

## Celebrating 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



### The Sabbatical Pastor's Letter

#### **Change and the Promise of Pentecost May 2016**

There is an old joke about people not liking change. The joke is that the only people who like change are toll collectors and babies with wet diapers. You can tell it's an old joke because toll collectors have disappeared with the invention of EZ Pass. Babies still need to be changed.

Change is difficult. Transitions in life can be powerful and uncomfortable moments. They are challenging even when we think we are prepared for them. They can be even more unsettling when they ambush us unaware.

Henri Bergson, a French philosopher once wrote, "To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly."

Change is a fact of life. Change is a consequence of our being alive. We might even say that change is a necessary condition for our growth and maturity.

Yet coming to terms with all of the emotional undercurrents that go along with change is not always easy for us. Putting a little one on a school bus for the first time can bring a parent to tears. Seeing your child attend his or her first prom makes you wonder where the time has flown. Retiring after years of productive and fulfilling work can bring unexpected feelings of vulnerability and emptiness. Although change is constant and inevitable we can still feel insecure and anxious about the uncertainty that change brings.

Until my retirement in 2013, I served as the Canon for Deployment and Transition Ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. During that time I assisted over 180 parishes (some big, some small) through their transitions as they called new rectors and clergy in charge of congregations. For the past three years, I have served as an Interim Pastor and Transition Consultant in the Diocese of Long Island. Even in retirement, my ministry continues to focus on themes of change and transition.

At the beginning of May I will be with you while your rector takes his sabbatical. I have been asked to be with you as your priest and pastor to provide continuity and stability in our worship life together as well as to offer pastoral care for the parish. I have been touched by your warmth, your kindness, and your generous welcome.



Change can be difficult but, as the People of God, we are never alone through these times of transition. As we grow and mature in our life together as the disciples of Jesus, He has promised that the Spirit of God will be with us and will bless us with creativity, confidence and hope. That promise is the promise of Pentecost.

Thank you for your kind welcome. I look forward to our time together.

**+ Thomas**

**The Reverend Canon Thomas Orso**

El Cambio y la Promesa de Pentecostés - Father Orso's message as translated by Father Barrios

Hay un chiste acerca de la gente que no le gustan los cambios. El chiste es que las únicas personas que les gusta el cambio son quienes trabajan como cobrador@s de peaje y l@s bebés con pañales mojados. Se puede decir que es un chiste viejo porque l@s cobrador@s de peaje han desaparecido con la invención de EZ Pass o carril expreso. A l@s bebés todavía tenemos que cambiarle.

El cambio es difícil. Las transiciones en la vida pueden ser momentos de gran alcance e incómodas. Ellos son un reto, incluso cuando pensamos que estamos preparad@s para ellos. Pueden ser aún más inquietantes cuando nos tienden una emboscada que desconocíamos. Henri Bergson, un filósofo francés, escribió una vez, "Existir es cambiar, cambiar es madurar, madurar es ir sin fin en la creación de un@mism@."

El cambio es un hecho de la vida. El cambio es una consecuencia del hecho de que vivimos. Podríamos incluso decir que el cambio es una condición necesaria para nuestro crecimiento y madurez. Sin embargo, llegar a un acuerdo con todas las corrientes emocionales que van junto con el cambio no siempre es fácil para nosotr@s. Poner un poco de un@ en un autobús escolar por primera vez, puede llevar a un padre o madre a llorar. Al ver que su hij@ asista a su primer baile hace que un@ se pregunta dónde ha volado el tiempo. Retirarse después de años de trabajo productivo y satisfactorio puede traer sentimientos inesperados de la vulnerabilidad y el vacío. A pesar de que el cambio es constante e inevitable es posible que todavía podamos sentirnos con inseguridad y preocupación por la incertidumbre que trae el cambio.

Hasta mi jubilación en 2013, serví como el Canónigo de la Implementación y el Ministerio de Transición en la Diócesis Episcopal de Nueva York. Durante ese tiempo asistí a más de 180 parroquias (algunas grandes, otras pequeñas) a través de sus transiciones, mientras llamaban a sus nuev@s rector@s y sacerdotes a cargo de congregaciones. Durante los últimos tres años, he servido como sacerdote interino y Consultor de Transición en la Diócesis de Long Island. Incluso en el retiro, mi ministerio sigue centrándose en temas de cambio y transición.

A principios de mayo estaré con ustedes mientras el rector toma su sabática. Se me ha pedido que sea con para ustedes su sacerdote y pastor para proporcionar junt@s continuidad y estabilidad en nuestra vida de adoración, así como para ofrecer atención de cuidado pastoral de la parroquia. He sido tocado por su calidez, su bondad y su generosa bienvenida.

El cambio puede ser difícil, pero, como Pueblo de Dios, nunca estamos sol@s en estos tiempos de transición. A medida que crecemos y maduramos en nuestra vida junt@s como los discípulos de Jesús, Él ha prometido que el Espíritu de Dios estará con nosotr@s y nos bendecirá con creatividad, confianza y esperanza. Esa promesa es la promesa de Pentecostés.

Gracias por su amable bienvenida. Espero con ansias el tiempo que pasaremos junt@s.

**+ Thomas**

**El Reverendo Canónigo Thomas Orso**

## Introducing: The Reverend Canon Thomas Orso

In spring, the Reverend Richard Kunz, Rector of Grace Church, invited the Reverend Canon Thomas Orso to fill in for him while he will be on sabbatical from May until the middle of August. Canon Orso will be at Grace Church part time.

Canon Orso was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and completed his undergraduate degree at Wittenberg University. After college, he taught at Wilmington Friends School, in Wilmington, Delaware.

Canon Orso attended the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Following his ordination to the priesthood in 1979, he served for fourteen years as Chaplain and Chair of the Religion Department at Trinity Pawling School in Pawling, New York. He earned a second masters degree in counseling at Western Connecticut University in Danbury, Connecticut.

