



The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains

Dear Grace Church family,

I am honored and humbled to be called as your Priest in Charge here at Grace Church/La Gracia. You are my faith family and are among my dearest of friends. For many years we have shared our faith journey – together we have worked, prayed, laughed, and cried. We have shared our joys and sorrows and always sought to see the Holy Spirit at work among us. To continue to be your priest, your friend, and your confidant is the highest calling of my life's work, and for that I give thanks to God.

This has not been an easy time for Grace/La Gracia. Throughout the uncertainties of the recent past you have remained steadfast in your faith and supportive of our parish. You have also been supportive of me and for that I shall always be thankful. I pledge to you that I will work and pray to be the best possible steward of this faith community. I accept this responsibility with my whole heart. I look forward to sharing with you my joy and enthusiasm for Christ.

I believe that this is a time in the life of our church where continuity and the spirit of community are of the utmost importance. My vision is that we will continue to grow and work together as one, and that Grace/La Gracia will continue to be a welcoming presence in our community to everyone who seeks a closer relationship with Christ – with no exceptions. We will continue as a bridge between cultures, languages, and expressions, and continue to serve as a beacon in this community for the best that such diversity can bring to our lives.

Although I believe that most of you know me, I want to give you a small bit of background on me. I was born in NY and I have 9 siblings. I have a deep spirituality which I love to express through preaching in a way that engages the congregation. I have been ordained for 11 years as a priest. I am a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary and I also have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Hotel Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy.

My appointment also comes with the good news that the Diocese will continue to support my salary until 2024. I will be moving to the Rectory on May 30 and I am looking forward to the journey we are taking on together. We will continue to learn a lot from each other as we follow this path together. I feel blessed.

Rev. Adolfo Moronta



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please note that our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, **June 5th**. For the summer there will be only one morning service in English every **Sunday at 9:30 A.M.** We will go back to our usual 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM English services on **September 4th**.



Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit

By: Rev. Adolfo Moronta

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2.1-4)


On Sunday, June 5th, we will celebrate Pentecost, the birth of our Christian church. Pentecost literally means "50". It takes place fifty days after Easter and it celebrates the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, causing them to speak in tongues and empowering them to take the Good News to all

the nations. Pentecost made the message of Jesus an unstoppable force that no one could deny any longer.

John Gill expresses the significance in his commentary: "Through this baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, the apostles became more knowing, and had a greater understanding of the mysteries of the Gospel, and were more qualified to preach it to people of all nations and languages."

The account in Acts 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest and the Holy Spirit "*filled the whole house where they were sitting.*" "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*"

This strange occurrence drew a large crowd, and Peter stood up to speak to them about repentance and the gospel of Christ. By the end of that day that the Holy Spirit came, the Church grew by 3,000 people. This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost.



Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in John 14:26, who would be the helper for his people. *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”*

This New Testament event is also significant because it fulfills an Old Testament prophecy in Joel 2:28-29. *“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”*

There are many ways that the Holy Spirit works in the lives of Christians, but they all share one common goal: to make us more like Jesus Christ. He works in believers by renewing our minds to be like the mind of Christ. He does this by leading us to repentance. The Holy Spirit is especially present when we call upon Him in prayer. It is in our prayer time that He comes to our relief. He not only pleads God's cause with us, but He pleads our cause with God. He stirs up proper desires within us and teaches us to pray.

One of the goals that I would like to achieve for the English congregation is to have in the parish a two-day retreat called **Life In The Spirit Seminar**, which is a spiritual retreat of seven teaching sessions, each one building upon the previous one, including speakers, scripture, music, prayer and small groups.

The Goals of this retreat are: **1)** To help participants in the Seminar to establish, reestablish or deepen an individual relationship with God through Jesus Christ. **2)** To help participants yield to the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. **3)** To empower believers to a life of service using the gifts, fruits, and charisms that bring the Holy Spirit. **4)** To bring to participants a new life, a life of discipleship and growth into Christ Jesus.

As we move forward as a church, with the guidance of Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit, let us continuously open our lives to His works in us and let us prepare ourselves for the joyous expectation of Pentecost.

SUMMER SCHEDULE – JUNE - SEPTEMBER



GRACE CHURCH - JUNE

Quarterly review next 90 days.

Plan next fall schedule.

June 5th Summer schedule starts for English service. Only 1 Sunday service at 9:30 AM until September 4th.

June 5th Pentecost.

June 12th Trinity Sunday.

June 19th Season After Pentecost.

June 19th (Sunday) Father's Day and Sacred Heart.

GRACE CHURCH - JULY

To be determined.

GRACE CHURCH – AUGUST

August 6th Independence of Bolivia for La Gracia.

August 28th (Sunday) Fr. Adolfo Moronta's birthday. Official day August 27th.

GRACE CHURCH - SEPTEMBER

September 14th Holy Cross Day.

Vestry - begin to prepare next year's budget.

Welcome Back after Labor Day (bless backpacks).

Quarterly Financial Reviews, next 90 days.

Youth Education Calendar.

Fall Master Events Calendar.

September 15th (Thursday) Independence of Mexico and the countries of Central America for La Gracia.

September 23rd - 25th La Gracia Retreat in the Church.

September 25th bilingual service.

Christian Education

By George O'Hanlon

It has been a busy Spring for our Youth Education program, and we look forward to many events before the school year ends.

Our Early-Primary class (grades 1-3) and Primary class (grades 4-6) have adopted a new curriculum this year which links to the Bible readings and sermon for the service of that day. As a result, while the students from these grades do not attend the regular church service until nearly the communion portion of the service, they are learning the same core lessons as reflected in the Bible readings and sermon. In this way, we hope to better connect the students with the ongoing services.



We anticipate that you will see more of our youth in person, as they return to their regular activity of serving on the alter as acolytes. The pandemic inhibited that participation but given present circumstances, the Youth Education participants are expanding their role. Look for them on the alter!

Rite 13 (Middle School age) has now completed its study series on making decisions and has now shifted to studying compassion and acts of mercy. All of these concepts are, of course, core to our Christian beliefs and ideals. In March, we were delighted to hold Aaron Woodberry's Celebration of Adulthood ceremony. Aaron is an eighth grader and a longstanding member of the Grace Youth Education program. Congratulations Aaron, and parents Tiffany and Eric!

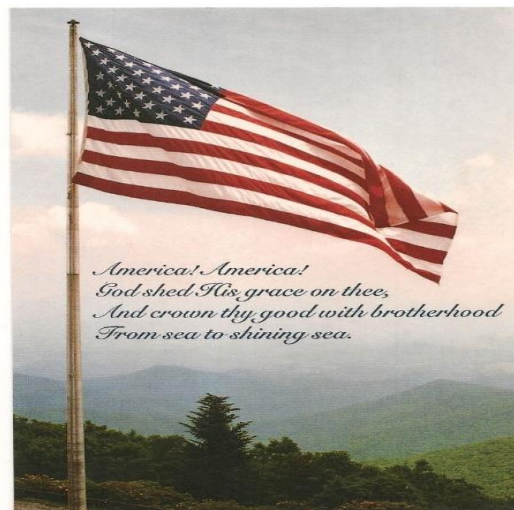


J2A has continued its program of meeting once or twice a month for a few hours, which enables more in-depth discussion and teaching in this more focused period. It also frees up our J2A members to attend Church and participate in our Church activities, such as serving as acolytes and ushers.

Our big Spring events were still upcoming at time of submission of this article. On June 4th we look forward to our annual end of year Rite 13 and J2A luncheon. Likewise, we are all looking forward to Graduation Sunday on June 19th, where we celebrate all of our graduates, including our high school graduates from J2A. We also recognize our Youth Education students and teachers on this day as well. In addition to the students, we want to give a big shout-out to our teachers: Erika Santos (Grades 1-3); Tiffany Woodberry and Ingrid Richards (Grades 4-6); George O'Hanlon (Rite 13) and Lauren Reid (J2A).

We wish everyone a great summer, and we will look forward to restarting our Youth Education program early in September.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Book of Common Prayer



WHEN THEY ASK “DOES CHRISTIANITY WORK?”

From: “Inside the mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary” by Lee Strobel

I was talking with a Christian leader from a large Midwestern university, and he was telling me about how students have changed in the last few decades. Kids these days aren’t asking ‘What’s true?’” he said. “That’s what college kids asked in the ‘60’s. Today, kids are asking ‘What can help me deal with my pain?’ It seems as though every kid I disciple comes from a dysfunctional family, and he’s trying to process his pain.”

The nature of these questions is evolving over time. For many, especially the younger generation, truth isn’t an issue because they have become convinced that all religious viewpoints are equally valid. It’s the old, “You have your truth and I have mine.”

We need to help unchurched friends understand the absolute and unchanging truth of Christ, but we should also explain how Christ is available to help them in practical ways to heal their hurts and help them deal with everyday living. We need to communicate that Christianity isn’t just for the tomorrow of their eternity but also for the today of their lives.

I’ve discussed this at length with Martin Robinson, an astute observer of the British religious scene. He recently made this observation about Britain, although it’s certainly germane to the U.S.:

It is assumed that since all faith and morality are firmly in the area of opinion and that all opinions are equally valid, the only thing that really matters is whether or not they work. “Does it work?” is the question that arises again and again. Never mind if the suggested formula is derived from Hinduism, Buddhism, the occult, or Christianity – the main question asked is, “Does it work?”

Our challenge, then, is to help this new generation of unchurched friends understand that Christianity does work, that is, that the God of the Bible offers us supernatural wisdom and assistance in our struggles, difficulties, and recovery from past hurts.

But we need to communicate that the **reason** it works is because it’s **true**. Because Christ, at a point in history, had the power to overcome the grave, we can have access to that same kind of supernatural power to cope with the difficulties that face us day to day. And because the Bible is God’s revelation to His people, it contains a kind of practical and effective help that’s unmatched by mere human philosophers.

So Christians need to continue to marshal the historic, archaeological, prophetic, and other evidence that Jesus is the one and only Son of God. But we shouldn’t stop there. We should be ready to go the next step and tell our unchurched friends that because that’s true, there are meaningful implications for their lives today—for their marriages, their friendships, their careers, their recovery from past pain, and so on.



Pledging and the Church Budget

By Sylvia Simon

When we plan our individual budgets, we all consider our projected incomes. Most of us can depend on an expected income to plan appropriately. Unfortunately, planning a church budget is problematic. It depends upon anticipated revenues based upon pledges. Consequently, the Vestry plans yearly expenses anticipating that the amounts pledged by parishioners, will, in fact, be given. This is not always the case. Some parishioners believe that it is unnecessary to pledge as long as they are faithful contributors to the church. However, the Vestry can't include funds we don't know about in a yearly budget. In addition, sometimes unanticipated events may change individual circumstances, which may result in a diminished capacity to maintain the original pledge. This is understandable.


The Vestry would appreciate it if you would inform them of the change. If you decide to reduce or increase your pledge, please inform the Stewardship committee. This will allow the Vestry to modify the budget as needed. Some parishioners have expressed dismay at being contacted to discuss their pledges. Our Diocese is very concerned with our ability to maintain a fiscally sound budget. We are striving to fulfill this obligation. God willing, and your cooperation, will allow us to do so.

What's Happening with the Vestry?

During our retreat in May, we focused on these ways to connect to the congregation:

- Sharing a summary of our Vestry meetings
- Developing "listening" sessions between Vestry and parishioners
- Planning a "Homecoming" barbeque at the Rectory in September
- Planning a future Parish retreat
- Establishing a Music Committee to assist in developing our music ministry

**We need to hear from each member of Grace.
Please don't hesitate to share your ideas.**



The Sacristy and Altar Guild **Holy Service**

By Sandy Gadsden McAlister

Sacristy

What is a Sacristy? It is a room adjoining the sanctuary and/chapel where the church's vestments, altar hangings, linens, sacred vessels, and liturgical books are kept until they are used for worship. It is also the place where clergy, altar ministers and acolytes vest for the service. It is also a sacred space where those participating in the worship service pray and center themselves before processing into the sanctuary.

Our Sacristy is composed of an inner and outer room. The inner room (close to the sanctuary) has a sink (to wash vessels and rinse linen used during worship) and several cabinets that hold the liturgical items altar guild members use to prepare for worship service. There is a short alcove between the inner and outer sacristy that contains a Piscina (sink, used to dispose of consecrated elements i.e., wine, charcoal, etc.) and more cabinets. The outer Sacristy also includes cabinets and closets for storage. This is the area where clergy and altar ministers vest for worship service. The Altar Guild tries to maintain a sacredness in the Sacristy which is a worship space. We try to limit traffic in the sacristy to an as-needed basis.

Altar Guild

Serving on the Altar Guild is a form of ministry of "holy housework and prayer." The Altar Guild's work is an offering of prayer to God. Keeping this in mind, the Altar guild is responsible for preparing for all worship services, morning, and evening prayer, all sacramental rites and of course the Sunday Eucharist. Other responsibilities of the Altar guild include cleaning vessels, laundering linen, scrubbing, polishing, decorating, setting the table and any special preparation for all celebrations in the Church. At the end of worship, the Altar guild cleans and return the items used during worship to their designated space.

This is just a glimpse of what the Altar guild does to prepare for worship service. In addition, the Altar guild is responsible for ensuring that all vestments and altar linens are cleaned and maintained in good repair. Our Altar Guild is composed of a small group of women who faithfully work quietly behind the scenes weekly, to ensure that our Church always looks its Sunday best.

Volunteers for this ministry work in teams of two individuals. We have four teams that are responsible for preparing the Church for Sunday Service one weekend per month. Altar guild members are on call for special services (i.e., funerals, memorial services, weddings, etc.) When you have an opportunity, take time to greet and thank our Altar Guild members for their service to this important ministry. Consider joining this group of devoted women as a way of offering your time and talent in thanksgiving for the gifts God has provided to us. Speak with Brinda Bradley, Altar Guild Directress, or any other Altar guild member for more information on becoming a member of the Altar Guild. Other present Altar Guild members are Carol Mitchell, Audrey Taylor, Melanie Jackson, Hillary Fleming, and Sandy McAllister.



CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS

The Reverend Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience.

The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.

Thursday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.

The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

The third verse of “Blessed Assurance” will be sung without musical accomplishment.

The associate minister unveiled the church’s new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: “I Upped My Pledge, Up Yours!”

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

A new loudspeaker system has been installed in the church. It was given by one of our members in honor of his wife.

The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

Meet Linda Heusser



At 90, Still Studying Ancient Pollen

By Sarah Fecht, April 15, 2022

Linda Heusser, age 90, has worked at Lamont for decades, analyzing pollen from marine sediments in order to better understand trends in how vegetation responds to climate change.

Linda Heusser turned 90 years old on April 12, and the only birthday present she really wanted was another sediment core to study.

The adjunct researcher at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory analyzes pollen from marine sediments in order to better understand climate trends going back as far as 2.3 million years. She has worked at Lamont on and off for decades.

Her desk in Lamont's Old Geochemistry building faces a wall full of windows looking out on the greening campus. It is covered in papers and surrounded by old books on geology and palynology (the study of pollen), and boxes full of microscope slides.

Heusser finds it difficult to walk, but her mind is still sharp, and she has plenty of enthusiasm for her work.

The work starts with a [marine core](#) — a long tube of mud extracted from the ocean floor, whose sediment layers get older and older as you go down. She takes these sediments and runs them through nylon screens to sieve out

the pollen grains, which range in size from 10 to 150 microns, or about the width of a human hair. The process can take several hours. Then she treats the extracted material to remove other organic materials. “Pollen survives hydrofluoric acid, all these nasty chemicals,” she says admiringly.

Once the pollen is isolated, she puts the samples onto slides and starts with the top, most recent, layers, counting out 300 pollen grains from each slide and tallying what type of tree they came from. Each slide can take 2 or 3 hours. To Heusser, there’s a thrill of looking deep into the past.

“It’s always exciting to go down core and see how it develops, what’s happening,” she says.

Heusser became a geologist at a time when that wasn’t really something women did — especially women who were mothers.


“Back then it was hard to find women who worked and raised kids,” explained her colleague, Dorothy Peteet, director of the Paleoecology Division of the New Core Lab at Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory. “Linda was a pioneer in her own way. She was a role model for me.”



Heusser collecting samples on the Olympic Peninsula.

Heusser originally set out to become a social worker, like her mother wanted. She studied psychology at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

Attending an all-women’s college had advantages and disadvantages. “You weren’t put down by men in chemistry or anything,” she says. “I had no idea that women weren’t accepted equally in graduate school or work. I was very naive.”



She married her first husband during her senior year at Wellesley, finished her B.A., and left the academic world for nine years to start a family. Then, one day, her husband brought home a book on historical geology. She remembers the excitement she felt as she read it. Right then, she knew she wanted to be a geologist.

“I never had a geology course. I never thought about looking at what a rock could tell me. But that book on historical geology did it. It was *deus ex machina*,” she said.

She spent a year taking as many geology courses as she could in Columbia’s School of General Studies — while also taking care of her three children. She was then able to enroll in a geology master’s degree program at Columbia; there was only one other woman.

Heusser was much older than the other students, so she didn’t mingle much. But during the program, she shared an office with Stephen Jay Gould, the paleontologist, evolutionary biologist, and popular science writer. She earned her master’s in 1969, then wanted to enroll in Columbia’s PhD program.

“I wanted the excitement of, you know, exploring,” explains Heusser. “I was told, ‘You can’t have a PhD because you’re a woman.’ That really happened. I was devastated. But there was NYU. So I marched down to NYU, and they gave me a fellowship,” she says, laughing.

“That was in the days when Columbia Geology wanted white, Ivy League, and male students,” she said, ticking off each characteristic on her fingers, “and that was it.”

She earned her PhD in 1971. For her [thesis](#), she analyzed pollen and spores to reconstruct geological events in Washington’s Western Olympic Peninsula over the past 48,000 years or so. She loved doing field work there, collecting samples along the sea cliffs.



For her PhD thesis, Heusser reconstructed geological events along the sea cliffs of Washington's Western Olympic Peninsula.

"When I discovered the Pacific Northwest, with the sun shining, and these evergreen forests, the ocean? Oh wow." To this day, her favorite pollen to encounter on her slides is Western Hemlock, because she identifies it with the Olympic Peninsula.

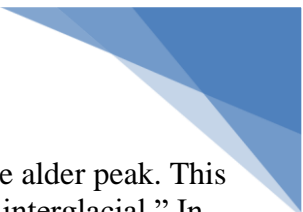
Heusser's second husband, Calvin Heusser, was an established palynologist and they worked together. So when it came time to submit her thesis for publishing, "someone asked, 'Well, did she write it, or did Heusser write it?' So I knew I needed a separate field, and working with pollen in marine cores was a new field."

A colleague at Oregon State offered to let her study the pollen in a long core of sediments drilled from the ocean floor; [Nick Shackleton](#), who would become known as one of the founders of paleoclimatology, would be studying the same core by analyzing isotopes in the shells of ocean-dwelling, single-celled organisms called foraminifera, which record sea-surface temperatures.

During glacial times, all the pollen in the samples from this region comes from conifers. The pollen becomes more diverse and includes deciduous species during the warmer interglacial periods.

"As I went through maybe a hundred slides, all of a sudden I came to alder, and I knew — that was the last interglacial," she said.

Meanwhile, in England, Shackleton was looking for an isotope stage known as 5e, the last interglacial period before today's, which ended 116,000 years ago. He came to visit Brown University, and Heusser met him there to compare results.



“He put his diagram on the board, and I put mine on the board, and there it was — 5e was the alder peak. This was the first time that the land record had been correlated with the marine record for the last interglacial.” In other words, it was the first time anyone was able to show that vegetation responded to global climate change at the same time changes were happening in the ocean.

Linking the marine and terrestrial records was a key advance in paleoclimatology.

Being able to use marine cores to understand what was happening on land helped to reveal the nature, duration, and age of the last interglacial period. For example, the presence of redwood, oak, and Douglas fir pollen showed that the last interglacial in the Pacific Northwest had vegetation similar to that of today’s.

Shackleton, a friend of Calvin Heusser, came to stay at their house in Tuxedo, New York, to write up the results. She remembers that Shackleton was still operating on Cambridge time, so he would sleep until about noon and stay up half the night. Heusser was an early bird, so they only had time to work on their paper in the afternoons. They wrote the paper up in about three days. It was [published in Science](#) in 1979.

Since then, Heusser has analyzed pollen in marine cores from all over the world, including Southern California, Japan, New Zealand, and Chile, establishing the first direct correlations between terrestrial and marine records in those regions. Her work has helped to illuminate how the planet has responded to climate change since the Miocene, a period approximately 2.3 million to 5 million years ago. Her work has documented, for example, the collapse of the California current, which brings cold, nutrient-rich water along the West Coast, during glacial periods over the past 550,000 years.

Heusser worked in Lamont’s Core Lab alongside the CLIMAP team, which was studying cores from the oceans in order to understand the Earth as it was during the last glacial period. Heusser contributed through her work on pollen off the coast of California and Washington, and through her paper with Shackleton. “It was a very dynamic time, a very exciting time,” she says.



Heusser hiking in Chile during field research.

Meanwhile, she was also trying to balance work and family. She chuckles remembering a time when she was teaching at both NYU and in Newark, and she would have to race to pick up her daughter from ballet school at Manhattan's Lincoln Center.

Because she was a working mother, Heusser couldn't go on months-long research cruises to retrieve sediment cores. But she did manage to travel for field work now and then; for one, her husband worked in Chile, and she would come along as his field assistant. The Heussers also spent several springs at Clare Hall at the University of Cambridge in the U.K., where they became lifelong fellows.

Heusser stepped away from her research in 2004 to care for her husband, who was then ailing. After he died in 2006, she began volunteering at a nearby mental health facility. "So I became an authority on adolescent anxiety," said Heusser, laughing. At the time, she was in her mid-70s.

She returned to Lamont in 2010, at Peteet's invitation. "She just jumped right back into it, and she's been publishing ever since," says Peteet. "She's a fierce, industrious person. She's very productive. In the lab, she does 24 samples at a time. I could never do more than 12."



Heusser (top row on the right) during a field trip to southern South America. Dorothy Peteet is third from the left on top. The trip was organized by Wally Broecker, located third from the right in the back row.

Nowadays, Heusser is analyzing cores that Peteet collects locally with the intention of improving sea level models. She's also working on a deep-water core from off the coast of San Diego that should provide the first detailed record of climate and vegetation in Southern California since the last interglacial period. The marine record is essential since the region's climate is so dry; there are no lakes to core.

Heusser celebrated her 90th birthday a few weeks ago with her children and grandchildren.

"What's exciting in terms of a birthday present is Dot [Peteet] just told me, 'Gee, we have this long core from Piermont [NY],' "She's done all the macrofossils on it — would I be interested?"

Has she ever considered retiring? "What would I do?" she asks. She would rather be peering into a microscope, exploring the deep past and wondering what she might find next.

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Grace/LaGracia/Diocese of New York/American Episcopal Church/Anglican Communion

Grace/LaGracia has a wider connection to the larger United States Episcopalian Church and to the even larger world-wide Anglican Communion. It is important for us to be reminded from time to time of where our local parish fits into this bigger picture. What larger issues are decided on that level and who makes those decisions? It is especially relevant for us to review this organization since the Convention of the United States Episcopal Church is taking place this summer and our Diocesan Convention will be in the fall.

The Diocese of New York

By Sandy Gadsden-McAllister

Grace Episcopal Church / La Gracia is a member of the Diocese of New York. The Diocese of New York, organized in 1787, is one of the nine original dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The original Diocese of New York, divided twice since its inception, is currently comprised of the following counties: Bronx, Dutchess, New York, Orange, Putnam, Richmond, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

The diocese is the administrative arm of the church, headed by our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche, (16th Bishop of New York), assisted by The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Suffragan Bishop, The Rt. Mary Glasspool, Bishop Assistant and The Rev. Clifton Daniel III, D.D., Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

The Diocese of New York is part of the greater Anglican Communion that is composed of 109 dioceses in seventeen nations and territories. The Episcopal Church is governed by bishops and cardinals who are voted on at Convention (Diocesan and General). The Diocesan Bishop presides over the Diocesan Convention and the House of Bishops and Deputies presides over the General Convention.

The ultimate organizational decision-making body for the diocese is comprised of clergy and lay members from parishes in the diocese. Diocesan Convention meets annually for one or two days in November, to vote on a diocesan budget, elect members to various diocesan administrative, executive, and judicial bodies, vote on resolutions and, when necessary, elect a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or a Suffragan Bishop.

We are currently in the process of preparing to elect a new bishop. The Committee to Elect a Bishop has created a diocesan profile that you can view on the following website: **www.bishopsearch.diocesenyny.org**.

The Diocesan Council is the executive body mandated by the Diocesan Constitution and serves as an advisory group to the Bishop and Diocesan staff. The Council oversees creating the Diocese's operating budget, provides guidance and oversight for the Diocese between conventions, and serves as liaisons to parishes in the Diocese.

Members of the Council are:

- ❖ the bishop or his/her designee, who acts as the President
- ❖ all other Bishops of the Diocese (Coadjutor, Suffragan, Assistant)
- ❖ the Treasurer of the Diocese
- ❖ the President of the Episcopal Church Women
- ❖ Eighteen members (clergy and lay) elected by Convention on a staggered three-year term

- ❖ Six members (clergy and lay), appointed by the bishop
- ❖ Trustees (Council determines the slate for Trustee)

Commissions and Committees of the Council

The Council oversees the mission, programs, and calendar of the Diocese. The five missions for the Council, defined in the Baptismal Covenant are:

1. **Promoting the Eucharistic fellowship in prayer and teaching**
2. **Resisting evil**
3. **Proclaiming the Gospel by word and deed**
4. **Living out the New Commandment in work and service**
5. **Sharing and upholding the integrity of creation in justice and peace**

The Council is comprised of the following separate commissions and committees and is responsible for developing and coordinating programs that they share with parishes in the diocese:

- ❖ **Christian Formation Commission:** dedicated to moving individuals of all ages to growth in faith and in the practice of the Christian life.
- ❖ **Congregational Development Commission:** responsible for supporting, advising, and assisting congregations as they strive to grow in numbers and spirituality.
- ❖ **Global Mission Commission:** coordinates and oversees efforts at diocesan and local levels to support missionary aspects of congregational life, both in their own communities and further afield, including connecting congregations with global mission opportunities and relationships.
- ❖ **Social Concerns Commission:** urges and helps every congregation within the Diocese to include social witness as part of its common life by raising issues of social concern, advocating for social change, and providing congregations with tools they may need to work for that change.
- ❖ **Leadership Development Commission:** works to identify lay leaders within congregations and the diocese.
- ❖ **Budget and Finance Committee:** allocates funding from diocesan resources in response to requests from eligible diocesan bodies and recommends a budget for the following year at Diocesan Convention.

Parishes throughout the diocese have representatives that serve on Diocesan Council, participate on one or more of the above Commission and/or Committees.

Grace Church/La Gracia has a relationship with the diocese by participating in several activities and programs. In addition, we have received grants for Lifting-up-Westchester, Grace's Soup Kitchen, and La Gracia from the diocese. This is the last year of my second term representing Grace Church/La Gracia on Diocesan Council. Lauren Reid and Fr. Adolfo are also members of one or more Diocesan Commission or Committee.

This year our own Lauren Reid is an alternate delegate to the 80th General Convention. The Convention will take place in Baltimore, MD, July 8, 2022, through July 11, 2022.

I hope this article provides a better understanding of the diocese and its work and relationship with parishes. The diocese is a great resource on grants, organizations or companies that may be of benefit to a parish. Check out the Diocesan Website, www.diocesenyny.org to stay informed of diocesan activities.

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE



**God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
That your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
For wisdom, discernment and compassion
To guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for your precious children, at risk and in fear
That you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.**



HOME SWEET HOME

Did you know that there are tens of thousands of Westchester residents living in homes where their tenancy is unstable? Did you know that there are 1,800 individuals living in shelters every night in Westchester County? Did you know that even more individuals and families have to “couch surf” or live within overcrowded quarters to have a roof over their head? Did you know there are negative physical and mental health as well as educational consequences to experiencing inadequate housing and all forms of homelessness?

Stable, adequate housing is a critical foundation on which all other individual and family success can be built.

Last year was the 5th year that Lifting Up Westchester sponsored a writing contest for youth from grades 7 through 12 who attend schools in Westchester. This year’s essay contest invited students to think about the role housing plays, not only in our individual futures, but the future of our community. Students were asked to consider how the Pandemic exacerbated this problem for a much broader socio-economic group who have lost jobs or had salaries reduced at the same time rents and mortgages have risen faster than income and earnings. The students were asked to consider how we can help ensure adequate housing for all of our neighbors.

The winners of this contest have been announced. In this summer issue of the Angelus, the winning essay in the 7th and 8th grade category is being printed as well as the second-place winning essay by a student who happens to be familiar to Grace because Kendal Mangum is the granddaughter of Walter and Sylvia Simon. We will print the other winners in the 9th and 10th grade, 11th and 12th grade, and English as a Second Language in future editions of the Angelus.

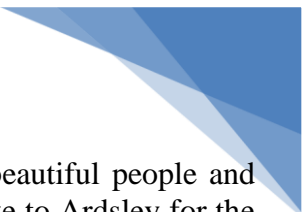
Angelus readers can greatly profit from reading what these talented young people have written about this important topic. It might be profitable for each one of us to think about how we might respond if we were asked to discuss the topic of **Home Sweet Home** – when **Home isn’t so Sweet!**

Housing Diversity: A Key to a Stronger Future

Lifting Up Westchester First Place Essay Contest Winner

By Mioko Martin – 8th

As I began thinking about Lifting Up Westchester's important topic on the role that housing plays in influencing my future and the future of my community, I thought about my home, my community, and all it has to offer. I moved to Ardsley in fifth grade, having previously lived in an apartment. Moving to a house opened up a whole new world for me. Who knew having my own room would be so great? Not to mention having a backyard to practice soccer with my brother and run around with my dog. I am also able to bike around the neighborhood with my friends, or hang out at the park. This safe and simple, yet complex neighborhood, named Ardsley is the place that I call home. If I could, I think that I would like to live here forever.



But the reality is, that would be quite challenging because, although Ardsley has many beautiful people and wonderful homes, it lacks variety in types of residences. Like my family, many people move to Ardsley for the excellent schools, and once their children graduate, they move out. I wonder if there were more options in housing, would people stay longer? And, if people stayed longer, might we find that people would bond and an even stronger community might emerge? This makes me think of one of the roles housing plays in my future and the future of my community.

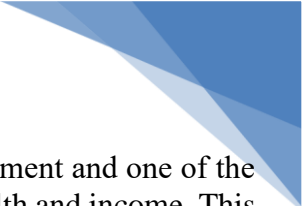
One of the great things about Ardsley is the diversity of people. According to the US Census Bureau, approximately 5,000 people live in Ardsley, including a wide range of people by age, race, and culture. In fact, about a third of residents are persons of color, and a quarter are foreign born. However, the majority of residences are single family detached, and about 80 percent of people own their homes. This makes me wonder if the diversity I know and love in Ardsley is enough to make a truly great community. Ardsley is a community with cultural diversity, but when it comes to household income, it is quite homogenous.

In order to have a truly diverse community, you need diverse housing. You can have a lot of similar homes that house many diverse people, including people from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, but if you don't have a diverse housing stock, that community will be missing one very important element of diversity: income diversity, a key principle for building a fair and just society.

I am of mixed race, as are many others in Westchester, but also in my village. Now, if there were more housing options in Ardsley so people with a wider range of incomes could afford to live here, wouldn't Ardsley develop a stronger bond of community? According to the Bringing Vitality to Main Street report, immigrants are more likely to own small businesses such as grocery stores, restaurants, clothing stores, and other enterprises that support the local economy and neighborhood growth and vitality. A diverse workforce will result in different scales and perspectives, as well as greater understanding and knowledge, all of which will lead to business, technological, and cultural innovation.

In addition, many places are currently working to develop more permanence by allowing for a greater range of housing to be built in their communities. After children graduate, instead of having to move, parents could stay in that same town by moving into an apartment. This allows people to "age in place." With a wider range of housing options, some of those houses and apartments could also be occupied by lower income people, resulting in income diversity, as well as racial and cultural diversity. A report by the Urban Institute (2010), found that lower-income residents benefit from living in mixed-income communities, including improved employment, mental health, and educational opportunities. If we had more kinds of housing, such as apartments that don't cost as much as single-family houses, people of different income levels would have access to excellent school and community benefits, such as a wonderfully stocked library and public parks.

Housing variety could also provide an opportunity to provide shelters and other supportive uses for those who are less fortunate, much like the services and programs offered by Lifting Up Westchester. These programs help those in need by providing food, shelter, and support to help people overcome challenges of poverty, homelessness, hunger, health, and education. Lifting Up Westchester lends a hand to help homeless individuals and others to move into independent living by identifying safe, stable, and inexpensive housing solutions for those in need. Stable housing is a first step in building a stable and successful life. Lifting Up Westchester ensures more families have a fairer chance for success. And I believe having more kinds of housing in our communities would assist in this vital and beneficial mission.



"Our zip codes - where we live "shouldn't determine our success in life," is a powerful statement and one of the tenets of Lifting Up Westchester. Presently, we are in many ways a society separated by wealth and income. This separation results in unequal and uneven opportunity, especially in the access to good education, a foundation for a successful future. Offering a wider range of housing options could provide more people, especially those who are underserved, a fairer chance to work hard, do well and succeed in life. My vision is a world where everyone gets an equitable opportunity, and a chance for success. With more housing and diversity, I believe that we can accomplish this together.

References: U.S. Census Bureau: Population estimates base, April 1, 2021 (V2021). www.census.gov (accessed January 24, 2022).

AS/COA-Fiscal Policy Institute. (2015) Bringing Vitality to Main Street: How Immigrant Small Businesses Help Local Economies Grow.

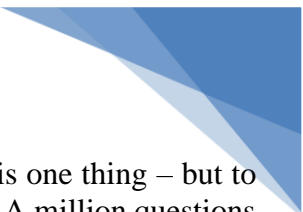
Levy, Diane K. and Zach McDade, Kassie Dumlao. (2010). Effects from Living in Mixed-Income Communities for Low-Income Families: A Review of the Literature. Washington DC: Urban Institute.

We are so proud to include the second-place winning essay below which was written by Kendal Mangum, the granddaughter of Walter and Sylvia Simon.



How Housing Influences Your Future and the Future of Our Community **By Kendal Mangum, 8th Grade**

In the sixth grade, I had a revelation. My mom sent me to school with some clothes to donate to a fundraiser the school was holding for homeless children who didn't have simple winter coats, boots and gloves to keep them warm. I remember the shock that I felt when, the very next day, I saw a girl from my class, wearing the exact boots, coat, and gloves I had donated. A coincidence? It couldn't be. Something in me churned. I was filled with



remorse, confusion, and for some reason, guilt. To hear about children and people in need is one thing – but to know that a friend was struggling to stay warm in the winter is something entirely different. A million questions scattered my head. How did this affect her day-to-day experiences? If her parents weren't able to supply her basic necessities, what else was she struggling to get? How did her homelessness and lack of basic necessities impact her school? Her mental health? I could only imagine how traumatizing her life might have been. There was a bigger picture I had yet to see. It was one made of poverty and homelessness that affects hundreds of people in Westchester.

Housing is much more than a comfy quilt and a fluffy pillow. It is about implementing a sense of comfort and haven for those in need. However, people tend to confuse improper housing and homelessness as the same thing when in reality, these two battles need to be fought with different tactics. Homelessness is the result of untreated mental illness and insufficient public resources. Improper housing is caused by the laziness and utter gluttony of cities, towns, and landlords who refuse to care about the people whose lives almost depend on them. A common factor in both these issues is Covid. Covid has only made these problems more prominent and the need for proper housing continues to grow. With this, it is no surprise that minorities are disproportionately affected by these conditions. Although the Fair Housing Act, which was passed in April 1968 as Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act, people of color, especially black and latinx people, have gotten the short end of the stick when it comes to housing and economics. As an African American person living in 2022, I can say economic inequality as a direct result of racism and slavery, has had a chokehold on the black community for years. Housing establishments such as the projects and unstable apartments are a highlight of the housing and homelessness crisis. Even calling these establishments "housing" is truly despicable as the conditions many families are put through are inhumane. The consequences of improper housing include water leaks, poor ventilation, pest infestation, and mold, which have been associated with poorer health. Both homelessness and the housing crisis can be majorly reduced if: 1) proper funding is allocated 2) petitions are utilized 3) we advocate until this crisis is at minimum, kept under control. You can argue that Westchester has "improper funding." I refuse to believe this. Westchester is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. So why do we have over 2,700 homeless children? It's because this county is immobile as our future doctors, engineers, and blue-collar workers, starve or freeze because city officials can't figure out whether to build more condos or feed children. Lifting up Westchester is an organization that is dedicated to actually bringing about change. As stated previously, Covid has affected the homeless and left thousands unemployed unable to pay for food which creates an entirely new problem in itself. To combat this, Lifting up Westchester's Soup Kitchen has been in operation since 1974 and is one of the largest soup kitchens in Westchester County. This provides a source of food for thousands of homeless people who have been affected by mental illness, economic inequality, or Covid.

Their housing initiative is also commendable as 95% of clients in those units have been stably housed for 5 years or more. I think often of that little girl, who sat beside me in class. I would like to say she has a happy ending, but as is often the case with those struggling with homelessness, I don't know the ending. She just disappeared one day from class, and my life. Theories of where she may have gone are something I think about. Fantasizing about scenarios where she ends up in her own warm bed with fuzzy pink pajamas. Other theories are not as cozy. A few weeks after the fundraiser, I never saw her again; it was like she never existed in the first place. As a member of the Westchester community, I do what I can to help people like that little girl. I participate in Soup Kitchens as well as food drives. I also come into contact with this issue as I am a student at The Ursuline school in New Rochelle who participates in community service at the HOPE soup kitchen. Every week, I see many good and hardworking people struggling with homelessness. In Westchester, the number of homeless children has increased by 2% last year and is only expected to increase throughout this pandemic. Households may experience

debt from not being able to pay rent for weeks or even months. Higher rates of rent hardships have been reported in 2021 and 2022 forcing many to move into unsafe housing situations and subsidized housing. To restore independence to our citizens in need, we must focus on our children of tomorrow. Lifting up Westchester has Kidzlit which provides literacy and learning skills for kindergarten through third-grade students experiencing homelessness to increase their reading ability. This initiative allows kids who are at a disadvantage to at least attempt to break out of a cycle of poverty. That's what this is all about. Creating change that is bigger than ourselves and our communities. Creating change that lasts longer than today or tomorrow, all part of my long-ago revelation.



Thoughts from the Seminarian

By Michael Heffner

I just wrapped up my first year of academics last Thursday with the completion of a 20-page paper on providing financial literacy education to the under-resourced population of our country. Two finals and two papers in seven days. That is the nature of the rigorous curriculum that Yale Divinity School has set up for students seeking a master of divinity degree in their 3-yr program. Part of the educational process is reviewing the courses taken (full-semester or partial), and I was surprised that eight courses needed to be reviewed for the spring semester—no rest for the weary. I leave for a 3-day retreat with my first-year class today and begin my summer chaplaincy position at Yale-New Haven Hospital at the end of the month. The Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program is part of our formation process and is a mandated part of the YDS degree program. My team (there are 6 in total) will provide pastoral care to all patients who request it for the entirety of the summer (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm – 5 of the 12 weeks we'll be on 24-hour call on the weekends). I'll have much more to share in the fall.



To suggest that academics is the least of this experience would probably be an overstatement (as it is almost all-consuming in terms of my time commitment). Still, the worship at Yale has left a more lasting impression on me. I'll be getting two degrees from Yale when I graduate if all works out. One from the Yale Divinity School and one from the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Each has its unique requirements. Berkeley is the Episcopal divinity school within YDS and is designed to create a curriculum that fulfills the diocesan requirements for those candidates seeking ordination. Berkeley actively involves its students in worship (mornings each day at 7:30 am and evenings three times a week at 5:30 pm). The candidates are responsible (with the help of chapel ministers) for leading these services. These worship experiences have been wonderfully fulfilling and have helped deepen ties with those students at

Berkeley who are sharing in this rich period of spiritual formation. In addition, and separately, Yale Divinity School has inter-faith worship each day at 11:30 am at Marquand Chapel (the main chapel at YDS). At these services, I get a chance to broaden my exposure to faith practices and service styles that I would never experience if I just kept my focus on the Episcopal curriculum. Where my academic schedule allows, I try not to miss these services. That comes to an average of ten worship experiences a week. I wouldn't change a thing. As I see it, that is ten chances to be with people who are taking a similar journey and ten opportunities to deepen my faith and understanding of what God has called me to do. I am blessed.



Yale Divinity School Campus – Spring 2022

My being away has been a challenge for my family, but I know that they understand why I'm pursuing this. It probably won't get easier for a while. Their support sustains me. I also want to acknowledge that the prayers of my Grace Church/La Gracia family have been felt in my times of greatest need. You have been there for me throughout, and I am grateful. We are truly taking this journey

Michael Heffner

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*"I've learned
that people will forget
what you said,
people will forget
what you did,
but people will
never forget
how you made them
feel."*

Maya Angelou

REST IN PEACE

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Joyce Sampson



Inez Dale



Mary Terry



Dorothy Jackson
Memorial Service 5/14/22