Summer 2017

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains





The Rector's Letter



Pentecost and the Holy Spirit

Up until Pentecost, the disciples were confused, uncertain, and unfocused. They believed in the Resurrection, and had spent time with the risen Jesus, but seemed to have little idea what to do with that experience. On Pentecost, however, they began to preach with power and purpose, and the Church was born. God's Spirit filled them with new life and understanding.

We understand that the Holy Spirit is God, along with Father and Son. But it is my experience that there is much confusion about who and what the Holy Spirit is, and as a result, the Spirit is often either ignored or credited with things that have little to do with God.

The Holy Spirit is the Person of the Trinity who works within us as individuals and as a people. We can picture the Father as Creator and Sustainer, and we have a record of the life and teachings of the Son. It is not always that easy to distinguish the work of the Holy Spirit from our own opinions and desires, since the Spirit works in such an intimate way.

This is one reason a discipline of spiritual discernment is important. I have had people say, in the midst of a discussion, "The Holy Spirit told me we should..." (It is hard to know where to go next in a conversation like that.) On the other hand, many times we try to make decisions without really taking the time to listen to what God is saying to us. There needs to be some compromise between assuming our inner opinions are the infallible voice of the Spirit and thinking that God does not care and we are on our own.

One thing I have found helpful is from Galatians 5:22-23. Paul says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." This has become my diagnostic help in discerning the work of the Spirit. If someone is angrily, impatiently, harshly and anxiously claiming to speak for God, I find myself questioning whether such attitudes can really be reflective of the Spirit. In the same way, when I consider a decision, one of the things I must ask myself is whether what I decide will bring joy, peace, goodness and love. If not, I need to ask whether I am just trying to push "my way" on others. In either case, the fruits that Paul describes are the evidence of the Holy Spirit's work. Wherever and whenever we see them, the Spirit is present.

THE BLESSED MOTHER AND THE NEW SANCTUARY

Rev. Richard Kunz Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Mary's life and role in the history of salvation is foreshadowed in the Old Testament, while the events of her life are recorded in the New Testament. Traditionally, she was declared the daughter of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Born in Jerusalem, Mary was presented in the Temple and took a vow of virginity. Living in Nazareth, Mary was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who announced to her

that she would become the Mother of Jesus, by the Holy Spirit.



In The Gospel of Luke 1:26-38 it is written: "One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary... The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you." Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married! The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God...Nothing is impossible for God!"

Mary is known by many different titles (Blessed f the Sea, Queen of Heaven, Cause of Our Joy),

Mother, Madonna, Our Lady), epithets (Star of the Sea, Queen of Heaven, Cause of Our Joy), and other names Our Lady of Loreto, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Catalina, Copacabana, ... In our Book of Common Prayer (p.864) she is mentioned as "Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer (Theotokos)."

All of the titles Mary bears refer to the same individual named Mary, the mother of Jesus and are used variably by all who have a devotion to her. In Latin America the figure of Mary arrived with the Spanish conquest, when indigenous peoples were evangelized and converted. Conquered peoples later embraced her not as a Patron of their conquers but as the "mother of God," who stands with those suffering oppression and discrimination. Throughout Latin America and in the faith of Spanish-speaking Episcopalians Mary is widely recognized and is an important part of the faith.



Our new sanctuary is displaying three figures. From time to time they will change, in order to be able to honor the spiritualities and traditions of the different countries represented by La Gracia. It is also possible to arrange for other saints, such as St. Patrick, to be featured.

We start with two different representations of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Virgin of Guadalupe is the most familiar. This representation comes from an appearance of Mary to an indigenous farmer in the 16th Century in Mexico. He found this image miraculously imprinted on his peasant garment, and it is still on display in a church in Tepeyac, Mexico. The rays in the background symbolize an Aztec deity which is being eclipsed by Mary. She is wearing a black cincture which, at the time, symbolized pregnancy.

