba allí: ¿tres bendiciones? Me había olvidado de parar en la tienda de comestibles de camino a casa y recoger los tomates para la ensalada, pero eso estaba bien porque podía hacer otra cosa y comer la ensalada otro día: una bendición.

Estaba empezando a ver un patrón. Realmente no estaba reconociendo mis bendiciones en primer lugar. Primero reconocí los aspectos negativos y encontré resultados positivos. No me malinterpretes, me alegré de tener un trabajo (al que posiblemente podría llegar tarde) y comida en mi plato. Además, es bueno poder convertir algo negativo en positivo. Pero para mí no me sentía del todo bien; Necesitaba ver las bendiciones primero y reconocerlas. ¿Cómo iba a vivir una vida de verdadera gratitud si solo estaba agradecida cuando una situación resultaba no ser tan mala como podría ser?

Mientras hacía la cena, volvía a visitar mi día. Después de hacer mis muchas compras en CVS, luché por colocar mis paquetes en la bolsa, un transeúnte echó una mano y en tono de broma preguntó: "¿Por qué CVS no tiene bolsas más grandes, los



recibos de cupones son más grandes que las bolsas?" Me reí - definitivamente bendiciones dobles. Recibí una muy apreciada y sincera disculpa de parte de un cliente: una gran bendición. Uno de mis amigos me había enviado un mensaje de texto "¡Feliz jueves!", Haciéndome sonreír, pequeña bendición. Salí a caminar a la hora del almuerzo y hacía sol, una bendición. Tengo mis 10,000 pasos para el día - bendición. Tenía una casa cálida para volver a casa, zapatillas para ponerme los pies cansados, comida para preparar y compartir con la familia, muchas bendiciones. ¡Y el día no había terminado! ¡Tal vez iba a necesitar más de una caja después de todo!

**Melanie Jackson**

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### **OOPS! CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS**

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

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A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

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### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday is on March 6<sup>th</sup>. It is a very important day in our church calendar as we begin the Lenten journey toward the celebration of Easter. We will gather as a church community to acknowledge our sinful human frailties and our great need for forgiveness. We receive the imposition of ashes as a "sign of our mortality and penitence" and that "it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Words from the Book of Common Prayer).

In addition, "it became the custom of the Church to prepare by a season of penitence and fasting." BCP



Indeed, many people choose different ways of reminding themselves of the importance of this time of preparation. A few years ago, **Pope Francis** suggested the following list:

1. Fast from hurting words and say kind words
2. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
3. Fast from anger and be filled with patience
4. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
5. Fast from worries and trust in God
6. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
7. Fast from pressures and be prayerful
8. Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy
9. Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
10. Fast from grudges and be reconciled
11. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

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**A PRAYER  
FOR  
EARTH DAY - MONDAY, APRIL 22**

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

From The Book of Common Prayer – Page 827

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**Christian Education Update**

The Grace Church Sunday program has been very active over the past quarter, as evidenced by the following summaries from our Sunday School teachers:

**Primary Class: Grades 1-3, as reported by Andrea Lacourciere and Leigh Burton:**

In November the class discussed All Saints Day and the students gave examples of Saints in their everyday lives. We ended the month teaching about the importance

of giving to others in need and reviewed the pledge offering program. Each student created a pledge goal for 2019. In December we met each Sunday to prepare for the Christmas Pageant. All the students had at least one role in the pageant. The best part of the pageant was enjoying the time together in rehearsal and seeing it all come together on Christmas Eve. We would like to acknowledge Michael Heffner and George O' Hanlon, who went above and beyond working with our students.

**Intermediate Class: Grades 4-6, as reported by Cynthia Sangurima Brown and Michael Heffner:**

Our age group is inherently inquisitive and serious towards class instruction. Yes, the Bible says to follow Jesus' example but in your daily life; that's easier said than done. How does one manage to hold one's tongue when that kid in school gets on your nerves yet again!

Whether we read aloud stories from the Gospels or an Old Testament verse, we are currently reviewing the Sunday Bulletin along with the children so they have a better understanding of the mass and its components. Not only are those Old Testament names difficult to spell but they are equally difficult to pronounce! Michael and I use the Virginia Theological Seminary's Episcopal Children's Curriculum as a guide but we are flexible with instruction. Last Sunday, it was all hands on deck baking Communion Bread with all our Sunday School participants.