After leaving Trinity Pawling, he served as a counselor for the Department of Mental Health in Putnam County, New York and then as an Interim Pastor in three congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Bishop Mark Sisk invited him to serve as the Canon for Deployment and Transition Ministry in 2001. During his time on the bishop's staff, Canon Orso assisted over 188 parishes in their search for a rector. He retired in 2013.

In recognition of his service to the diocese, Bishop Andrew Dietsche granted him permission to retain, in perpetuity, the title of Canon.

In retirement, he has served as an Interim Pastor in the Diocese of Long Island where he is also a search and transition consultant. In his free time, he has studied at the Art Students League of New York, is a subscriber to the New York Philharmonic, and is currently working on his family history.

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## Meet Dr. Anna Vinnitsky, Grace Church Music Director

If you haven't already, it's time you met our new Music Director, professional musician Dr. Anna Vinnitsky.

An accomplished and distinguished musician, in-demand soloist, chamber musician, and educator, she earned her PhD in Musical Arts from SUNY Stony Brook, as well as a master's degree from DePaul University and a bachelor's degree from The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University. In addition to her Music Director role, Anna serves on the piano faculty of the St. Luke's School, a coed independent Episcopal day school in Manhattan.

Only a few weeks into her new role, she has exciting plans ahead as she ushers in a new era of Grace Church's music program. As Father Kunz says, "Anna brings experience, passion, skill, imagination, and a sense of joy into her work with us. I look forward to a new blossoming of our music program."

Anna is thrilled to be joining Grace Church in this capacity and recently shared her thoughts on a few topics:

### **Passion for music**

"Music is my life," says Anna, who was born in Moscow, Russia. "Music fills my life in an essential way. I was drawn to music, singing, and playing keyboard instruments at a very early age. Through music, I'm able to be a better person. Getting in touch with masterpieces, from the classics to contemporary styles, inspires me, uplifts me, and takes me to a higher understanding of music and life. It fills my life with

gratitude. I've been incredibly lucky. I've been given a gift to share and I want to bring the same joy and upliftment to others."

### **Passion for family**

"I'm married to a fabulous musician," she says of her husband, internationally acclaimed clarinetist Pavel Vinnitsky, who works with professional orchestras including the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony, and the American Symphony, while on the Woodwind Studies faculty at New York University and playing with Broadway orchestras—currently performing *with Les Misérable*. For the Vinnitskys, including son Daniel, 6, now finishing Kindergarten and already making his own strides on piano and clarinet, and Eden, their Golden Retriever, home is on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

### **Hopes for the Grace Church choirs**

"I was first introduced to Grace Church by Tim Lewis who invited me to play the organ for two Sunday services, including the *John Rutter Requiem Mass*," recalls Anna, who can be found at Grace most weekday mornings rehearsing in the choir loft. "I'd like to continue to build on Tim Lewis' rich legacy." Looking forward to an exciting year ahead, she's also eager to explore interesting new musical selections, including adding uplifting gospel anthems to the choir's repertoire. "I'd also like to do the Requiem again and a large vocal work for Christmas with instrumentalists. "I'm hoping to raise the enthusiasm for the choir and bring more music lovers together," she explains of her long-term plans. Raising the enthusiasm also extends to her hopes for energizing the St. Nicholas Choir and "creating a comfortable, challenging, but joyful environment that allows children to feel comfortable and encourages them to sing out." She adds, "The future of the church is extremely important. I'm looking for creative ways to bring more people into the choir and into the church. One way I can contribute is to help bring fabulous music to the church that's accessible and makes people feel welcome."

### **Passionate performances**

Anna continues to perform extensively throughout the U.S., Israel, and Western Europe at such iconic venues as Chicago's Orchestra Hall, the Leipzig Gewandhause, Merkin Concert Hall and Tenri Cultural Center in New York City, and the Auditorium Haifa in Israel. She has also been frequently featured in Downtown Music concerts at Grace Church.

There are also plenty of opportunities to hear Anna make music outside of Grace Church in our area. In fact, she and her husband combine their extensive talents, often holding piano and clarinet performances. Some of Anna's upcoming concerts in Manhattan include:

*July 22:* New York University Woodwinds

*Fall:* Two concerts at Trinity Church (dates to be determined)

Visit Anna's website at [www.annavinnitsky.com](http://www.annavinnitsky.com) and learn even more about our newest extraordinary member of the Grace Church family. She can also be reached directly through Grace Church: (914) 949-2874, x 18.

***Submitted by Karen Odom***



## WHY GOD MADE MOMS

Answers given by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade school children to the following questions:



Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom likes me.

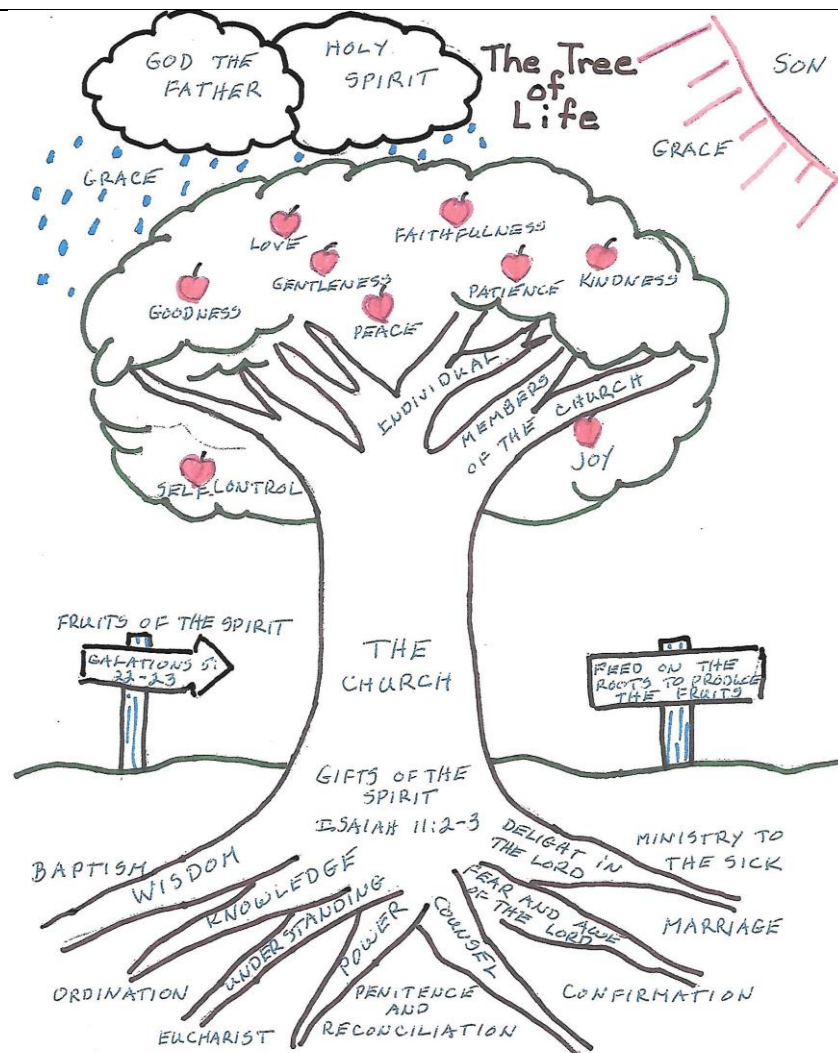
What kind of a little girl was your mom?

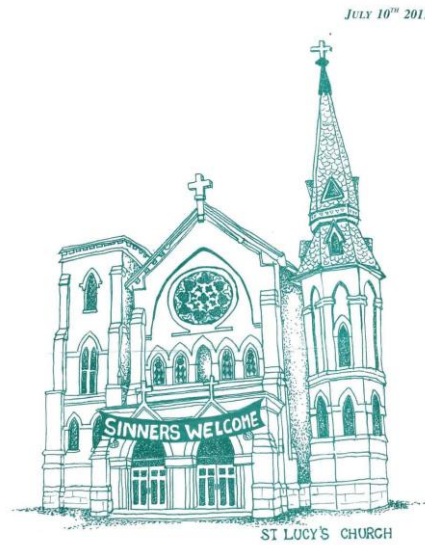
1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?



1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?





Banner outside the church as it was on June 10, 2011



Banner hung from the Choir Loft



Banner over the altar

**Reflections on Pentecost** by Stephen Groth

On Friday, I wasn't sure I was going to make it to church this Sunday. I came at 8 a.m. as part of a busy weekend and did not know it was Pentecost Sunday until I came through the doors. I was in the midst of attending a 1 ½ day Toastmasters conference. The conference was very exciting, but I resented having events on Sunday morning when other times the conference is run only on Saturday. It gave me pause to think about how Jewish Toastmasters feel. My weekend wasn't over Sunday morning. I had a Peacemaker Awards Reception at Pax Christi that afternoon.

As I entered church I thought about that dove, the symbol of Pentecost. Why is she our symbol for spiritual enlightenment and the symbol for peace? It certainly seems to me that the search for peace is aligned with our values and is wise.

I love the Holy Spirit. She is my favorite part of the Trinity by a little. When I sing, I feel it is the Spirit connected to my breath that helps me sing well. I love to learn. I love to understand and see the connection of things. For me all these are gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Tom Orso, gave us a sermon on the Holy Spirit and offered the Irish view of the Spirit as a wild goose rather than a tame diminutive dove. (He didn't say this but, "Afflict the comfortable, comfort the Afflicted".) He espoused affection for a wild goose as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. No flock gathering in front of this Church! I see the value of a peaceable Sunday. We need to rest and be restored, not always agitated. I see both sides of this and find the conflicting proclamations to be divinely human.

In an aligned notion, I know a Presbyterian priest who doesn't call his talks on Sunday sermons. They are "provocations." The wireless microphone is passed around afterward, and *responses* are *collected*.

Many Sundays I hear Deacon Martha Jane Dunphy pray for those in our Armed Forces, particularly those in harm's way. I think it is a very good prayer and appropriate. I want to pray that they all come home and that everybody gets to be out of harm's way, but I don't want my prayer to be an argument.

What about the Eagle? July 4 is coming. America is proud of her independence and her power. How does the dove answer the eagle? How do we get our leaders to pursue peaceful solutions to our differences around the world, projecting the power of love instead of military power? Would the spirit tell us how if we were listening?

When I come to church I know I am a sinner, because I have more peace and more abundance than most of the world, and because I give from my abundance and not from my want. I don't need to bully or hurt anyone directly to be a sinner (Goose sized). I do my best to practice forgiveness towards myself and others and to make progress by remembering this throughout the week and trying to do what I can where I can to be a little better.

In 2011 I visited St. Lucy's Catholic Church in Syracuse. The banners shown are real pictures and a depiction from their bulletin of a real banner strung across the outside of the Church. There were also posters throughout the church (about 4 for every station of the cross) depicting people like Martin Luther King, Cesar Chavez, Dorothy Day, and Nelson Mandela. It's a long way to Syracuse and I have not been back, but I know that St. Lucy's and her wisdom are there. I brought a little home with me and offer it to you.

For me, the dove is like the mustard seed. Small, but all we need. I love that she is loose and she is wild.

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**GRACE CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS**

June 2016 - August 2016

June     Father Barrios will be with us through the Summer!