The other image of Mary is the Virgin of Copacabana, the patron saint of Bolivia. She is dressed in elaborate clothing. This representation also comes from the 16th Century. Once again, an indigenous farmer was behind this depiction of Mary. He decided to create an image that would



be a tribute to Mary, but he was not a skilled artist. His first attempt was so amateurish that it was ridiculed. He was moved by that rejection to devote years to learning the art of sculpture. The image you now see is the result. She is dressed as an Incan princess. The original sculpture is still displayed in a church in Bolivia.

We, therefore, have two very old depictions of Mary. Both come from the 1500's, one from the Aztec culture and one from the Inca culture. Both became symbols of indigenous Christianity, a faith formed despite the oppressive practices of the Spanish rulers.

The smaller image is that of Saint Catalina. She is the patron saint of the village where Taurino and his family are from, near Puebla, Mexico. Saint Catalina (or Catherine) was a young Christian in Alexandria,

Egypt, who was imprisoned and tortured during a time of persecution. Despite her youth and sufferings, she managed to convert many of the jailers and soldiers who were charged with guarding her. The quill she holds represents her effective communication while imprisoned, and the sword is the sword of the Spirit. Both Catalina and the Virgin of Copacabana are wearing

crowns, the symbol of those who have passed through the trials of this life and have been granted



eternal life. (James 1:12)

The blue cloth was hand woven by a woman who is a member of an indigenous cooperative in Guatemala.

For some of us these images may seem foreign, but for others, these are symbols that evoke both heartfelt prayers and a sense of connectedness with a homeland left behind. I am pleased that we have provided a place where those who desire it can find a setting to be close to God and to affirm their connection to the people they love.

A Message from Elsie Adams

April 16, 2017 marked a momentous event for me. It was my 97th birthday! In addition to the personal significance of the day to me, it was Easter Sunday.

Celebrating Easter, our Savior's sacred day, is always a very symbolic event. To have the day coincide with my celebration was especially joyous. It was a very humbling experience and one that touched me tremendously.

Thank you to all my Grace Church companions who remembered the day and sent cards and messages to me.

God bless everyone, every day, in every way.

Love and respect, Elsie Adams

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn't call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers 'fruits of the spirit' over 'religious nuts!'

JOYCE SAMPSON HONORED

Joyce Sampson was honored on May 10th at the White Plains Hospital Volunteer Recognition



Reception for her 35 years of faithful volunteer service. She has served at the Hospital as Chaplain Assistant in the Department of Pastoral Care. A beautiful pin was given to her in appreciation of those 35 years of dedication to the service of others. We all congratulate her and honor her this wellfor deserved recognition.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAY

July through Labor Day

One service in English at 9:00 a.m. No coffee hour.

Service as usual in Spanish at La Gracia at 12:30 p.m.

Father Kunz will be away on vacation during the month of July.

WORDS OF WISDOM

During our Lenten series on Wed. evenings, the following Words of Wisdom were shared by Arthur Levine. He had received them from his daughter, Adrienne Brown, who lives in Pennsylvania. She had heard them on the radio as part of a lecture by Ratan Tats in London. Many thanks to Art and his daughter for being willing to share them with all of us through the Angelus.

- 1. Don't educate your children to be rich. Educate them to be happy, so when they grow up, they will know the value of things, not the price.
- 2. Eat your food as your medicines. Otherwise, you have to eat medicines as your food.
- 3. The one who loves you will never leave you, because, even if there are 100 reasons to give up, he will find one reason to hold on.
- 4. There is a lot of difference between human being and being human. Few understand it.
- 5. You are loved when you are born. You will be loved when you die. In between, you have to manage!
- 6. If you want to walk fast, walk alone! If you want to walk far, walk together!!
- 7. The six best doctors in the world: Sunlight Rest Exercise Diet Self-confidence Friends

Maintain them in all stages of life and enjoy a healthy life.

- 8. If you see the moon, you see the beauty of God. If you see the sun, you, see the power of God. And if you see the mirror, you see the best creation of God. So believe in yourself!
- 9. We all are tourists and God is our travel agent who already fixed all our routes, reservations, and destination. So trust and enjoy the "trip" called LIFE.