Our schedules are a bit hectic, and we occasionally share our kids with their responsibilities as Acolytes ("Uh oh, there goes half of my class"). It's a challenge to get all our children to attend but the Sunday School teachers manage and are up to the task.

**Rite 13 Class (grades 7-8) as reported by George O'Hanlon and Donna Louis:**

Rite 13 (grades 7-8) has continued its fast pace of activities. December was filled with rehearsal for, and participation in, the Christmas Pageant. Rite 13 members

served as stage directors, actors, singers and narrators. The January class theme was stereotypes – what they are, how to recognize them, and how to avoid them. Rite 13 also continued its tradition of hosting “Game Day” -- an event for the children of Grace Church while their parents attend the Grace Church annual



meeting. Rite 13 was also active in performing service to the Church and the community. Rite 13 members helped to serve the Martin Luther King Day Grace Kitchen lunch; they helped to facilitate the communion Bread Baking event; and several members continue to serve as Acolytes for the 10am service. The class is currently

focused on preparation for the highlight of each year, which is the annual March Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood. This year we look forward to advancing 3 Celebrities – Jordan Acevedo, Priya Kumar and Vika O’Hanlon.

### **Journey to Adulthood Class (grades 9-12) as reported by George O’Hanlon**

J2A continues to be active in the Church and community. In addition to attending weekly classes, our busy J2A high schoolers perform integral services for the church, such as serving as acolytes and ushers at the 10am service. Several J2A members also assisted with the Christmas Pageant, helped to host “game day” with Rite 13, and assisted with the communion Bread Baking event.



## Unleavened Bread for Communion

*Recipe By:LEAB77*

"This recipe has been used for years in our church for Communion bread. Easy to make and stores well in fridge. Watch carefully when baking, ovens vary in time needed."

### Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/3 cup vegetable oil

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup water

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
  2. Mix flour, oil, and salt together in a bowl; add water and mix using a pastry cutter until dough is soft. Form dough into 6 balls and press into disks onto the prepared baking sheet using your hands.
  3. Bake in the preheated oven until bread is cooked, 8 to 10 minutes.
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## The Episcopal Church Women Dine at Via Garibaldi



On January 11, 2019 the Episcopal Church Women met for dinner at Via Garibaldi in White Plains. The evening was one of fellowship, relaxation and laughter with no agenda except the consumption of delicious Italian cuisine and wine. Twenty-one women of Grace participated in the event. The owner of Via Garibaldi, Ariano Pardo, was wonderfully attentive. He made sure that the food was to our liking and that

there was plenty of it. Ariano was familiar with Grace Church and mentioned that he had visited during weekdays for quiet moments of prayer. Our gathering however was anything but quiet, but we all felt blessed to be able to take time out of our busy schedules to enjoy each other's company over a wonderful meal.

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### **(DIS) ORDER IN THE COURT** **THE TRIAL OF JESUS**

Following Christ's capture in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was first taken to the home of Annas, who was the ex-high priest, but the real power behind the religious party. There he was questioned and found guilty. He was then sent on to Caiaphas, the current high priest, and the Sanhedrin.

According to Jewish law, these two "trials" were illegal because:

1. A man could not be tried for his life at night. These events were between 1 and 3 o'clock.
2. A capital crime could not be heard on the eve of a major feast. This was the start of Passover.

- 
3. The accused could not be asked to incriminate himself. Jesus was asked “Are you the Christ, the Son of God.” The charge was changed to treason because he claimed to be the “King of the Jews” and they knew this charge could be upheld by the Romans.
  4. A minimum of 24 hours was required to pass between the initial conviction and sentencing. Nevertheless, that very morning guilt was reaffirmed and the verdict of death pronounced.

Jesus was taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, so that Jesus’ could be sentenced to death by him and the execution carried out immediately. Only the Romans were allowed to execute someone.

Pilate did not want to execute Jesus. He tried many things to avoid that decision, even offering to “trade” Jesus for Barabbas, who was a murderer. The ironic part of that episode is that Barabbas’ name actually means Bar (son) of Abbas (the father). In actuality, Jesus himself was the Son of Abba (God the Father).

This whole trial was a mockery and a sham because the Jewish religious establishment had already decided that Jesus needed to die (John 11:49-52.)