June 12   Graduate Recognition



June 19 Father's Day celebration hosted by ECW

June 26 Final Coffee Hour until September 2016 - Caribbean Ministries will host some of the "Ice Tea/Lemonade" Coffee Hours in the Plaza. Other groups/Individuals are encourage to host a Sunday. See Walter Simon

July 4 Grace's Kitchen luncheon

Aug 15 Return of Fr. Rich and Dr. Barbara

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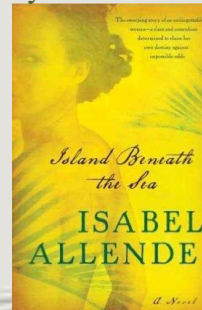
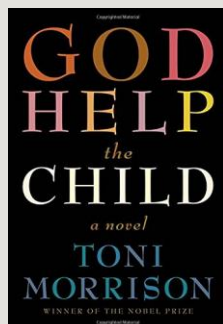
Distributor Maria Campos

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**Grace Church Book Club Update**  
**Join us the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month**  
**2016 Book Selections**

**Jun 14:**  
**Fall:**

**God Help the Child** by Toni Morrison  
**Island Beneath the Sea** by Isabel Allende



## Dish and Dine with the Book Club!

On **Saturday, June 18**, the Book Club will hold its traditional end-of-season luncheon at 12:30 pm at Gaucho Grill in White Plains, where we'll dine on fabulous food and dish on the profound concepts explored in Toni Morrison's latest novel, **God Help the Child**. We'll take a meeting break during the summer, but not from reading. Our summer pick (and first book to review in the fall) is **Island Beneath the Sea** by Isabel Allende.

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### *A Stewardship Message*

*When we look at our Mission Statement; "Grace Church is a diverse congregation committed to a common life sustained by Worship. We bear witness to God's love in Christ through our life together and our Service to the wider community" We are reminded of our commitment to preserve our legacy for this community and for our Church Family.*

*One might ask what stewardship has to do with us preserving our legacy. It is important to understand that stewardship is more than listening to sermons about budgets, but is based on the biblical principles of giving.*

*There are those who feel there are four principles of biblical stewardship:*

- ***The principle of ownership.*** Psalm 24 tells us that "the earth is the LORD'S and everything in it, the world and all who live in it." God owns all that we have and we are simply the managers or administrators acting on his behalf.
- ***The principle of responsibility.*** As stewards of God's riches, it is our responsibility to care for, develop and enjoy everything that he owns according to his desires and purposes.
- ***The principle of accountability.*** As stewards, God will hold us accountable for all that he has entrusted to our care. Like the servants in the **Parable of the Talents** (Matthew 25:14-30), we will be called to give account of how we have managed our time, talent, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships and authority.
- ***The principle of reward.*** Remember as faithful stewards, we will be rewarded for overseeing God's resources. God will express his pleasure according to Matthew 25:21 "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness."

*These four principles of biblical stewardship is not the conventional way in which we have viewed stewardship in the past. So to preserve our legacy, it is our responsibility to take ownership and be accountable for carrying out our Mission. To effectively accomplish this, we should review our past accomplishments and identify and plan our goals for the future. How do you feel your stewardship goals help Grace Church/La Gracia fulfill its Mission?*

*Stay tune for more on our new stewardship program.*

*Faithfully Submitted*  
***The Stewardship Committee***

## Artículo Sobre Mayordomía/Finanzas

Estimada Feligresía,

Hemos terminado nuestro Programa de Mayordomía/ Finanzas para el 2016, y queremos hacerle saber que estamos en el proceso de crear de un nuevo Comité de Mayordomía/Finanzas para el 2017. Usted se preguntará por qué estamos hablando de un programa para el 2017, cuando acabamos de terminar el programa del 2016. La mayordomía/ finanzas es una actividad que se realiza todo el año, y es mucho más que dar financieramente. La mayordomía/finanzas es otra forma de realizar ministerio dentro de la Iglesia y en la comunidad en general. Las/os buenas/os administradoras/es participan plenamente en el servicio de la vida y la energía de sus congregaciones. Como personas servidoras, recibimos bendiciones para todo lo que hacemos y, a su vez bendecimos a Dios ofreciendo nuestra alabanza y acción de gracias por los dones que hemos recibido.

Esta es una oportunidad para volver a dar forma a nuestro programa y para fomentar una mayor participación de nuestra membrecía. Les exhortamos a que compartan sus ideas de mayordomía/finanzas a través del correo electrónico: [gracechurchwhiteplains@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchwhiteplains@gmail.com). Vamos a tratar de incorporar sus ideas en la creación del programa para el 2017. Con actualizaciones constantes le mantendremos informada/o sobre el nuevo programa.

La Junta Parroquial les da las gracias por su participación en nuestro Programa de Mayordomía/Finanzas para el 2016. Hasta la fecha, tenemos 140 familias comprometiéndose con Iglesia La Gracia/Grace, haciendo un total de \$ 286.475. Felicitaciones al Comité de Mayordomía/Finanzas saliente por el exitoso trabajo realizado en este programa de mayordomía/finanzas; estamos verdaderamente en agradecimiento por sus esfuerzos.

A medida que se desarrolla el nuevo Comité de Mayordomía/Finanzas, les pedimos que considere en oración el querer trabajar con nosotras/os, mientras buscamos maneras de seguir mejorando nuestro compromiso de mayordomía/finanzas. Por lo tanto, si alguien se le acerca para solicitarle que sea parte de este trabajo, esperamos que agradecidamente acepte el pedido. Recuerde que cada una/o de nosotras/os es un miembro activo de esta Iglesia y como tal, su participación activa significa que estamos haciendo la voluntad de Dios, así como su propia voluntad. Os dejo con este pensamiento: la mayordomía/finanzas es una función del ministerio laical y ordenado que puede ser practicado en un sinnúmero de maneras. Con suerte mediante la enseñanza y la inspiración, podemos mostrar cómo expresar alabanza y acción de gracias por los dones que Dios nos ha dado. Una vez más, gracias por ser una bendición para La Gracia/Grace y compartir los dones de Dios mientras ministramos a nosotras/os mismas/os ya la comunidad.

Sinceramente,

**Sandy Gadsden-McAllister**

**Cynthia Sangurima Brown**

Sandy Gadsden- McAllister

Cynthia Sangurima Brown

Co-Directoras de Mayordomía/Finanzas

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## **VERNA BROWN'S DAY TO REMEMBER**

**On January 22, 2016 I attended an event at the Center of Creative Arts in Saint Louis, Missouri. During the reception, my nephew introduced me to a young couple who currently live in Washington, DC, but grew up in the Northeast Bronx. We began chatting about The Bronx and, to my surprise, the young woman said she was a graduate of Truman High School in Co-Op City.**

Knowing that Verna Brown spent a number of years teaching at Truman, I casually asked Gina



Northern Merritt if Mrs. Verna Brown was ever one of her teachers.

Gina seemed to be stunned by my question. Her eyes widened and she asked if I knew Mrs. Brown. When I replied that Mrs. Brown was a friend of mine, tears began rolling down Gina's cheeks. She began telling me how, when she was a high school freshman, Mrs. Brown changed her life.

My meeting Gina at an event in Saint Louis was the first step in reuniting a young woman with the teacher who helped her cope with and overcome a number of personal challenges. More than thirty years have passed, but Gina never forgot Mrs. Brown.

On February 13, 2016, Gina came to White Plains and I drove her to Bethel in Croton-on-Hudson. Verna's husband, Joseph, wanted Gina's visit to be a surprise for Verna; he knew she would be able to handle the surprise. Joe also wanted their grandchildren to witness the

reunion. The children, their parents and Joe waited excitedly for us to arrive.

When we entered the room, Verna looked at Gina and smiled; she remembered Gina's face. There wasn't a dry eye in the room as Gina and Mrs. Brown became reacquainted and shared their special story with us. February 13<sup>th</sup> truly was a special day for Verna Brown...a day to remember.

Jane L. Washington

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**DESIDERATA** Latin meaning: "Desired Things"

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly. And listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they, too, have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and

bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.

This prose poem was written in 1927 by the American writer **Max Ehrmann** (1872-1945.)

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## Se robaron y privatizaron a Jesus



La narrativa bíblica de San Marcos 9:38-40 nos dice: *En aquel tiempo, Juan le dijo a Jesús: "Hemos visto a uno que expulsaba a los demonios en tu nombre, y como no es de los nuestros, se lo prohibimos". Pero Jesús le respondió: "No se lo prohíban, porque no hay ninguno que haga milagros en mi nombre, que luego sea capaz de hablar mal de mí. Todo aquel que no está contra nosotros, está a nuestro favor".*

Este Evangelio es un gran reto para quienes estamos aquí en la Iglesia La Gracia tratando de construir una iglesia-pueblo que sea relevante a las luchas de nuestra comunidad de White Plains en general y la Latina en particular. Es como una especie de paradigma para construir una iglesia que por un lado rescate al Jesús que ha sido secuestrado y por otro lado aprenda a ser una luz en medio de tinieblas.

No es un secreto que de una manera muy atrevida hay unas personas, denominaciones, iglesias, etc., quienes muy atrevidamente han pretendido privatizar y/o secuestrar al Jesús que pertenece a toda las gentes. Los discípulos en su infantilismo espiritual vinieron lloriqueando llenos de celos porque otros discípulos que no estaban con Jesús podían hacer lo que ellos también hacían. Esta reacción es un reflejo



de inmadurez por parte de ellos y se puede asimismo palpar en personas dentro de la iglesia que siempre están excluyendo a otras personas ya sea por asuntos de raza, etnicidad, género, edad, orientación sexual, etc. Se les olvida que nuestra misión evangélica es la de sumar no de restar personas.

Si observamos muy bien la queja que ellos le presentaron a Jesús la misma era buscando exclusividad o privilegios de ministerios. O sea, que nadie más pueda disfrutar la bendición de expulsar demonios solo nosotr@s. Por supuesto Jesús confrontó sus niñerías y celos infructíferos diciéndole que quien no está contra de este movimiento está en favor. Por lo tanto, ¿por qué estar en contra de alguien que asimismo adelanta la causa del evangelio? Esta penosa realidad es también lo que ha convertido erróneamente a muchas iglesias en clubes privados, donde se permite entrar solo a su membrecía. Por eso son irrelevantes e irreverentes al pueblo. Hay que buscar la manera de retornar el significado histórico de ser una especie de iglesia-hospital que recibe y sana a todas esas personas que estamos enfermas por nuestros pecados. Concerniente al pecado me encanta la lista de pecados sociales que nuestro hermano Mahatma Gandhi nos presenta: Política sin principios; Bienestar sin trabajo; Comercio sin moralidad; Placer sin Conciencia; Educación sin Carácter; Ciencia sin Humanidad; y Veneración sin Sacrificio. O como nos dice el Apóstol Santiago (4:17): *Quien sabe hacer el bien y no lo hace, comete pecado*. Pero a esto hay que añadirle los pecados de este sistema socio-político. Ejemplo de esto puede ser el declarar a un ser humano ilegal, el desempleo, trabajos con salarios bajos, la escasez de viviendas, el alto costo de alquileres, el alto costo de los servicios médicos y educativos, el machismo/sexismo, homofobia/heterosexismo, la criminalización de la persona adicta en la guerra contra las drogas, la violencia de género, etc.

Y por supuesto, me fascina la visión teológica de ese gran teólogo de la liberación el peruano Gustavo Gutierrez, quien define el pecado como una vuelta egoísta hacia uno mismo o hacia una misma. Esta fue la penosa realidad de quienes estaban siguiendo a Jesús y de momento un arrebató de celos los enfureció y querían eliminar a quienes no eran de su grupo. Yo le añadiría que existen a aquellas personas que andan en búsqueda de perdón pero no quieren arrepentirse. Es por esto que en este proceso de la iglesia-hospital que quiere sanar se debe promover el modelo de la justicia restaurativa, lo cual es un sistema a través del cual las partes que se han visto involucradas (o poseen un interés en particular) en un delito, deciden de forma colectiva cómo lidiar con las consecuencias inmediatas de éste y sus repercusiones para el futuro. Aquí no hay espacio para procesos opresores de borrón y cuenta nueva. Por lo tanto, La Gracia tiene que ser una Iglesia que abre las puertas para recibir al pueblo y que la práctica del amor sea nuestra única religión. Ninguna denominación y ninguna persona tienen derecho absoluto sobre Jesús.

Y no nos olvidemos que también están quienes han sustituido a Jesús por la iglesia y ésta última ha pasado a ser más importante que el mismo Jesús. Esta es otra manera de secuestrarlo. Hay que volver a socializarle y sacárselo de las manos a la élite religiosa y política y retornarlo al pueblo porque Jesús le pertenece al pueblo. Hoy tenemos una invitación al estilo de de Ali Primera, ese gran cantautor venezolano quien nos dice: A Cristo hay que liberarlo el siempre quiso ser pueblo y hoy lo explotan los de arriba ricos iglesia y gobierno los señores de una iglesia que está muy lejos del pueblo que no sabe de miserias que no vive su evangelio y que no habla nuestro idioma cuando nos dice silencio son cosas que dios permite son cosas que manda el cielo. En otras palabras, salgamos a la calle a rescatar de las manos de quienes se robaron y privatizaron al Jesús subversivo que demanda que su iglesia sea radical. Bendiciones.

En el amor solidario, el sacramento más importante

**Padre Luis**

### **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA HONORS PAXTON J. LOUIS**

Paxton J. Louis, long time parishioner and former Vestry member, has been honored twice since March 2016. The first time was on March 15, 2016, when Paxton was given the Good Scout Award by the City of White Plains and the Westchester-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The second time was on May 9, 2016, when Paxton received the Silver Beaver Award from the Westchester-Putnam

Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Paxton was one of four recipients of the Silver Beaver. The Silver Beaver Award is a Boy Scout Council's highest distinguished service award given to uniformed volunteers whose scouting work has positively impacted youth throughout the scouting council.



GOOD SCOUT AWARD - WHITE PLAINS



SILVER BEAVER AWARD

Many in Grace Church may not know this but Paxton and his wife Donna and their two sons, Eric and Scott, are deeply involved in the White Plains community. Scouting is one of the many things the family is involved in. Eric and Scott are both Eagle Scouts. Donna is responsible for Boy Scout fund raising through the selling of popcorn in Westchester County. Paxton received the Good Scout Award from the City of White Plains and the Boy Scouts of America for his contributions to scouting in White Plains. Up until April 2016, Paxton had served for three years as one of four district leaders in the scouting council. As the District Chairman for the Mohican District (which included Yonkers, the river towns, White Plains, all the way up to Valhalla and Pleasantville), Paxton was the highest ranking uniformed volunteer who was responsible for the operations and wellness of 65 cub scout and boy scout units: 2000 youth members, 800 volunteer leaders. When Paxton stepped down in April 2016 as District Chairman, his district had seen membership growth of nearly 5%, which is big news since the district had seen a drop in membership in prior years.

In addition to receiving the Silver Beaver Award, on May 9, 2016, Paxton was elected Vice President for Membership for the Westchester-Putnam Council of the Boy Scouts of America. In his new role, Paxton is responsible for growing scouting membership in Westchester and Putnam Counties.

During Eagle Scout ceremonies, Paxton typically presents new Eagle Scouts with district awards. During these ceremonies Paxton makes public remarks about scouting to scout leaders, political leaders, and civic leaders. In Paxton's own words, "Scouting is an educational program that at its very core is about citizenship and leadership. It is through service to the community that the Boy Scouts of America teaches scouts and even leaders about one's responsibility to the community and about leading through example. It is through service that we teach citizenship and leadership."

Paxton believes that the scouting program can benefit any boy or girl. Yes, girls are members of the Boy Scouts of America. Girls can join co-ed high adventure units called Venturing Crews at the age of 14. Girls can also join a scouting program called the Explorer Program, which is focused on career fields like law, fire, medicine, teaching, etc. Venturing and Exploring are for those youth who do not want to participate in a traditional scouting program.

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## **THANK YOU**

There are no words that can ever fully express my boundless gratitude for the warm, deep love shown to me by my Grace Church family and Lifting Up Westchester family before, during and after the Oasis of Hope Gala, at which I was blessed with an overwhelming honor. Your presence, words of congratulation, embraces and joy literally saturated me with love. I know I will never cease to bask in the memory of the bright joy you gave me.

God bless you!

With love,

Carolyn Rogers

## Sed



Tengo sed del llanto en el rocío  
Del manantial tibio  
De esos labios fríos  
De la tierra húmeda  
Del calor sudado  
Que me apague el frío

Tengo sed de aromas  
Del calor que apague este enorme frío  
Del sabor glorioso del sudor saciado  
Que me abrigue el ocio  
De abrazar un día y cantar a dúo  
La liberación del oprimido

Y que el llanto sacie la sed con cada rocío  
Cuando el manantial brote de alegría  
Y se caliente mi boca  
Sobre la tierra firme  
Abriundo la libertad de la oprimida

Tengo sed de las lágrimas niñas en el rocío  
Tragar su llanto y saciar su pena  
Tengo sed de la tibia casa de la anciana sola  
Enjugar su tristeza y celebrar sus años  
Calentar mis labios de este frío inútil  
Para celebrar ser parte de la liberación divina sin saciar mi sed.

**Amarilis Guzmán**

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – YOUTH PROGRAM

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **Proverbs 22:6***



A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated and made our monthly Community Service Food Collection for *Lifting Up Westchester* a huge success this school year.

In addition to the specific aged group classes, we incorporate a few whole group activities where all Grace youth ages 3 to 17 come together to experience our Christian family. It gives our older children a chance to develop their leadership abilities and act as mentors. It allows our younger children to see positive role models and they like hanging out with the older kids. Mixed within in all this are teaching moments about our faith. Baking communion bread is one such activity that we do twice a year. A special thank you goes to Dana Walters and Melanie Jackson Walters for coordinating our baking days. Taking a page from years ago, we re-introduced this year a Palm Saturday event. A successful event attended by over 40 people, twenty-one of which were youth members. Younger children, assisted by our older youth, participated in egg dying, making sand art crosses, Stations of the Cross sticker mat and learned how to make crosses out of palms. Father Rich then gathered everyone in the church for some of the Stations of the Cross. For many of our youth this was their first experience with the Stations. We wrapped up the activities with a mini re-enactment of the Last Supper serving bread and grape juice. Of course, the evening ended with a pizza party!





As we end our Sunday School year, I want to express my sincere thanks to Alex Carden, youth leader, who has volunteered his time the past two years to co-teach in the Primary classroom. Alex is one of our J2A members going off to college this summer. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

I would also like to give a heartfelt thank you to all our Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, Assistants and Teen volunteers for it has been my pleasure working with such a giving group. As religious educators it is always a balance between our own spiritual needs and giving of our time to share our faith with our youth. I appreciate each and every one who is part of this team. With Much Appreciation – Donna Louis, Youth Ministry Coordinator

***ENJOY THIS SNAPSHOT OF OUR 2015-2016 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR AS SHARED BY OUR EDUCATORS.***

### **Little Lambs -- Pre-K, K & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

In 2015-16 we adopted the name of “Little Lambs” for our beginner class. The themes we visited this year were: Ruth and Naomi and their descendants, David as a Shepherd, David and Goliath, Jesus as a Teacher and The Church environment and symbols. We also visited the themes of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Readings and Arts & Crafts projects are always a focus to help with the understanding of each lesson. One really cute activity we did was for Easter, we made the tomb where Jesus was buried after he was crucified.

Continued blessings -- **Tiffany Woodbury and Amy Owens**

### **PRIMARY CLASS – Grades 2 & 3:**

This year, our Virginia Theological Seminary curriculum was the Cross Year lesson plans. The main theme for the Cross Year is Worship. We focused on the structure this year, including the structure of the service, the readings, the church year calendar and the organization of the Bible. We did special crafts activities around the winter holidays including stained glass windows for advent and building a crèche.

Peace and Joy -- **Melanie Jackson-Walters, Jean-Marie Bradford, Dana Walters & Alex Carden**

### **INTERMEDIATE CLASS – Grades 4, 5, 6:**



With 11 registered students; the Intermediate Class continues to use the curriculum set up by the Virginia Theological Seminary as the framework for our classes. Selections from the text are made to be topical (trying to stay current with the Christian calendar) and relevant – focusing on confirmation during Bishop Shin’s visit, making the connection between ascension and “rising above” being two recent examples. Videos are used to bring levity to the class. Definitions/explanations of words and concepts are addressed immediately (wifi access has expanded our technological reach). We introduced “mining the bulletin” this year – where children are asked to gain a better understanding of the church service/activities through their ability to navigate the weekly bulletin. Students are encouraged to take an active role in the church through their service as lay readers, acolytes, choir members and community service participants. We thank the parents for sharing their dedicated, curious, energetic, intelligent, ambitious and forward-thinking children with us. Our future is secure with their leadership.

Respectfully -- **Michael Heffner and Curt Constable**

### **RITE 13 – Grades 7 & 8:**

Rite 13 class discussions incorporate scripture reading, sharing of experiences, and making our Christian faith relevant to our teens’ lives. Themes discussed this year were **Faith & Trust, Images of God and I Am Made In the Image**. Additionally, we talk about the transition to manhood and womanhood as part of our highlight of our year, the Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood ceremony taking place during a Family Church Service in the Spring. This year our 3 celebrities graduating to J2A were: Maya Daughtry, James Heffner and Spencer Carden.

Our last classes of the year focused on **Compassion and Acts of Mercy**, culminating in students writing letters for submission as part of Bread for the World’s 2016 Offering of Letters which focused on asking our U.S. Representatives and Senators to fund programs for healthy nutrition for mothers and children.

As a class we continued two annual volunteer events: Game Day hosted for the younger members during the Annual Meeting and the creation of two gift baskets for the ECW Easter raffle.

We will miss James, Spencer and Maya in next year’s class as they advance to J2A, but we are also looking forward to welcoming a new set of middle schoolers, along with our rising Celebrities for the coming year.

Many Blessings -- **George O’Hanlon & Donna Louis**



### **JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD (J2A) – Grades 9, 10, 11, 12:**

J2A's time together is often spent discussing the world we live in, and what it means to be an Episcopalian in this world. Our group's purpose centers around community service and so many of our discussions are geared toward ways we can be of service within the Church and in the community at large. We encourage our students to be a part of the life of the church, and so you can find members of our group ministering in a variety of ways. They are acolytes, ushers, lectors, choir members, and Sunday School volunteers. This year began following our second trip to Honduras, and although our group was small, our desire to support El Hogar has only grown stronger. We have continued to volunteer our time and energy at the Lifting Up Westchester annual gala, and to help the Men of Grace on Mother's Day. We were even able to step in and give the Family Service sermon on Pentecost. Our future plans include an overnight retreat, and of course heading back to Honduras and El Hogar in 2017. We look forward to next year when we can continue to grow as a group, and continue to grow in our involvement in the life of Grace Church.

All the best -- **Lauren Reid and Marissa Boylan**

**HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!**

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### **GETTING TO KNOW OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

We have so many terrific young people at Grace Church. In order to get to know a few of them a little better, we asked them to answer several questions. Here are their answers.

**SHANE DAUGHTRY** - Finishing Grade 6



1. Do you have any summer plans?  
Yes, I am going on a cruise to Italy and Greece with my parents, my grandparents, and my aunt, uncle, and cousins (Waverly and Kendal)  
I am also going to summer camp and to Martha's Vineyard.
2. How do you spend your free time?  
I play basketball and baseball.  
I also play the piano.
3. How do you participate in activities at Grace Church..  
I am an Acolyte.

**RONAK KUMAR** – Finishing Grade 5

1. Do you have any summer plans?  
One of my summer plans is to go to Sesame Place, go to Robert Moses Beach, and participate at the Indian Heritage Festival and dance there. Also I will take swimming lessons. (I am still working on my list of things to do in the summer!)



2. How do you spend your free time?

My hobbies are dance, swimming, ice skating, and reading.

3. How do you participate in activities at Grace Church?

I am an Acolyte. I participate in the Saint Nicholas choir and also I am in Sunday School.

**JORDAN ACEVEDO** – Finishing Grade 5

1. Do you have any summer plans?

Camp

A lot of swimming

Spending time with my friends

Golf lessons in a summer clinic & spending time at the local golf range

I'm still thinking about sleepaway camp with church

Hopefully a vacation (my mom needs one!)





2. How do you spend your free time?

Swim

Ride my bike at the

Kensico Dam

Golf

Spend time with my friends

Go to the movies

Bowling

Spend time with my mom

Read (sometimes)

African dance

Hop-Hop Dance

Play basketball

Arts & Crafts

3, How do you participate in activities at Grace Church?

At church, I am an acolyte, a reader, I sing in the St. Nicholas Choir, and sometimes help my mom When she's hosting Coffee Hour

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





### ***Brighter Futures Summer Camp***



In a few short weeks, 90 boys and girls like 8-year old Latoya and her 6-year old brother Jamal will noisily disembark from yellow school buses ready to start another summer at the Brighter Futures Summer Day Camp. For four weeks they'll be part of camp groups like the Golden Eagles, the Dancing Divas or the Hot Shots. They won't be poor kids or homeless kids...they'll just be kids.

Kids at camp need a lot of energy so their day will start with a nutritious breakfast. That's important because many of our campers do not get breakfast at home. Next they'll meet to sing camp favorites like "The Littlest Worm" and "Green Grass" and then break into one of five groups to rotate through the day's activities.

The 5-6 year old Dancing Divas, may whirl off to make sparkle art while the 7-9 year old Golden Eagles soar off to play a rousing game of soccer. Other groups will enjoy a refreshing dip at Gardella Pool, make musical instruments in a music program run by volunteers from Scarsdale High School, or practice a dance number for an upcoming talent show.

At the end of an exhausting day they'll all meet again for a snack before boarding buses for home.

Home for 80% of our campers is the Coachman Family Center where they live with their parents and siblings. All of our campers come from impoverished backgrounds and need scholarship support to attend camp. A total of \$60,000 in camp scholarships is needed this summer to ensure that all eligible children can attend.



In addition to scholarships, children also receive free bathing suits, towels, goggles and suntan lotion, items that their parents cannot afford to buy for them.

This year, thanks to a donation from the H.C. Crittenden Middle School in Armonk in partnership with the Gotta Have Sole Foundation which provides free shoes for homeless children, many of our campers will also receive a new pair of sneakers along with a personalized note.

Throughout the summer, campers enjoy many special activities such as a Carnival Day, Olympic Days, a field day organized by local probation officers and weekly programs like Bugs, Bugs, Bugs run by the Westchester Children's Museum.



Last summer, a team from the National Double Dutch League visited the camp to show off their skills and teach campers a few new tricks. The day was capped by a Double Dutch Competition. Mayor Tom Roach and Dr. Iris Pagan, Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau were on hand to join in the fun.

The Brighter Futures Summer Camp has been in existence for more than three decades. For 27 of those years it was based at Good Counsel Academy but last year's sale of that property precipitated a move to Ridgeway Elementary School where our rent was tripled. Unfortunately, the move also meant the loss of free access to the tennis courts on the Pace University campus and the cancellation of the popular tennis lesson program initiated by Maria Lewis five years ago.

The camp is run by Director Eileen Torres who many campers refer to as their "second mother". Together with her team of 3 school teachers and 13 counselors, Eileen creates a stimulating and fun program of indoor and outdoor activities which includes daily literacy activities to ensure that our campers do not experience summer learning loss.

Some of our campers have learning, developmental or behavior difficulties. Many are aggressive and have impulse control or anger issues. We welcome these children with open arms and set up individualized programs to help them to overcome their problems.



LeShon was one of those kids... He was an angry 8-year old who was always getting into fights with other campers. Life at home was tough. He was one of five children living at the Coachman with his mother, a drug addict and his father, an alcoholic. After being expelled from another local camp he came to Brighter Futures. He was put on an individualized program that taught him breathing exercises and showed him how to control his anger by removing himself from tense situations. LeShon is now able to cope with his temper more appropriately and has learned to play fairly and share with others.

If you or your children have ever attended camp you know what a transformative experience it can be. You can help a homeless child have that same experience by making a donation to Brighter Futures today.

- \$500 provides a camp scholarship for one homeless child
- \$100 provides four pairs of sneakers
- \$30 provides a bathing suit and towel

**DONATE TODAY**

Linda Gallo will also be running a collection for gift cards which will be used to help purchase bathing suits and other needs for our campers so you can also help by donating a gift card.

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*Suffragan Bishop Allen Shin's 2016 Visitation*





## Faces of Grace





*Rest in Peace, Alice Manning*



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

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