Submitted by Arthur Levine

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR GRACE CHURCH

2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Bryanna Parkinson

Henry Roach





FINDING GOD'S WILL

From a talk given by Maria Schaly

Do you sometimes have difficulty discerning God's will in your life? Here are some pointers in the right direction!

A ship coming into harbor at night is guided by rows of lights. All the lights must be properly aligned to create a pattern to guide the ship. In the same way, these five factors must support one another in leading to following God's will.

1. SCRIPTURE

Is there anything in scripture that indicates that what you seek is contrary to God's written word?

2. **PRAYER**

Pray fervently asking God to speak His wishes to you.

3. WITNESS OF GODLY PEOPLE

Seek the counsel of wise, godly people you trust.

4. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

Be aware of how God might either open or close doors for you; however, do not use this one factor

alone. It might be misleading by itself. The other four factors must be in agreement.

5. GOD'S PEACE

The presence or the absence of God's peace will flow from your decision.

Proverbs 3: 5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding: in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your path straight."

The Great Vigil of Easter





A MESSAGE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP – IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Dear Parishioners:

It may not feel like summer but we are approaching the summer season. Many of us will be travelling and therefore we may not be present at some of the summer services. Our bills: electric, phone, salaries, etc. must still be paid during the summer months. Please try to pay your pledge before you go on vacation. The stewardship committee wishes you a blessed Spring and Summer.

Puede que no se sienta como el verano (o incluso la primavera), pero estamos acercandose rapidamente a la temporada de verano. Muchos de nosotros estaremos viajando por lo tanto no podemos estar presentes en algunos de los servicios de verano. Nuestros biles: sueldos, electricidad, telefono, etc. todavia deben ser pagados en los meses de verano. Por favor, trate de pagar su cantidad prometida antes de irse de vacaciones. El comite de mayordomia le desca una bendita primavera y verano.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Roberson and Cynthia Sanguirima-Brown

RESERVE YOUR ENGRAVED WALK OF GRACE STONE TODAY!

Engrave a pathway stone along the *Walk of Grace* and participate in the upkeep and

beautification of our lovely church grounds. Engravings can be in memory of a loved one, in thanksgiving of family or in celebration of a family event.

Stone donations begin at \$400 for a full stone, \$225 for a half stone or \$100 per

name

on a group stone shared with 4 other donors. For more information contact:

Stuart Madden <u>mstuartmadden@gmail.com</u> or 914-393-8403 Arlene Grant arobgrant@verizon.net or 914-699-6494

Pastoral Care Committee / Eucharistic Visitors

Grace Church has a very active Pastoral Care Ministry with a roster of 14 Lay Eucharistic Visitors. Lay Eucharistic Minister and/or Lay Visitors are licensed by the Diocese of New York, which prepares them to administer the consecrated elements. Most of our Lay Eucharistic Visitors just attended a training session to renew their licenses.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers generally serve on the Altar assisting the celebrant by administering the chalice during communion. Lay Eucharistic Visitors take consecrated communion to our sick and shut-ins. The work of lay ministers as defined in the Catechism of our Prayer Book (BCP, page 855) states, "The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons." It then describes the scope and focus of the various ministries. "The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship and governance of the Church."

Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors carries out this ministry every Sunday by taking communion to the sick and shut-in members of our parish. Currently we have 8 parishioners receiving communion at home, in the hospital and/or nursing home/rehabilitation facility. Eucharistic Visitors are assigned to specific parishioner(s) that they visit in pairs on a monthly basis. An abbreviated service, based on Rite II in the BCP is used for the service. Taking communion to the ill or infirmed is our way of maintaining a connection between Grace Church and those parishioners who are unable to attend Church. This is a very rewarding ministry and the parishioners we visit are grateful for the opportunity to receive communion and share in the news and activities at Grace Church. Providing pastoral care to our members is a way of being good stewards and sharing God's gifts with each other through the Body of Christ. Also, as part of our service to the congregation, Eucharistic Visitors participate in the monthly healing service on the 4th Sunday of the month.