Of course, we know that Jesus intended to die. It was his mission from God. He did not object to this whole illegal trial. THANKS BE TO GOD!

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## **The Value of Frozen Assets or My journey to Becoming a Volunteer** **By Sylvia Simon**

I originally submitted this article several years ago. However, I believe it is time to revisit this topic.

When our family joined Grace Church more than thirty-nine years ago, what we liked most was how involved everyone was. In addition, we were welcomed and enjoyed being members of such an involved church.

I considered myself a good and responsible parishioner. I paid my pledge and I was cordial to fellow parishioners. I guess you can say I was somewhat smug. Then one day I received a rude awakening.

Irene Alves gave a mini-sermon talking about how she felt about Grace Church. She talked about the fact that her commitment required her to not only commit her money, but her talent as well. She also pointed out that we had many “Frozen Assets” in our church. She defined frozen assets as parishioners who may pledge



and come to church, but they never volunteer to assist with the varied activities that enable the church to function effectively. It was as if she were speaking directly to me. I realized I was indeed a frozen asset. Gradually, I began to become more involved. First, I assisted Ella Fitzgerald with coffee hour and then I taught a Sunday School Class and gradually, I did varied jobs and discovered which I felt most comfortable doing.

Today, I am fully involved and I am happy to discover that I enjoy making a difference. We must realize that volunteers are the life blood of the church. Without these unfrozen assets, our church would cease to function effectively. Yet, we are asking some to do most of the work. For example, Lauren Reid, Donna Louis, Melanie Jackson Walters, most of the ushers and acolytes and ecumenical visitors have volunteered for many years. After eight years I have decided to leave as Welcome committee chair. However, I will continue to volunteer as a Welcoming member, as a counter and as a substitute office volunteer. So, I **implore** everyone to volunteer. Start small, you will find that you will enjoy it and the Grace church family will benefit.

### **EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

- When in sorrow.....call John 14
- When people fail you.....call Psalm 27
- If you want to be fruitful.....call John 15
- When you have sinned.....call Psalm 51
- When you worry.....call Matthew 6:25-34
- When you are in danger.....call Psalm 91

### **ELEVATOR REPAIR**

Good news! After almost two trying years (April 2017 to February 2019) the repair of the elevator shaft began.

The rails which guide the up and down movement of the elevator is attached to an unreinforced wall that lost its structural integrity. The original plan included the disassembling and removal of the elevator, the rail and the supporting wall. This would be followed by the installation of a new reinforced wall, and the



reinstallation of the rails and elevator. The estimated cost for the project was \$325,000.

We unsuccessfully sought funding from the Diocese, the Bedell Foundation and the City of White Plains with the assistance Anahaita Kotval, the CEO of Lifting Up Westchester (LUW). Seeking funding at a time when Grace /La Gracia was without a Rector added to the difficulty of securing financial assistance.

Based on an initial conversation between Carlos Muñoz and Louis Cappelli, engineers and architects of the Cappelli organization devised an innovative plan for the repair. Rather than removing the elevator and the wall, seven strategically placed steel cross beams will be placed behind the current wall and the rails attached by bolts driven through the wall and anchored to the cross beams. This method avoids the high cost of removing and reassembling the elevator and the replacement of the current wall. When coupled with Louis Cappelli's offer of engineering, architectural and construction services at substantially below industry rates, Grace/La Gracia cost was reduced to \$80,000. This is a cost savings of \$245,000.

If this project was not pursued, Samaritan House would be in serious jeopardy of being decertified as a handicap accessible facility with possible negative financial impact to LUW and future rental income to Grace/La Grace's. In addition, not placing the elevator back in service would undermine LUW's and Grace/La Gracia's commitment to support the handicapped.

Thanks to everyone who worked tirelessly to support this project, especially, the Vestry, Anahaita Kotval and the:

**Elevator Repair Committee**

Bill Biles  
Michael Heffner  
Linda Gallo  
Nate Hogan  
Carlos Munoz  
Robert Soso

**A special thanks to Louis Cappelli for his generous support of this project.**

Submitted by Walter Simon, Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee

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# Faces of Grace



**The 2019  
Vestry**

**Celebrating Black History  
Month**



*The*  
**ANGELUS**  
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH