

SPRING 2016

## Celebrating 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



# The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

### The Rector's Letter



Father Richard Kunz with the Honorable Delores Brathwaite

#### Editor's Note

We're very pleased to be able present much of this edition's content in both English and Spanish. Many thanks to Father Luis Barrios for lending us his translation talents.

## Sabbatical

The Old Testament law includes some amazingly progressive provisions. One of the basics is for a weekly Sabbath, during which no work is to be done. There is also a provision for fields to be left fallow every seven years. No work is to be done in the fields during that year, but whatever happens to grow can be eaten and enjoyed. In both cases, the time not working is meant as an opportunity for reflection, enjoyment and renewal.

The idea of sabbatical time has come to be incorporated into some vocations, most notably for academics and clergy. A provision for sabbatical has become a normal part of many work agreements for priests, as it was with my agreement when I came to Grace/La Gracia. It is meant as a benefit for both parish and priest.

I am looking forward to having this time for renewal and refreshment. In a typical week, I prepare two short homilies for weekday services, a Bible study, and the sermon for Sunday. Many times there are special services for holidays, funerals, or other occasions. I calculate that over the past five years I have preached about 225 different Sunday sermons, and about 350 weekday homilies. This is in addition to the administrative and pastoral part of the job. Some of you have listened to many of those sermons! With creative deadlines coming week after week, how is it possible to avoid falling into repetitive or bland or shallow preaching?

The sabbatical is one answer. It is a chance to step away from the weekly demands, to have different experiences, to reflect on my own life, to think about things without the immediate pressure of needing something to present to others, and to focus on my own spiritual life so that I have something to offer to others.

My sabbatical plan has three main parts. The first section will be a little over a week in London. As a priest in the Anglican tradition, I am eager to worship in places like St. Paul's Cathedral and visit places like Westminster Abbey, Salisbury Cathedral, Lambeth, etc. From London we will fly to Spain, and undertake the Camino de Santiago. Barbra will be walking the Camino with me, and she has written more about the spirituality of pilgrimage. After walking 500 miles, we plan to rest up for a couple of weeks in Western North Carolina, which will also give us a chance to reflect on our experiences before re-engaging at Grace/ La Gracia.

Traditionally, pilgrims are considered to be blessed as they participate in their camino. In order to share that blessing with all of you, I will be inviting you to submit your special prayer requests. I intend to carry those intentions with me along the journey, and present them at the Cathedral at Santiago. I'm not sure practically what form this will take (a notebook, slips of paper, etc.) at this time, but I will announce that before we leave.

Know that during the sabbatical my prayers will continue to be with all of you!

## **The Road to Resurrection Leads through the Cross**

I once had a seminary student whom I asked to preach on Good Friday. Her answer was, “No thank you! I am an Easter Christian, not a Good Friday Christian.” That naturally led to a long and in-depth discussion! Is it possible to separate those two aspects of the Christian life?

In all of us, there is a natural desire to skip the Good Friday part and go directly to the Resurrection. None of us has a desire for loss, rejection, suffering and sorrow. We would like to grab hold of the victory at the very start. We desire what Dietrich Bonhoeffer called “cheap grace”. We dream that the resurrection life would simply swallow up everything else, so that we would not need to experience hardship or sorrow. This is not, however, what Jesus promises. To blindly wish for that kind of untroubled life is to build our house on sand, rather than the firm foundation of faith which Jesus gives to us.

Jesus was clear on this. He tells us repeatedly that in order to gain life we must be willing to lose it, and that we are to take up our cross and follow him. To be a disciple of Jesus does not give us a free pass. What it does do is to provide a way for our own struggles and experiences of sorrow to be redeemed and to connect us with God’s love. It gives us assurance that, whatever we experience, we do not go through it by ourselves. We always have the presence of God with us, and the promise of redemption and resurrection.

Bryan Stevenson has a wonderful book about his legal work with those in prison, entitled Just Mercy. Near the end he talks very personally about the emotional and spiritual cost of being involved in so much human pain and brokenness. He writes, “There is a strength, a power even, in understanding brokenness, because embracing our brokenness creates a need and desire for mercy, and perhaps a corresponding need to show mercy. When you experience mercy, you learn things that are hard to learn otherwise. You see things you can’t otherwise see; you hear things you otherwise can’t otherwise hear. You begin to recognize the humanity that resides in each of us.”

Good Friday reminds us of our brokenness and sinfulness and need. It is precisely because we are Easter Christians that we have the courage to look at ourselves in all our weakness and see, not despair, but mercy, hope and new life.

## **Sabática**

La ley del Antiguo Testamento incluye algunas prácticas increíblemente progresistas. Uno de los fundamentos es para un día de reposo semanal, durante el cual no se realiza trabajo. También hay una disposición de tierras que se dejan sin trabajar cada siete años. No hay trabajo por hacer en los campos durante ese año, pero pase lo que pase lo que crezca en esos campos

puede se puede comer y disfrutar. En ambos casos, el tiempo sin trabajar se entiende como una oportunidad para la reflexión, el disfrute y la renovación.

La idea del tiempo sabático ha llegado a ser incorporado en algunas vocaciones, sobre todo para los académicos y el clero. Una disposición de sabática se ha convertido en una parte normal de muchos acuerdos de trabajo para los sacerdotes, como lo fue con mi acuerdo cuando vine a Grace / La Gracia. Se entiende como un beneficio tanto para la parroquia y el sacerdote.

Estoy deseoso de tener este tiempo de renovación y refrigerio. En una semana típica, preparo dos homilías cortas para los servicios de entre semana, un estudio de la Biblia, y el sermón para el domingo. Muchas veces hay misas especiales para los días feriados, funerales, o en otras ocasiones. Calculo que en los últimos cinco años he predicado alrededor de 225 diferentes sermones dominicales, y alrededor de 350 homilías entre semana. Esto se suma a la parte administrativa y pastoral del trabajo. ¡Algunos de ustedes han escuchado muchos de esos sermones! Con plazos creativos semana tras semana, ¿cómo es posible no caer en una predicación repetitiva, apática o superficial?

La sabática es una respuesta. Es una oportunidad de alejarse de las demandas semanales, enfrentar diferentes experiencias, reflexionar sobre mi propia vida, pensar en cosas sin la presión inmediata de necesitar algo para presentar a los demás, y de centrarme en mi propia vida espiritual, para poder tener algo que ofrecer a los demás.

Mi plan sabático tiene tres partes principales. La primera sección será un poco más de una semana en Londres. Como sacerdote en la tradición anglicana, estoy ansioso de poder adorar en lugares como la catedral de San Pablo y visitar lugares como la Abadía de Westminster, la catedral de Salisbury, Lambeth, etc. Desde Londres volaremos a España, y emprenderemos el Camino de Santiago. Barbra estará caminando el Camino conmigo, y ella ha escrito mucho más sobre la espiritualidad de la peregrinación. Después de caminar 500 millas, tenemos la intención de descansar durante un par de semanas en el oeste de Carolina del Norte, lo cual nos dará también la oportunidad, antes de regresar a Grace/La Gracia, de reflexionar sobre nuestras experiencias.

Tradicionalmente, se considera que los peregrinos son bendecidos a medida que participan en su camino. Con el fin de compartir esa bendición con todos ustedes, voy a estar invitando a presentar sus peticiones de oraciones especiales. Tengo la intención de llevar a esas peticiones conmigo a lo largo del viaje, y presentarlas en la Catedral de Santiago. En este momento no estoy seguro del formato que voy a seguir (un bloc de notas, hojas de papel, etc.) pero voy a compartirlo con ustedes antes de salir.

¡Sepan que durante mi sabática mis oraciones seguirán estando con todos ustedes!

El camino hacia la resurrección nos guía a través de la Cruz

Una vez tuve un seminarista a quien le pedí predicar el Viernes Santo. Su respuesta fue: "¡No, gracias! Soy un cristiano de Pascua, no un cristiano de Viernes Santo!" ¡Eso, naturalmente, dio lugar a una larga y profunda discusión! ¿Es posible separar estos dos aspectos de la vida cristiana?

En todos nosotros, hay un deseo natural para omitir la parte buena del Viernes Santo y pasar directamente a la Resurrección. Ninguno de nosotros tiene un deseo para la pérdida, el rechazo, el sufrimiento y el dolor. Nos gustaría agarrarnos a la victoria en el comienzo mismo. Deseamos lo que Dietrich Bonhoeffer llama "gracia barata". Soñamos con que la vida de resurrección simplemente se trague todo lo demás, por lo que no habría necesidad de experimentar dificultad o dolor. Esto no es, sin embargo, lo que Jesús promete. Para desear a ciegas para ese tipo de vida sin problemas es construir nuestra casa sobre la arena, en lugar de la base firme de la fe que Jesús nos da.

Jesús fue claro en todo esto. Él nos dice repetidamente que con el fin de ganar la vida tenemos que estar dispuestos a perderla, y que hemos de tomar nuestra cruz y seguirlo. Ser discípulo de Jesús no nos da una entrada gratis. Lo que sí hace es proporcionar una manera para que nuestras propias luchas y experiencias de dolor puedan ser redimidas y que podamos conectar con el amor de Dios. Esto nos da la seguridad de que, todo lo que experimentamos, no lo haremos solos. Siempre tenemos la presencia de Dios con nosotros, y la promesa de la redención y resurrección.

Bryan Stevenson tiene un libro maravilloso de su trabajo judicial con quienes están encarcelados, titulado *Sólo Misericordia*. Cerca del final habla de una manera muy personal sobre el costo emocional y espiritual y quebrantamiento de estar involucrado en tanto dolor humano. Él escribe: "Hay una fuerza, un poder equilibrado, en la comprensión de quebrantamiento, ya que cuando abrazamos nuestro quebrantamiento crea la necesidad y el deseo por la misericordia, y tal vez la correspondiente necesidad de mostrar compasión. Cuando usted experimenta la misericordia, aprende cosas que son difíciles de aprender de otra manera. Ves las cosas de otro modo que antes no podías ver; escuchar cosas que antes no podías escuchar. Empiezas a reconocer la humanidad que existe en cada uno de nosotros".

Viernes Santo nos recuerda nuestro quebrantamiento y pecaminosidad y necesidad. Es precisamente porque somos cristianos de Pascua que tenemos el valor de mirar a nosotros mismos en toda nuestra debilidad y ver, no la desesperación, pero la misericordia, la esperanza y nueva vida.

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## Parking Coupons

**Did you know!** You can park for free on Sundays and certain **Holy Days** at the Municipal Garage across the street from Grace Church (Hamilton Avenue Main Garage). Parking coupons are good for 4 hours. To take advantage of this benefit on Sundays, follow the instructions at the parking kiosk to enter your 6 digit parking coupon code.

A different procedure will be used on non-Sunday **Holy Days** when we have Service.

Parishioners who currently have Parking Coupons will be issued a Placard that can be used for parking on the following **Holy Days**. Place your Parking Placard in your car on the driver's side of your windshield.

Holy Thursday	March 24, 2016
Good Friday	March 25, 2016
Easter Vigil	March 26, 2016
Christmas Eve	December 24, 2016

If you are a pledging member and do not have a Parking Coupon, or if you were issued a coupon number but don't remember it or have questions about your Parking Coupon, please reach out to me or email me at [sunaganatag@aol.com](mailto:sunaganatag@aol.com).

**Sandy Gadsden-McAllister**  
**Cynthia Sangurima Brown**  
Stewardship Co-Chairs

## Cupones de Estacionamiento

**¡Sabías!** Que puedes estacionar de forma gratuita los domingos y ciertos días feriados en el Garaje Municipal en la calle de la Iglesia (Garaje Principal de Hamilton. Los cupones de estacionamientos ahora tienen una duración de 4 horas. Para aprovechar las ventajas de este beneficio, siga las instrucciones en la casilla de estacionamiento, introduzca el código de cupón de estacionamiento de 6 dígitos. A continuación se enumeran los Días Feriados, cuando sus cupones de estacionamiento serán aceptados por el departamento de estacionamiento de la ciudad de White Plains:

Miércoles de Ceniza, 10 febrero de 2016

Jueves Santo, 24 marzo de 2016

Viernes Santo, 25 de marzo de 2016

Vigilia Pascual, Sábado, 26 de marzo de 2016

Noche Buena, 24 de diciembre de 2016

*(Tenga en cuenta, que el Miércoles de Ceniza, su cupón de estacionamiento no fue aceptado. Estamos consientes de esta situación y estamos trabajando con el Departamento de Estacionamiento de White Plains para corregirlo.)*

Si usted es un miembro pagando promesas y no tiene un cupón de estacionamiento, o si tiene un número de cupón, pero no la recuerda o tiene preguntas sobre los cupones de estacionamiento, por favor hable con, Cynthia Brown o Brinda Bradley.

**Sandy Gadsden-McAllister**  
**Cynthia Sangurima Brown**  
Co-Directora Mayordomía/Finanzas

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## **Holy Week and Easter Dates**

**Maundy Thursday March 24th**

**7:00 PM Bi Lingual**

**Good Friday March 25th**

**12:00 PM in English**

**Viernes Santo 7:00 PM en Español**

**The Great Vigil of Easter March 26th**

**7:00 PM in English**

**Easter Sunday/Domingo de Pascua de Resurrección March 27th**

**8:00 and 10:00 AM in English**

**12:30 PM en Español**

## **Update on Music Director Search**

The Steering Committee for the Music Director search continues to meet regularly and is making steady progress in fulfilling our mission. The committee, including Karen Odom, Barbara Biles, Michael Heffner, Clyde Hicks, Eileen McClean, Margaret Broomfield Parkinson, and Father Kunz, established a process that is aggressive, but thoughtful, in weighing the strengths, weaknesses, and fit with Grace Church of each of the candidates.

We began our work with what we considered our top priority—conducting a parish-wide survey to identify the aspects of our music program most important to the Grace Church congregation. Using this important feedback as our guide, we have been:

- Identifying candidates through our job postings and word-of-mouth
- reviewing résumés
- listening to recordings submitted by interested candidates

We're now focused on contacting candidate references and scheduling in-person interviews and auditions. We remain committed to working toward a decision soon and will continue to keep you informed of our efforts.

*Submitted by Karen Odom on behalf of the Music Director Steering Committee*

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## **GRACE CHURCH UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 2016 - August 2016

- March 19 Vestry Retreat
- April 3 Sandy's Retirement Send-off
- April 10 Bishop Shin's visit
- April 14 LUW Gala (Honorees, Carol Rogers and Chef Peter Kelly)
- April 17 Children Service
- May 1 Welcome Father Tom Orso!
- May 8 Father Kunz's last service before sabbatical
- May 8 Mother's Day Celebration hosted by Men of Grace
- May 15 Rev. Tom Orso starts as The Interim Priest
- May 15 Pentecost Sunday
- May 22 Children's Service
- May 30 Grace's Kitchen luncheon
- June Father Barrios away, working on coverage for the month
- June 1 SAGE Group Meeting, need coordinator
- June 12 Graduate Recognition



June 19 Children's Service, need coordinator (last service of year)

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

Summer Schedule of Services, to be determined

Aug 15 Return of Fr. Rich and Dr. Barbara

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**The Angelus**  
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(914) 949-2874  
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## **Una iglesia que siente y actúa con el pueblo**

Desde que hicimos nuestra entrada triunfal -Amarilis, mi compañera y yo- aquí en la Gracia/Grace pudimos notar que este es una iglesia con grandes oportunidades y retos para esta ciudad en general y para la comunidad Latina en particular. Y nos dimos cuenta que como en todos los lugares en donde hay seres humanos; aquí hay conflictos y bendiciones; pero más bendiciones que conflictos. Yo siempre he creído que los conflictos son oportunidades para que yo pueda poner en práctica mi amor solidario, paciencia y perseverancia. Por lo tanto, donde quiera que voy no los evado, yo los desafío.

Desde un principio dejé claro que yo no vine a esta iglesia a reemplazar a la Madre Gladys, eso no es posible. Ella tiene sus dones y atributos muy diferentes a los míos. Tratar de reemplazarla es ponerme unos zapatos muy grandes. Yo admiro mucho su ministerio y compromiso pastoral. Yo vine a La Gracia/Grace a ser parte de un equipo de trabajo pastoral el cual está dirigido por el Padre Richard. Una persona a la que también admiro por su compromiso pastoral y destrezas administrativas. Y en medio de esa realidad los he encontrado a ustedes; gente muy bella, dedicada y sacrificada. ¡Esto es una bendición, muchas gracias!

Pero asimismo hemos descubierto que esta iglesia no le tiene miedo a los conflictos. La Gracia/Grace es una iglesia que no tiene miedo. ¡Qué bueno, en esto se parece un poco a Jesús! En el Evangelio de Lucas (5:10) cuando Jesús llamó a Pedro le dijo: *..no tengas miedo*". Ese es el mismo mensaje para esta su iglesia.

Hemos aprendido también que La Gracia/Grace es una iglesia multicultural y multiétnica que está en procesos de convertirse en una iglesia bilingüe- inglés y español. No hemos llegado a esta meta, pero a mí me parece que existen los ingredientes necesarios para lograrlo. Hay deseo y



motivación en su liderazgo. Es por esto que hemos emprendido una campaña de traducir todo los letreros/mensajes para que aparezcan en ambos idiomas. Estén en las paredes, página de internet, teléfono, etc. Esto por supuesto traerá una relación mucho más de igualdad entre su feligresía que es tan diversa porque la democracia lingüística -al igual que la democracia cultural, racial, étnica, género, sexual, etc.- es necesaria, es un derecho humano. Por eso estamos cambiando la cultura organizacional de la iglesia para que

permita y facilite el uso del español de la misma manera que usamos el inglés. Como hemos dicho en muchos lugares: **¡estos son los Estados Unidos, no hablemos solamente inglés!** Queremos que nuestra iglesia sea -no en teoría, sino en la práctica- una sola iglesia, multicultural, multiétnica y bilingüe. Que celebra tres misas los domingos -dos en inglés y una en español- porque le da opciones al pueblo. Que tenemos un equipo de trabajo de liderazgo laical dispuesto a seguir moviendo esta iglesia hacia adelante. De esta manera podemos ir mucho más allá de lo que tradicionalmente decimos -La Iglesia Episcopal le da la Bienvenida- y hacemos realidad este asunto de que **Mi Casa es Su Casa, Bienvenida/o Sea.**

Un reto mayor me parece a mí es convertir a La Gracia/Grace en un santuario para nuestros/as hermanos/as inmigrantes indocumentados/as donde retemos las leyes injustas de esta sociedad que se empeña en llamarle a un ser humano ilegal. ¡Ningún ser humano es ilegal! Queremos que nuestro amor y compasión deje como resultado una verdadera reforma migratoria. Queremos desarrollar un pastoral de jornaleros/as para seguir siendo una iglesia relevante. Mientras tanto, ya lo hemos orado muchas veces y lo seguimos orando; **¡aquí estamos y no nos vamos y si nos echan nos regresamos!**

Como parte del proyecto de formación teológica muy pronto estaremos reclutando a muchas/os de ustedes para nuestra escuela teológica que se está desarrollando en nuestra diócesis y de la cual la Madre Gladys es la coordinadora. De esta manera ustedes siguen empoderando a nuestra iglesia.

Pero a la misma vez queremos dejar claro que en esta iglesia todas las personas son importantes. Ese asunto donde dicen que quien se va no hace falta, no tiene cabida en nuestro ministerio. Aquí no queremos que nadie se vaya, pero quien se va definitivamente va a hacer mucha falta porque son parte del cuerpo de Jesús que es la iglesia. En nuestra pastoral debemos de ponerle prioridad a los procesos de sumar, no a restar.

Por esto es de gran importancia seguir nuestro trabajo misionero de invitar nuevas personas a esta nuestra iglesia. Nuestra tarea sigue siendo la de revitalizar nuestra iglesia para que sea relevante a las realidades de nuestro pueblo. Las reflexiones bíblicas-teológicas los viernes han sido una gran bendición. Y cada vez nuestra liturgia dominguera sigue tomando un giro de transformación y sanación, muy en particular con el ministerio de música bajo la dirección del maestro Arturo Ortíz y la vocalización de Marilyn Castillo. Asimismo tenemos ahora la presencia de Marisol Ortega en nuestra Junta Parroquial. De aquí asimismo el que contamos contigo para que sigas respaldando esta tu iglesia con tus oraciones, tu trabajo voluntario y ayuda económica. Algunas/os de ustedes todavía no han llenado sus hojas de promesas. La Biblia dice; *cada cual de como propuso en su corazón, no por tristeza ni por necesidad, porque Dios ama a la persona que da con gozo* (2 Corintios 9:7). Respalda a tu iglesia económicamente, por favor. Y por supuesto, no podemos olvidarnos de la hora del café al terminar la misa. Necesitamos personas que colaboren trayendo, jugos, bizcochos, empanadas, tamales, pasteles, arroz, habichuela, carne, etc. Recuerda, hay por lo menos cinco aéreas en las que como personas cristianas responsables vamos a darle cuenta a Dios: (1) Vida- lo que tú has recibido (2) Tiempo- lo que se te ha asignado (3) Talentos- lo que se te ha dado para usar (4) Posesiones- lo que se te ha confiado (5) Finanzas- por lo que has trabajado.



### **Esta es tu iglesia, respáldala y protégela.**

Por lo tanto, queremos convertir a La Gracia/Grace más y más en una iglesia-pueblo que tenga un mensaje de acción profético para esta comunidad en particular y la diócesis en general. En esta tarea tú eres muy importante, por favor, súmate, contamos contigo. Sigamos orando y trabajando: La mies a la verdad es mucha, mas las/os obreras/os pocas/os (Lucas 10:2). Vamos a seguir siendo una iglesia que siente y actúa con el pueblo.

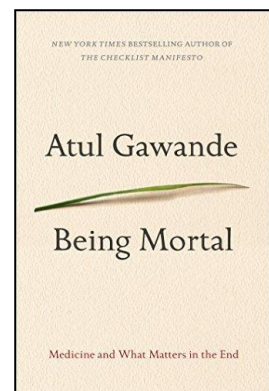
En el amor solidario, el sacramento más importante

Padre Luis

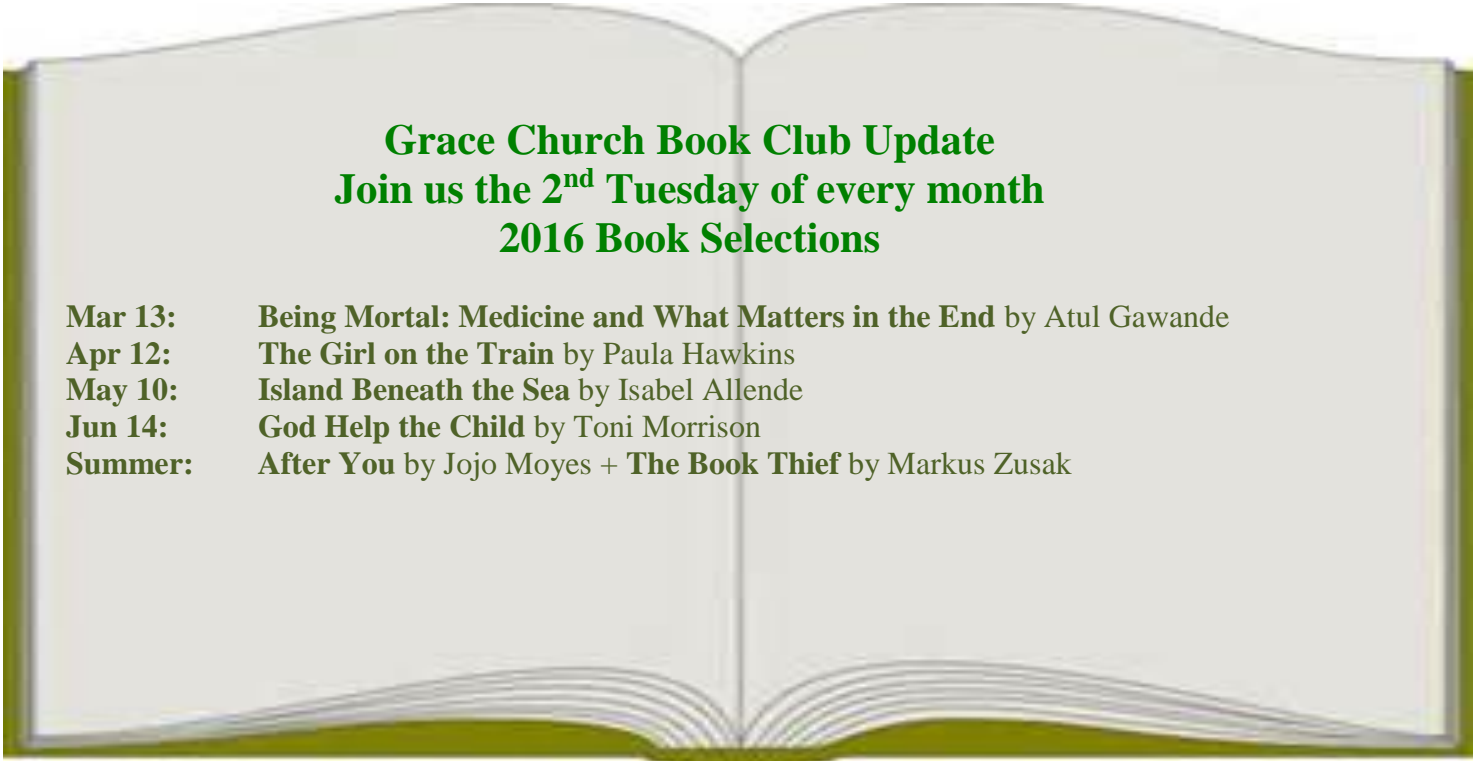
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### **Join the Book Club in our Parish-Wide Read!**

Living well, acceptance of aging, the imprecise meaning of “quality of life,” facing a terminal illness with compassion and empathy, and rethinking the philosophy of healthcare are just some of the thought-provoking issues we will explore during a discussion of the Book Club’s parish-wide read of **Being Mortal: Medicine and What Really Matters in the End** by Atul Gawande, surgeon (Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston) and writer (author of three best-selling books). Join our discussion at coffee hour on Sunday, March 13!



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



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

**Mar 13:** **Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End** by Atul Gawande  
**Apr 12:** **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins  
**May 10:** **Island Beneath the Sea** by Isabel Allende  
**Jun 14:** **God Help the Child** by Toni Morrison  
**Summer:** **After You** by Jojo Moyes + **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak

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## **STEWARDSHIP**

Dear Parishioners,

As we wrap up our 2016 Stewardship Program, I want to let you know that we are in the process of creating a new Stewardship Committee for 2017. You may wonder why we are talking about a 2017 stewardship program when we just completed 2016's program. Stewardship is a year round activity that is more than giving financially. Stewardship is another way of doing ministry within the Church and in the larger community. Good stewards are fully engaged as servants in the life and energy of their congregations. As servants, we receive blessings for all that we do and in turn we bless God by offering our praise and thanksgiving for the gifts we have received. This is an opportunity to re-shape our program and to encourage more participation by our members. I encourage you to share your ideas of stewardship by emailing them to [gracechurchwhiteplains@gmail.com](mailto:gracechurchwhiteplains@gmail.com). We will try to incorporate your ideas in the creation of the 2017 stewardship program. You will be kept inform with the status of the new program through periodic updates.

The Vestry thanks you for your participation in our 2016 Stewardship Program. To date, we have 140 pledging families from Grace / La Gracia Church, totaling \$ 286,475. Kudos to the outgoing Stewardship Committee for conducting a successful stewardship program; we are truly grateful for their efforts.

As the new Stewardship Committee is being developed, I ask that you prayerfully consider working with us as we look at ways to continue to improve our stewardship momentum. So, if you are approached to assist in an activity, I hope that you will gratefully accept the request. Remember each of us is a contributing member of this Church and as such, your active participation means that we are doing God's will as well as your own will. I leave you with this thought: stewardship is a lay and ordained ministry that can be practiced in a number of ways. Hopefully through teaching and inspiration, we can show how to express praise and thanksgiving for the gifts God has given us. Again, thank you for being a blessing to Grace/La Gracia and sharing God's gifts as we minister to ourselves and to the community.

Sincerely,

*Sandy Gadsden-McAllister*  
*Cynthia Sangurima Brown*

Sandy Gadsden- McAllister  
Cynthia Sangurima Brown  
Stewardship Co-Chairs

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

We have so many terrific young people here 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.

**Aaron Bradford – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**1. What do you like best about school?**

Math is what I like best about school.

**2. What do you like to do in your free time?**

I like to read, play piano and the drums and play soccer and baseball.

**3. What kind of books do you enjoy reading for pleasure?**

I enjoy fantasy and science fiction.

**Anna Kristina O’Hanlon – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**1. What do you like best about school?**

A few things that I like best about school are group projects such as in health and in ELA. I also like to have some of my friends in my classes. One of the last things that I definitely like best about school is that it teaches students how to be more responsible and gets us ready for the real world.

**2. What do you like to do in your free time?**





On my free time I like to listen to music and I also like to write. I usually like to write fictional stories or about something that has happened but with made up characters.

3. What kind of books do you enjoy reading for pleasure?

Books that I enjoy reading for pleasure are comic books and I also enjoy reading books about fictional or non-fictional people who are about my age. I also enjoy reading books about people with disabilities. A couple of books about people with disabilities I have read have been *Out of My Mind* and also *Rules*..

***The Deadline For The Summer Angelus  
Is May 9<sup>th</sup>. As Always, Thank You For  
Your Contributions!***

### **A MESSAGE OF THANKS**

The February 7<sup>th</sup> service celebrating Black History Month was a wonderful tribute to everyone in some way. Those of us who are African American appreciated the historical tribute in more ways than one. Those who are from different cultures gained information which is enlightening on several levels.

It was a very emotional experience for me; not said but overwhelming as I relived many events which helped make me the person I am today.

Thanks to all who contributed to this outstanding event. Congratulations on a job well done!

Elsie Adams

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## FRIENDS OF MUSIC

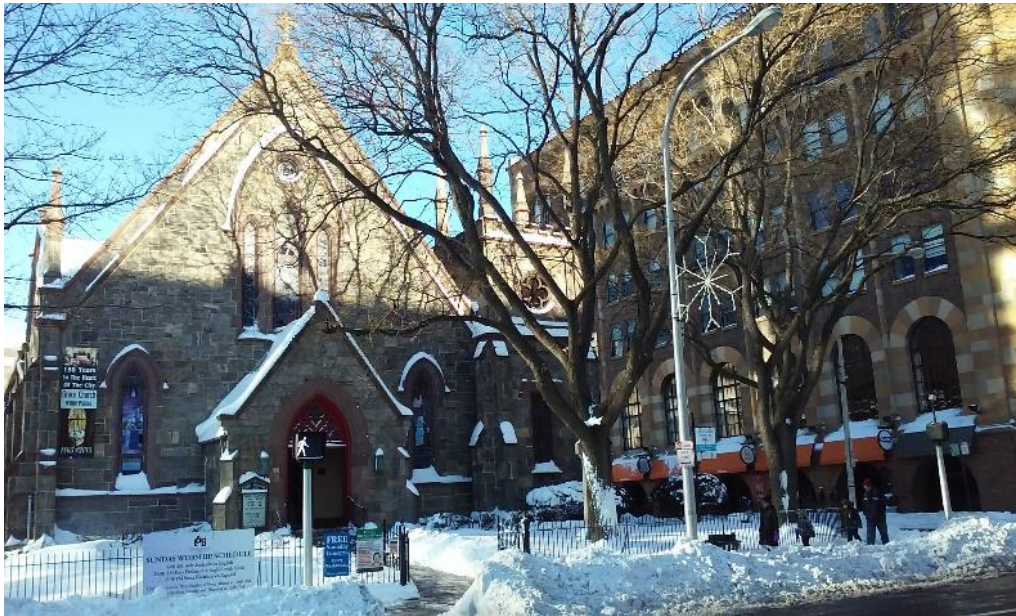
Friends of Music wishes to express their thanks to the parishioners who generously supported the Christmas Poinsettia sale.

Thanks to your generosity Friends of Music also presented Poinsettias to the Grace Church staff and Shut-in Parishioners at home or in Nursing Homes and the Altar Guild for inclusion in the church decorations.

Thank you; we wish you a healthy and happy 2016.

Barbara Biles

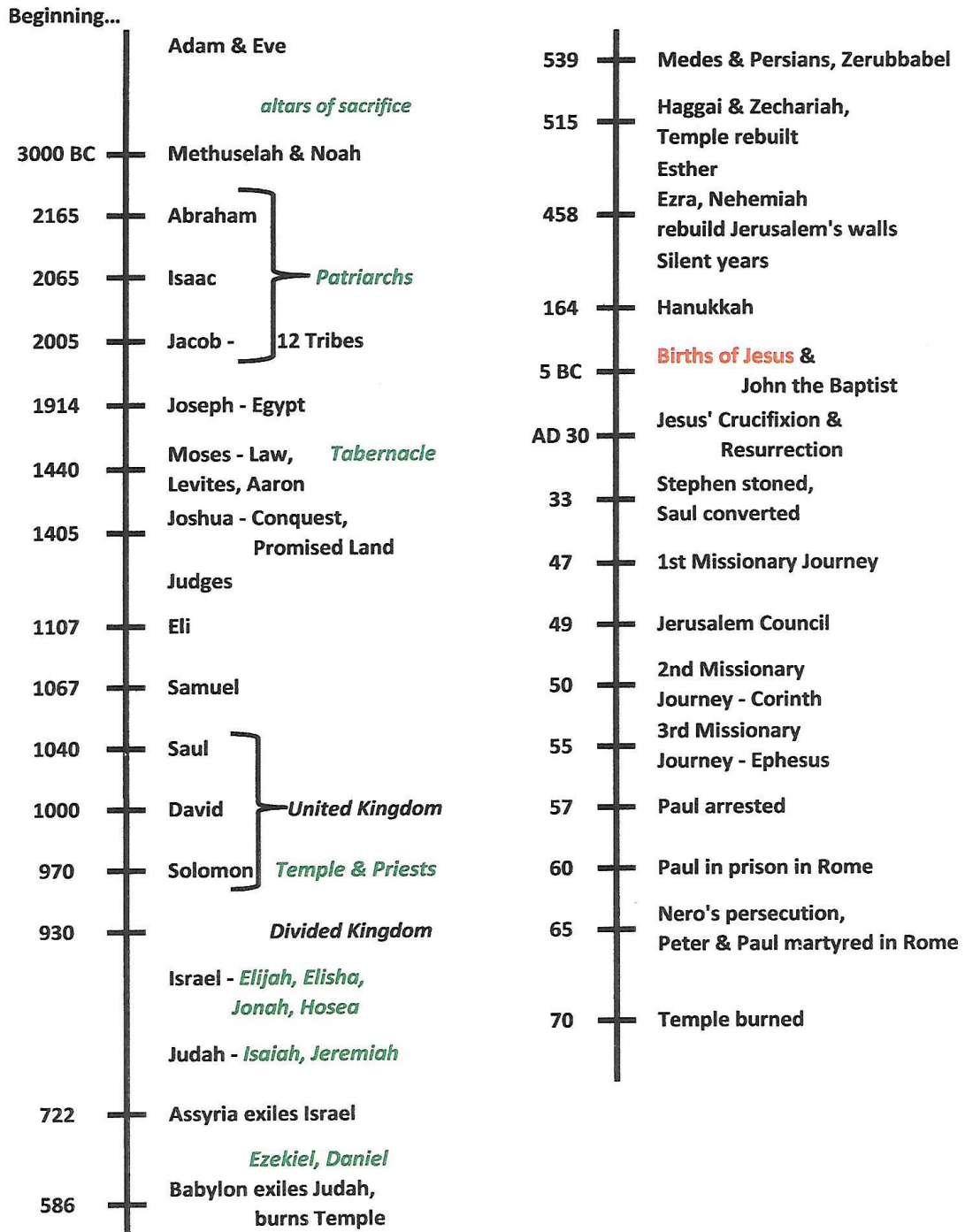
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**DAYLIGHT  
SAVING  
TIME  
BEGINS AT  
2:00AM  
MARCH 13,  
2016**

Spring  
forward –  
Don't be  
late for  
church!

## Bible Timeline





## DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

Thursday April 14th  
6:00-9:30 p.m.

Leewood Golf Club  
1 Leewood Drive  
Eastchester, NY

## HONOREES

**Peter Kelly**  
*Renowned Chef & Restaurateur*

**Carolyn Rogers**  
*Volunteer*

## AGING

*A Devotional Thought for Today*

### TODAY'S PROMISE

*I will be your God throughout your lifetime—until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.*

--ISAIAH 46:4

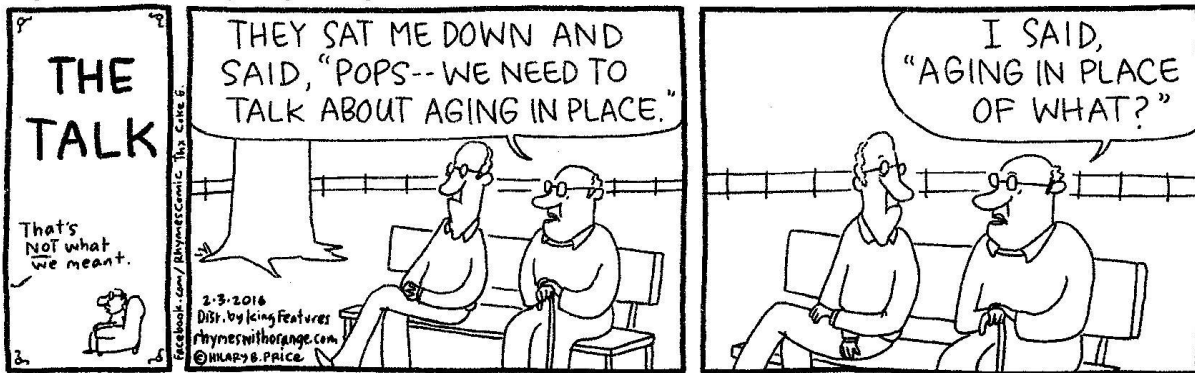
## TODAY'S THOUGHT

God's love lasts for all your days. This promise gives you a wonderful picture of God's care. He walks alongside you and carries you when you can no longer walk. In the end he will carry you into eternity, bringing you through death to your final, glorious destination, where age will no longer be relevant and you will be strong and vital forever.

## TODAY'S PLAN

*Can you see aging as God's eternal beautification process?*

Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



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## S.A.G.E. -- SENIORS AT GRACE EPISCOPAL

I recently read an article on aging in which the author asserted that if one is to age well, one must "delight in connectedness." If that theory holds true, then the members of S.A.G.E are doing just fine!

S.A.G.E. is a discussion/fellowship group which meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm. We have a core group of 12 members (new folks are always welcome!) who come together for discussion, problem solving and fellowship . In short, we "delight in connectedness" with each other at our monthly meetings.

In February, our group discussed "Being Episcopalian: The Good The Bad and The Ugly." We reviewed a timeline which highlighted significant events in the history of the US Episcopal Church and Grace Church. Most of the members have a long history with Grace and thus were able to share personal stories of what they have experienced through the years.

Feel free to join the group; you will be warmly welcomed and will find a delightful group of seniors who are eager to connect with your stories.

Dr. Barbra McCune

## WALKING THE WAY A PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO de SANTIAGO de COMPOSTELA

In early May, Father Rich and I will travel to Spain to begin our pilgrimage of walking the 500 mile Camino de Santiago; this is the 2nd part of his sabbatical.

This pilgrim route dates back to 800 AD when the relics of the Apostle James were transported from Jerusalem to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in the northwestern corner Spain. There are several routes one can take; we will walk the Northern Route which follows the coastline.

Why the desire for a pilgrimage? Although we each have our own specific reasons for undertaking this journey, I think that we both agree that a pilgrimage in which one walks about 15 miles a day while carrying one's essentials in a backpack, goes to sleep in a different *albergue* (shelter/hostel) each night, and takes a major step outside of one's comfort zone is not simply a hike or walk in the park!

It has been said that a pilgrim is a wanderer with a purpose. A pilgrimage allows one to look at Life in general and one's own life in particular with a fresh perspective. Freed from everyday responsibilities and distractions, one can experience silence, sabbath and a healthy selfishness in which the only tasks that need to be accomplished each day involve walking, eating, and finding a place to sleep. Prayer can become more intentional and grounded with each step along the way. And surely we will have a renewed sense of gratefulness for the many ways in which God has blessed us so abundantly.

I look forward to meeting the other pilgrims we will encounter along the way. Perhaps we will gain glimpses into others' spiritual journeys or life challenges. Certainly, we will draw strength and encouragement from all those who have gone before us for centuries.

We invite you to accompany us on our pilgrimage by giving us your prayer intentions. We will carry your intentions with us and present them at the Pilgrim's Mass at the Cathedral at the end of our journey.

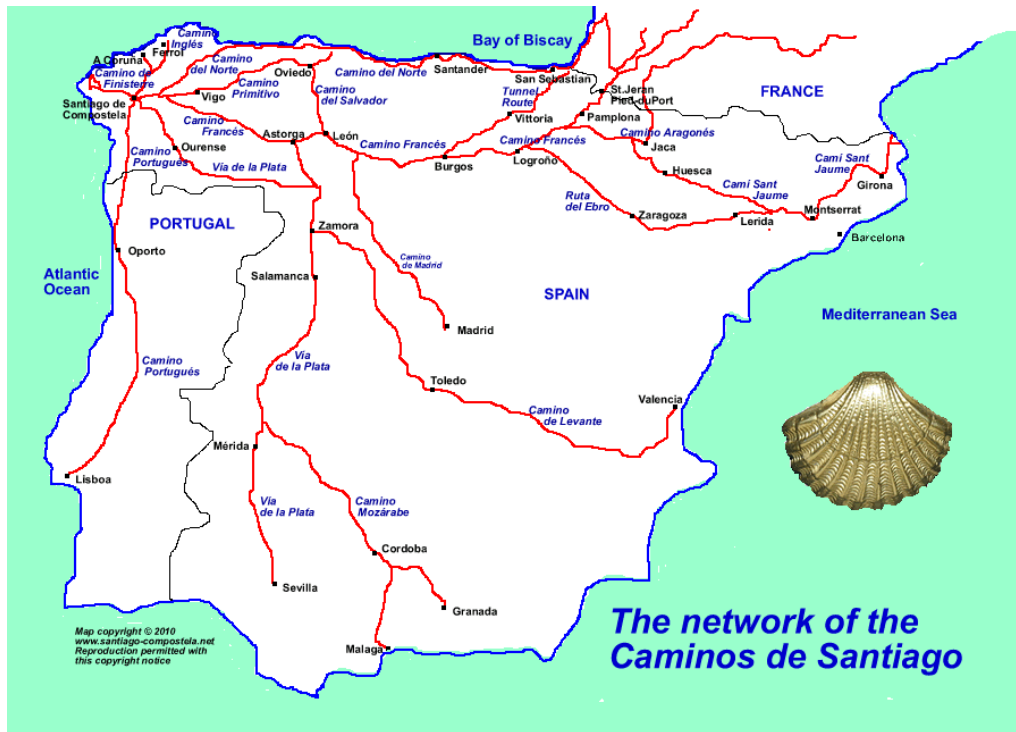
On those days when my pack is too heavy, my body is aching, and I am tired of eating like a pilgrim, I will remind myself of the words of Jeremiah:

*This is what the Lord says:  
Stand at the crossroads and look;  
ask for the ancient paths,  
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,  
and you will find rest for your souls.*

*Jeremiah 6:16*

MAY IT BE SO!

Dr Barbra McCune



## **RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS**

News of the Project Connect Committee

If you attended the Annual Meeting on January 31, you received a copy of the Annual Report. In that report was a page called “Statistics for Annual Report 2015”, and it listed several facts. One thing that was missing was the statistic about new members.

Last May, we formally welcomed 11 new members into our congregation. Some of them had already been visiting for a while, and some were already involved in various church activities. Many people have joined our church over our long history, yet in my time here at Grace, there has never been a ceremony to officially recognize and welcome new members. Thanks to Alison Munsch for sharing a New Members Liturgy at a Project Connect meeting. We used that to develop our ceremony and install a new tradition for our church.

On April 17, we will have our second New Members Recognition Ceremony. If you have been visiting our church or have been considering joining, please speak to Father Kunz or any members of the Vestry. We would love to have you be part of the Grace Church family.

*Project Connect is a sub-committee of Vestry Members charged with thinking of ways to develop programs, encourage church growth and foster fundraising. In the past two years, Project Connect has met with members of the congregation who not only suggested new ideas, but worked on bringing them to life. We continue to work on their ideas and welcome new ones. If you have suggestions or want to speak to members of Project Connect, feel free to reach out to Hillary Fleming or Malik Bradford.*

*Hillary Fleming*

**A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM JOYCE SAMPSON**

Dear Father Kunz, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your thoughtfulness, kindness and loving care you gave me and my family during my illness.

Thank you for taking the time off from your busy schedule to visit with me, holding my hands and giving me words of encouragement in the dark moments of my life.

I thank you for your prayers; thank you for all the lovely cards, plants and flowers; I thank you for all the phone calls that you made.

All of these wonderful caring and supportive acts of kindness helped me not only through these difficult time, but be uplifted spiritually as well.

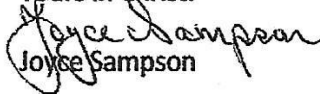
Your prayers and well wishes have been heard, for I am healing well and will continue to do so.

„Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers Him/her out of them all“

Psalm: 34-19

Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated more than you know. God bless you all.

Gratefully,  
Yours in Christ.

  
Joyce Sampson





## **Neighbors Home Health Aide Nominated for Healthcare Heroes Award**

Rosa Jaramillo lives to lift up others in need.

Rosa, who has worked as a home health aide for Neighbors Home Care Services for the past five years was an accountant in her native Peru before settling in Ossining. At Neighbors, the licensed home care services agency operated by Lifting Up Westchester, her major focus has been on caring for “Lena”, a 67 year old White Plains woman with schizophrenia.

Lena’s medical condition causes her to distrust people and situations and makes it difficult for her to handle the most basic life activities. Rosa is responsible for all of Lena’s personal care, which includes bathing and grooming. She also shops, cleans, cooks, and accompanies Lena on errands and appointments.

“But it’s not what Rosa does, it’s how she does it”, says Isis Djata, Director of Neighbors Home Care Services. “... with innate and infinite care and love. And that’s what makes her one of the agency’s standout aides.”

Before Rosa, Lena’s family had hired other aides but they were never happy with them. Lena was always withdrawn and often did not get out of bed. But she has formed a deep attachment with Rosa and has become more active. Now she looks forward to the five hours a day Rosa spends with her Monday through Friday and recently told a Neighbor’s supervisor, “If it wasn’t for Rosa, I don’t know what I would do. She’s the light in my life.”



When Rosa is not caring for Lena she works at Maryknoll Convent, a Westchester convent for retired nuns, often doing double shifts when they are short staffed.

Sometimes she helps with training other home health attendants there.

With her earnings, Rosa provides 100% financial support to her 87 year old ailing mother who still lives in Peru and also helps support her four brothers and one sister.

“Rosa is a shining example of someone who always goes above and beyond the call of duty”, said Djata. “When there was a shortage of staff at the convent over the holidays, Rosa was the first person to offer assistance. She worked tirelessly doing double shifts during both Christmas and New Year’s.” Djata added, “Rosa is very passionate about providing the Sisters with quality care.”

Rosa developed her passion when she spent three years in Spain working with the elderly. Upon returning to the U.S. she saw an ad about a Home Health Aide training program offered through Neighbors Home Care Services. Excited to find out that the course was free she enrolled immediately and upon graduation joined the Neighbors healthcare team.

“My heart is in homecare” says Rosa. “I plan to keep caring for others as long as I am physically able to.”

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## **Lifting Up Westchester Offers Free Home Health Aide Training At White Plains Education and Training Center**

Home care, especially geriatric care, has become one of the fastest growing industries in Westchester and throughout the U.S. The growth has been so rapid that the supply of certified Home Health Aides (HHAs) simply has not been able to keep up with the demand. That’s why in the fall of 2009, Lifting Up Westchester’s Neighbors Home Care Services Agency became a NYS licensed training center and started certifying its own aides from its location on Hamilton Avenue. HHA classes are given free of charge and all graduates are offered employment at Neighbors.



On February 8<sup>th</sup>, classes moved to the newly opened White Plains Education and Training Center. Fifteen students, both women and men, enrolled in the three-week program which combines classroom and hands on training with rigorous clinical practice. After successful completion of the program, newly certified HHAs will be qualified to perform health related tasks such as monitoring a client’s temperature, pulse and blood pressure as well as assistance with everyday tasks such as dressing, feeding, walking and personal hygiene.

The White Plains Education and Training Center (WP ETC) is a state-of-the-art facility located at 303 Quarropas Street on the main floor of a newly constructed public housing apartment. Built with HUD funding, the center will provide workforce training for three of Westchester’s highest growth industries- Medical and Health Care, Culinary and Hospital, and Technology. The center will also offer budgeting and workforce preparation workshops.

A classroom in the WP ETC has been specially outfitted with sinks, hospital beds, mannequins and a Hoyer lift to meet the needs of the HHA class. Equipment funding was provided by the Workforce Training Institute. The classroom will be used to provide other types of medical training when it is not in use by the HHA program.

Five HHA classes will be offered at the WP ETC during the coming year. This is good news for the more than 70 home care agencies throughout Westchester who currently can't find enough certified aides to keep up with the escalating need for home care services.

Classes are targeted at unemployed or under-employed individuals from low-income, minority backgrounds who have limited education and few job prospects. Graduates will enjoy a sustainable demand for their services for years to come, giving them an opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their families.

Isis Djata, Director of Neighbors Home Care Services said that all graduates will be offered employment at the agency but added that those who decline will have no trouble finding jobs elsewhere. "We hope that many of them will join us at Neighbors. We have very high standards for our aides and we know that individuals who come out of this course will be superbly trained to provide the quality of care that our clients and their families expect."

Neighbors Home Care Services, a Licensed Home Care Services Agency operated by Lifting Up Westchester, has been providing compassionate care to the elderly and disabled residents of Westchester County since 1983. The agency currently provides care to approximately 400 homebound seniors and disabled individuals annually with comprehensive services ranging from cleaning, shopping and personal care to more complex monitoring of medical conditions. It also provides post-surgery and Alzheimer care.

The HHA classes are being funded by a Community Development Block Grant through the City of White Plains, the Westchester Community Foundation and KeyBank.

Dr. Sylvia Watkins, Ph.D., RN who has held positions as Director of Nursing Services, Director of the Home Health Aide Training Program and Senior Administrator of Educational Projects at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital is the class instructor.



## 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***

2015-2016 COMMUNITY SERVICE TO SUPPORT



THANK YOU for supporting our yearlong service project supporting *Lifting Up Westchester*. All parishioners of Grace Church are welcomed to contribute to our food drives by donating the food of the month listed below:

- OCTOBER - *114 boxes of Macaroni & Cheese*
- NOVEMBER - *132 cans of Vegetables*
- DECEMBER - *66 cans of Soup*
- JANUARY - *183 Granola Bars & 206 Fruit Snack Packs for After School Mentoring Program*
- FEBRUARY - *Tunafish & Canned Chicken - in progress at time of printing*
- MARCH - *Pasta & Tomato Sauce*
- APRIL - *Peanut Butter & Jelly*
- MAY - *Juice boxes for After School Mentoring Program & Summer Camp*
- JUNE - *Collection Items Will Be Announced & Benefit The Summer Camp*

**CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE:**

*Our 2015 Christmas Pageant debuted a newly written play by parishioners, Elizabeth Carden and Amy Owens. Bringing a modern day flair interspersed with the traditional Christmas Story brought together all of our children from Pre-K through high school. Our actors and Cherub Choir did a marvelous job! They looked great in all their new costumes. Many thanks go to all the adults who assisted with this production, especially Elizabeth and Amy, as well as Tom Jamerson and Peter Roberts who assisted with the musical portions.*



**RITE 13 GAME DAY:**

Rite 13 sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Game Day on January 31, 2016 while the Annual Meeting was occurring in the Parish Hall. Our Rite 13 members: Anna Kristina O'Hanlon, Aaron Bradford, James Heffner and Spencer Carden, kept our younger parishioners busy playing Twister, balloon volleyball and board games while the adults attended the Annual Meeting. A fun lunch of pizza bagels, fruit snacks, cookies and juice was also served thanks to funding from the Welcoming Committee.



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## COMMUNION BREAD BAKERS



### ***A LOOK AHEAD:***

March 19 - 9:00am (Tentative) Palm Saturday morning activities-Holy Week/Easter

March 25 - Good Friday, 12pm service - brown bag lunch program for children.

The children will be brought into the service for the Veneration of the Cross.

April 10 - 10am Bishop visit- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES, Rite 13 IS meeting at 11:30am

April 17 - Family Service 10am with Rite 13 Liturgy: Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood

Our 8th grade Celebrities are **Maya Daughtry, James Heffner and Spencer Carden.**

### ***SAVE THE DATES!***

*#YouthTakeover - Province II Youth Event, July 7-10, 2016*

*End of August - Summer Youth Conference (SYC) - Episcopal Youth Ministry Summer Camp open to students entering 6 grade thru entering college*

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## **SAVING A CHILD**

Below is a parable by Peter Singer, a world-renowned ethicist at Princeton University. He has been rated as one of the 100 greatest philosophers of all time along with Plato, Aristotle and others by Time Magazine.

“On your way to work, you pass a small pond. On hot days, children sometimes play in the pond, which is only about knee-deep. The weather’s cool today, though, and the hour is early, so you are surprised to see a child splashing about in the pond. As you get closer, you see that it is a very young child, just a toddler, who is flailing about, unable to stay upright or walk out of the pond. You look for the parents or babysitter, but there is no one else around. The child is unable to keep his head above the water for more than a few seconds at a time. If you don’t wade in and pull him out, he seems likely to drown. Wading in is easy and safe, but you will ruin the new shoes bought just a few days ago, and get your suit wet and muddy. By the time you hand the child over to someone responsible for him, and change your clothes, you’ll be late for work. What should you do?”

This parable, as given in the opening of his book, **The Life You Can Save**, forms the basis for his argument that, as long as we can make a small sacrifice that really doesn't hurt us and it means saving another's life, we should do it. On an ethical basis, we should make this sacrifice again and again, until doing more would hurt us as much as the next other person would be hurting if we don't help.

Singer is the master at this and engaging. Of course, in addition to saying that we should definitely do a substantial amount and avoid being influenced by other people who might be walking right past the pond as well, he adds that it is understandable if we don't go as far as impoverishing ourselves to help others. His book sets out a number of organizations that are doing the work of helping the needy and saving their lives. He also presents a number of heroes moved to give a substantial amount of what they have to help others.

You can find a brief 2100- word article at the link below that is an earlier endeavor on Saving a Life. "The Drowning Child and the Expanding Circle" by Peter Singer, New Internationalist, April, 1997"

<http://www.utilitarian.net/singer/by/199704--htm>

The book's conclusion: "In a society in which the narrow pursuit of material self-interest is the norm, the shift to an ethical stance is more radical than many people realize. In comparison with the needs of people going short of food in Rwanda, the desire to sample the wines of Australia's best vineyards pales into insignificance. An ethical approach to life does not forbid having fun or enjoying food and wine; but it changes our sense of priorities. The effort and expense put into fashion, the endless search for more and more refined gastronomic pleasures, the added expense that marks out the luxury-car market – all these become disproportionate to people who can shift perspective long enough to put themselves in the position of others affected by their actions. If the circle of ethics really does expand, and a higher ethical consciousness spreads, it will fundamentally change the society in which we live."

I recommend the article and the book, **The Life You Can Save**, for review and reflection on what we need to do for those unable to get their basic needs met.

And think about joining The Advocacy Committee that will be forming and meeting at Grace Church the first Tuesday of every month, between 7 and 9 p.m. Call or e-mail me for more information.

Stephen F. Groth

[grothsf@gmail.com](mailto:grothsf@gmail.com)

914-309-0801 (cell)

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## **A NEW WAY TO SERVE OUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS**

### A Call for Volunteers

The Welcome Committee has called on parishioners to assist with coffee hour and you have responded. Now we are faced with another issue that needs your support and assistance. During the last year we have had an increase in Repasts held at the church. The Welcome Committee has assumed the additional responsibility of assisting families of parishioners with Repast preparations. Because the Welcome Committee has a limited number of members and as the requests for assistance increases, we will not be able to provide this valuable service to our parish family members who request our support. The Welcome Committee has designed a proposal to make the provision of Repast services more manageable. Unfortunately, without additional assistance, we may have to discontinue this valuable support for our parishioners. **The suggestions below are only for families requesting Repast assistance. Some families make off-site arrangements.**

#### **Repast Teams**

- We suggest that three Repast Teams be formed
- Each team will be led by two or three Welcome Committee members
- The additional members of the team will consist of volunteers from the congregation. We need parishioners who would be willing to serve on one of the teams.
- Each team will assume responsibility for a Repast on a rotating basis

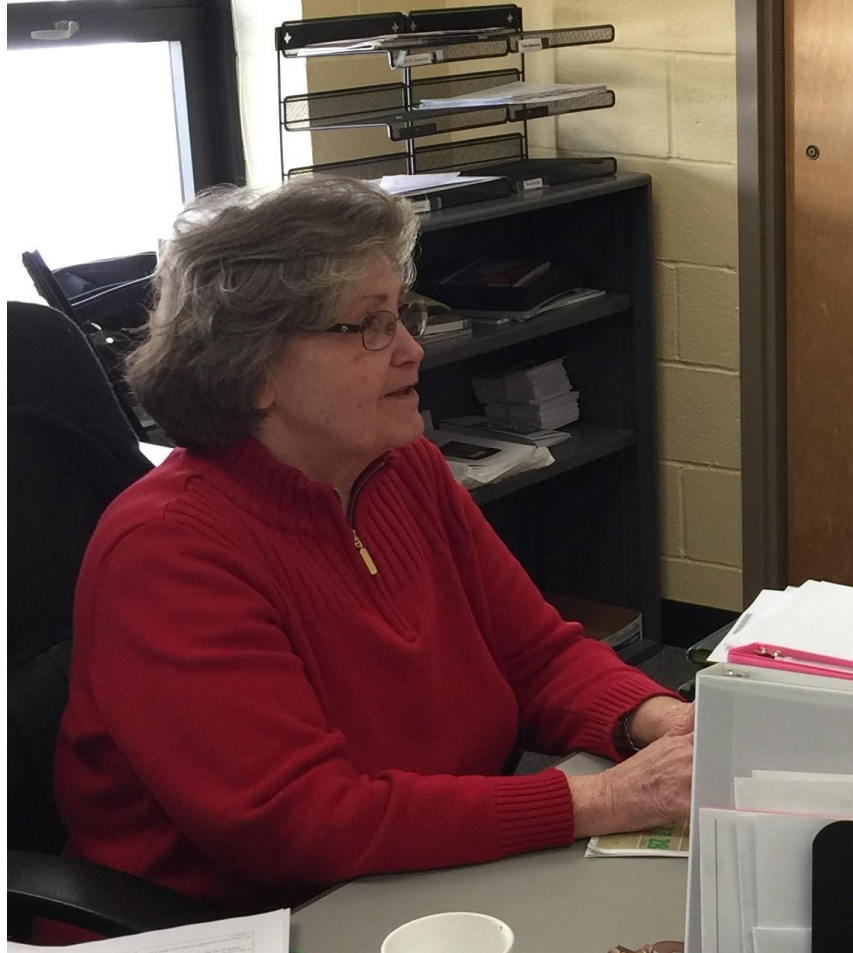
The family must provide the food to be served and must make arrangements for the food. In addition, they must make arrangements for the delivery of the food to the Church.

The Repast team will provide linen, dishes and cutlery. In addition they will set up, serve and clean-up.

We make these suggestion because we believe it is incumbent upon the congregation to support families of our parishioners during what is usually a very stressful time. Our faith community must insure that each family feels supported during their time of grief. Yet, it is unfair to assume that the Welcome Committee can continue to assume the entire responsibility for doing so. We are confident that Grace Church parishioners will support the Welcome Committee in being able to offer this important service to parishioners.

**A sign up form is on the bulletin board.**

Sylvia Simon



*Our Beloved Sandy Gustaferra*



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

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