This Lay Ministry has been quietly active for a number of years. However, I just recently learned that many members of our congregation are not aware of the ministry. *"We are all called to do Christ's work, not our own through this ministry"*. Therefore, If you are concerned about a parishioner who you miss seeing at service, please reach out to that person, contact the church office/Fr. Kunz, me or one of the Pastoral Care Committee Members listed below, so that we can reach out to them and let them know we care.

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, please call the office, speak to Fr. Kunz, to me or to a member of the Pastoral Care Committee:

Marie A. Barrow Cynthia R. Cole Lisa A. Daley Deacon, Martha Jane Dunphy Arlene Grant Judith A. Hutton Eileen V. McClean Cecelia E. Peagler

Carolyn Rogers Joyce G. Sampson Audrey A. Taylor Raywald A. Williams

Faithfully Submitted, Pastoral Care Committee Lay Contact Sandy Gadsden-McAllister

The Angelus Quarterly Newsletter of Grace Church (914) 949-2874 www.gracewhiteplains.org

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The Holy Land

Friends, Classmates, Christians, Pilgrims

As I live into the joy of the Easter season and ready myself for Pentecost, I pause to reflect on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land at just this same time last year. I have now had a full year of church seasons, and each has been richer for the experience of being where Jesus taught, and preached, and healed.

Arlene Roberts Grant, Ann Post, and I traveled with a group of 30 pilgrims on the first official pilgrimage organized by the Episcopal Diocese of New York. One of our fellow pilgrims was New York's Bishop Andrew Dietsche, who, like us, was experiencing the Holy Land for the first time. There were many other clergy with us — a deacon from South Carolina and her husband, several canons in the church, and many priests and chaplains. While we all came from different points in our faith journey, we all shared the experience with humbling awe and gratitude.I see this pilgrimage as a set of life-changing turns of fate. Initially, we started planning this in 2012, after a group of us in the New Rochelle Education for Ministry class went to the Discovery Center in New York City to see the Dead Sea Scrolls. It was a cold, snowy January day, and we

were there writing our prayers and placing them in the gigantic replica of the Western Wall. "How about we travel to the real Jerusalem," Ann posited. Several of us vowed then to make this a graduation gift to ourselves.

We each gathered information about various tours and costs. When it came time to put down a

deposit, turmoil in the Middle East and the price of travel deterred us. So we dropped the idea. Graduation came in 2014, but we still kept in touch and kept sharing information about the Holy Land. Then the Episcopal Diocese circulated a flyer in early 2016. If enough people were interested, we could make a pilgrimage in late May. I could see the wisdom in the way this was unfolding. Our guide for the pilgrimage was Canon Iyad Qumri, a Palestinian Christian with credentials to travel in Israeli and Palestinian territories.

Baptized in water — we renewed our Baptismal vows at the River Jordan.



It was clear from the minute we boarded the bus in Tel Aviv

and made our way to St. George's Cathedral Guesthouse in Jerusalem that this was going to be unlike any other travel experience.

During the pilgrimage I was keenly aware of other turns of fate. On the day we visited the vast and enormous Church of the Holy Sepulcher our guide, Iyad, told us that it was unlikely we would be able to enter the actual Holy Sepulcher. The custodians are a series of priests from various churches who spend their days preforming various rites and rituals. Entrance is not always allowed into the actual place where it is believed that Jesus resurrected. Yet, we entered this area at just the right moment on just the right day. After a morning of visiting the many chapels, praying at the anointing stone, and touching Calvary, we descended to the lowest point in the church. A priest indicated to Iyad that it would be all right to enter the Holy Sepulcher, which is surrounded by an ornate wooden structure. We quickly lined up and entered in small groups. It was profound to be in this place that is a center of Christendom. A few minutes earlier, or later, and we would likely have had to walk past it. Later, the Bishop blessed our candles and

we each held the holy fire outside the entrance of this place. We each have the experiences that moved us the most. For me, placing the prayers I took from friends and family and placing them in between the stones of the Western Wall was a moment I will never forget. I was also awestruck by the Gardens of Gethsemane.



High up, built into the Mount of Temptation at Jericho, is a monastery that is 1000-years old.

This place where Jesus poured out his heart — a place of betrayal and his arrest — is now a place of great peace. It was equally moving to be inside the city walls of Jerusalem, by the Pools of Bethesda, where Jesus told the paralyzed man to pick up his mat and walk. We also walked the paths at Emmaus and I imagined the resurrected Jesus walking along the road and speaking to his fellow travelers. They only knew him later, at dinner, when he broke the bread and shared it with them. Sharing Eucharist at the ruins of Emmaus was especially meaningful.

For Ann it was emotional to visit Caiaphas Palace, which is known today as the Church of St. Peter in Galicantu. Here we see the old path where it is believed Jesus was lead from the Garden of Gethsemane to Caiaphas. There is a cistern here and it is believed Jesus was lowered by a rope and forced to stay alone for the night. On another day, Ann was also chosen to read the story of the ten lepers who called out to Jesus as he passed through the town of Burqin. Jesus had compassion on them and healed them.

Arlene was chosen to read the Christmas story when we visited Shepherds Field. This came after our early morning trip to Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth. It was there I read scripture from the Old Testament about Rachel who came from out of Bethel to give birth to her son. "My most powerful experience — the moment everything came alive for me — was the trip to the Judaean Desert and the area that overlooks the Wadi Qelt on the West Bank." The night before this experience we were asked to gather in the courtyard of the guesthouse hours before sunrise. We were asked to lock our doors and gather in silence. We were told to ride the bus in silence and to only start speaking during the morning's Eucharist when we shared the sign of peace. "Adding the layer of silence was a stoke of brilliance." Dawn was just breaking as our bus climbed the road to the mountain top. We exited the bus and



walked on the mountain trails. Some of us sat quietly, some said silent prayers. Some took photos. At one point Arlene handed her iPhone to Peter Roberts' sister, Paula, who is a fellow pilgrim from Trinity Episcopal in the Bronx. She silently took a picture of Arlene atop this beautiful vista. Some time later, after our scripture readings, Ivad asked us to look at the horizon. He noted the direction of Egypt and asked us to image Moses leading his people through this vast land. "This is the wilderness." How did the Israelites survive? They survived by the mercy of God. They were provided mana from heaven and water from the rock. The Wadi Oelt below is believed to be the Valley of Death that David writes about in the Psalm.

Two pilgrims inside Old Jerusalem, near the cardo.

It is also site of the road in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho." Later that day we traveled that road. This land instructed Moses, and Jesus' disciplines, and it is still teaching us today. In essence, as Arlene says, we are stilling learning. "I am a new creation."

— Jean Marie Angelo, is a former parishioner and friend of Grace Church. Ann Post is a former Grace Sunday School teacher and friend of Grace. Arlene Roberts Grant is a Grace parishioner.

Spend the Summer with the Book Club!



Looking for a good summer read? Join the Book Club in consuming our summer pick, **The Book Thief** by award-wining author Markus Zusak. Set in 1930s Nazi Germany, the intense novel has been described as a story about "the ability of books to feed the soul." Instead of our traditional end-of-season luncheon, we'll have a start-of-the-season luncheon in the fall when we'll dish and dine while sharing our thoughts about **The Book Thief** at a local restaurant. Watch for the place, date and time when we head into fall. Until then, have a great joy-filled summer!

Submitted by Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com)

Blessing of the La Gracia Sanctuary

On Friday evening, May 19th, Bishop Mary Glasspool joined us to dedicate the new sanctuary. We celebrated a joyful bilingual Eucharist together. Although it was a Friday evening, the church was full! At the end of the service a group of Mariachis (all relatives of Taurino!) led us into the parish hall for an abundant feast. Bishop Glasspool commented on the warmth and liveliness of our parish.

The new sanctuary is displaying three figures. From time to time they will change, in order to be able to honor the spiritualities and traditions of the different countries represented by La Gracia. It is also possible to arrange for other saints, such as St. Patrick, to be featured.

We start with two different representations of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Virgin of Guadalupe is the most familiar. This representation comes from an appearance of Mary to an indigenous farmer in the 16th Century in Mexico. He found this image miraculously imprinted on his peasant garment, and it is still on display in a church in Tepeyac, Mexico. The rays in the



background symbolize an Aztec deity which is being eclipsed by Mary. She is wearing a black cincture which, at the time, symbolized pregnancy.

The other image of Mary is the Virgin of Copacabana, the patron saint of Bolivia. She is dressed in elaborate clothing. This representation also comes from the 16th Century. Once again, an indigenous farmer was behind this depiction of Mary. He decided to create an image that would be a tribute to Mary, but he was not a skilled artist. His first attempt was so amateurish that it was ridiculed. He was moved by that rejection to devote years to learning the art of sculpture. The image you now see is the result. She is dressed as an Incan princess. The original sculpture is still displayed in a church in Bolivia.

We, therefore, have two very old depictions of Mary. Both come from the 1500's, one from the Aztec culture and one from the Inca culture. Both became symbols of indigenous Christianity, a faith formed despite the oppressive practices of the Spanish rulers.

The smaller image is that of Saint Catalina. She is the patron saint of the village where Taurino and his family are from, near Puebla, Mexico. Saint Catalina (or Catherine) was a young Christian in Alexandria, Egypt, who was imprisoned and tortured during a time of persecution. Despite her youth and sufferings, she managed to convert many of the jailers and soldiers who were charged with guarding her. The quill she holds represents her effective

communication while imprisoned, and the sword is the sword of the Spirit. Both Catalina and the Virgin of Copacabana are wearing crowns, the symbol of those who have passed through the trials of this life and have been granted eternal life. (James 1:12)

The blue cloth was hand woven by a woman who is a member of an indigenous cooperative in Guatemala.



Blessing of the Sanctuary - Bendicion del Santuario: The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool

For some of us these images may seem foreign, but for others, these are symbols that evoke both heartfelt prayers and a sense of connectedness with a homeland left behind. I am pleased that we have provided a place where those who desire it can find a setting to be close to God and to affirm their connection to the people they love.

The Deadline For The Fall Angelus Is August 15th. As Always, Thank You For Your Contributions!

SUMMER CAMP IS HERE!

Once again, Grace Church is asked to participate in providing assistance to children who will attend the 2017 Lifting Up Westchester Summer Camp.

Last year Grace Church provided gift cards so that each child would be able to buy his or her own swimsuit and perhaps a towel.

As a result of our efforts, 50 children were able to (under the supervision of Eileen Torres, Brighter Futures Director) go to a store and select a swimsuit. Most of the children who attend camp often times do not have the opportunity to buy something new for themselves. Often times, they receive a "hand me down" from someone else.

Can you help? Ideally, a gift card of \$25 will provide for a swimsuit and pool towel. Any amount is appreciated. Gift cards from Target or Walmart (or cash) are preferred. The campaign will run from May 28th through June 18th. If you have any questions, please speak with Linda Gallo.

Since the Gala helped send 90 children to camp, let's to our best to make sure they have a swimsuit for the pool!

BUMPER STICKER WISDOM:

DON'T POSTPONE JOY

NEWS ABOUT OUR POST-COLLEGE YOUNG PEOPLE

It is always such a blessing to see our young people grow up in the church and move on as they fulfill their hopes and dreams as young adults. Since we often do not see them as frequently as we used to when they were youngsters in our Sunday School, we wonder where they are and what they are doing. We have caught up with a few of them now. And we remind them, and their parents, that they are often out of sight, BUT NEVER OUT OF OUR MINDS AND PRAYERS!

WHERE ARE THE LOUIS BROTHERS?

Eric Louis and Scott Louis have only been seen sporadically at Grace Church since their high school graduations in 2012 and 2014 respectively. Where have they been?





Eric has been living and studying at American University in Washington, D.C. In December 2016, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in History. His desire is to remain in D.C. and as many graduates, he is currently looking for permanent work. Eric is also interested in pursuing comedy writing and is honing his skills working on that goal. He is getting ready to do open mic nights at comedy clubs in D.C.

Scott has been living and studying at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. He is currently finishing his 3rd year of a 6 year physical therapy program. As part of Northeastern's Coop program, in lieu of classes, he worked full-time for 6 months (July-December '16) as a rehabilitation aide at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Cambridge. In February 2017 he participated in a White Coat Ceremony marking the beginning of his professional studies. Scott will earn a Bachelor's degree in 2019 and a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) in 2020. Scott also became President of his fraternity, Beta Theta Pi (Beta), in December 2016. He has attended national Beta fraternity conferences and leadership workshops in Ohio.

WHERE IS YOHANNES CONSTABLE?



Yohannes Constable is a medical school student at State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. He will be graduating in May, 2018.

WHERE IS MAKEDA CONSTABLE?

Since graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing in May, 2015, she has been living in Foggy Bottom, D.C. For two years she has been working full-time as an RN at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital on an intermediate care unit that specializes in the complex care of critically ill adults. This coming August she will be moving back to Philadelphia and the University of



Pennsylvania to continue courses toward a Masters of Science in Nursing. She plans to graduate in the Fall of 2019 and become a Family Nurse Practitioner.



Combined Service in English & Spanish (8:00, 10:00 and 12:30) – April 30

FACES OF GRACE





MOTHER'S DAY – 2017







LIFTING UP WESTCHESTER: OASIS OF HOPE GALA 2017

On April 20, 2017, Lifting Up Westchester held its annual Oasis of Hope Gala dinner. This is the 20th year of this event. The theme of this year's event was the celebration of the Brighter Futures Summer Camp. In addition, this year's gala honored Paul Anderson-Winchell, retiring after eleven years as the Executive Director as well as our own Carlos Munoz, past Chairman of the Board (known then as Grace Church Community Center).

The keynote speakers were Beatrice Miller and Minnie Tomlinson who are now in their twenties and have benefited from all the programs in Brighter Futures. They spoke to the 185 guests regarding how the Brighter Futures programs were their lifeline to a better life. Each of them had grown up in troubled homes. Without the support of the camp, mentoring and assistance with post high school financial help, they cited that they, too, might have not been able to have a better future and hope for a better life. The audience was captivated by their stories.

The honorees, Paul Anderson Winchell and Carlos Munoz were lauded for their respective services to the organization. Paul, as Executive Director, helped move the organization from a growing agency to one which realized financial self-sufficiency with a budget in excess of \$11,000,000. He leaves the agency in a good place.

Carlos was honored for not only his service as Chairman of the Board but also for his long time commitment and support of the organization. Throughout the years, he has been committed to the advancement of the Brighter Futures programs. In the past, Carlos was known to visit the summer camp and work with the campers. He is also an ardent supporter of the Mentoring programs which provides academic assistance to students.

As a result of the a Live Auction, which for the first time offered camp scholarships as an offering, \$16,000 was raised to send 32 children to camp. This was in addition to prior pledges for camp scholarships. In total, 90 children will be able to attend camp this summer.

This year's Gala netted \$90,000, the largest amount ever raised. The success was due to increased sponsorships as well as increased participation in the fundraising events held as part of the Gala,

The date of next year's Gala is April 2, 2018. Please save the date!

Our Celebrities

Carlos Muñoz was honored at the 2017 Lifting Up Westchester Oasis of Hope dinner for his service to the community. He is pictured here with the former Executive Director of LUW, Paul Anderson-Winchell (who was also honored at the event).



Rest in Peace

Charlie Bevier





